

English Baptist Society, on their way to San Salvador and the Congo, also report a wonderfully rapid and prosperous journey.

CETWAYO'S overthrow is likely to prove favourable to the cause of missions in Zululand. The Rev. J. Tyler, who for over twenty years has laboured as a missionary in South Africa, in connection with the American Board, writes as follows. "Those of us who have lived in South Africa many years, and been eyewitnesses of the evils of Zulu despotism, hardly know how to express our joy and thankfulness that the reign of Cetwayo has come to an end. No more murders of innocent persons accused of witchcraft, no more persecutions of Christians, no more obstacles in the way of missionaries from that Zulu tyrant! How glad we are that our brethren, the Norwegian and German missionaries, can now speedily anticipate the time when they may return to their stations from which they were obliged to flee at the commencement of the war. Even the Natal Zulus, as well as English colonists, begin to breathe more freely, and to exclaim: 'Thank God, we shall no longer fear a Zulu invasion.'"

CONCERNING the great mission field that is open to the American Board the "Missionary Herald" for November writes as follows: "Few readers of the 'Herald' even, to say nothing of the members of the churches who are not familiar with its contents, have any just conception of the vastness of the work committed to the American Board, or of the funds that might be used wisely and economically in carrying it on. Let such look carefully at the extent and variety of the work in hand,—evangelistic, educational, literary,—to the twelve theological seminaries, the Andovers of their respective fields, for whose proper endowment a million of dollars would be none too much; to the eleven other normal schools needing half as much more; to the thirty-four boarding schools for girls,—the Mount Holyokes and the Wellesleys,—wherein are gathered twelve hundred pupils, institutions needing for their endowment at least a million of dollars more; and without going farther, one may have some slight conception of the opportunities afforded for Christian effort and Christian benevolence."

HERE is a collection of facts that speak to us plainly saying "the morning cometh." The Buddhist nunneries of China have all been closed by Imperial order. The days of Buddhism are evidently numbered.—In Southern India 60,000 people have formally renounced Hindooism and placed themselves under the instruction of Protestant Christian Missions. Of these, 10,000, principally among the Telooquoos, have been baptized as actual converts to the faith of Jesus.—The king of Siam has issued a proclamation granting religious liberty throughout his realm. No obstacle to the profession or propagation of the Christian religion is tolerated. The Taos people fear that all will go over to the Christian faith.—In Central Africa King Mtesa has released his slaves, forbidden the slave trade in his realm, and calls for the observance of the Christian Sabbath.—At Kioto, Japan, a store for the sale of the Scriptures and religious books has just been opened on one of the main thoroughfares. "For the first time," writes a missionary, "our publications are publicly and conspicuously on sale in Kioto. The store is carried on by a Japanese company.—In a village in Southern Africa the whole population have abandoned caste and abjured their idols, which they have removed from the temples. They profess Christianity, as they have themselves learned it, without any human instruction, from the study of a single Gospel and a few tracts, which were left among them by an itinerant merchant.

FROM the paper on "The Proposed Mission in Central Africa," read by Dr. J. O. Mears at the meeting of the American Board in Syracuse, we gather the following facts concerning mission work already begun in that region: The Church Mission Society of England, thirty-five years ago, led the way for all that has come and is coming, by planting a mission at Mombasa, on the Indian Ocean, near Zanzibar. Three years ago this venerable society struck inland seven or eight hundred miles to Victoria Nyanza, and

began a mission in Ugandi and Karagua, with stations at Mpwapwa and elsewhere, intermediate from the coast. This region is in the extreme northern part of Central Africa, and is of vast magnitude. Great difficulties are encountered in the mission, great sacrifices of precious lives, and large expenditures of treasure, have been made; but the latest intelligence is full of promise. The United Methodist Free Churches of England have had a mission since 1862, at Ribe, near Mombasa, a few miles from the ocean, and about one hundred and fifty miles south of the Dana river.—The Universities' Mission, the first mission in the interior, established by gentlemen of Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and Dublin Universities, was commenced in 1860, among the Shire highlands, near Lake Nyassa, and after the sad death of Bishop McKenzie, was removed to Zanzibar, and now has stations on that island, at Magila, on the mainland, two days inland, at Massasi, one hundred and thirty miles inland, and is occupying the territory between Lake Nyassa and the ocean.—The London Missionary Society (Congregational) has taken the region of Lake Tanganyika, seven hundred miles by road from the ocean. It is to have stations at Mirambo's town, in Ugara, at Ujiji on the east shore, and elsewhere on the lake. The region is immense, and of commanding importance, on the great line of caravans across the continent. It is proving very costly in life and treasure to lay the foundations.—On Lake Nyassa, farther south, in 1872, the Free Church of Scotland commenced the Livingstone Mission, and the Established Church a mission at Blantyre, near by.—The Société des Missions Evangeliques, of Paris, in conjunction with its Basutu churches, has made explorations with the view of occupying the Barotse Valley, which is the region about the head waters of the Zambesi, above the Victoria Falls, some 1,200 miles from the mouth of the river.—The Livingstone Inland Mission has had missionaries since 1878 on the Atlantic coast, working about the mouth of the Congo, and measures are in progress to re-enforce them and push into the region north of Stanley Pool.—The Baptist Missionary Society of England has a station at Makuta, near the Congo, south of the Yellala Cataracts, and is endeavouring to reach Stanley Pool and work upward on the south side of the great river.—The Roman Catholics have missions at Zanzibar, at Bagamoyo, at Ujiji, and in Mtesa's kingdom and on the Congo. A company of priests is also on the way to the Barotse Valley, traversing the immense spaces in waggons from Capetown.—The International Association for the Suppression of the Slave Trade and opening of Central Africa, is another really Christian organization, and is not to be omitted in enumerating the agencies at work for the redemption of Central Africa. It has stations at Bagamoyo on the east, at Loanda on the west coast, at Ujiji, and Nyangwe, and at Muata Yanvo's capital in the interior, and at other commanding centres.

### News of the Churches.

ZION CHURCH, TORONTO.—A social tea meeting was held in the Lecture Room of this church on Friday evening, 24th ult. The attendance was good, the young people especially being well represented. After the usual tea drinking, the pastor, Rev. H. D. Powis, took the chair and explained that the meeting was specially intended for the discussion of plans for church work. Mr. W. C. Ashdown, superintendent of the Sunday school, presented the claims of the school, showing that the great want of the day was a class of teachers more thoroughly educated for the work of teaching. Mr. David Higgins next addressed the meeting on the subject of the work of the church in the neighbourhood in which it is placed. He said "we need not wait to do something great; we should do what we can, what lies to our hand." The pastor remarked, "there is nothing in the world that gives more pleasure than doing good, especially as we grow older, and other pleasures lose their charms. We want the people round here to feel that we have a church to sympathize with them, and anxious to lead them to Christ. There are many in this neigh-

bourhood who might write over their doors, "No man careth for my soul." He rejoiced to feel that this Church of Christ is a home of Christian freedom and equality. We want to have not only more divine sympathy, but more human sympathy, and more brotherliness, and care for others who do not seem to care for themselves. Mr. W. Freeland read a paper containing suggestions as to the welcoming of strangers. And a Committee was appointed to take active measures to carry into operation the various plans and hints which had been brought forward during the meeting.

### Religious News.

LORD CAIRNS, the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, holds religious meetings among his neighbours. His lordship expounds the Scriptures, and Lady Cairns leads the music, playing a melodeon.

OVER three millions of dollars have been given by only a dozen individuals within the past year in bequests to missions connected with the Congregational, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Baptist and Wesleyan Churches in the United States.

A BILL for the abolition of slavery in Cuba, to be presented to the Cortes, provides that slaves aged 55 years and over shall become free immediately; those aged 50 in September, 1880; those aged 45 in 1882; those aged 40 in 1884; those aged 35 in 1886; those aged 30 in 1888, and all other in 1890. From 1880 100,000 piastres will be charged on the Cuban budget for defraying the expenses of emancipation. The sum of 350 piastres will be paid to the owners for each slave. The government will, as much as possible, favour the immigration of free labourers.

A FRENCH Roman Catholic clergyman, the Abbé Meigne, appeals in "Les Mondes" to the whole Christian world for funds to make excavations on the spot where the Egyptians were swallowed up when attempting to follow the Israelites across the Red Sea, "because the finding of the remains of Pharaoh's army would be a powerful reason in favour of the truth of the Holy Scriptures." If \$60,000 are subscribed he will at once begin the work. He seems to have overlooked the probability that, even if the identity of the site is beyond dispute, the decaying power of time must long since have destroyed every vestige of armour, harness, chariot and skeleton, unless, indeed, they have been preserved by a miracle as great as that the belief in which their proposed recovery is to support.

THE Roman Catholics of Australia are waging an unpopular and unsuccessful warfare against the public schools, because their priests, by the terms of the laws, are allowed access only to the children of Catholic parents in giving religious instruction. Their denunciation of the schools has had little effect. The congregation walked out of one of the cathedrals while the bishop was reading his fulmination. In another church the bishop announced that he would confirm no candidates who attended the public schools. He asked the candidates one by one if they attended them, and set those aside as rejected who answered yes; then he took his action all back, and proceeded to confirm the rejected ones, saying that the priest of the parish had expressed his belief that the parents would withdraw the condemned candidates from the schools, and that children should not be made to suffer for the sins of their parents.

### Official Notices.

#### MISSIONARY MEETINGS, 1879-80.

Will the pastors in the Western District please to notice.

#### WESTERN DISTRICT.

Sarnia, Monday, December 15th; Petrolia, Tuesday, December 16th; Watford, Wednesday, December 17th; Zion, Warwick, Thursday, December 18th; Ebenezer and Forest, Friday, 19th, (deputation divide). Deputation: Revs. Wm. Hay, Claris, Colwell, Allworth, Robert Hay. Frome, Tuesday, December 16th; Sheddon, Wednesday, December 17th; Tilbury, Thursday, December 18th. Deputation: Revs. R. W. Wallace, M.A., Cuthbertson, and Burgess. London to be arranged by the pastor. Embro, Tuesday, December 16th; Stratford, Wednesday, December 17th; Guelph, Thursday, December 18th; Guelph Zion, Friday, December 19th. Deputation: Revs. Salmon, B.A., Manhee, Howie, and Hughes. Speedside, Monday, January 19th; Listowel, Tuesday, January 20th; Turnberry, Wednesday, January 21st; Howick 9th, Thursday, January 22nd; Howick 12th, Friday, January 23rd. Deputation: Revs. A. F. McGregor, B.A., Duff, M.A., Gray, and the Guelph pastors. Kelvin, Monday, January 19th; Scotland, Tuesday, January 20th; Burford, Wednesday, January 21st; Brantford, Thursday, January 22nd; Paris, Friday, January 23rd. Deputation: Revs. Allworth, Hay, Barker, R. W. Wallace, B.A. Hamilton and St. Catharines to be arranged by Secretary.

It is very important that these meetings be faithfully attended to. Let every pastor see that his own meeting is well announced, and his own share of the work faithfully done. And let no honest effort be wanting to secure large contributions, promptly paid. W. H. ALLWORTH, Sec. W. D. pro tem.