



Devoted to the interests of the Mission Bands and Circles of the Woman's Missionary Society, Methodist Church, Canada.

Published Every Month.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY, 1894:

VOL. I. No. 5.

John Chinaman and the Christmas Bell

Merrily rang the Christmas bells,
 Christmas bells, Christmas bells!
 With all the joy their hallowed music tells;
 Out like an anthem full and free
 Out on the glad and happy air,
 Telling the story everywhere
 Of Christ who was, and is, and is to be!

Alone he stood, in a strange land,
 He heard the bells—on every hand
 The Temple doors stood open wide,
 The people thronged on every side,
 He watched the children at their play,
 Never so eager and so gay
 As on the world's great holiday.

He looked, he sighed, his eyes grew dim,
 Christmas, alas, meant nought to him,
 The language of this stranger land
 He vainly tried to understand;
 And so he silent stood apart,

But kept these things and pondered in his heart.

For he had come from regions far
 Led, all unknown, by Bethlehem's star!
 Came from an empire grand and vast,
 Linked kindred to a mighty past,
 He came, not seeking for the Light,
 The Christian's God, for in his sight
 The Christian was a name to dread,
 One who gave stones instead of bread,
 And who for tidings of great joy
 Brought only that which would destroy.
 And so he silent stood apart,

But kept these things and pondered in his heart.

Time passed, and he had heard it all,
 The old, sweet story—how the Fall
 Had brought the Saviour from above,
 That wondrous, wondrous tale of love;
 The story of man's gain through direst loss,
 The story of the Manger and the Cross!
 His eye grew bright, he strove to speak,
 The tear-drop glistened on his cheek,
 "Christmas!" he cried, "Nay, nay," they
 said,

"Not Christmas yet!"—he shook his head,

With that sweet thought he would not part,
 "The bells," he cried, "they're ringing in my
 heart!"

Ring on, O joyful Christmas bell,
 Christmas bell, Christmas bell,
 Through the whole world the royal anthem
 swell!

Tell the fair Islands of the lonely sea
 How all the nations shall in Him be blest
 Who is the Refuge and the Rest;
 How North and South and East and West
 The kingdoms of our Christ shall surely be!
 S. E. S.

The Wisdom-System of the Buddha in Comparison with the True Wisdom of the Christ.

BY FLORA SAWYER, MONTREAL.

The two main points in the system are, that existence is an evil, and that the continuance of existence is unavoidable except by the attainment of Nirvana; and to teach mankind how they may reach this state, or non-state of extinction, is the special mission of a Buddha.

The imagination of a Buddhist is filled with child-like fears of evil, even darkness is full of possible terrors to them, they are with "feeble hands and helpless, groping blindly in the darkness" for the True Light.

How different is the philosophy of our religion whose Master says, "Come unto me and I will give you rest," Our Jesus is the only teacher who has ever claimed to be the great rest-giver. His is the gospel of peace, love, tender invitation and hope.

Buddhism is pre-eminently a religion of despair, a looking for extinction; our blessed Christianity is a religion of hope, a looking forward to "the hope of glory in Christ Jesus" when we shall reign for-