

## MISSION FIELD.

## MISSIONS AND CIVILIZATION.

Mr. H. H. Johnston, the traveler, furnishes an article to the *Fortnightly Review* (English) on the question whether Foreign Missions are a success. Mr. Johnston professes to have no interest in the purely religious aspect of the question, but to regard it from the point of view of a political economist. Of course this is a wholly inadequate view of the true value of Christian missions; yet it is nevertheless interesting to observe what is the conclusion of such a writer. He says: "The missionary everywhere stands as the safeguard of the rights of the savage, and develops him into a being capable of taking advantage of the natural resources of his country." Mr. Johnston regards missions as invaluable as a civilizing agency. He attributes to Christian missions in Africa a "really remarkable effect in educating and humanizing cannibals and fetish worshippers," and in closing he uses these words:

The trader civilizes, but he does not go to savage countries for that purpose; he goes to trade. In like manner the bait which draws these good men and women of Roman Catholic and Protestant missions to Africa, Polynesia, North America, India, China and Persia, is the desire to instil into the minds of the backward races of these savage or semi-civilized lands their own views of Christian faith and hope; but they accompany their care for the spiritual well-being of the pagan or Mohammedan with a very practical intention to improve his bodily life and to educate his mind, and in this they do, and have done in the past, an amount of good that has never as yet been sufficiently appreciated.

C-O  
JAPAN.

Miss Carter, of Japan, tells of a kindly Christian Japanese woman who came to her with a girl baby which she had found in a ditch, where it had been left by its father, as thousands of others have been thrown, because it was 'only a girl'. In begging the Christian lady to take and care for the naked child covered with mud, the poor woman said, "Please do take little baby; your God is the only God that teaches to be good to little children."

In the northwest of India missionary physicians are coming prominently into notice. Nearly 72,000 cases were treated at eleven missionary dispensaries, and 11,000 women sought relief at Mrs. Williamson's dispensary at Agra; 18,850 women and children were treated at the Thomas dispensary at Agra. The women doctors in charge successfully performed some very important surgical operations.

The English Universities' Mission has a missionary fleet on Lake Nyassa, in Central Africa, consist-

ing of four large rowing boats and a sailing boat of galvanized steel.

## PRAYER AGAINST OATH.

A Recorder Renders a Decision Worthy of Solomon Himself.

Recorder Price's court was the scene of an affecting incident in the trial of Dulies Chrisman for assault on his brother William. The brother had quarrelled over William's desertion of his wife. William claimed that he was not married to the woman, although he had had two children by her, because they were divorced, and they were both Catholics. He testified that she kept a disorderly house in San Francisco, and wasn't a fit custodian for her children. The woman wept and eagerly besought the judge not to believe his statement, saying: "I have raised my children as they should be brought up." "Well," said His Honor, "I'll test it, madame," and he turned to the little girl, not more than three years old, who was clinging to her mother, and said: "You say your prayers."

Then ensued a most touching scene. The little girl climbed from her chair, knelt on the floor with policeman, judge, and her father and mother around her, and folding her tiny hands and lifting her eyes to Heaven, she made the grandest defence of a mother's word possible. Slowly, but distinctly, this child, born with the stain of shame upon her, and discarded by her father; lianed in childish accounts the Lord's Prayer. As she proceeded, utterly oblivious of her surroundings, rough men who had not heard a prayer for years bowed their heads and wept. Then the childish voice ended with "God bless papa, mamma, and Uncle Daliss. Amen."

The case was settled, and had William Chrisman sworn to a thousand oaths that his wife was bad he would have been disbelieved. It was several minutes before any one spoke, and then the Recorder fined the two brothers \$15 each and dismissed court. — *Fresno (Cal.) Despatch*

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