

communications from missionaries at intervals, this also has been done in some cases, but you will see how here again the connexional principle is being invaded, for the benefit of these letters is confined to a single school, instead of being published for the information and quickening of the entire Church.

There is one other point to which I would call your attention. All the appropriations made by the General Board are made early in the year, before the income is received; all the Board can do, therefore, is to base the grants upon the income of the past year. In view of this, it is most important that the income of any year should not fall below that of the previous year. There are certain sources of income which we regard as permanent, and among these is the amount from our Sunday Schools and juvenile contributors, but last year the amount from this source was less by two thousand dollars than the year before. You can see, therefore, that if there was anything like a general movement on the part of our Sunday Schools in the direction which you have indicated, our dependence upon this source of income would be completely upset.

After careful consideration of this question for a number of years, I am satisfied that missionary money given and distributed in the usual way will go further and will accomplish more than if sent direct to missionaries by the donors themselves.

Hoping that these observations may throw some light upon a difficult problem,

I am, yours faithfully,

A. SUTHERLAND.

THE CHINESE WORK.

A GOOD OPENING AT NANAIMO.

THE following extracts taken from a letter received from the Rev. J. E. Gardner, missionary to the Chinese in Victoria, B.C., will be read, we are sure, with deep interest:—

Some time ago I was asked by a merchant of the place (Nanaimo) to go and interpret for him in a case in which it was very plain he had been most unjustly dealt with. In fact the most serious charges, though utterly false, were brought against him, which if proven would have brought upon him imprisonment for life. I saw how I could do good by going, and so went. Through understanding what his accusers and their witnesses were saying I was able to lay bare the whole scheme, resulting in his prompt acquittal, to the great satisfaction of very many not only of his own people, but a large number of the European residents also, as evidenced by their clapping when the verdict of "not guilty" was brought in; something, I have been told, that was altogether unprecedented in that court room—white people clapping upon a Chinese being acquitted. He has since more than once assured me that he owes me a debt that he can never repay. I have a standing invitation to go to his store at any time and hold services, or do anything else that I see fit. Why not use his store? it occurred to me; it is far too small; I can use his willingness to better advantage. I then thought of obtaining a site for a school, which could be used for a preaching hall. The matter was brought up in district meeting, and a committee appointed to wait upon Mr. Robins, the Superintendent of the mines. To my great satisfaction the answer came that he would make us a present of a lot, provided only that we erected a suitable building upon it. I believe the offer would have been favorably reported upon immediately, but for the impression that the Chinese population had decreased, and that before long there

would be no Chinamen at all in this Newcastle of British Columbia. Pursuant to a subsequent resolution I again visited the place, this time with Bro. Baer. We found that there were about six times as many Chinamen in Nanaimo as had been stated, with prospects of the number being added to. Bro. Green, who came through a few days ago, reports an increase in the Chinese population. I deem it quite safe to estimate the Chinese population of this place equivalent to that of Vancouver, and not far short of that of New Westminster, with many advantages not possessed by the last two named places. The advantages peculiar to this place, in addition to a free lot and a merchant among the people who will help us, are as follows:—Fully two-thirds of the Chinamen belong to the same clan as this merchant, and, being a very clannish people, they all feel themselves indebted as well as their injured clansman; hence we have a favorable people to start with. Toward the building, which need not cost more than \$800 or \$1,000, this merchant doubtless will give \$50, and a hundred or two more could be raised from his clansmen. A mission here will strengthen all the other missions; each having a reflex influence on the other. Now, up to this point we have the people to work for, a lot given to us that will become valuable before long; a building, or rather the plans for a building, a quarter of the cost being virtually paid for; and the only question left is the man for the place. [We may add that the man is available as soon as this work is taken up.—ED. OUTLOOK.]

THE WORK IN VICTORIA.

You will be pleased to hear that our services in Victoria continue to be well attended. Evidences of the seed having fallen into good ground and bringing forth fruit, come to us from time to time. Sunday before last we had the privilege of administering the rite of baptism to a convert who had been a very Saul of Tarsus in his treatment of his Christian countrymen. We pray that he may henceforth be a Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ to the people from whom he has just come forth. When you paid us the first visit all the members were either cooks or house servants; before your last visit a few of these were able to start a laundry, in which they employ four men, all of whom see what they have never seen before in the other laundries, *i.e.*, no work on Sunday. Like other laundries this one is kept open until very late every night; but on Saturday the work ceases before the stroke of twelve. In fact about half-past eight or nine o'clock the manager leaves, and takes away with him as many of the employees as he can to my Bible class in the mission. The fact of one laundryman keeping his place closed on Sunday is talked about by the other Chinese laundrymen, and in this way this laundry does good as a reminder to the others of man's obligation to keep the Lord's Day. Then again, since your last visit a few of our converts have gone into mercantile business. All honest labor, to be sure, is honorable; but, all things being equal, I must confess I am glad to see these converts rise in the social scale. Their influence will be greater if they remain true, and the principles which they have laid down for carrying on their business goes far to indicate that they will. Among some of their principles are the following:—They will not sell or buy anything that will injure man; they will keep holy the Sabbath day; and a tenth of all their profits they will return to the Lord. I am exceedingly glad to be able to report this; it affords us all much encouragement, and the position is so unique. They form the first and, so far, the only mercantile firm of Chinese Christians in Canada. So far they receive but slim patronage from their heathen countrymen, consequently they have to depend on the other Chinese Christians and white people. For that reason I am hoping that members of our Church throughout Canada will extend to them a share of patronage. They deal principally in tea, pure good tea, un-