

MISSION FIELD.

THE CHURCH'S OPPORTUNITY IN THE ORIENT.

(From the Spirit of Missions (N.Y.) for October).

So rapid is the improvement of Japan and China toward our western civilization that it is difficult to keep pace with the changes that are going on among those interesting peoples. Japan is foremost in this respect, and has within the last twenty-five years undergone a peaceful revolution politically and socially. In matters of education and dress the change has not only affected the men but has extended to the women. It is not surprising, therefore, that their religious views should be greatly disturbed. A leading statesman who only three or four years ago wrote a book urging the strictest exclusion of Christianity, has since then changed his tone entirely and advocates the welcome of the Christian religion. Members of his family have embraced the Christian faith, and two of his sons are now studying in America, while his wife is the patroness of an influential school which bears her name and in which Christianity is taught. How widely the influence of Christianity is felt may be judged by the fact that the Japanese Gazette confesses that Christianity and Buddhism cannot long co-exist in the same country, and that Japan may as well recognize the signs of the times and hasten to enroll itself among Christian nations.

The change is slower in China, is none the less sure. The conservatism of centuries is yielding, and the rumors of large financial syndicates composed of Americans and Chinese and of plans for building railways on a large scale are signs of the breaking up of Chinese exclusiveness; while the action of the government in relation to education and the appointment of young men to go from that great empire to Europe and America and report upon the educational systems, show that the prejudice against everything outside the Chinese wall is a thing of the past. Attention has been called to the proclamations in many of the provinces, not only tolerating Christianity but in a measure commending it. All these things are clearly indicative of a ripening of the eastern mind for Christianity, and put a great responsibility upon the Church to enter in and possess these kingdoms for our Lord. What can be more important than to gird ourselves to the task, which seems to be set before the Church of this generation, to carry with force and energy the precious Gospel of salvation to 400,000,000 people, and to supplant false religions with the Church of God.

(From Mission Field, Eng.)

Wide-spread regret will greet the announcement that the Bishop of Lahore has resigned his see. It was not, however, altogether unexpected by his friends.

He has indeed left his mark on

the Diocese, of which he has been the Bishop since its foundation in 1877. His visitations of Delhi, and we particularise them as being those which concerned the Society's work, have been marked by an elevation of missionary spirit, by love and sympathy for the workers, and spiritual vigour.

It is stated that Archdeacon Matthew is to be his successor.

Several of the workers abroad left England to return to their work last month. The Bishop of Madagascar sailed on September 14, and the Bishop of New Westminster on the 15th. The Rev. H. J. Foss is to return to Japan on October 6. The new Principal of the Theological College, Madras, the Rev. A. Westcott, is sailing for Madras, and Mr. H. C. Henham for Bombay. The Rev. W. J. Williams, sailed for North China early in September.

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