

## Editorial and Contributed.

### SPECIAL NOTICES.

**S**UBSCRIBERS wishing the address on their paper changed will please remember to give the old as well as the new address.

BOUND copies of the *OUTLOOK*, covering the past three years, are now ready, and will be sent post-paid to any address on receipt of \$1.25. Each Auxiliary, Mission Band, and Sunday-school, will do well to procure one for their library, as the volume contains a large fund of valuable missionary information.

### "THE OUTLOOK"—SPECIAL OFFER.

**T**HE volume of the *OUTLOOK* begins with January and ends with December, but to accommodate the members and friends of our Woman's Missionary Society, whose society year begins with October, we make the following offer: All new subscribers, whose names are received during October, will be credited for the full volume for 1888, and will receive the remaining numbers for the present year free. We hope this offer will result in large additions to our list.

### THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

**T**HE General Board of Missions will meet (D.V.) in the Dominion Square Church, Montreal, on Tuesday, October 11th, at 9.30 a.m. On the previous Sunday, sermons will be preached and platform meetings held in the following order:—

ST. JAMES ST.	{	11 a.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. A. Sutherland, D.D.
	{	7 p.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. J. A. Williams, D.D.
MOUNTAIN ST.	{	11 a.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. G. R. Sander-son, D.D.
	{	7 p.m.— <i>Addresses</i> —Revs. J. Woodsworth and T. G. Williams.
LAGAUCHETIERE ST.	{	11 a.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. J. Shaw, D.D.
	{	7 p.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. Edwin Evans.
DOMINION SQUARE	{	11 a.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. Geo. Boyd.
	{	7 p.m.— <i>Addresses</i> —Revs. D. McDonald, M.D., and S. G. Stone, D.D.
NOTRE DAME ST.	{	11 a.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. Geo. Webber.
	{	7 p.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. D. L. Brethour.
SHERBROOKE ST.	{	11 a.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. W. S. Griffin, D.D.
	{	7 p.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. E. B. Ryckman, D.D.
POINT ST. CHARLES	{	11 a.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. D. McDonald, M.D.
	{	7 p.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. J. F. German, M.A.
DOUGLAS CHURCH	{	11 a.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. W. H. Heartz.
	{	7 p.m.— <i>Sermon</i> —Rev. M. L. Pearson.

Collections at all services in aid of the Society's Funds.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING

of the Society will be held in the St. James Street Church, on Tuesday evening, October 11th, at half-past seven o'clock. The Chair will be taken by John Macdonald, Esq., Treasurer of the Society, and addresses will be delivered by Rev. D. McDonald, M.D., of Japan; Rev. Y. Hiraiwa, native Japanese minister, Rev. J. Woodsworth, Superintendent of Missions in the North-west, and others.

Let earnest prayer go up to God for His blessing upon this most important gathering.

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE MISSIONARY IDEA.

**T**RUTH is indestructible and eternal. Though long repressed it is not destroyed; though hidden like a seed in the earth it retains its vitality, and in the spring-time of human progress shows "first the blade, then the ear, and afterward the full corn in the ear." The missionary idea, like every other great truth, had its origin in the mind of God, and was first announced by the Master before He ascended. For a time it had root in a good soil, and grew apace; but when the Church sought alliance with the State its aggressive spirit died out and the great thought of evangelizing the world receded into the back-ground and became unfruitful. The idea was not entirely lost, but it was "held in *mortmain*, and became as harvestless as seed corn in the hand of a mummy." Even a hundred years ago, when William Carey, the "consecrated cobbler," as Sidney Smith sneeringly called him, ventured to suggest in an assembly of ministers that it was the duty of the Church to send the Gospel to the heathen, he was promptly rebuked by a venerable elder: "Young man, when God wants to convert the heathen, He will do it without you or me." And the sentiment not unfairly represents the general attitude of the Church at the time in regard to Christian missions.

But the succeeding century has witnessed a development that is without a parallel in the world's history. The grain of mustard seed has expanded into a whole forest of stately trees, under whose shadows the nations are gathering with delight. At the beginning of the century the missionary idea had to confront the ridicule of the world, the apathy of the Church, and the bitter hostility of a solid heathenism; but already Christian missionaries have traversed every continent and occupied every island; they have raised whole tribes from barbarism, crystallized rude dialects into written languages, paved the way for commerce, expanded the domain of science, abolished in many lands the vices and superstitions of heathenism, translated the Word of God into some 250 languages and dialects, thus repeating the mercies of Pentecost without the miracle, and have so turned the sympathies of Chris-