

missionaries ever sent forth at one time by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. They leave our shores under very promising auspices, and the prayers of the whole Church follow them that their self consecration, their faith and labours of love may be abundantly blessed.

Dr. Smith was born at Latona, Ont., 22nd August, 1858. and goes out to the great mission field in the prime of manhood, with a strong and vigorous physique, a commanding presence, and a cultivated mind. From early years he was inured to work on his father's farm. His first pastor was the late Rev. James Cameron of Chatsworth, who had much to do with his early training. After a time he engaged in school-teaching, during which time he attended the ministrations of Rev. A. McDiarmid of Latona, and by means of the monthly missionary meeting held there was influenced to give himself to the work. With this idea he attended the Hamilton Collegiate Institute to prepare himself for matriculation into medicine. While there he was induced by Dr. Laidlaw to study for the ministry and, in 1881, he entered Queen's College and after a full course of study, received his diplomas in both Theology and Medicine. While pursuing his studies he gained considerable experience in home mission work in different Presbyteries of the Church. He also spent some time in New York, attending hospitals &c. In every respect he is, therefore, a man thoroughly furnished for his chosen work. He goes out, as we have already said, under the auspices of Queen's College Missionary Association to take part with Rev. Jonathan Goforth and Dr. McClure in forming a new mission in the Province of Honan, China. Dr. Smith was married last April to Miss Minnie Waugh of Hamilton, a lady who has always been characterized by a missionary spirit and who is in all respects a helpmeet for him.

Dr. McClure is about the same age as Dr. Smith. He was born at Lachute, Que. He commenced his Arts course in McGill University in 1875. After teaching for two years he graduated in medicine in 1884, and was, for three years previous to his departure for China, Medical Superintendent of the Montreal General Hospital, than which he needs no higher certificate. He was, by

special authority of the General Assembly ordained to the eldership and designated as a medical missionary to China. Dr. McClure is well known in Montreal, not only as a skilful physician, but as an earnest and devoted Christian.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN JAPAN.

The youngest, perhaps also the smallest, of the Churches represented in the great Presbyterian Council held in London, was "The United Church of Christ in Japan"—a body happily and most hopefully organized a few years ago. Cordially, joyfully we welcome our young sister into the goodly fellowship of the Reformed Churches. Heaven's best blessings descend upon her. This body consists of the Presbyterians and "Reformed." The Presbyterians included are the two Churches (North and South) in the United States—the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, the Dutch Reformed, and the German Reformed. These have a membership of about 7000; twenty self-supporting churches, forty receiving some aid, thirty-four ordained native ministers, five presbyteries, and one synod. It has schools and colleges, and a theological seminary with thirty-four students. Much progress has been made towards union of the Presbyterian Synod and the churches and stations connected with the "American Board." These latter are Congregationalists, but they have earnestly favoured union. The Japanese converts have a strong preference for the Presbyterian system; and according to present appearances, the union forming "The Church of Christ in Japan" will take place in November. No serious obstacle stands in the way. The Congregationalists have shown a most commendable readiness to concede to the Japanese the amplest liberty to choose their own form of government; and they have chosen the Presbyterian form. The Presbyterians also were careful to make all practicable concessions to their brethren.

There ought certainly to be a close brotherly union of all true Christians in the face of the work to be accomplished in the high places of heathenism. There seems to be really no call for forcing upon heathen converts any of our minor differences and difficulties.

AUSTRALIA.

The progress of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria, during the past fifty years, has been very great. Taking in the whole of Australasia, we are told that there are 571 Presbyterian ministers, 672 charges, and 51 presbyteries—all within the past fifty years. The other Protestant Churches have also increased with great rapidity.