

IT is a common thing to read in the papers paragraphs referring to the growth of Roman Catholicism in Great Britain and other countries, and a certain class of Protestants are only too ready to utter their laments, which often sound like rejoicings, over the rapid increase of Romanism. It may surprise such to be told that, in a paper read at a conference of the Catholic Young Men's Societies in Great Britain recently, the writer, Rev. Austin Powell, affirmed that in most parts of England the Catholics were losing, both relatively and actually; that Liverpool was the only diocese showing an increase, and even there it was not in proportion to the population.

THE history of modern missions has been one long series of answers to prayer—answers on a grand scale. First, the burden of the Church's prayer was, that God would open a great and effectual door to the heathen. It was done, and ere the Church was aware the doors of almost every nation stood wide open. Then the prayer was that God would pour out His Spirit upon the heathen. That, too, was done, and the evangelization of Madagascar, of Fiji, of Hawaii, quickly followed, while vast continents—India, China and Africa—began to stretch out their hands unto God. Then it was seen that the harvest was too vast for the reapers, and the prayer was that God would send forth laborers into His harvest; and lo! from every quarter comes the glad response, "Here am I; send me;" and thousands to-day stand ready for service the moment the Churches will say the word. But there is one thing for which the Churches have not prayed, and it must now be the burden of their cry, namely, that God would touch the hearts of those who have custody of the Lord's gold and silver, so that a mighty stream of benevolence may flow into exhausted treasuries, and the waiting laborers be sent straightway to their work.

A CORRESPONDENT from Nova Scotia writes as follows, under date of December 10th:—

"Missionary meetings over, and cash all paid; and even earlier would have been better—better weather and better roads, and as much, if not more, money. I believe the above is representative of the Conference, save the cash paid. But why should rich and independent circuits—or the ministers—retain the money till next June, and you hire money, and home missionaries go without? Is it not for you to see to this, and suggest immediate payment?"

Our correspondent has touched an important point. Times without number we have pressed this matter in the OUTLOOK, in speeches, at Mission Boards and at Conferences. If all missionary meetings were held early, and the money remitted promptly to the Mission Rooms, there would be great saving in bank

discounts and more prompt payments to home missionaries.

ONE or two additional matters are referred to by the same correspondent, as follows:—

"I was away a few hundred miles recently, and everywhere heard approval of discontinuing the 'almost useless report.' The amount from each circuit could be published in the *Guardian* and *Wesleyan*, or an extra OUTLOOK; but a report of work done should be in every home. This could be done in the OUTLOOK, or an extra or supplement, or separately, at little cost."

Here also are points worth considering, and friendly consultation will help to a wise decision.

ONE other extract we must give from our Nova Scotia brother's letter:—

"I received Dr. Gracey's 'China,' and gave my people a synopsis of it, who were as much surprised, and, I guess, pleased, as I acknowledge I was myself, on receiving the contents of it. Could not this be given to our people in the organs some way? I have suggested to Dr. Lathern to publish in the *Wesleyan* the synopsis published in December *Magazine*. Doctor, you remember General Wolseley's prediction that China would overrun and conquer Europe. Is that the way it will be Christianized, by the conquered, as Judea Christianized Rome the conqueror?"

MORE MISSIONARIES FOR JAPAN.

THE following letter, under the above heading, from the Rev. J. G. Dunlop, B.A., missionary at Nagano, represents, we presume, not his view alone, but also that of our other missionaries in Japan. Lack of funds is all that prevents extension. When will the Church awake to an adequate sense of its responsibilities?

A fine illustration of how the opinions of good men differ is afforded by the recent utterances of prominent Japan missionaries on the above subject. While Dr. Knox, Presbyterian, writing in the September *Missionary Review of the World*, says, "Nor can I fail to say that the time is not auspicious for an increase of missionaries," the Baptists are urgently requesting a large addition to their forces. At the American Baptist Union, held in Yokohama in September, the missionaries reiterated the appeal of the last Conference, by asking that twenty-three men be immediately appointed for missionary work in Japan.

The Presbyterians have a 'widespread work here. They have workers, principally Japanese, in most of the forty prefectures that make up the empire, and it may be—though we greatly doubt it, from what we see of their work—that they have enough, or nearly enough, missionaries in the field, and that Dr. Knox is right in so representing the case for his own body; but certainly he would get no brief from the Baptists and Methodists to plead their cause at home.

We, Canadian Methodists, no less than the American Baptists, are committed to a "forward movement" throughout the interior, and look for gradual reinforcements to our mission from year to year. We are as well fitted as the best, far and away better prepared than most, for aggressive