

great, and this could readily be accomplished by a general effort. The price is so low (twenty five cents in clubs of eight, separately addressed, if desired), that no one need plead exemption on the score of poverty. For the circulation already attained, we are indebted, in no small degree, to the Auxiliaries of our Woman's Missionary Society. Many of those earnest women have exerted themselves nobly, and have sent in good lists from their various neighborhoods. To such we tender cordial thanks, and ask a continuance of their unselfish efforts. And to our brethren we say, "Help those women." Help them by announcements from the pulpit, by kind words among your people, and by efforts to gain subscribers for what is the only missionary publication in our Church, and which, therefore, does not conflict with any other interest. The OUTLOOK is not published for personal ends or private gain, but to help a great connexional movement. Let there be a general effort to give it a grand send-off for 1891.

#### OUR NEW FOREIGN MISSION.

EVERY day is bringing fresh evidence to show that the Church at large is profoundly interested in the step taken by the General Board toward the planting of a mission in China. Recently an esteemed minister of the Niagara Conference, writing in regard to one who desired to engage in the foreign work, thus expressed his feelings respecting the forward movement:—

"I have heard it rumored that there is a possibility, if not a probability, that our Church will soon join 'the forward movement' by opening another foreign mission in some heathen country, possibly in China. This would fill me with delight, as I fully believe this is necessary, not only for the conversion of the heathen, but for the prosperity and safety of the Church at home."

Shortly after, a letter came to hand from a home missionary in one of the Maritime Conferences, which breathes so much of the true missionary spirit that we give it entire, withholding the name, however, at the request of the writer:—

"DEAR DR. SUTHERLAND,—It truly rejoices my heart to know that the Methodists of Canada will send a herald of the cross to China next spring. Put down \$20 (twenty dollars) from a Home Missionary in New Brunswick—in memory of a sainted mother. Count on me for \$25 (twenty-five dollars) whenever you see fit to open a mission among the Balolos of the Congo. God speed the day when you can see your way clear to undertake this foreign work. Were it not that abler and younger men are available, I would go myself to those who 'need me most' in either India, China or Africa. While the sympathies of many are going out towards Japan, my heart deeply feels for those who need and long for our help even more than the Japanese. You understand this twenty is not to go into the ordinary fund, but directly and

solely to the China Mission—a special contribution. Unable to do all for God that is in my heart, here on a home mission field, I desire to hold up the hands of those who, in other lands, are doing more effective work than I am."

The perusal of these letters will, we are sure, kindle a glow in many hearts, and lead to other responses from both ministers and laymen. We have before intimated that the expense of planting the Chinese Mission—that is, of sending out the young men, providing necessary buildings, and fairly launching them in their work, should be accomplished by means of special donations like the above, without taking a dollar from the regular income, and we have good hope that this will be done. A sum of money, donated by a lady in Kingston, to be used "as soon as the Church is ready to begin a mission in China," has been lying in the mission treasury for several years. This will now be available, and if other donations speedily follow, it will not be long before there is enough for outfit, travelling expenses, and such buildings as are needed at the start.

Just at the present time an unusual degree of attention is focussed on China, from widely different points of view. Writers of great prominence in England and America have lately been calling attention to China as a "menace to the world" from a military point of view, while others point to the far-reaching influence of these numerous, patient and plodding people upon the industry and commerce of the world. Still more important is the theory which claims for them a great future as an evangelizing agency. It is well known that vast numbers of the Chinese, especially from the southern part of the empire, are emigrating in all directions. They are not only occupying adjacent and distant islands, but they are effecting settlements on the coasts of south-eastern Asia and up the principal rivers, holding, with characteristic tenacity, the ground they have occupied. It is becoming apparent that the Chinaman, like the Anglo-Saxon, has a genius for colonizing, and that he is destined to become an important factor in many lands besides his own. Bishop Thoburn, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who has been giving special attention to this matter, writes as follows in the *Spirit of Missions*:—

"The more I see of our mission work in this part of the world, the more do I become confirmed in the conviction which I received the first time I visited Rangoon and saw the Chinese there, mingling as they were with the Burmese, that God would use them as a great evangelizing agency all up and down these coasts. They are not only the most energetic people to be found in this region, but, strangely enough, they seem more accessible to the Gospel than any others; and those of them who are born in Malaysia will be able to speak the vernacular of the country in which they live, and this, added to their knowledge of English and Chinese, will qualify them for usefulness on the widest possible scale. Strange are the ways of Providence!"