

## IV.—EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

In view of the conflict of statements as to the Sunday issues of newspapers in Japan, from a private letter of Rev. H. Loomis, for twenty years agent of the American Bible Society at Yokohama, dated August 21st, 1895, we make this extract :

"In regard to the publication of Sunday newspapers in Japan, I am informed by one of the staff of the *Japan Mail* that the *Nippon* and *Yomiuri Shimbun* issue a paper every day alike ; but the others print an edition Saturday afternoon or evening, and there is no issue Monday morning, because Sunday is a day of rest (*underscored* by Rev. Mr. Loomis). My informant gives his opinion that this is the custom throughout Japan (as in Tokyo and Yokohama). He also thinks that this has been the course adopted by the publishers of each newspaper from the time it was first started" (in these twenty-three years).

The authority of Rev. Mr. Loomis, a cautious man in all his statements, is sufficient ; but this from one of the staff of the *Japan Mail*, the largest paper in Japan, should settle the question. *Virtually* the 550 papers and periodicals in Japan these *twenty-three years observe the day of rest.*

Professor Howard Osgood, of Rochester, promises to say something to our readers soon on "the electric connection between a belief in the Bible as the veritable Word of God and a belief in the duty and success of missions." And he well remarks that "when a man begins to doubt the possibility of foretelling, and the foretelling found in the Bible, there is no possible basis for missions except in a desire to improve the morals of others ; but that is not strong enough to move his purse. If missions, home and foreign, are the thermometer of the state of the churches, it would be a good idea to compare all that has been done by graduates from the German universities since rational-

ism has taken possession of them. The men from Bach, from Gossner in Berlin, from Hermannsburg, from the Moravians, have rarely been university men."

Mr. Allan W. Webb writes from Geelong, Victoria :

"Within the last ten years the interest in foreign missions in Australasia has increased immensely. Prior to that there were but few of the children of our own land in foreign fields. The Wesleyan missions in the South Seas were recruited from Australia, but beyond that the Australian churches had hardly any if any representatives. Since then our own sons and daughters have gone to China, India, Korea, New Hebrides, New Guinea, and Equatorial Africa and South Africa, and the enthusiasm grows instead of diminishing. Had the funds of the respective societies been larger, many more would have been sent out. The financially crippled state of the colonies tells upon missionary enterprises as well as upon others. Yet there are evidences of the fact that our faith in the God of missions is strong enough to face growing responsibilities.

"The training home for female foreign missionaries, under the charge of Mrs. Warren, has in it at present eight or nine young women destined to proceed to different parts in the service of the churches.

"The Australasian branch of the China Inland Mission has just accepted eight young men candidates to go out in September."

The Ku Cheng massacre awakened universal grief throughout Australia. While the secular press was crying out, "Wherefore this waste?" the heroic mother of two of the martyrs (Mrs. Saunders, a resident in Melbourne) was rejoicing in the honor the Saviour had put upon her and her daughters in permitting them thus to suffer for His name.

The Australian Board of Missions has charge of the work of the Church of England in Australia and islands adjacent. Its last report says: "One word fittingly describes the work of this board—the word progress." A self-denial effort in the year 1894 contributed largely to the cheering results reported. The most important mission is the New Guinea Mission. In 1891 it suffered a serious loss in the death of its pioneer leader, the Rev. Albert Maclaren. It has now a staff consist-