

children were in Christian schools, and the people all clothed and in their right minds. Madagascar also stands prominent as a Christian island after thirty-five years of labor. There is no heathen soul so deeply sunk that he cannot become a new creature in Christ Jesus.

### GOD KNOWS THE BEST.

If we could push ajar the gates of life,  
And stand within and all God's work-  
ings see,  
We could interpret all this doubt and  
strife,  
And for each mystery could find a key!  
But not to-day. Then be content, poor  
heart?  
God's plans like lilies pure and white  
unfold,  
We must not tear the close-shut leaves  
apart,  
Time will reveal the calyxes of gold.  
And if, through patient toil, we reach the  
land  
Where tired feet, with sandals loosed,  
may rest,  
When we shall clearly know and under-  
stand,  
I think that we will say, "God knew the  
best."

### A CALL FROM JAPAN.

A gentleman writing from Yokohama, Japan, to an American paper, says:

The history of modern missions has never before presented the spectacle of a mighty empire ready to accept Christianity. Shintoism is dead. Buddhism is on the rapid decline. Its priests consider its days numbered. The 700 newspapers discuss moral and religious questions. All the thinking people of the land openly say that the Christian religion will be established in Japan. The call is twofold:

1. For teachers, both male and female. These the Japanese offer to support, paying from \$50 to \$150 per month. One missionary said he could locate twenty; that he had three applications in one day.

What an opportunity! Who will come? How useful ladies could be in instructing Japanese women and girls in books, in family duties, in morals, in religion. A man out of school hours could do much missionary work. Steamer rates are now

reduced one-half. The Committee is willing to pay travelling expenses.

2. The call to the Church to send out and support men to preach and women to teach the Gospel is imperative at this crisis. Converts can be gathered by the score and hundreds, and self-supporting churches established. These churches quickly take up the work of propagation. How can young men from 25 to 35 resist the calls to this inviting field?

### THE GREAT MASTER.

"I am my own master!" cried a young man proudly, when a friend tried to persuade him from an enterprise which he had on hand; "I am my own master!"

"Did you ever consider what a responsible post that is?" asked his friend.

"Responsible—is it?"

"A master must lay out the work which he wants done and see that it is done right. He should try to secure the best ends by the best means. He must keep on the look-out against obstacles and accidents, and watch that everything goes straight or else he must fail."

"Well."

"To be master of yourself you have your conscience to keep clear, your heart to cultivate, your temper to govern, your will to direct and your judgment to instruct. You are master over a hard lot, and if you don't master them they will master you."

"That is so," said the young man.

"Now, I could undertake no such thing," said his friend. "I should fail, sure, if I did. Saul wanted to be his own master, and failed. Herod did. Judas. No man is fit for it. 'One is my Master, even Christ.' I work under his direction. He is regular, and where he is master, all goes right."

The *Belfast Witness* has an important article on the setting up of an altar in St. Paul's Cathedral, with statues of the Madonna and Child, and a striking picture of the Crucifixion, and all without one word of reprobation from Protestant England. One of the Roman Catholic organs in London has a commendatory article on the same subject. No wonder that the Pope is so high in his praises of England.