

THE CHINESE WORK.

Letter from MR. J. GARDINER, Chinese Missionary, at
VICTORIA, B.C., dated Jan. 30th, 1888.

ABOUT a dozen more young men have been converted, and as many more are under conviction; and, which I am sure the ladies of the Woman's Missionary Society, as well as yourself, will be pleased to hear, five out of the six girls in the Home have been freed from the chains of heathenism, and are now rejoicing in the liberty with which Christ has made them free. We intended to have them baptized when Brother Ch-an came, but, owing to some little misunderstanding in connection with the exchange of pulpits, or something of the kind, Brother Starr had to postpone the service for a little. They will now be baptized at the next missionary meeting. With such encouraging results, I cannot but recognize the call of my Heavenly Father. Then, again, last evening being Chinese New Year's eve, we had our usual watch-night service, and, with the exception of those of our converts who had gone to Vancouver, New Westminster, and other places, where they could help on the cause of Christ, all who had been baptized from the beginning were at their post last night, showing they were still faithful and true, and that, too, when some of them had undergone three or four years of severe trials and tribulations. Had it been otherwise, they would have been seen among the hundreds, if not more, who were at that time worshipping their gods of wood and stone. Although it pained us to see still so large a number remaining slaves to just so many blocks of wood and lumps of stone, yet those young men at our service last night, with their faces beaming with new life and joy, clothed and in their right minds, worshipping the one true and living God, presented a contrast that thrilled us with unspeakable joy. With this joy came the resolution that, God helping us, we will double the number of clean hearts and happy faces before the return of another New Year's eve.

With regard to the attendance on Sundays, I am glad to be able to say that it is very good, even better than the night you saw them last. On one or two Sabbaths, even the stairway was blocked. I would seriously urge, therefore, that the new building be put up for them just as soon as possible.

THE HOME WORK.

Comox.—A few lines from this mission may prove of interest to the Readers of the OUTLOOK. Situated about the middle of Vancouver Island, though an old settlement, Comox is comparatively new so far as Methodism is concerned. The first sermon of any denomination was preached twenty-six years ago, by Rev. Ebenezer Robson, now President of this Conference, and the community has been visited a few times by Methodist brethren since that time. Comox, we are told, has been a by-word on the Pacific Coast, and has sustained the reputation of being a tremendously godless place. It has not not been, however, a *God-forsaken* place, for the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches are represented by resident ministers. Our

Conference of 1886 constituted it a mission, but failing to procure a supply, it was again left without Methodist influence until a young brother from one of the American Districts was employed to work up the neglected portions. He succeeded well for a time, but suddenly disappeared, and was lost sight of from that time. This year it was again taken in hand, and with very gratifying results.

At one of the appointments (Denman Island), a series of revival meetings were conducted, and a gracious Spirit was poured out by the great Giver of all good. Over thirty persons, most of whom are adults, profess to have experienced a thorough change of heart. A pushing little society has been organized, and a neat and comfortable church is in course of erection, amply large enough to accommodate 120 persons. A new organ has also been purchased for it, and all will be handed over to Conference free of debt or incumbrance. At other appointments there is a hopeful interest in our work. The new mines (coal) in the close vicinity are being well looked after, and although it is difficult to work up a permanent cause in the present unsettled state of affairs, Methodism has many firm friends on the ground. We thank God and take courage, hoping that at the end of the year it will be fully evidenced that we have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. W. W. BAER.

Arden Mission.—Arden, a village of about 150 of a population, pleasantly situated on the C. P. R., eighty miles from Peterborough, with four other appointments lying outside the village, form the Arden Mission; though two other places farther north want preaching, and one man cannot work seven appointments with justice to himself or work. The country here is hilly, rocky, and broken by lakes; the soil fairly good; lumbering, which has been carried on for thirty years, put much money into circulation in the past, and made times good; but lumbering is done; none this year for the first time. As a result, times are hard, and the people poor; and though our membership is large, yet through poverty, are unable to raise much money as salary, etc. Notwithstanding hard times, etc., our missionary contributions will be somewhat in advance of last year. Methodism has made good advancement here, being guided by the steady, judicious hand of Bro. Metherell, my predecessor, into a happy union. Since our coming here, in June, 1887, God's blessings have crowned our labors with His people. We have exchanged our old C. M. Church for a church shed and parsonage stable; shed, 76 x 20; stable, 14 x 20. We have fenced our parsonage lot on the four sides, drained it, built a sidewalk in front of it, plastered, papered and painted the inside of parsonage. In all, we have paid over \$150 for parsonage improvement, leaving a debt of only \$60 on all our church property on this mission, which we will attempt to clear by next Conference. Besides the above, we have improved our village church to the extent of \$100, and paid for it; and our Ladies' Aid Society have worked hard, and have the parsonage fairly furnished. We see converts every quarter; had an increase of sixty last year, all doing well. We expect an increase this year.

JAMES S. McMULLEN.