

Foreign Missions.

Missionary Outlook.

JAPAN.—While the number of Christians in Japan is only about one in one thousand, and in no province do they amount to a majority, yet there have been eleven members of the House of Representatives chosen from their number. There are also three professed Christians in the House of Peers. Among the most prominent candidates for the President of the House of Representatives, two of them are Christians. One of the Representatives is an active elder of the Presbyterian congregation at Koshi, and he regards his office in the church as more important than his seat in the Diet. With such men as leaders, it is safe to say that Christianity is sure to triumph over error and superstition in the "Kingdom of the Rising Sun." One hundred years ago the population of the world was estimated to be 731,000,000, of whom 174,000,000 were Christians. Now the population has doubled, and the number of Christians is trebled. The growth of the churches is encouraging to Protestants. In 1786 the number of Protestants in Europe was 37,000,000, of Roman Catholics 80,000,000, of the Greek Church 40,000,000. In 1886 the number of Protestants was 85,000,000, of Roman Catholics 151,000,000, of the Greeks 88,000,000, showing a Protestant increase in this century of 230 per cent., a Roman Catholic of 192, and Greek of 207. In 1786 the number of Protestants in North America was computed at 2,700,000; of Roman Catholics at 100,000. One hundred years later the former numbered 47,000,000, the latter about 19,080,000, an increase of 1,741 per cent. in the former case, of 1,019 in the latter.

INDIA.—In 1851 the Protestant missions had 222 stations; in 1881 their stations had increased to 601, or nearly three-fold. The number of congregations in the same period multiplied from 267 to 4,180, or nearly fifteen-fold. The number of native Protestant Christians increased from 91,091 in 1851 to 492,882 in 1881, or five-fold; the number of communicants increased from 11,661 to 188,264, or nearly ten-fold.

Earth's richest blessings come out of its clouds and shadows. We need not vex ourselves to know why God sends the sorrow, or to ask what particular good it works for us; but let us learn to believe in our Father's love so assuredly that we shall never doubt, in any trial or grief, that He will bring out of it some blessing for our lives. Endure your pain and sorrow with sweet trust and faith, and you will be enriched in life and purified in spirit.

We ought to think of other people's convenience more than some of us do. The home is the place where this thoughtfulness ought to begin and be cultivated. One who comes late to breakfast admits that he is guilty of an amiable self-indulgence, but forgets that he has marred the harmonious flow of the household life, and caused confusion and extra work. The other day an important committee of fifteen was kept waiting for ten minutes for one tardy member who came sauntering in at last without even an apology for having caused fourteen men a loss of time that to them was very valuable, besides having put a sore strain on their patience and good nature. Common life is full of just such thoughtlessnesses which cause untold personal inconvenience and oftentimes produce irritation and hurt the hearts of friends. We ought to train ourselves in all our life to think also of other people.

Selections.

What of That.

"Tired!" well, what of that? Didn't fancy life was made for beds of ease
To sit, like rose leaves, scattered by the breeze?
Come, rouse thee! Work while it is called to day.
Coward, arise, go forth upon thy way!

"Lonely!" And what of that? Some will be lonely: 'tis not given to all
To find a heart responsive to its call,
Blending another life into its own.
Work may be done in loneliness! Work on!

"Dark!" well, and what of that? Didn't fancy life one summer holiday,
With lessons none to learn, and naught but play?
Go—get thee to thy task—conquer or die!
It must be learned; learn it thou patiently.

"No help!" Nay, 'tis not so. Though human help be far, thy God is nigh.
He feeds the ravens, and hears thy cry.
He's near thee always, where thy footsteps roam,
And He will guide, and cheer and help thee home! —T. E.

Must be Honest.

It may be that honesty is not a Christian grace, but it is a moral quality which is essential to all Christian character. It may not constitute the Christian, but he is a sorry Christian who is without it. Evidently there is a growing demand for this homely but valuable quality, the absence of which is bringing reproach on so many names, and wrecking so many institutions. Sternness in inflicting penalties is also growing in favor. We noticed a few days ago in an English paper that a man who had failed and paid only 7s. 6d. on the pound, and who had been suspended from the church, appealed to be reinstated. But the men to whom he appealed proved inflexible. They listened to his much pleading, but finally replied that his offences were such that he should have "the grace and humility to go to heaven in silence."—*Presbyterian.*

The Bright Side.

Carefulness can become a habit, and habits sometimes help us over hard places. A cheerful heart seeth cheerful things.

A lady and gentleman were in a lumber yard situated by a dirty, foul-smelling river. The lady said: "How good the pine boards smell!"

"Pine boards!" exclaimed the gentleman. "Just smell this foul river!"

"No thank you," the lady replied, "I prefer to smell the pine boards."

And she was right. If she, or we, can carry this principle through our entire living, we shall have a cheerful heart, the cheerful voice, and cheerful face.

There is in some houses an unconscious atmosphere of domestic and social ozone which brightens everybody. Wealth can not give it, nor can poverty take it away.—*Miss Mulock.*

What Christ Left.

His purse.... To Judas.
His soul.... To God.
His body.... To Joseph.
His clothes.... To the Soldiers.
His mother.... To John.
His peace.... To Disciples.
—*Andrew Fuller.*

Several leading Stundists of Odessa have been deported to Transcaucasia for five years for attending and taking part in religious meetings.

Married.

At the residence of the bride's parents, Bowmanville, on Aug. 12, Miss Kate Hill, to Mr. Thos. A. Brown, Principal of Exeter High School.

At the Disciples church, Bowmanville, on Aug. 10, by Rev. Manly Bonson, assisted by the writer, Miss Georgio McGill, eldest daughter of Mr. Geo. McGill, of the Ontario Bank, to Prof. J. A. Vogt, of Toronto.
E. B. BARNES.

Obituaries.

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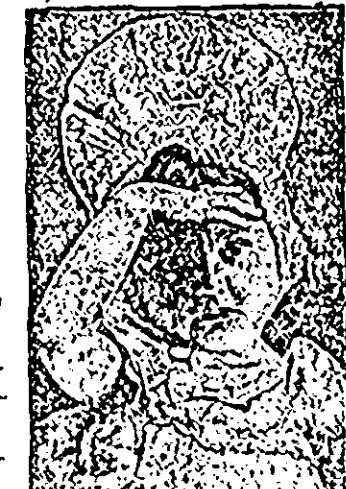
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