

Editorial.

A LOUD CALL.

THE members of Assembly who visited the Pacific coast were brought into contact with the large Chinese immigration which has penetrated British Columbia almost to its eastern boundary. The number in Victoria, the capital, alone, is between two and three thousand. They are spoken of, even by those who have no love for them, and would willingly freight them back to the celestial empire, as industrious, frugal, and, on the whole, law-abiding. Of course, they have "Orientalisms" of customs and habits which are anything but inviting. No one cares to have them as too near neighbors. But the better classes among them live comfortably after their own fashion, and are intelligent and enterprising; while even the coolies are diligent enough, and shrewd enough to make money where many a white laborer would starve. Those who know the Chinese well in their own land, call them the Britons of the East. China is, and is to be, the foremost Asiatic power. The specimens we have in our country bear out this opinion. They are quick of wit, ready of resource, deft of hand, and untiring in labor. They are eminently worth evangelizing. They belong to one of the great enduring races.

It is rather melancholy that almost nothing has been done to show these strangers that we value their souls. They have all the protection that British law affords for the prosecution of their various occupations. Their lives and property are held as sacred as those of British subjects: but there the care seems to end. With the exception of some earnest efforts here and there on the part of Christian men and women to impart some religious instruction while teaching them English, and in Victoria, under the Methodist Church, a small mission work by one unordained man, who can give only a portion of his time to it, nothing appears to have been undertaken. The reason would seem to be that the home and foreign work already in hand taxes to the utmost the resources of the Churches. We cannot believe that the feeling against the Chinaman, as an immigrant has anything to do with the inaction of the Churches. It is granted on all hands that he is not the most desirable addition to our population; but no one thinks of questioning that his soul is precious in God's sight and should be so in ours.