

Missionary Gleanings

Moody's Chinese Namesake.

AT least one little dusky lad in the Land of Sinim bears the name of America's famous evangelist. Mrs. Lowrie, of Powtongfoo, tells about it in an interesting letter:

"I was calling a few days ago on a Chinese Christian family to congratulate them on the birth of a little son, their first son having died of cholera two years ago. As I held the little boy he seemed as cunning and beloved as any American baby. Among other inquiries in regard to his welfare, it occurred to me to ask his name, although he is still not two months old. Were he in a heathen home, he might very likely be called Number 2, but his father very promptly replied, 'His name is Mu-dee.' I asked, 'What does that mean?' for I had never heard the combination and could not imagine its meaning. The father, who is very well educated, explained that 'Mu' means 'love,' and 'Dee' is the name adopted by many of the English for 'God.'

"I replied, 'That, of course, is Wen-li (which means book language), that is the reason I did not understand it.' Then in an almost diffident manner, he asked, 'Is there not a very good man in your country who is the means of making many know and love God, whose name is Mr. Mu-dee?' It struck me as so interesting that I said, 'I must write and tell Mr. Moody and ask him to ask God to make his little namesake in China a power for good in this very needy land.'"

Prayer for Missions.

THERE is the closest possible connection between missionary success and prayer. A quickening of the spirit of supplication in the church at home has invariably been followed by missionary triumphs in the foreign field. Dr. A. T. Pierson has written the following wise words on the subject:

There is a lack of supplication. Prayer has always turned the crises of the kingdom. It is a remarkable fact, that from the inception of modern missions to their present period, no important stage or step of their development has ever occurred except in connection with prayer. Even while the bulk of disciples were yet asleep to the needs of man and the duty of the church, a few were, like Elijah on Carmel, bowed before God in importunate prayer.

First, William Carey, in England, and Jonathan Edwards, in America, besought to arouse an apathetic church, and almost simultaneously in England and New England the monthly concert of prayer began to be observed in 1784.

Then prayer arose to God for the opening of doors into the whole habitable world. From 1819 to 1884 the most remarkable series of events occurred ever known in history. Cannibal islands

in the South Seas, Brahministic India, Buddhistic Siam, Persia, Turkey, China, Japan, Korea, and even Italy, Spain, and France were thrown mysteriously open. Africa was suddenly thrown open also by that strange combination, the cotton spinner of Blantyre and the reporter of the *New York Herald*.

Then praying souls began to plead for increased supplies of men and means to enter these open doors, and workmen offered and money was furnished, until, in 1878, some twenty donors gave more than \$4,000,000. Then the awful condition of woman in pagan lands attracted the attention of praying women, and the great Zenana Movement began, and simultaneously the organized form of woman's work. Then came an exigency, when it seemed that there must be more volunteers—and from the educated classes—and within five years, in America and Britain, thousands of young men and women, the flower of the church and of society, have offered themselves willingly.

Every time the church has set herself to praying, there have been stupendous movements in the mission world. If we should but transfer the stress from dependence and emphasis from appeals to men to appeals to God; from trust in organization to trust in supplication; from confidence in methods to importunate prayer for the power of the Holy Ghost, we should see results more astounding than have yet been wrought.

JUDGE TUCKER, brother of the late "A. L. O. E.," served long in India, giving to missions \$200 per month. To those who remonstrated at his liberality, he replied: "There are 86,000,000 adult population; 5000 die daily; every day's delay means 5000 souls."

THE decay of caste is rapidly going on in India. The educated classes pour contempt on it, observing it in public for personal ends, but utterly ignoring it in private life. Eating-houses are increasing in Calcutta, and in these Hindus eat all sorts of food without asking who prepared it. Modern modes of travelling also tend to produce this same disregard of the severe demands of caste.

HEATHEN are often so much interested in the looks and apparel of the foreign missionary that he often finds it difficult to secure their attention for his message. A missionary in China reports that on one occasion, after he had preached to a company which seemed to be listening intently, he asked if any of those present would like to make any inquiries that they might know more about what he had been saying. One of the company responded immediately by saying, "We would like to know what those two buttons on the back of your coat are for?"