

Oh! that all our churches at home and abroad would take a leaf out of our 4.30 a.m. prayer-meeting church. Then would the Lord establish the work of our hands upon us."

Editorial and Contributed.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

LEAVING Toronto near midnight on May 6th, and the steamer due to sail from Vancouver on the 14th, there was no time to "stop over" at intervening points. The whole run was made without break or detention; and our train, which was a rather long and heavy one, reached the terminus sharp on time—no trifling achievement for a journey of 3,000 miles, five or six hundred being through mountain pass and cañon, with grades of exceptional difficulty. Climbing the eastern slope of the Rockies, between Laggan and the summit—a distance of six miles—the line rises 366 feet, or an average of sixty-one feet to the mile. Beyond the summit the descent to Field—a distance of eleven miles—is 1,246 feet, an average of over 113 feet per mile, which, at one point, is increased to 200 feet. So steep is the grade that it has been found necessary to provide for possible emergencies by several switches opening short spur lines with a steep up-grade. In case a descending train became unmanageable, a sharp signal is sounded, the watchful pointsman throws open the switch, the train sweeps in on the up-grade, and quickly comes to a stand-still. It is very seldom, however, that this resort is necessary. Indeed, I have never heard of it occurring in the case of a passenger train; the Great Mogul engines seem to possess all the "holding-back" power that is necessary.

The route across the prairies becomes monotonous after the first day or so, but through the mountains it is enchanting. Such magnificent scenery is not found on any other route that I have travelled, and I hear the same testimony from people whose travels have been more extensive than my own. The alternation of towering mountain height and almost fathomless cañon, of rushing river and quiet lakelet, of sleeping glacier and leaping cascade, presents a series of pictures which for grandeur and beauty are not easily matched. Beyond Glacier Station, in the Selkirk range, the line drops down by a series of wonderful loops, crossing from side to side of the valley of the Illecilliwaet, on lofty trestle-work, doubling back upon itself in the most wonderful way; and presenting at one point the unique spectacle of three lines of railway one above the other, clinging to the moun-

tain side. The completeness of the accommodation furnished by the C. P. R. adds greatly to the pleasure of the trip. Everywhere on this line one meets with comfortable cars, well-appointed refreshment rooms or dining cars, and, which is equally important, attentive and obliging officials.

On reaching Vancouver I found myself announced to preach on Sunday evening. Our new church here is not yet completed, and the lecture-room being rather small, the new opera house had been engaged for the occasion; and I had the pleasure of preaching to a full house, notwithstanding a heavy shower. At the close of the service we proceeded to the lecture-room of the new church, where a mixed congregation of English and Chinese had assembled. Our native missionary, Mr. Ch-an, who seems to be a man of the right stamp, preached a short sermon in Chinese from the appropriate text, "Repent, therefore, and be baptized," etc., after which I was privileged to administer baptism to six converts—five men and one young woman. Our Chinese work has made a hopeful beginning in Vancouver. The night-school, under the care of Miss Bowes, assisted by Miss Campbell, is doing a good work. On Monday evening I found some twenty in attendance, whose attainments in reading and geography gave evidence of faithfulness in teaching and aptness in learning; while the repeating of Scripture verses, and the singing of Gospel hymns, told how widely the good seed is being sown. The new building for this mission is progressing rapidly, and will be finished in two months.

The *Abyssinia* sails this (Tuesday) afternoon, and, therefore, a number of weeks must elapse before I can communicate again with the readers of the OUTLOOK. In the meantime I will be gaining fresh stores of missionary information that will, I trust, be of service to the Church, as well as to myself, in the future.

THE OPEN DOOR.

THOUGH the assurance conveyed in the words of the glorified Christ, "Behold I set before you an open door," was given to a portion of the Church, it is true of the whole body of believers on earth. And what was true at the time that these words were uttered, has been true in every age. There has always been an open door before the Church when she has had the disposition to enter it, even in the darkest periods of the world's history, since the issuing of the Divine commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel." There were no difficulties in the way of its execution that the same authority by which it was given, was not both able and willing to