

ent to any religion. This class is rapidly increasing.

That whether heathen or infidel, in spite of all their intelligence and progress, the people of Japan are without Christ.

That as Paul was sent to the Greeks and Romans, so we are sent to the Japanese.

Recommended Books on Japan.

"Japan and its Regeneration." By Otis Carey. Price, 35 cents. This book is one of the text-books issued by the Educational Department of the Student Volunteer Movement. We heartily recommend it to every one wishing to study Japan, past and present. It contains up-to-date missionary map of Japan and reliable statistics.

"Japan, the Land of the Morning." By Rev. Jno. Saunby. Price, "Verbeck of Japan." By W. E. Griffith. Price, \$1.50.

"Japan: Its People and Missions." By Jesse Page. Price, 50 cents.

"The Gist of Japan." By Rev. R. P. Perry. A.M., Ph.D. Price, \$1.25.

"Japan, Country, Court, and People." By Dr. Newton. Price, \$1.00. This book is in our Reading Course for 1901-02.

The prices quoted for these books are subject to the usual discount allowed to Epworth Leagues and Sunday-schools.

Items About Japan.

Shintoism has twelve sects, 82,000 priests, and 193,000 shrines.

Buddhism has 41 sects, 81,000 priests, and 108,000 temples. There is one priest for every 280 people and one temple for every 150 of a population.

Our mission work in Japan was begun in 1873, when Rev. Dr. Cochran and Dr. Macdonald undertook the opening and establishing of our work in that country.

The first mission station was Yokohama, according to the Missionary Report of 1873. In 1878 we had four mission stations, Tokyo, Shizuoka, Newaza, and Kofu.

The Missionary Report of 1901 gives Japan twenty-four missionaries, twenty-three assistants, and two teachers, making a total of fifty-nine missionaries and a membership of 2,335.

The Measure of Giving.

As God hath prospered every one, so should every one give. See how this condemns those persons who measure their gifts by what they have been in the habit of giving, or by what some one else gives. Such giving as that is no giving at all. "Let every one give as God hath prospered him." That is worship. That takes God into account. That is acceptable giving. Not what I used to give, not what my neighbor gives, but "as God has prospered me." "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?"—Rev. R. W. Van Sholek, D.D.

A Change of Opinion.

That missionaries have won a place for themselves in India is shown by two remarks made concerning them.

Ninety-five years ago the directors of the East India Company placed on solemn record the declaration:

"The sending of Christian missionaries into our Eastern possessions is the maddest, most expensive, most unwarranted project, that was ever proposed by a lunatic enthusiast."

"Ten years ago Sir Rivers Thompson, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, said:

"In my judgment Christian missionaries have done more real and lasting good to the people of India than all other agencies combined."

News Items.

There will be a Summer School for the study of the Bible and Missions in Victoria University during the coming summer; the date is not yet decided upon.

Rev. Dr. Spencer, of Bella Coola, B.C., acknowledges with many thanks a box of hospital supplies from the "busy bees" of Berkeley Street Church, Toronto.

In the Springfield League there are 36 members, 26 of whom are giving systematically for missions. This number is just ten members too few in proportion to the League membership.

Since last October, seven of the members of Mr. Emberson's Bible-class have been baptized. On Christmas Day two young men knocked at his door seeking Christ, and were sent away comforted.

Word has been received from the Rev. Geo. E. Hartwell and Rev. W. J. Mortimore from Japan. They report "all well." They had the pleasure of visiting our missionaries in Tokyo for a couple of hours before leaving for Shanghai.

Rev. S. D. Gaudin, of Nelson House, has been assigned to the Epworth Leagues of the St. Catharines and Welland Districts for support—not Chatham and Welland, as announced in last month's Era.

The missionary spirit has taken strong hold of the West End Methodist Church, Montreal, P.Q., the members of which purpose holding a special meeting in the interests of the French Protestant Church, Elizabeth Street, of which our devoted missionary, Rev. Mr. Massicotte, is pastor.

The Leagues of the Newfoundland Conference are being helped in their work through the efforts of T. B. Darby, B.A. He is trying to organize the young people for missions. Many of the Newfoundland young people are already giving to our missionary work, but wish to come into line on the "Pray, Study, Give" plan.

We are pleased to know that a decided interest is manifest in the Montreal District in the French work. There is quite a revival along this line. Let all our beloved Church remember this work in prayer. It is important to the individuals concerned, important to Canada, and important to the peace and prosperity of our British Empire.

If you would like a map of the Dominion of Canada, 36 by 72 inches, you may have one on application to Dr. F. C. Stephenson, 81 Czar Street, Toronto. Enclose ten cents for postage. These maps, when mounted on cotton and our mission stations marked with legal seals, are an open sermon for missions when hung in the League room.

The Shakespeare class which Mr. Emberson conducts, the members of which are chiefly teachers in the Normal and Middle Schools, has given rise to another and more important study. The teachers have asked Mr. Emberson to form a class for the study of the English Bible. The many references to the Bible which they found in English literature led them to believe that the Bible must be a very important book, and therefore they wished to study it. This must result in the conversion of some of these Bible students, for God's Word "can not return unto him void."

Montreal District reports, through Mr. Howell, the following Leagues which are giving more than two cents per week per member for the year ending 1901: East End, 50 members, \$53.12 contributed; Fairmount Avenue, 86 members, \$55.64 contributed; Mountain Street, 24 members, \$46.41 contributed; Westmount, 41 members, \$76.45 contributed.

One of our pastors writes: "We have changed our method of raising missionary money in our Leagues to that of the Scriptural 'Pray, Study, Give' plan, and as a result there is an increased vitality in the League itself as well as increased generosity. This is another testimony to the only 'orthodox' method of raising money for missions and I am rejoicing in the success of it here."

Several of our University students have volunteered for the foreign mission field. Since the Student Volunteer Convention non-prayer meetings have been held among the students in Victoria University. Special Sunday morning meetings have also been held. While these men offer for the field our Mission Board is powerless to send them unless we as Leagues, through prayer and sacrifice, supply the means.

Rev. Robert Emberson, of Shizuoka, Japan, for some time past has had a class of officers of the army, numbering about 35, composed of majors, captains, lieutenants. This is a wonderful door open for work. For some time the class had been held at Mr. Emberson's home, but lately the officers asked him to go to their mess-room and meet the class every Wednesday night. In this way he has access to both men and officers, who number about 2,500 in that city. The colonel of the regiment has given Mr. Emberson a passport which allows him to go in at any gate and visit the men.

Through the efforts and kindness of some of Mr. Emberson's friends, a box of books has been sent him for use in the work among the military men. Mr. Emberson wrote, saying: "These officers are in dead earnest, and are ready to read good, solid religious books. I must have books for them." The letter only came in a couple of days before Dr. Sutherland left for Japan. It was a great pleasure to be able to send the books with Dr. Sutherland for this important work.

Nelson House Mission is preparing for a new church and school. Mr. Gaudin writes that he was off with a gang of men, and they cut, hewed, and hauled home about 100 logs from a distance of twenty miles. Part of the logs were sawn by hand into boards. The frame of a small school-house has been put up. Mr. Gaudin hopes to have it ready for use before very long. This school has not cost the Missionary Society a cent so far, but it has cost the missionary a good many hard days' work with his axe and saw. Mr. Gaudin has been appointed as representative of the Epworth Leagues of the St. Catharines and Welland Districts.

An Indian writes: "Our children been to school now, so we believe that these children will know more than we know. We don't know much about the Bible, but we keep on learning. We are not born from the Bible, we are born in darkness of sin, and Jesus brought us from darkness unto light. Now we all say we try to do the best we can this year. Now, brother in Jesus Man you are my friend, now please remember us in your pray and send me words to make our hearts strong. All your friends send a thankful to you for your kind letter. If the Lord helping us we will try to give a cent every week this year. Your sincere brother in Jesus, Signed, —"