

The Canadian Missionary Link

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MISSION BOXES.—A large number of the pyramid mission boxes, ordered some time ago by the Ontario and Quebec Board and an individual member of the Board for free distribution among the Mission Bands and Sunday Schools, are still on hand. They may be secured by addressing Miss Stark, 64 Bloor St. East, Toronto.

POSTAGE STAMPS.—Again we would remind our subscribers that we are obliged to dispose of surplus stamps at a discount, which involves during the year a considerable loss to missions. A post office order can be purchased for two cents, and this method of remittance is greatly to be preferred. Send stamps only when no other method is available.

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS.—The beginning of the year is an excellent time for effort to increase the circulation of the paper. Will not every friend of the LINK, and of the cause it represents, endeavor to do something towards extending its influence and thus increasing interest in Missions? Will not those who have charge of the subscription lists of the paper in the various Circles and Aid Societies look as carefully as possible after the renewals, and endeavor in each case to add some new names. The cost of the paper is so slight that few indeed need be without it on account of "hard times;" yet, we occasionally receive a notice to discontinue on this ground. We will furnish extra copies of the paper to be used in canvassing to any one asking for them. Will not all who are in arrears remit as promptly as possible, so that we may enter on the new year with all names marked up to date?

MISSIONARY PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS.

A few months ago, says the *Sunday Magazine*, it was announced that the editor of the *Secolo*, a well-known Italian newspaper, was about to issue an illustrated family Bible from his press at Milan. The illustrations were borrowed from Messrs. Cassell, but the text was a translation from the Vulgate with notes authorised by the Church of Rome. This enterprise marked a new epoch in the history of the Bible in Italy. Till then, as Mr. Robertson pointed out, the Bible as sold in Italy was looked upon as a foreign book, because it was printed abroad, and as an heretical book because the versions were those of Protestants. The priests were in arms against it, and could enlist patriotism as well as religious prejudice on their side. This is no

longer possible. The Bibles have the sanction of the Church. They are printed in Italy and by Italians. They are sold in the shops and in the ordinary course of business. The success of the edition has been marvellous. Already 50,000 copies have been sold, though the price is ten francs. It has made its way everywhere, among all ranks and classes. It is being discussed as well as read. So far from injuring the sale of other versions, it has increased it, and now, Mr. Robertson reports, the Bible heads the list of books sold in Italy, and has taken its rightful place in the literature of the country. The experiment, surely, is one that should be repeated elsewhere, and especially in Spain.

One of the most pathetic instances of the yearning of the human being for the divine, says *The Gospel in All Lands*, is that related by Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota.

"Some years ago," he said, "an Indian stood at my door, and as I opened it he knelt at my feet. Of course I bade him not to kneel. He said: 'My father. I knelt only because my heart is warm to a man who pitied the red man. I am a wild man. My home is five hundred miles from here. I knew that all the Indians east of the Mississippi had perished, and I never looked into the faces of my children that my heart was not sad. My father had told me of the Great Spirit, and I have often gone out into the woods and tried to talk with him.'

"Then he said, so sadly, as he looked into my face

"You don't know what I mean. You never stood in the dark, and reached out your hand and could not take hold of anything. And I heard one day that you had brought to the red man a wonderful story of the Son of the Great Spirit.'

"That man sat as a child, and he heard anew the story of the love of Jesus. And when we met again he said, as he laid his hand on his heart:

"It is not dark; it laughs all the while."

The report of the Christian Literature Society for India announces that last year its total issues were 1,460,212 volumes of which 460,000 were school-books and the rest general Christian literature, "showing an increase of fivefold in this important class of books in four years." Not only the number, but the character of the books have improved, as is rendered both practicable and necessary by the further spread of higher