

Canadian Missionary Link

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MISSIONARY NEWS.

The influence of the martyrs of the Boxer outbreak has not disappeared yet. A father, mother, brother and sister in one family met death at that time rather than deny their faith. Just now has graduated from one of the American Colleges with the degree of Ph.D., another member of that family. On his return to China he was confronted with the choice of using his education to make a fortune, or of accepting a meagre salary in Christian service. He unhesitatingly chose the latter because of the influence of the ones who died so long ago.

Surely times must be changing in South America. The oldest University—in Lima, Peru—has recently conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters on a young Scotch missionary working there.

A movement which is likely to make vast changes in the progress of education in China is a new system of phonetic writing. Before this the task confronting a Chinese child of learning to read and write his own language was a two years' handicap in the race for an education. Where the conditions of maintaining existence are as difficult as they are there, that meant the vast majority simply never learned. Now, the new system adopted, enables pupils to learn in three or four weeks. Even old people, who seem to be past hope of learning, are rejoicing in the new advantage. It means, for those interested in Missions, the spread of Christian literature, the dissemination of the knowledge of the Scriptures.

While it is being made possible for the Chinese to read, many are awakening to the necessity of finding something suitable for them to read. One Christian newspaper for women is now being published, with an American lady as Editor, and two Chinese girls assisting. It is called "The Woman's Messenger." Mrs. McGill-vray, a Presbyterian missionary, now spending some time in Toronto, gives her time to editing a Chinese "Everyland" for children, called "Happy Childhood." Others are translating such books as "Silas Marner," "The Wide, Wide World," "The Birds' Christmas Carol" and others of like nature, hoping to counteract the influence of the vitiating stories which have been so freely circulated.

One of Japan's great preachers has given as his conviction that Buddhism will die with militarism; that the militarism and imperialism which are essential parts of it, cannot live against the new spirit of democracy born and developed by the alliance of Japan with the nations of the Entente. It is an enticing hope for us to look forward to.

Christianity has not only opened a wonderful spiritual world to new believers in heathen lands, but it has also proved the open sesame to a hitherto unknown material world. One old Korean hatmaker, named Yi, did not know his letters before he became a Christian, but he learned them in order to read his Bible. He