

New Testaments complete, have been distributed. More remarkable still is the fact that the Roman Catholic Mission has been compelled to follow suit. "After much hesitation," says the R. C. Bishop, "I have concluded that it is necessary for us also to distribute the New Testament which the Protestants are spreading everywhere. . . . The chief reason is that we cannot prevent our people from reading it."

The Rev. D. Jennings and Mrs. Jennings have returned to their work at Port Essington, B.C. They spent the last year on furlough, and through the whole year Bro. Jennings rendered valuable service to the missionary cause by attending meetings on many circuits, where his simple but graphic story of work among the Indians did much to quicken missionary zeal. Sister Jennings had to spend much of the year under medical care, but returns to her beloved work with health much improved. May the Master's presence and blessing go with them.

Our readers will be anxious to learn something about the income for the past year. The exact figures cannot yet be given; but the income from subscriptions, collections and juvenile offerings, which forms the basis of annual expenditure, and which we hoped would have equalled that of last year, shows a decline of nearly \$3,000. It must be borne in mind, however, that the year just closed has been one of exceptional financial stringency. Every Missionary Society has suffered, some of them very heavily, and we have reason to be thankful that our own Society has so nearly equalled the previous year's record. Now, let us begin to plan for a grand advance the coming year.

Dr. McDonald's letter, on another page, giving some account of the late disastrous earthquake at Tokyo, will be read with much interest. Writing in haste to catch an outgoing mail, there was not sufficient time to ascertain if the Tabernacle building was injured; but as the shock was not so severe in that part of the city we may hope that the building escaped. The injury to the church at Azabu is serious, and emphasizes the opinion that it is not wise to erect foreign buildings of brick or stone, unless we are prepared to incur enormous expense in strengthening the walls. Our readers, we are sure, will sympathize with other missions that have suffered much heavier losses than ours.

### Working up the Mission Funds.

IT is hardly necessary to attempt to convince my readers that grace and gold are essentials in carrying on the great evangelism of this country. On our Starratt Mission the question was asked: "What honorable scheme can be wrought effectually for the increase of the missionary funds?" Having attended some of the meetings in our cities where moneys were raised for Church purposes, I became convinced of some of the weaknesses of these efforts and sought to remedy them in the following manner, which worked most successfully: I called a central public meeting of the mission and secured a good representative audience from each of the four appointments. We

had enthusiastic addresses upon "The Church—her Mission and Relation to the World," stress being laid upon what the Church was now doing. We had prepared before hand the following on a blackboard, which was kept covered until we were about to take up the collection, when the covering was removed so that the items could be seen and studied by the audience:

#### \*ABRAHAM BROWN, TO ALMIGHTY GOD, DR.

To breath of life .....	_____
To sixty years of health .....	_____
To eight sons and daughters .....	_____
To a farm .....	_____
To one lot of bonds .....	_____
To money at interest .....	_____
To Christian privileges during life .....	_____
To salvation through Christ .....	_____
To all the sufferings of the Lord Jesus .....	_____

\*Taken from pamphlet published by our Missionary Society.

An application was made of these various points and each person was supplied with blank slips of paper, accompanied with a sharpened pencil, giving each an opportunity to subscribe, the collectors of the various appointments waiting upon the subscribers at an appointed time. The pencils were sold at the close of the meeting. The result was, we sent from this meeting \$42.94 to our Missionary Society, which, considering our sparse population and their general inability to give cash, is a magnificent offering.

God is prospering us spiritually and financially.

SAMUEL D. DINNICK.

### The Great Earthquake of 1891.

BY REV. J. W. SAUNBY, B.A.

THE first page of this number gives a view of a very, very small portion of the widespread desolation wrought by this the largest and most disastrous earthquake of late years in Japan. Although scarcely a day passes without one of those earth shudders in some part of the empire, yet it is not often that anything more serious happens than another shock to the nerves, which never fails to increase the dread that must ever brood over the heart, in a country where even the everlasting hills do not seem to have any solid foundation.

This great globe of ours seems to have cooled in spots, so that while in some places the internal fires are very far beneath the surface, and the ground under our feet never knows a quiver, in others the flames are still very near the surface and the old age-long fight between the fire and the water is still going on, and the thin crust is consequently passing through that formative period in which it knows no rest.

Such are the islands of Japan, almost the last of the mountain peaks to emerge from the briny deep, and still an object lesson to the geologist of the growing pains which old mother earth underwent when she was yet but a child.

The dweller, therefore, of these isles of the sea lays the beams of his abode upon the rock-ribbed sides of a great volcano and must not be surprised if the old giant shakes himself once in a while, for in his bosom of adamant great is the pain and mighty the struggle that rages there.

One November morning, in 1891, just after getting up, our house began to sway to and fro, slowly and gently at first, and then so violently as to almost make our hearts stand still; and each grasping a child we ran swiftly down the stairs and out the front door; and then we could see the trees swaying gently and slowly to and fro with the long undulations of the ground.

When a stone is thrown into the water, where it pierces the surface there is a great commotion, and then out go the wavelets in rings, sharp and short at first, and then as the circle increases, growing larger and more gentle. And so it was with this earthquake. We were right on the outside ring of the vibratory wave, and hence, while the tremor was strong, yet it was long and comparatively slow and did not, therefore, occasion any serious damage. But at the centre of the disturbance, two hundred miles away, the shock was terrific. In an instant houses and even great massive temples were crushed like a pasteboard box under the ponderous foot of an elephant, and hundreds were imprisoned in the beams. Then, to complete the torture, the