

which is still going on in much the same way, is the most impressive mission work I have seen in any part of the world. It shows that the Spirit of God still moves on the earth and that the old truths of sin, judgment to come, of the Divine justice and love, of the atonement, and of the necessity for holiness, have the same power as in the Apostolic days, to transform the lives of men. What I saw and heard there has greatly strengthened my own faith. But it is not in Pyeng Yang only, but here in the capital and especially through the women's work that the seed sown so long in tears is promising to yield a harvest if the reapers come. And though in lesser degree there are signs elsewhere that the leaven of the Gospel is working.

"Eighteen years ago I spent a year in Japan, chiefly in travelling, and visited missions everywhere. The Gospel was working there. There was a great demand there as at Pyeng Yang for Christian teaching, and there was a great hope that if the teaching were provided Japan might be on its way to be a Christian country. So far at least as England was concerned the appeals for men sent during the following year were not responded to. The door which was open closed again, and we all know what the present state of Japan as regards Christianity is.

"Now a door is opened wide in Korea, how wide only those can know who are on the spot. Very many are prepared to renounce devil worship, and to worship the true God if only they are taught how; and large numbers who have heard and received the Gospel are earnestly craving to be instructed in its rules of holy living. I dread indescribably that, unless many men and women experienced in winning souls are not sent speedily, the door which the Church declines to enter will close again, and that the last state of Korea will be worse than the first. The methods of the missionaries are admirable in the training of Christians to self-help. They are helping themselves to the limit of their means. Also admirable are the methods used for fitting the Koreans to carry the Gospel intelligence to their brethren. This work alone requires four times the number of men already on the field to carry it on; yet on it perhaps more than on any other agency hang our hopes for the advancement of Christ's kingdom in Korea. Truly a 'great door and effectual' is opened. I sadly ask, Is it to close again?"

The Rev. Robert Spurgeon of Barisai, India, declares that there are districts in Barisai with populations of 300,000 and 500,000 without a single preacher, though when an occasional visit is paid the people listen eagerly, and purchase copies of the Scriptures and tracts. What must the Divine Head of the Church think of these neglected opportunities?

Young People's Department.

HUNGRY CHILDREN.

Did you ever see them? Do they live at your home? We all know what a hungry place school is, and how the boys and girls, especially the boys, come rushing home at noon, wondering what "Mother is going to have for dinner." With merry laugh and chatter they

gather around the family table that has never failed to supply their need. A hushed moment while the Father in Heaven is being thanked for the abundant blessings of every day; then how the good food disappears!

But the hungry children I am thinking about live far away over the ocean. The boys and girls of India are starving while you read these words, and their fathers and mothers have no food to give them. Many of them have never known the blessing of three plentiful meals every day. They would at all times consider the crumbs and scraps from your table a great treat. But last year the welcome rain, so eagerly longed for in that hot land, did not come to water the rice fields. The burning sun soon destroyed every green leaf and blade, and the people knew nothing but famine was before them. Some of you may remember hearing of the "Great Famine" of 1877. Twenty years ago India was in much the same condition that it is to-day. Thousands of starving men, women and children left their homes to wander here and there in the vain hope of getting some food to satisfy the terrible craving they felt day after day, night after night. Robberies and burning of villages were heard of in every direction. The dead bodies were seen of many people who had starved by the wayside, fallen because their feet were too weak to carry them another step.

One weaver woman came to a missionary with such a sad story. She said with tears, "A year ago I had seven children. I do not know where their father is now. My fifth child died last night, so I bring the last two to see if you can help me save their lives."

Many children were sold for money to buy food for the rest of the family. Then, as now in 1897, the sad news of starvation was carried over the seas to more prosperous countries. God opened the hearts and the purses of the people to send relief for famine-stricken India. Soon we hope showers of the blessed rain will fall, and the ground once more be soft enough to cultivate for the food necessary to feed such an immense multitude of people as inhabit these countries of the east.

But while we are sorrowful over the people who are hungry for bread, our hearts are a great deal more sad over the souls that are starving for the Bread of Life. Thousands of India's men and women have never heard of Jesus and cannot teach their boys and girls about His great love for them. No one can have eternal life without this food for their souls. While we send over money to India to help feed the starving multitudes, let us remember that our missionaries are busy, all the time, in teaching the souls of India's people. Let our gifts to the mission work be given just as freely as we now send money to relieve the famine-stricken ones, and God, even our own God, will add His blessing on those who give as well as all who receive. Pray for the people of India, and all who are seeking to win them for Christ.

SISTER BELLE.

Ottawa, Feb. 17, 1897.