

A NEW MISSION.

AMONG THE CHINESE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The General Foreign Mission Committee at its meeting in Halifax had before it a memorial from the Presbytery of Columbia with regard to the Chinese and Indians in British Columbia and the need for mission work among them.

The memorial says "There are at least 8000 Chinese in the province. 2500 of these reside in Victoria, about 1000 in New Westminster, and the remainder are to be found in Nanaimo, Vancouver, and all along the Pacific section of the Canada Pacific Railway. The whole of the Chinese population with a very few exceptions hail from the same province and speak the same dialect. Many of them remain here till they die, but all of them look forward to returning to China when they have saved sufficient to make them comfortable in their native land."

"They are uniformly industrious and many of them have achieved a high degree of prosperity, though of course they have among them the same mixture of worthy and worthless to be found among all nationalities.

They are largely engaged in domestic service and in laundry work, but are also to be found in the ranks of skilled laborers and in factories and public works.

They are acknowledged to be indispensable in the present condition of the Province but there is a deep rooted prejudice existing against them which is constantly displaying itself in public protests against their cheap labor, public agitation for legislation against them, and by private acts of injustice perpetrated with impunity against the hated race.

Very little has yet been done in the way of reaching them with the gospel, first, because the prejudices above referred to is shared by the professing Christians in the Province, and second because the churches have not been sufficiently strong to undertake any great financial burden in carrying on such work.

In view of the above facts it is time the reproach should be taken away from us of neglecting the Chinese at our own door, while spending thousands in sending missionaries to China, and there is a wide and effectual door opened for us to enter earnestly upon this work at once.

The Chinese in this Province are growing in numbers and in financial strength,

and many earnest people may be found to help if the work is once fairly before them.

"The committee having considered the memorial of the Mission Committee of the Presbytery of Columbia, approves of the establishment of a mission among the Chinese immigrants on the Pacific Coast, and remits the whole matter to the Western Division to deal with as on their judgment they may deem best."

This mission will hold a relation to China somewhat similar to that which Trinidad bears to India. In both cases most of the immigrants came with the intention of returning to their own land and many of them do return. If they return as Christians they will be in a sense missionaries in their fatherland and help to leaven it with the influences of the gospel.

There is a mistake on page 199 where it is stated that the whole receipts of both Sections for Foreign Missions for the past year was \$81,000. It should be \$86,866.58.

"Dr. Norman Kerr, an eminent physician of England, believing the statements of temperance people to be extravagant, that 60,000 people died annually from the effects of strong drink, began as early as 1870 a personal inquiry, in connection with several medical men and experts, expecting to quickly disprove the same. According to their deductions the latest estimate of death of adults annually caused through intemperance is: in Great Britain, 120,000; in France, 242,000; in the United States, 80,000; or nearly half a million each year in three countries aggregating a population of 922,000,000.

The Methodist Conference met in Halifax while the General Assembly was in Session and there was an interchange of delegates and friendly words of greeting. All this is well, and as it should be, but a surer way of promoting harmony would be for each church carefully to have respect to the work of the other and not to seek to plant churches where they have no people or at most one or two, and where the only prospect of increase is by defection from the others. The Presbyterian Church has generally aimed to follow the right course in these matters, and not to open preaching stations unless where it has a sufficient number of people to warrant such a step or where there is a lack of service of any kind.