

## \* PALM BRANCH \*

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JULY, 1897.

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"An English preacher once asked some British soldiers, 'If Queen Victoria were to issue a proclamation, and placing it in the hands of her army and navy were to say, "Go ye into all the world, and proclaim it to every creature," how long do you think it would take to do it? One of the brave fellows accustomed to obey orders without hesitation, at peril of life, promptly answered, 'Well, I think we could manage it in about eighteen months.'"

Is the command of our *King* less imperative? Yet nearly *two thousand years* have gone by, and today, we are ashamed to say it, there are many millions of people on the face of the earth, who have not so much as heard if there be a Christ!

If that soldier's calculation was true, or anywhere near the truth, is not the Church verily guilty before God? And, as individual members of the Church, are we not sharers in its guilt?

That calculation was made years ago, before there were facilities for travel in foreign lands; possibly before any part of the vast Kingdom of China had come under missionary influence, or Korea been opened up in such a marvellous way.

We do not wish to undervalue the mighty agencies at work for good, but oh, how slow is our progress to what it ought to be. What is lacking on our part? Is it Faith? Prayer? Enthusiasm? Money?

We not only "blush for shame," but feel sick at heart over the facts contained in our "Field Study" this month. Talk of sending Missionaries to heathen lands, let us send them to the governments of so-called Christian countries! Is it true that the people of our Canada refuse, on mere mercenary grounds, from greed of gain, to stand for God and the right? Then let us have a time of mourning, and not of Jubilee!

Our hope is in the young people of our land. God grant that they may so see the truth, and that it may so appeal to their hearts, that they will be ready in the

near future to come up with Holy boldness "to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

This is the time of holidays, and brightness, and sunshine—of green fields and flowing brooks, swinging hammocks and outdoor fragrance. We wish our readers a happy holiday season, and trust that they may take in so much of the pure summer air, that they cannot but breathe it out again in glowing words to fill our pages.

Just as we go to press a kind letter from Miss Veazey arrives—we quote one sentence. "We enjoy the reading of your little paper here, quite as much as the Workers do at home. I think it grows brighter and fresher each year, and I congratulate you on its growing success."

Miss Veazey also sends us an interesting contribution regarding the Kanazawa Orphanage. How can we repay these busy far-off Missionary friends, who help to brighten our pages from time to time, except by praying more earnestly and faithfully than ever, for the success of their noble work!

## QUESTION DRAWER.

Q. Does a subscriber who begins in May or June receive the paper till the next May or June?

A. Certainly, twelve papers go to a year's subscription. It would be infinitely better if all subscriptions began in January. The next best thing is the quarterly subscription.

Q. Can we send manuscripts to the Editor or letters to Cousin Joy's Corner for one cent, if they are left unsealed?

A. You can if they are marked "MSS." or "Printer's copy," on one corner of the envelope, not otherwise. Please remember this important fact! Cousin Joy has had to pay double postage on two little letters lately!

Q. How far is Queen Victoria personally responsible for the opium trade in China and the liquor traffic in her own Dominions?

A. A delicate question. Queen Victoria's is a limited not an absolute monarchy. At the same time we understand that she takes a personal interest in all important questions. We believe in our Queen and think her too good a woman to allow any known public sin in her dominions, without a protest. We do not know how these special matters present themselves or are presented to her. We know that she was sound on the Slavery question. We must also remember that the Temperance Reform in England is of a comparatively recent date.

We have lately heard what is much to her credit, that she has been a total abstainer herself for some years, thus setting a good personal example. God save the Queen!