

WE are deeply affected by some of the letters which reach us from the missionary fields of our Church. They tell of hardships which few of our people can have any idea of, borne with a meekness and heroism which is worthy of the most chivalrous days of the Church. From a private letter, written by a devoted missionary in one of the Eastern Conferences, we learn that, though a married man with a family, and only getting a very small grant from the Missionary Society, he did not expect, in the month of May, that his whole receipts for the year would exceed one hundred dollars. But he takes pains to make it clear that his devoted people are not to blame. He is careful to say that they are as just and generous a people as he has ever known; but the fishing industry, in which they are engaged, has been in such a depressed condition during the past two seasons that should the same state of things continue they would be driven from the neighborhood. It is not their fault but their misfortune that they are able to contribute so little to the support of their pastor. If it were in their power they would gladly lift the circuit from the Mission Fund at once. "Thoroughly sincere, devoted, zealous," says their pastor—who is evidently proud of them, notwithstanding their poverty—"each one counts *ten*." No wonder that he takes his trial cheerfully, and is prepared to stand at his post and continue among these good people even if a worse season than any that has hitherto occurred come to them. Even a flattering offer from another branch of the Church, in one of the Eastern States, is *no temptation* to him. Happy in his work, in which he is winning souls for Christ, happy in the loyalty and affection of his people, and feeling himself honored in sharing their poverty and suffering he has no thought, whatever the pressure of circumstances may be, of giving up the ship. Such are some of the men, at least, for whose support our generous people throughout the Dominion are called upon to contribute.

Of the native Christians in the Japanese Churches, only one-fourth are females; but Christianity is gradually removing the restraints under which the women are kept.

The Social Reformer, a paper published by Hindus in the English language, is started "with the object of promoting the social felicity of our natives." The Baptist (England) *Missionary Herald* has a letter from a gentleman in India, who finds, from the advertisements in this paper, that some Brahmans are willing to marry widows, and that bachelors and widowers, rich and poor, apply for them in marriage; that some high-caste Brahmans are willing to marry low-caste widows; that some do not want idolatrous rites for the ceremony, and that some parents and guardians approve of this course. Truly, the world does not stand still.—*The Northern Christian Advocate*.

Editorial and Contributed.

PARSONAGE PLANS.

DESIGN No. 1, which we publish this month, makes no pretensions to elegance, and, as regards outline, is perhaps not the most economical of space; but it has features that will commend it to those who want to build cheaply, in a neighborhood where brick can be easily obtained. There are three good bedrooms upstairs, and two stoves will heat the entire building. Plans and specifications, \$4.00.

Design No. 10 is at once compact and commodious; will look remarkably well if built according to plan, and will afford to any family all the comfort and convenience they could reasonably desire. For a wealthy country circuit or a town, nothing better could be desired. Should be well built and well finished for \$2,500. Plans (double sheet) and specifications, \$10.00.

THE PROPOSED SUSTENTATION FUND.

OUR readers are aware that the question of a Sustentation Fund for the Methodist Church was brought before the General Board of Missions at its last session, and as there was not sufficient time to consider the question in all its bearings, instructions were given to the Committee of Finance to prepare a scheme which might come before the General Board for review before the meeting of the General Conference. At a meeting of the Committee of Finance held in May last, two schemes were submitted, one by the General Secretary, and the other by the Rev. James Gray. A pressure of other business prevented the committee from giving such consideration to either scheme as would enable them to pronounce a united judgment, and hence it is likely the schemes will be passed on to the General Board just as they stand.

Under these circumstances it is thought advisable to let members of the Board and of the General Conference know what is proposed, so that they may be prepared to give an intelligent judgment when the proper time arrives; and we therefore publish, in the present number of the *OUTLOOK*, the scheme proposed by the General Secretary. As the document was prepared with a view to discussion in the Committee of Finance, it is not regarded by the writer as complete. Some of the details will probably require amendment, and additional clauses may have to be inserted; but if the present scheme accomplishes nothing more, it may induce some competent and thoughtful brother to prepare a better one.

Whereas the work of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church is being enlarged from year to