

THE GOSPEL ACTION ON INDIVIDUALS.

The marvellous quality of the changes now being produced in many quarters by the gospel appears in the effect of it upon individuals.

Here is a story from Japan: The Rev. D. Norman, of the Canadian Methodist mission at Nagano, Japan, recently wrote to his Society that "four years ago, while at Tokio, we allowed four students in a Government school to use a small out-building on our premises as a dormitory. One of these four I lost sight of after he graduated. I tried in vain to reach him through the mail. Last week he wrote me of his own accord that he is teaching in a Government school in another part of the country. He says that he continues his study of the Bible, reads it daily and finds spiritual food in the reading. And then he thanks me for having sown the seed of truth in his heart, which he prays may not prove stony ground." Mr. Norman adds, "We know not which seed may thrive, but it is our privilege to go on sowing." True, and the reason why it is a privilege to "go on sowing" is, that the ideas in that book are no human imaginings but instruction placed there by the Almighty for the one great purpose which is being brought to pass.

The Bible in the World for March has this incident of the same class and the same significance, also from Japan. A wounded major in the Japanese army told and English missionary how grateful he was for the gift of a New Testament, which some one placed in his hands as he was leaving for the seat of war. He described it as a beautiful book with "golden leaves," bound in fine leather. After he was wounded he had nothing to do, and bethought him of the "book with the golden leaves." "I spent all the time I could," said he, "reading that book. It was the only comfort I had. Many things in it I do not understand; but it is a book that brings peace to him who reads it. Go on," he said to the missionary, "spread your religion as fast as you can. It is a good thing for a people to have something which they can believe." Pause a moment and recall the qualities and characteristics of the man who is speaking, his long education in ancestor-worship; his satisfaction with the Bushido chivalry—and so shall the wonder grow, that this book, written by Jews at the other end of Asia, can take hold thus upon the Japanese soldier thrilling with the joy of a triumphant war.

The Church Missionary Intelligencer for March recites an incident showing the unconscious penetration of gospel truth into the heart of a pagan China. In the neighborhood of Ningpo a Chinese family had heard something of Christian teaching, and the wife and mother had spoken, in the household, of her wish to learn more of "the doctrine." While nothing was yet decided the woman suddenly fell ill and died. Then the pagan husband was aroused to action. He called his daughter and told her that she must go to the mission school, "lest she also be too late." The truth slowly entered that man's soul, before he was ready to admit acceptance of it, made him tremble for his daughter's future.

If we force ourselves to remember what the average Chinaman is, we can perhaps realize something of the marvel which characterizes the following letter from a Chinese student in Wuchang, to Rev. James Jackson, head-master of the Boone school in that city. The letter is copied from the Spirit of Missions for March.

"The thought of consecrating myself to the will of God has long been in my mind; because I feel that the cure of the disease of China is a matter absolutely dependent upon the prosperity of Christianity. Besides, to serve God, and to fight for the cause of justice and right, is a glory with which no glory of any other kind is comparable. Therefore, I beg to inform you once more that I am determined to give up myself, heart and

soul, to the Church of Christ, and to begin my theological course this China New Year."

Woman's Work for April has a picture of a Brahman ascetic in the north of India. We all know what a Brahman ascetic is. He is a man so full of pride in his own rank, as descended from the gods, that he is content to live at the expense of the people who worship him, while he devotes his life to penances which shall gain him merit enough to ensure his personal advancement at the next transmigration of his soul. Such a man had vowed to remain entirely unclothed during twelve years; during twelve years to sleep not a single night; and in summer sun to sit in the midst of a circle of fires. He had fulfilled eleven years of his torture, and by one more year of such penances he would attain the vast merit that would lift him in the scale at his next rebirth. Then a converted Brahman found him. This Christian Brahman knew very little more than the fact that Jesus Christ had saved him from destruction and was with him every day. He fastened himself to the ascetic. He talked to him, he prayed with him and for him. During ten days he would not let the poor fellow go. Then the ascetic yielded. He cut off his long, matted hair, stripped himself of his beads and the other paraphernalia of one who is acquiring merit by suffering, and he humbly sought baptism as a follower of Jesus Christ. After a careful testing for some time he was admitted to baptism. Now this converted ascetic, who had regarded himself as too holy to be touched by any who were not of Brahman blood, is cook in a mission school, where he has to prepare food for children of the lowest caste! Is the cleansing of a leper, or the casting out of a demon, any more of a tax upon one's power of belief than such a change in a Brahman? Is it any more convincing than this change that Divine power has acted?

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Editor Dominion Presbyterian.—

The overture moved by Dr. Hunt and myself asking the Assembly to take some steps looking towards an amalgamation of the W. F. M. S. and the W. H. M. S. in one great missionary organization, will come up in due course at London. Kindly allow me space to say for the information of those interested—

1. That the mover and seconder specially asked at both Presbytery and Synod that the overture be transmitted simply.

2. The board of the W. H. M. S. has, by resolution, expressed its approval of the air of the overture and has written the Clerk of the Assembly expressing readiness to attend a conference in that regard.

3. The Board of the W. F. M. S. has referred the matter to the Foreign Mission Committee without expressing an opinion.

4. I have received many letters from many parts of the church from Vancouver to Montreal expressing approval of the aim of the overture. These have come from pastors and from ladies prominent in both organizations.

5. The pastors and elders I have met almost unanimously favor it. Not a single elder has expressed dissent and even pastors who see some difficulty as to arrangements think it ought to be accomplished.

6. There need be no disturbance of the work already established. That would have to be maintained and extended as circumstances required.

7. It would be passing strange if anyone in a church which is discussing the immense project of union with other churches would seriously object to a conference which aims at consolidating our own organizations.

R. G. MACBETH.

Paris, May 3, 1906.

LITERARY NOTES.

The Bible Student for May (The American Bible House, New York) presents a varied and valuable table of contents. This sterling publication can not fail to be exceedingly useful to ministers and students. One dollar a year; single copies 15 cts.

In the May Cosmopolitan (New York), we have the third instalment of "The Treason of the Senate," in which is sketched the rise of Gorman. In this number the short stories hold a prominent place by reason both of number and quality. W. W. Jacobs has one of his amusing stories, called "A Love Knott" and Elliott Flower writes of "An Unavailing Subterfuge." The story of Paul Jones is concluded in this number; and H. G. Wells' new serial, "In the Days of the Comet," is continued. We have space to mention only a few of the features of this bright magazine.

The table of contents for the April Fortnightly (Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York) shows the usual varied menu, ranging from politics to literature. Henry James has reached Philadelphia in his tour of American cities, and his article on the Quaker City will be found most readable by those who know the place. Mrs. John Lane waxes satirical over woman's fashion of paying afternoon calls, in a clever little article. Other articles are: "Morocco and Europe;" "The Task of St. Edward Grey;" "Socialists and Tories;" "Letters and the It;" "Chinese Labor and the Government;" and "Progress or Reaction in the Navy."

The opening article in the April Blackwood's (Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York) is on Charles Lever, inspired by the publication of "Charles Lever: His Life in His Letters," which is edited by Edmund Downey and published by Wm. Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh. The author of "On the Heels of De Wet," gives us a very strong little sketch called "The Honour of Daud Khan" which illustrates clearly the character of some of the natives of British India. Poetry holds an important place in this number. We have the second book of "Drake: An English Epic," by Alfred Noyes; and "Spring on the Branch," by Maira O'Neill; as well as an amusing set of verses on "Old Views and New Votes."

The May number of Current Literature (New York) is as usual full of good reading matter. Of special interest to Canadians, in view of the recent visit of Andrew Carnegie to this country, is the article on his "Spelling Reform" Crusade. Another interesting article is that on the "Rediscovery of Some of Turner's Masterpieces." Twenty-one oil paintings by Turner have come to light in the cellars of the National Gallery of British Art, and are being exhibited in London. They formed part of the bequest made by Turner to the nation fifty years ago, but for unaccountable reasons were boxed and hidden away. Now they are found to be masterpieces, surpassing in some instances the finest of his work hitherto known. Naturally all England is much excited over this find.

Dodd, Mead & Co. will bring out at the end of the year a new guidebook to the West Indies, which Frederick A. Ober is preparing.

Very shortly Doubleday, Page & Co. will add to their series containing volumes of myths, fairy tales, and poems "Every Child Should Know," "Hero Tales Every Child Should Know," edited by Hamilton Wright Mabie, and "Birds," by W. L. Finley.

The Revell Company is bringing out now "The Double Doctrine of the Church of Rome," by the Baroness von Zeitwitz, who was one of the Misses Caldwell of Washington, D.C., and Louisville, Ky., and gave largely to the Catholic University at Washington in 1887.

Cure all family quarrels by being sure that only one gets angry at a time.