

could, in a few words, make a statement of the case that would *stick* in the minds of the people. It would hardly be putting it too strongly to say that Japan is *not a heathen country*. The educated classes, who form a very large proportion of the people, have ceased to believe in heathenism. Almost the only exceptions are some of the old people. And even among the lower classes, at least in the cities, heathenism has, to a great degree, lost its hold, and what hold it still has is chiefly as an amusement, not as a religion."

Another says: "Do the Foreign Committees appreciate the pressing need of present help for Japan? Do they know that Christianity is being everywhere discussed among this people—in debating clubs, in families, and wherever people meet together—and that Christian books are bought in large numbers by Japanese whom we do not see in our congregations, for the purpose of finding out what Christianity is, and discussing it among themselves?"

ITEMS.

Rev. J. W. Butler, writing from the City of Mexico, late in September, says: "Another Protestant massacre took place lately in Toluca, the capital of the State of Mexico, and about sixty miles from the City of Mexico. Said massacre took place in the Presbyterian Mission, of which Sr. Procopio Diaz is pastor. He is the same man who was in charge at Acapulco some four years ago, when several were murdered. As far as is ascertained, one man was murdered at Toluca, after being dragged through the streets by a mob, crying, '*Death to Protestants!*' and, after being killed, was hung up on a tree in the city, and left there during the next day."

The Moravian Church now has 323 preachers engaged in missionary work, with 1,504 native assistants, and has made 71,000 conversions in heathen countries. At the recent meeting of the General Synod, seventeen invitations to begin new missions were declined on account of a lack of funds.

Mr. Mark Firth, a member of the Methodist New Connexion at Sheffield, some four years ago gave a park to the town, and he has just given a college, called Firth College, in which the University extension scheme may be carried out. The building cost \$100,000. He also gave \$25,000 towards endowing the college. On the day of the opening of the college he was presented by a few friends with \$7,500. He immediately gave said amount to establish scholarships in the college. Ranmoor College, for young ministers in the Methodist New Connexion, is also largely indebted to Mr. Firth's benevolence. Prince Leopold, the Queen's youngest son, opened the Firth College, and by so doing conferred more honour on himself than on Mr. Firth, whose guest he was.

TEMPERANCE.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Unions of Brooklyn, New York, are entering upon a new crusade. This time it is against beer. Committees have waited upon the clergy, and the city is to be flooded with beer tracts the coming month.

A new temperance movement has been organized in Great Britain. It takes the form of a joint stock company, with a capital of \$5,000,000, in shares of \$5 each. It proposes to open temperance houses all over the kingdom. The Archbishop of Canterbury heads the prospectus of the enterprise.

THE DEATH-ROLL.

Rev. Dr. Lovick Pierce, the patriarch of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, recently went home to heaven. He was 94 years of age, and had been a Methodist more than three score years. "Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?"

Rev. J. E. Werden, of Montreal Conference, died on November 6th. He died in great peace. He had only been in the ministry about eight years. Early crowned.

An error in our last. Rev. W. Irwin had only been laid aside from active labour five years—not eight, as stated.