

"TO THE JEW FIRST."

THE appeal of the Rev. Geo. J. Bond, B.A., of Newfoundland, to the General Board, to establish a mission in China, and the resolution of the Rev. Dr. Potts, on the same subject, have a good deal of significance, when read in the light of recent developments in that land. We have been wont to think of Palestine as a land where everything became, not only stereotyped, but petrified, many centuries ago, and where change and growth were not to be looked for; but there are signs which show that a new and vital current has been infused where all was stagnation before, and that even Palestine is feeling the mighty pulsations of restless nineteenth-century civilization.

Changes of the most marked character are in progress, one of the most significant being the rapid increase of population in and around Jerusalem. To the west of the city the plain, formerly unoccupied, is now covered with private residences and colonies of Jews, while near the Jaffa Gate are numbers of shops already tenanted, and others in course of construction. Within the last three years the population has increased by some 20,000. Of the 70,000 in and about the city, about 40,000 are Jews, while in other parts of the country the influx of Jews has been equally marked. Public improvements, in the form of well-constructed roads, are being pushed forward—some already completed. A flour mill has proved a success, and others with steam-power are being erected. The increased amount of rain which, for several years past, has fallen in Palestine, is having a marked effect on the productiveness of the country. The recent cruel edict by which a million Jews have been expelled from Russia, will have a powerful influence on the future of Palestine, as, doubtless, vast numbers of the exiles will turn their faces towards the land of their fathers. Should this prove to be the beginning of a second Exodus, which should result in the return of Israel to his ancient heritage, we may safely conclude that the set time to favor Zion has come. Who can tell but that with the return their eyes may be opened to "look upon Him they have pierced, and mourn," and so "all Israel shall be saved." What if, after all, there should be a providential call to the Methodist Church to send forth, "upon the mountains, 'round about Jerusalem, the feet of him that bringeth good tidings," so that "to the Jew first," and to them who sit in darkness, he may proclaim Him who is the "Light of the World."

"Light for the ancient race,
Exiled from Zion's rest;
Homeless they roam from place to place,
Benighted and oppressed;
They shudder at Sinai's fearful base,
Guide them to Calvary's breast."

JAPAN MISSION.

STUDENTS of Missions, and Missionary Lectures, will find suggestive topics and lines of study in the *Minutes of the Japan Conference* for 1890, and in the "Calendar of the Toyo Eiwa Gakko." Statistics properly used are convincing, and "facts are chiefs that winna ding." A careful perusal of these acts of the saints in Japan, will give pungency to many missionary addresses during the winter. Not only will the Japan mission be benefited, but the zeal of the Home Church will be quickened, and the several departments of the mission work of the Church be greatly strengthened. "Knowledge is power" is a phrase which is true to the letter upon the missionary platform.

ROBIN RUSTLER.

MOOSE JAW, ASSA, Oct. 30, 1890.

INDIAN LITERATURE.

Primer and Language Lessons in English and Cree. By REV. E. B. GLASS, B.A. Translated by Rev. John McDougall. Toronto: Methodist Book Room. We welcome this neat and well-printed school book of over one hundred pages, as the first practical attempt to overcome some of the difficulties connected with the education of Indian children. Hitherto, teachers in Indian schools have had to depend upon books prepared for white children, whose mother-tongue is English. But "Indian children"—we quote from the preface—"must begin conversational and written English at the same time." The book comprises forty-three lessons, which include all the parts of speech, and are printed in English, with the equivalent Cree syllabics on the opposite page. The main object in Indian schools is to teach the children English, but the teacher can work to far better advantage if he is able to explain the lesson in the native tongue. Mr. Glass has done good service in the preparation of this volume, and we hope to see further contributions from his pen.

The Canadian Indian for November is on our table. This is an 8vo magazine of 32 pages, published under the direction of the "Canadian Indian Research and Aid Society," at \$2.00 per annum, edited by Rev. E. F. Wilson and H. B. Small. The object of the Society referred to is to "promote the welfare of the Indians; to guard their interests; to preserve their history, traditions and folk-lore; and to diffuse information with a view to creating a more general interest in both their temporal and spiritual progress." The current number of the magazine has a comprehensive and interesting table of contents, and is well printed. Persons who desire information on all matters relating to the Indians of this country, could not do better than subscribe for a copy. John Rutherford, Owen Sound, is the printer and publisher.