

to encourage the missionary. The fruit, though long delayed, always appears, however. Canton is a case in point. The Presbyterians laboured there twenty-five years, and gaining only 33 converts; but in the next seven years this number was increased to 198, and since, there has been a steady growth.

"How is it," said a Chinaman to a missionary the other day, "that if the doctrine you preach be so precious, and if nobody can be saved except by Jesus, and there be no other Saviour but Him, how is it you have been so late in coming to tell us? Why is it that there were not one hundred of you, instead of one or two, to make known these things to us, without the knowledge of which you say we must spend our eternity in misery and woe.

JAPAN—The apostasy of some of the converts, through the influence of native teachers educated under sceptical teachers in the United States, is one of the discouragements of the missionaries of the Protestant Episcopal Board of Missions in Japan.

THE Earl of Shaftesbury has latterly made two or three important speeches in connection with Y. M. C. A's. In both Glasgow and Liverpool he has addressed large audiences on this subject, and in each place he has inculcated the same principles and lessons, and has met with the same cordial reception. With the history of these institutions Lord Shaftesbury has been associated from the first; and it is not too much to say that his influence and example had much to do in promoting their early success. It is with pardonable pride that he recounts the various stages of their progress; and the cause for general congratulation that, with revolving years, their efficiency is increasing. In his speech at the inauguration of the magnificent new hall at Liverpool, the noble lord stated facts which are simply astonishing. It was not, as he said, until 1844 that Y. M. C. A's were begun; yet in England and Scotland they number now at least 700 whilst throughout Christendom, including three in China, three in Syria, and one in Japan, there are 2,043 distinct institutions, with as many as a million and a half of members. This represents

only part of the agency in process; for, to form an adequate conception of what these institutions are and do, a due account must be taken of the libraries which have been formed, of the reading-rooms established, of the lectures delivered, of the services conducted, of the visitations paid, of the tracts and Bibles distributed, and of the general influence exerted. All this will show that there is in operation a mighty apparatus for promoting educational, social and religious reform, and that in fact, as Lord Shaftesbury said, these Associations are engaged in a great cosmopolitan effort that might tend to bind the nations together in harmony and accord, soften the asperity of national differences, and subdue the horrors of war. In their direct influence upon the community, his lordship pointed out their tendency to refine and sanctify club life, to give a stimulus to education, and to energize positive religious effort. As such, Y. M. C. A's do not supersede the more direct and positive institutions and labors of the Church; but they are auxiliary to them; and in this capacity they are not only preeminently calculated to do good, but their history shows that they have exerted the most beneficent influence upon all classes of the community. With all this congratulation for the past, however, there is some slight ground of apprehension for the future. Lord Shaftesbury is not unmindful of this; and in his addresses at Glasgow and Liverpool he wisely cautioned his hearers against the rocks ahead. There is danger, even, that past success may indirectly prepare the way for future failure. In too many cases a disposition has been evinced to act independently of the Churches. This is a mistake. It will lead to mischief. The proper function of these Associations is auxiliary; and as such they should receive the countenance of all Christian ministers and congregations. In this capacity there is a wide sphere to occupy and there is a vast work to perform. With the experience gained and the resources possessed, the Associations are better fitted for action and useful labor than they ever were before, in diffusing knowledge, in relieving distress, and in maintaining truth; and if they continue to act in co-operation with, and under