

IV.—EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

Dr. A. J. Gordon and the editor-in-chief have been making a short tour in the interests of missions, beginning February 13th, in Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford, London (Ontario), and finishing with the Student Volunteer Convention, Detroit, February 28th to March 4th. The degree of interest developed has been to us both a most delightful surprise. Instead of confining attention to the subject of *missions*, we have sought to lay a foundation for a true and deep apprehension of the evangelization of the world, by calling attention first to the Holy Spirit, His personality, work, and manifold activity as the Spirit of truth, of life, of order, of power; then to the blessed hope of the Lord's coming and the true character of the present age as preparatory to His advent, and as the age of out-gathering of God's people from all nations; then to the true relations of giving, both of self and of substance, not only to missions objectively, but to spiritual growth subjectively, etc. This honoring of the Spirit at the beginning was uniformly followed by remarkable signs of His personal presence throughout. At Toronto, one and even two overflow meetings became necessary, and the interest was most impressively solemn. Over \$1470 in voluntary offerings were gathered. Dr. G. L. Mackay, of Formosa, Mr. Spencer Walton, of South Africa, Rev. John McVickar, of Honan, were among the speakers. Dr. Mackay's account of the work in Formosa we have never heard excelled in thrilling and convincing power. A special account of the Students' Convention at Detroit will appear hereafter in these pages.

The last census of India was accomplished with marvellous celerity and thoroughness and shows an amazing population. It was done chiefly on one day, February 26th, 1891, when 1,000,000 persons were employed as census-

takers. Regard seems to have been had to fitness rather than to political considerations. The result has been duly tabulated, and is considered very accurate. The figures foot up a population in all India of 286,000,000. Of these in British India there are 220,500,000. Besides those who are thus directly under British influence, there are 65,500,000 over whom England "exercises a quasi and semi-feudal authority." What a mass of humanity! And how rapidly increasing! Since 1881 the increase has been 26,000,000, or nearly 10 per cent in a single decade; but in the recently acquired Indian possessions the increase has been still more marked. For instance, in Lower Burma the population has multiplied one half since it came under British administration. These facts speak volumes.

And what a proof and illustration here of the celerity with which the Gospel might be proclaimed through all the earth! Suppose that all Christian churches in all nations should simply combine during any one year to undertake to get into contact with the entire unsaved population of the globe, and organize with like thoroughness!

We have a letter of great interest from a cousin of Mrs. Nevius, which we give our readers. It was addressed to our dear friends, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Mathieson, of London.

CHIEFOO, CHINA, Nov. 25, 1893.

My cousin, Mrs. Nevius, wishes me to write you for her the sad tidings of her dear husband's death, which occurred on October 19th, Thursday morning at half-past ten.

Dr. Nevius was in very poor health when we returned to China last autumn, but for some months past had seemed much better, and had been able to keep steadily at work all summer on the revision and translation of the Bible, and had finished the part assigned him.

At the time of his death he was preparing for a trip into the interior of the