## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

# THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

CHINA. The Rev. George Cockburn writes to the Home and Foreign Record of the Church of

Scotland : It is with deep gratitude to God that I report the completion of the mason work of the new church. The roof is on, the doors and windows made, and little remains to be done but the The dispensary and school have plastering. not yet been begun, but if all goes well both will be in an advanced state before this reaches you. The whole front of the mission buildings is finished, which is the part that would have excited hostile feelings among the people. The house of God is built on what is probably the most commanding site in the city, almost directly opposite to the temple of the tutelary god, without calling forth a single protest. You have only to reflect how easily the prejudices of the Chinese are excited, to understand how great cause there is to praise the Lord for His goodness.

We have other signs that He is rewarding our faith in going forward in our weakness. It has been evident for some time that several of the scholars have been under deep religious impressions, and now two of them, brothers, guest-hall prefaced my request by telling you have come boldly out and refused to take part that your religion was initiatory and defec-in domestic idol worship. They have had to tive?" bear a great deal from their father, which they have done with patience, but their mother is favourably inclined to Christianity and often attends church. These are the first cases of direct conversion among the scholars, and I believe others will be induced by their example to take a similar stand.

There are several applicants for baptism awaiting the opening of the new church. On the 14th May I yielded to repeated invitations to visit Kao-Kia-yen, the village of our late school teacher, although it is with great difficulty that I can at present leave Ichang. The village is thirty miles distant from Ichang ; but thirty miles along a road in Scotland give a poor idea of the difficulty in reaching it. The road is a mere footpath leading through a wild mountainous country. For the most part it has got no making but what the feet of successive travellers have given it ; at other places it has once been paved with large stones which are now tilted up at all angles, and in many parts it is so steep that long flights of rude steps have had to be cut in the rock. A drizzling rain fell all the time, and many streams had to be crossed. In a few cases there were bridges, but generally we were told that the bridge had been washed away and never rebuilt. Then I had to trust myself to Coolies, who never failed to carry me over in safety, greatly to my surprise in many instances.

finished, and invariably allowed to fall into decay, without any attempt at repairs. The traveller to Kao-Kia-yen enjoys the full benefit of the system. You will not be surprised to know that it took me two days' hard work to reach my destination. All along the road I been anything equa in merit to the Recamier found that Mr. Shiang had been well known, Preparations, my skin is so immensely im-and he was universally spoken of with the proved by their use. I need not dread old age highest respect. The extent of country, that has been influenced by him is remarkable. Everybody spoke of Christianity as a thing worthy of serious consideration, and unquestionably with something in it. This is very different from the scoffing, jesting, scornful, or half-pitying answers that one generally gets from the Chinese, according to their individual humour. The single testimony of Mr. Shiang has been sufficient to convince a whole district that Christianity is a fact and not some silly. I use the Recamices relutiously, and believe idea or rascally device of the foreigner. This them essential to the vollet of every woman s a great point gained, and opens a wide door | M for future work. More than this, many are so impressed by the support that his religion was I to Mr. Shiang, and the calmness and confidence with which he looked into the future, that they are anxious to be possessed of the connection with our China Mission, and lays us under a deep obligation to follow it up, which, under present circumstances, is noeasy matter. My purpose is to send the native helper to spend some time in the district, instructing the people. On his return he will be able to tell me where to go at once.

Eight girls are voluntarily attending the Boys' School, and the large proportion of women who attend the Sunday services show an increased opening for female work.

[DECEMBER 4th, 1889.

With very much to encourage us, there are not wanting signs of the activity of the enemy in sowing tares. I mention a little incident which happened the other day, as throwing some light on the intelligence of our converts. A man came for medicine, and the schoolmaster who was present immediately commenced telling him about Christianity. The patient replied that he was a Roman Catholic, and that there was little difference between their faith, but his (the schoolmaster's) was inferior and initiatory. The schoolmaster, pointing to the book, said, "Show me in the New Testament wherein Protestantism falls short of Roman Catholicism?" To which he got the answer, "At any rate you must admit that Catholics are more numerous than Protestants." The reply was, " If mere numbers could settle the question, we must be both wrong and the worshippers of idols right.' When pressed to make good his assertion, the Roman Catholic acknowledged that he had never seen the Bible, but wished to show that he knew something by commencing to repeat the *Pater Noster*. The schoolmaster told him three things for which there was no authority in Scripture—the worship of Mary, submission to the Pope, and the absolution of sins by the priest. Another piece of advice was that he should mend his manners. "What would you think of me," said the schoolmaster, "if I went to the Catholic mission for assistance and as soon as I had seated myself in your



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