

MISSION ITEMS.

A number of Dundee gentlemen have purchased a bark to be sent on a commercial and missionary expedition next July, into the Arctic Seas about Pond's Bay, to Christianize the natives. If the report from this expedition is favourable a Polar mission will be carried out!

"The Lutheran mission among the Tamils of South India amount to 14 000 adherents, 22 European missionaries, 12 ordained natives, 6 candidates, 56 catechists, 241 teachers, 149 schools, and 3,653 scholars."

"On the 20th of November, 1867 in the suburbs of Algiers, was opened the first Presbyterian church of Northwestern Africa. The beautiful edifice of freestone and marble is the gift of Sir Peter Caats to the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland."

"Native converts in Japan, with average wages of less than twenty-five cents a day, contributed last year \$27,000 to mission work. During the year, 3,640 adults were baptized, making a total membership of 14,815. There are now 193 organized churches, 64 of them self-supporting, 93 native ministers and 269 theological students."

"Bolivia, which has an area of 500,000 square miles and a population of 2,000,000 is without a single protestant missionary. Two American teachers, encouraged by Bolivian gentlemen and recommended by the Presbyterian Board of Missions, expect soon to establish a school, in La Paz, the capital."

There are now eight mission vessels cruising in the North Sea, each a combination of church, chapel, temperance hall and dispensary.

Hudson Taylor and his associates in the China Island Mission covenanted to pray for 100 laborers, or two each week, for 1887. October 26 with six weeks to spare, they had 94.

Spurgeon has recently borne loving testimony to the influence which his mother had in shaping his character and life.

KIND WORDS.

Here are four good reasons why we should use kind words when we speak to others:—

1. *Because they always cheer him to whom they are addressed.* They soothe him if he is wretched; They comfort him if he is sad. They keep him out of the slough of despond, or help him out if he happens to be in.

2. *There are words enough of the opposite kind, flying in all directions*—sour words, fretful words, insulting words, cross words, over-bearing words, irritating words. Now, let kind words have a chance to get abroad, since so many and so different are on the wing.

3. *Kind words bless him that uses them.* A sweet sound on the tongue tends to make the heart mellow. Kind words react upon the kind feelings which prompted them, and make them more kind. They are fresh fuel to the fire of benevolent emotion in the soul.

4. *Kind words beget kind feelings.* People love to see the face and hear the voice of such a man.

Kind words are, therefore, of great value. As good old George Herbert says: "Good words are worth much and cost little."—*Sel.*

BIBLE STUDY.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet," said a psalmist of old. You want your lamp to burn as brightly as possible. You trim the wick; you wash, dry and polish the glass chimney; you keep the shade clean. Let the dust gather and the smoke make its sooty deposit, and the wick become crisp and hard and black, and the light upon the open page is flickering and weak. The lamp is your friend, but you must take good care of it. It will treat you as you treat it.

The figure may be homely, but it is true. What the Bible brings to you will depend in large measure upon what you bring to it. You may have a crumb, or a loaf, or a granary full to bursting, just as you choose. There is gold on its surface, there are jewels in its mines, there are royal pearls in its depths. All are not equally equipped for its study; but every one of us can do his utmost in its patient, loving study, and no labors will bring a surer or a richer reward.—*Dr. A. J. F. Behrends.*