

ASIA.

An English gentleman in India has had two of Mr. Spurgeon's sermons published as an advertisement in some of the heathen newspapers there.

Some of the native journals in India have lately been advocating the closing of zenanas against lady missionaries. But their appeals have been fruitless.

The Emperor of China recently authorized the destruction of four million dollars worth of opium, and absolutely refuses to accept a revenue from its sale. A few such heathen officials are needed in the United States to deal with the whis key traffic.

One of the most hopeful and encouraging forms of progress that has been made in the mission field in India has been the increase of native pastors and native agents for all departments of mission work. The native ordained agents in the year 1871 numbered 381; in 1881 they had increased to 574.

The thirteenth day of September, 1884 should be "marked evermore with white" in the Presbyterian calendar, for on this day our first missionary has started for Corea. Our hopes are in a fair way to be realized by the opening of a mission in the last nation among whom the Gospel must be preached for a witness. It was settled that Dr. Allen would sail about the first of September unless the Board should feel obliged to ask him to wait. It did not ask him to wait; so he completed his preparation.—*American Paper*.

Striking testimony to the advance of the gospel in Japan is borne by Dr. Hepburne, of the Presbyterian Mission, who is translating the Old Testament into Japanese. He says:—"Fifteen or twenty years hence I doubt whether a foreign missionary will be needed in this country. We have already a Synod, three Presbyteries, twenty-nine ardent native ministers, one hundred and seventeen young men in our Colleges, and a thousand church members and Sabbath-school scholars. And I have lived to see all this! Japan is emerging rapidly from heathenism; it can never go back. If all the foreign missionaries were expelled tomorrow the work would be carried on by natives."

Le Chretien Belge says that at "the close of last year a young Japanese Christian was imprisoned at Tokio for having too freely expressed his liberal opinions. In

the prison he explained the gospel, especially to one man, who became a Christian and was most eager for further instruction. Other prisoners gradually gathered round him until the young Hara had a congregation of three hundred, to whom he preached salvation through Jesus Christ. On being liberated Hara brought to the knowledge of the authorities the condition of the prisoners which ended by him being appointed governor of a new prison, with full liberality to teach and practise the principles of Christianity."

The first missionary to Corea, H. N. Allen M. D., of the Presbyterian Board, gives an interesting account of his first impressions of the country and the people. in the *Foreign Missionary*. The climate is fine, but the people are exceedingly lazy and dirty. They get drunk on their own rice liquor, and are very fond of foreign spirits, which find their way into the country in great quantities, notwithstanding the customs duty of twenty per cent. Missionaries are not yet allowed in Corea, but as physician to the legation Dr. Allen is not molested in preparing the way for their coming. There are at present some twenty thousand Roman Catholic converts in the country.

Dean Howson, so well known for his various works on the life and upon the words of Apostle Paul, is reported as having said the other day at Carlisle, in reply to Bishop Wordsworth, of Scotland, that "the Church of England has not the 'Three Orders' he is constantly talking about; that the deacon is an actuality only among Presbyterians!" He added, moreover, that they were bound by the church Prayer-book to recognize the validity of Presbyterian ordinances, and that it was a very much less scandalous thing to take communion with "the Kirk" in Scotland than to hold fellowship, as some of them did, with the Ultramontane Church in Italy.—*Phil. Pres.*

Somebody asked Mr. Moody how it was that he was so successful, and he is said to have replied, "Well, if I must tell you, it is, I believe, because we come out fair and square upon the doctrine of Substitution." In that remark he hit the nail on the head. That is the saving doctrine. Keep that before the minds of those whom you would benefit. Let the Lord see that you are always thinking of His dear Son.—*Scl.*