

so profound, and infinitely suggestive that after millions of minds have pondered the lessons they contain, and after the creation of an expository literature before the extent and variety of which we positively stand aghast, these discoveries are as fresh and original to us as to all previous generations, and they are the themes which occupy by far the greater number of the books that are being published.

It is gratifying to observe that the sermons of the day are becoming more and more illustrative. Metaphysical preaching has almost suffered a total decadence. But the imaginative, the illustrative, and the practical preacher is the man who is sought after, and is wielding a healthful influence upon his fellow-men.

#### NOTES FROM CENTRAL INDIA.

Dr. Nugent wrote some months ago in the cool season: "We are in the camp at Dewas, which lies on the main road about 22 miles from Ujjain and about the same distance from Indore. It is one of the most modern up-to-date native cities in Central India and in a populous and wealthy district. Yet the only Christian is a boy from the Mhow Orphanage, who is employed by a Hindu to teach weaving. We have been here over a week and a number of educated young men have come every day and at all hours. The people come to us freely. Mr. Smith visits the villages around about. A few days ago we called on the senior Rajah and had a friendly welcome. The Rajah of the junior branch listened for an hour in the market a few days ago whilst we told the story of the Gospel. We should have representatives in these populous districts. During the last few months six adult Hindus were baptized in Ujjain district, besides four of their children. Some of them are finding bitter persecution. There are numbers who are secret believers but have not the strength to confess openly. A Mohammedan woman is with us in camp and wishes to be baptized here because she fears to be baptized in Ujjain. Through her influence Mrs. Nugent and her Bible woman have found access into many homes, and many women have come to the tent. The unrest in India continues, and is due in part at least to the rough treatment accorded the Brahmans at the hands of certain English officials, and knowing these officials as I do, I believe it. Of course they know that freedom from British officials would mean greater ills. We personally find much friendliness."

Mr. Taylor writes "There is much mistiness in the minds of educated Hindus about Christianity. They profess great admiration for Him, but do not like to come to close quarters in reference to Christ's testimony to Himself and His work and His claims upon us. In one part of my field there is a judge who often calls and likes to talk about religion. I gave him Stalker's Life of Christ and a New Testament in English. He is a Hindu of the old school, but sufficiently touched with the spirit of the age to wish to absorb Jesus Christ into his system. I tell him it won't do—Jesus Christ must absorb him."

It is the same note in every letter. Many inquirers—much secret soul anguish, but fear of the consequences of a break with the past.—R. P. Mackay.

#### THE HUSTLER'S CLASS—A GOOD WORK OVERDONE.

A falling off in interest and attendance in the Sunday school, which is evident in many places, has set our friends in the United States planning how they may overcome this tendency. A hustlers' committee is one of the methods adopted. When a stranger comes to live in a town an organized attempt is made to secure his attendance at the adult class. If he has been first seen at church, on Monday morning a member of the committee calls and leaves a card of invitation to the school. On Tuesday another member calls, and another on each day throughout the week. On Sunday a final messenger arrives to escort him. This is hustling with a vengeance, but it looks like overdoing it, although, it is stated, the victim generally capitulates. In one place in the country, which has one hundred and one adult male inhabitants, one hundred are members of the class. The hundred and first at last account had not been captured.

#### WHO WILL GO?

The Foreign Mission Committee (office 439 Confederation Life Bldg.) will welcome correspondence from ministers and doctors who would consider appointment to the foreign field. A few applications are in hand, but the committee urgently requires three or four more men. Funds are available for their support through special generous offers of certain individuals and congregations. Men of faith, not afraid of difficulties; men who have seen a vision of the world's unutterable temperance; men who have seen a vision of the world's unutterable need and are convinced that Christ alone can meet the need—men of this stamp are wanted. Are there not some of the younger ministers of the Church who would like to have a share in the transformation of the Orient? Are there not some medical practitioners who long to consecrate their professional skill to the task of alleviating suffering in India or China and thus have the privilege of pointing multitudes to the Great Physician? The size of the parish or of the practice is limited only by the strength of the missionary. The people are receptive for they want our western civilization. Now is the day of unprecedented opportunity and unspeakable privilege in the investment of life. Who will go?

Christian Science is being wounded in the house of its friends. Mr. Louttit, formerly first reader in the church at Fort Wayne, Indiana, in a carefully written article in the Chicago Interior, says:—"The more intelligent Christian Scientists are fast beginning to realize that Christian Science is the practice of mental suggestion and hypnotism, cleverly concealed by a lot of religious sophistry and philosophic conclusions; and seeing its awful effects they are fast breaking away, unless tied to it by their love for the money to be acquired by their connection with it." When one who knows the inner workings of the cult writes thus of it there is scarcely any necessity for a vigorous campaign on the part of the churches against it, as some advocate. Give it time and it will strangle itself.

#### UNCLOUDED DAYS.

By C. H. Wetherbe.

Very many people frequently say that they would like to have every day of their life an unclouded one. It is a figure of speech by which they mean that they desire to have nothing but bright visions, lightness of heart, with labor and pleasure free from the curtain of dark shadows. This is their ideal of life on earth. Mr. George R. Scott, in an article in "Sabbath Reading," entitled "A Cloudless Sky," says:—"I have often wished to see the time when all my days would be cloudless ones; but perhaps such a condition would not be good for me, for I have heard it said by those who have had the experience of living in a climate of almost perpetual sunshine that its beauty becomes monotonous, and that living where the seasons are changeable are preferable." Then he adds: "To-day is cloudy, which makes it hard work to write cheerfully."

I do not agree with the sentiment that continual unclouded days are better for one than are the days which alternate with dark clouds and clear sunshine. A life without periods of dark experience would be a very unfortunate one, both to Christians and unconverted ones. It would be a comparatively weak and stunted life. If one were to have no darksome trials and troubles he would be largely undeveloped in mind, heart, and character. If a Christian were to have none but cloudless days he would be far less vigorously prayerful than he is when heavy clouds are pressing him sorely.

Consider the fact that, in Old Testament times it was the terribly dark days which prompted men of God to pray with unwonted energy and persistency. Jacob would never have become known as the man who prevailed with God, and therefore the victorious pleader with Him, if all his days had been unclouded. A shrouding and whelming darkness of soul constrained him to besiege God with all of his might, and with continuous urgency. And a similar experience has been the good fortune of multitudes of saints since that day. Thank God for the darkness which leads you to cry out with unusual fervor for blessings that you would not receive without it.

The purchasers of school readers in Ontario are promised a saving of over half a million dollars this year, and \$125,000 a year for two years thereafter, during which the new contract runs. Before 1907 these readers cost \$1.15. Since 1907 they cost 49 cents. In future they will cost 39 1/2 cents. As the price of both materials and labor has advanced, the former price of the books must have been too high. Somebody has been making money too fast at the pupils' expense.

Rev. Dr. J. W. Macmillan was warmly welcomed to his new charge, the historic St. Matthew's church at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and has entered upon his ministry in that city under the most favorable auspices. The church is in the heart of the city, and had at one time as pastor the late Principal Geo. M. Grant, of the university at Kingston, Ontario, and is composed of wealthy Halifaxians.