

monthly public preaching service of all the churches of Tokyo was held on the 18th at the Ko-sei-kan in Tokyo. By the interest exhibited at all these assemblies we are reminded forcibly of the words of Joseph Cook, the noted Boston Monday lecturer, at his farewell lecture, in this city, four or five years ago. He said it was "*not yet the month of May in Japan. It was the month of April, with its changeable skies; or the blustery month of March.*" Were he here to-day he would see in the luxuriant foliage around and the first-fruits of the season, as in the balmy air, that this is indeed in the *spiritual*, as in the natural world, the *month of May in Japan*.

#### THE MOSLEM PROPAGANDA AT CAIRO.

The great Moslem College at Cairo has been much spoken of with its ten thousand students, many of whom were in training for a great missionary movement among the African tribes. General Haig, sent out by the Church Missionary Society to investigate Egypt, the Soudan, etc., contradicts much that has been affirmed of this college.

He says: "I had heard, before going to Egypt, that there is an active propaganda for the spread of Islam in Central Africa in connection with the great El Azhar mosque and college. A very intelligent sheikh, or doctor, of that college assured me that such is not the case. He had never heard of missionaries being sent out from the college to spread the faith anywhere, and did not believe that there was any such organization for Central Africa. The number of students in the college is, indeed, very large at times—as many as eight thousand, but this only *just before a conscription*, the object being to avoid enlistment, all students being exempted. At other times the number is much smaller. The course extends over eight years, and comprises reading and writing, the Koran, grammar, jurisprudence, logic, but no arithmetic beyond the

first three rules, no mathematics, no science of any kind, no geography, no history. The great majority of the students go through no examination. About six degrees are conferred annually, and those who receive them leave the college, as a rule, ignorant, perverted, conceited bigots.

"I believe that the information I received from this sheikh was correct, and it was confirmed by Mr. Klein, Mohammedan missionary zeal is, I suspect, a thing of the past. There may be intense belief and a desperate clinging to the tenets of Islam, but *hope* for its extension in the world has long since died out in the minds of the more intelligent and thoughtful. That disappeared when the sword was struck out of its hand, for with Mohammedanism propagandist zeal and political power have ever gone together. The question rather is how to arrest the inevitable process of decay which takes place wherever it comes in contact with Western civilization. 'Moslems!' said an educated and thoughtful Mohammedan to me at Suez; '*there are no Moslems now*; they have long since departed from the teachings of the Koran and are become like the Kaffirs.' Mohammedanism may still be spreading among the simple fetish worshipers of Central Africa by such means as Arab merchants and slave-raiders know how to employ; but even there it must nearly have reached its utmost limits."

#### MONTHLY BULLETIN.

**China.**—The Society for Suppression of the Opium Trade proposes to induce *voluntary abstinence* from this drug, using the printing-press, public lectures and widespread agencies, to promote its disuse.—Mr. Jermiassen, a lay missionary in Hainan, has been so successful in medical treatment of soldiers of the garrison in a recent epidemic that the officials have furnished him with a temporary hospital. Gen. Feng telegraphed the viceroy in Canton that "but for