

Field Notes.

IF the present number of the *OUTLOOK* is not found to be quite up to the average character of its predecessors, its defects will be attributable to the unavoidable absence of the editor in Europe. Dr. Sutherland is at present in England, by appointment of the highest authority of his Church, on a most important mission. At the General Conference, three years ago, the late Dr. Rice, Senior General Superintendent, was appointed fraternal delegate to the various Methodist Churches of Great Britain. He was expected to have visited the Conferences of the Wesleyan, the Primitive, the New Connexion, and the Bible Christian branch of the denomination, for the purpose of conveying to them the greetings of the united Methodism of this country. His lamented death, so soon after, made the appointment of a substitute necessary, and Dr. Sutherland was selected to perform the work which he would have done had his life been spared. Dr. Sutherland, accompanied by Dr. Briggs and Rev. Ezra A. Stafford, sailed from Quebec on the 1st of July, and is expected to return about the 20th of August.

THE quarter of a million for Missions, which the *OUTLOOK* ventured to ask from the Methodists of this country for the year which has just closed, has not been forthcoming. The patrons of the Society have, however, evinced their loyalty to this department of our Church work by adding a round ten thousand dollars to the income of the previous year. The amount placed at the disposal of the Society for carrying on the work of evangelization this year has not yet been definitely ascertained, but it will probably be rather over than under \$190,000. Even at this rate of progress the quarter of a million for missions, per annum, would soon be reached. Even if the present standard of liberality were only maintained, considering the growth of the Church, the increase of its membership, and the improvement in the temporal circumstances of the people, it would not be more than three years before that point would be passed. In this view of the case there is much cause for congratulation and thankfulness to God.

WHEN so much has been accomplished, it would be ungracious to find fault. There has no doubt been a good deal of self-sacrifice, in a vast number of instances, involved in the raising of the \$190,000 which have been poured into the treasury of our Missionary Society during the year. It must not be forgotten that a great many of the patrons of the Society are poor. The dollar, or fifty cents even, given by some of these

has been a severer test of principle than the hundreds or even thousands given by some others. And yet it may well be doubted whether a single person who has given from a feeling of love and loyalty to the Master is any poorer to-day for what he has given. But what if some of us were poorer? What if we had to wear a coarser coat or live on humbler fare? Self-denial is the fundamental principle of our religion, and its everlasting symbol is a cross. It would be a shame for any one who confesses himself to be redeemed by the precious blood of Christ to pause in his giving for the world's salvation at the point where positive self-denial and self-sacrifice begins.

IN plain English a quarter of a million was needed, every cent of it, last year, and it ought to have been forthcoming. We were well able to have given it, and there were the most urgent reasons why we should have done what we could. There never were such opportunities for missionary work as there are to-day, and if they are allowed to go unimproved there may never be the like again. The responsibility which Divine Providence has imposed upon us is tremendous. Shall we be found faithful to our trust? If so, the quarter of a million of dollars for missions will be forthcoming before the close of the year upon which we are now entering.

THE missionary fields of the world are everywhere white unto the harvest. The Macedonian cry comes to us from every point of the compass. But it is safe to say there is no other field on the earth where the call for laborers is so urgent as it is in Japan. Our brethren and sisters there need help. They ought to have it, and to have it at once. No one can read the correspondence which reaches our Mission Rooms without feeling this. Two men are wanted for school-work, and one, or if possible two, for evangelistic work. God is giving us the men, what we want is the money wherewith to send them. The salary of one of the teachers will be met by the Japanese authorities. A gentleman in this country stands ready to send out a young man for the evangelistic work at his own expense, and to guarantee five hundred dollars a year for three years toward his salary. And in view of the spirit of self-help which prevails among the native Christians in Japan, the brethren there have felt themselves justified in reducing their estimates. In view of these facts the Committee of Finance and Consultation, feeling that something ought to be done, and to be done speedily, have adopted resolutions authorizing Dr. Sutherland to receive special donations to meet this pressing necessity, and authorizing Dr. Eby to make special appeals in its behalf to our people.