

UNOCCUPIED FIELDS.

The reader has only to look into the Year Book and ascertain the number of our churches in New England, the Atlantic and Gulf States, the states west and northwest of Chicago, and the Dominion of Canada, and then note the area and population, to know how many and how great are the unoccupied fields. Or let him take up a railroad map and trace the great trunk lines, marking all the cities of one thousand population and upward where we have no churches, and he will be surprised at our weakness as well as our strength. And in a great many of these important towns and cities will be found Disciples who will form the nucleus for a church. The state and province societies are doing much to reach these places and set up the banners of primitive Christianity. But many of these societies are weak in membership and in wealth; and just here the Board of the American Christian Missionary Society finds its vocation in coming to their support.

What has been done can be done again and again. A single meeting and a few dollars have organized many a small church and this small church has become a power in the community and in the ranks of the brotherhood. Sometimes the conversion of a single individual has been the beginning of a flourishing church. There is room everywhere for the old gospel, and everywhere the faithful preacher will find attentive ears and responsive hearts. He may not at every place organize a church, and may never know the full result of his sowing beside all waters, but he knows this word does not return void, but that it shall accomplish the Lord's pleasure and prosper in the thing where to the Lord sends it. I can remember how the preachers fifty years ago preached sermons wherever there was an open door, not knowing whether this or that would prosper; and I have been told of three churches which owe their existence to a single sermon preached in two different places, and two of these churches a thousand miles away from where the sermon was preached.

"Sow beside all waters." Send up the money to sustain the sowers.—*R. Moffatt.*

"HOME MISSIONS TO THE FRONT."

The great mission of the church is the conversion of the world. This is the greatest and noblest service ever committed to man. He who has no part in it will finally see that he has lived for little purpose. The provisions of God have made the world's conversion possible. The mission of Christ has made it imperative. The Holy Spirit has taught how to do it. The responsibility now rests with the church. Its greatest wisdom, is deepest consecration, its largest sacrifice, should be for this one purpose.

England and the United States, with their power, wealth and civilization, have become the fullest recipients of the gospel influences. These God seems to have made the distributing agencies of the world. From these already flow, and in the future will flow, a great river of men and money into the foreign field. This drain must be fully met by increased activity at home. "Home Missions to the Front" is only another expression of the thought, "The Whole World for Christ."

As the missionary fields enlarge the supply from home must enlarge. A deeper piety, more liberal spirit and more givers will be demanded.

The East, full of brains, longs for better religious teaching. The west was never more white for the harvest, nor if neglected now will ever be able to regain the lost opportunities. The south with its pure American blood and noble manhood is loudly calling for the primitive gospel. The colored people need its plain teaching and are ready for a hundred missionaries today if we had them. The British possessions north of us from Newfoundland to the Klondike are ready for the message of the King. These are the fields for home missions, fields in which must grow the seed for the nations. "Home Missions to the Front!" Certainly, "America for Christ means the world for Christ." A hundred thousand for "Home Missions" is no extravagant call. It is a small sum for so great a work. We must enlarge the home work. Now every one to his place for a strong pull, an all-together pull for May 1st! —*J. G. Waggoner.*

GIVING TO MISSIONS.

It does not require much eloquence to shut up a pocket-book. A few insinuations about the need of the work at home or just a little planning for some improvement, with a promise that when that is done, then missions will be attended to, will ease the consciences of many who would otherwise be fairly liberal. But few churches fail for the want of ability. Many die from stinginess. Sometimes a church, unable to put the house in repair and pay the preacher, has parted asunder on some little question of difference, and found as the result that they had plenty of means to support two houses and two pastors. They were not very poor, but very selfish.

A preacher loses his support through the selfishness of the members ten times to where he loses his salary once on account of poverty. Men who are members of the church frequently live high, decorate their daughters with a lavish hand, and yet are so hard pressed that they are not able to pay anything for the support of the church or, at any rate, but very little. I have known men in fairly good circumstances to spend more for tobacco than for the cause of Christ. I know a man once, who was a member of the church, who was too poor to assist in the support of the work. If he had gone away he would have received the usual letter, "In good standing and full fellowship," but he was simply poor and could do nothing for the cause he loved so dearly (?). When the circus came he bought a sack of flour on time at a dollar sixty and sold it for cash for a dollar fifty. This money took him and his four children into the show. He expected to go to heaven after awhile for nothing, but in the meantime he just had to hear those second-hand jokes of the clown, or the children had to see the animals. I suppose that paying into the church treasury might have interfered with his going to the show. And it may be that giving to missions will hinder us from the enjoyment of a few luxuries, but when all become alive in Christian work and Christian giving the preacher's salary will be paid. But the church that does nothing in missions will die with dry rot and the preacher will be starved out.—*D. R. Dungan.*

Foreign Missions.

Maritime C. W. B. M.

Expect great things from God.  
Attempt great things for God.

Extracts from a letter received from Miss Roeb:

TOKIO, Japan, Nov. 3rd, 1897.—Today is the Emperor's birthday and all the streets are decorated and all schools are closed, also all public offices. It is a day yearly remembered by me particularly, for it was on this day that I first landed on the beautiful shores of this island kingdom. It is five years today exactly since I reached the land of my adoption, and it recalls many happy and many painful things as I look back over the years that have gone by. How wonderfully and graciously has my loving Father's hand led me on into paths of peace. Many times I have wandered, but he has always brought me back again, tired and faint and sin-stained, yet more ready than ever to say, My Lord and my God. I have learned in these five years that true happiness is to be found in him, nowhere else. We must walk as he would have us. There is no happiness except in working for him.

Today being a holiday, I went to see the rose-gardens. They are perfectly lovely, all varieties covered with blossoms.

We are having the most delightful weather, perfect. The falls in Tokio are not to be compared with anything, they are so beautiful.

O Mista Chan is just as good as ever. She is as sweet as she can be. Everything is about the same as ever here, except the hard times; and it is hard times, sure enough. I dread to think of the poor people who have to go through the winter. Prices have more than doubled.

I am enjoying my work so much better this year than ever before. I am, of course, better fitted for it, and am as busy as a bee all day long, except when forced to take a rest for an hour or so.

Isn't it lovely that I can come home to see you all so soon. I look forward to so much eagerness to the time. It has given me so much pleasure to know of your love for and confidence in me. I only pray I may be worthy.

With love to all,

MARY M. ROEB.

35 NAKANO CHO,

ICHIGAYA, TOKIO, JAPAN,

O. and M. P. C. W. B. M.:

DEAR SISTERS,—There is something so sweet and mild about the Japanese women, especially the mothers, that they twine themselves about one's heart very closely.

I always said that no women could be to me what the mothers of the children at the poor school at Matsugae Cho are, but now since my work at Tana Machi school (that Miss Oldham started and labored with so faithfully), I find that they, too, fill a large place in my heart.

The women here are bright, cheerful and very communicative when you get well acquainted with them. They are fond, careful mothers, and really live for their children; indeed, they have little or nothing outside their children to live for. They are in no sense the companions of their husbands, but are merely like upper servants. It is only when a woman gets to be a grandmother that her place is established in the household as of some importance. Thus women in Japan do not mind growing old or looking old, but welcome old age as the time of their emancipation, so to speak. One can tell pretty accurately the age of a woman by her dress as