

Effects of the Plebiscite. In measuring the results of the Plebiscite on Prohibition, we do not often think of these results as reaching to India, or as affecting our mission work there. But such is the case. Dr. Buchanan, our missionary in Ujjain, writes to his brother in Ontario:—"I wish you the utmost success. Your Plebiscite is just coming at a time when the matter is being thrown up here in India, that we are trying to do away with opium in India while liquor is freely drunk in Britain and America without any hindrance. I do hope you will carry the day for the good cause. Just now there is a Royal Commission here from Great Britain inquiring into the opium question, and it is amazing the difference of opinion on the subject. Many see little harm in the use of the drug, while others see it as the ruination of homes and individuals as well as of the nation, eventually, if persisted in. The Commission is to come through this part of India shortly, and I am on a committee to give them some light on the subject."

Facts about Korea. Korea is a peninsula about four hundred miles long by one hundred and fifty miles broad and has a population of from eight to twelve millions. It is a vassal of China. There are schools but most of the people are ignorant. The dwellings are mud thatched with straw. The people are idolaters. There are more than twenty gods popularly worshipped. Ancestral worship too is common. More than a century ago Romish converts from Japan and China carried their religion into Korea. The government became alarmed at its progress. Persecution arose. 4000 martyrs perished. After this, Romanists from Spain and Portugal tried again to effect an entrance and made many converts, but persecution again destroyed all traces of their work.

Efforts were made by Protestants to get the Gospel into Korea as early as 1860, but the "Hermit nation" kept within itself and little was accomplished until the treaty with the United States in 1882. In 1884 the Presbyterian Church of the United States, North, began a mission at Seoul, the Capital. Medical work has been a large factor in the mission advance there. Three or four hospitals have been established. Thousands are treated and hear the Gospel at the same time. There are besides Seoul 337 large cities, each containing from ten thousand to three hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, and of these only four have a preacher of the Gospel. The people are willing to receive the truth. The door is an open and inviting one.

Remember that we have no more faith at any time than we have in the hour of trial. All that will not bear to be tested is mere carnal confidence. Fair weather faith is no faith.—*Spurgeon*.

Sowing and Reaping. Two interesting incidents of the far reaching influence of good reading come to mind.

The first was the case of Rev. Dr. Morton, of Trinidad. When a lad, a neighbor boy and playmate, used to loan him month by month the old *Missionary Register*, with Dr. Geddie's early letters from the South Seas. The seed fell on good soil. Those letters were in God's hand the means of turning young Morton's mind to the mission field, and a trip to the West Indies for his health, shortly after he was settled in the ministry, gave a field for carrying the idea into practical shape. He saw in Trinidad the immigrants from India, working on the estates, with none to give them the gospel. He came home to Nova Scotia, told the Synod of the field and its needs, offered to go as a missionary, and now after twenty-five years, we have among the 80,000 Indian immigrants four flourishing congregations, with a large number of stations, over 4,000 children in school, and a college for the training of a native ministry.

The other case is that of Rev. W. J. Mackenzie, who has lately gone to Corea. Rev. E. A. McCurdy, late of New Glasgow, N.S., some fifteen years ago lost a loved child. As a memorial of his boy he set apart \$100, the interest to be devoted yearly to the purchase of a few of the latest and best works on missions for the library of the Pres. College, Halifax. These books were to be the nucleus of a Foreign Mission department in the library and were to be kept by themselves as the "Roy McG. McCurdy Memorial."

Some six years ago W. J. McKenzie, a student at the College, was sent as a missionary to Labrador for a year and a half by his fellow students. He had with him two or three books from the college library for reading and study. Among them was one of these books, "The Hermit Nation," Corea. He read it on the way. The needs of that land with its hundreds of cities without a missionary or a Christian, deeply impressed him, and there as they drifted ice-bound in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in a small sailing vessel on the way to Labrador, he devoted himself, if the Lord should open the way, to that work.

He finished his mission, came back to college, completed his course, and settled for a time as pastor of the congregation of Lower Stewiacke. But Corea still called. He could not refuse. He resigned his charge. Our church had no mission there and was not in a position to open a new one. He was told that if he wished it, an appointment to that field would be given him by the Pres. Ch. in the United States. But he did not wish to sever his connection with the church and friends of his own land and preferred to go forth in faith, trusting to what friends might give for his support. Two or three months since he crossed the continent, has reached Corea and begun the study of the language.