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JOY AND SORROW.

Old Sorrow came prepared to take his leave,
Equipped for travel on the roads of night,
So long had he abode, I ceased to grieve,
And saw him slowly change from gray to white.

Still was I loath that such old friends should part;
His chastened aspect seemed abiding rest;
His place within my ever constant heart
Was consecrate, a temple in the breast.

No thought of pleasure could I entertain,
So loud and garish came the revel's sound,
Though Sorrow fain would go, there was no train
Of Mirth whereunto I was wooed or bound.

So Peace, the angel, came and said: "Be still,
Keep that one chamber sweet with balm and nard;
If the world throng your bosom at its will
All hope of Joy you must for aye discard.

"For Joy is not the shallow thing you know,
Joy is the wisest of the sons of God—
With Love he bides, and even must enter so
After the mighty scourging of the rod."
—Independent.

DR. PARKER, of London, is a sharp satirist. Recently, in announcing the collection, he said: "It seems almost pitiable to appeal for Christ's cause, so great is the depression. No one went to the theatre last night—all the theatres were closed, for no one had a shilling; no one drank wine yesterday—they all had to be content with water; no one rode to church this morning—they had all risen early and walked the whole distance; so great was the depression. Still they would see what they could do."—*Central Presbyterian.*

HOW TO ENCOURAGE A MINISTER!—Hear him "now and then." Drop in a little late. Do not sing. Do not find the text. Talk a little during the sermon, or read some book, or turn over the leaves of your Bible while he is reading. Look as listless as you can. Be as restless as you can. Notice carefully any slip he may make while you are awake. Find all the fault you can, it will come round to him. Censure his efforts at usefulness, and throw cold water on all his endeavours at improvement. If you hold an office in the church, be as often absent from your duty as you can without incurring censure on yourself. Tell him when he calls what a stranger he is. Hint to him how his predecessors used to drop in for an hour's chat, and how much you liked them and their preaching, and do so in a whining tone. It is sure to have effect. Never attend the prayer-meeting. Never by any chance attend when he intimates a special service. If he is always in the pulpit, clamour for a stranger. If he has to be away, and absent from his pulpit a Sunday or two, say to your friends, "that man is never at home." By all means keep down his income. Fulness of bread is bad for everyone but the laity. Patient continuance in such *well doing* will certainly break his spirit, ruin his usefulness, and send him to his grave, and verily you shall have your reward! —*Messenger.*

- The following is the programme of Wednesday evening prayer-meeting services, Charles Street Church, Toronto:—
- 1886.
- Nov. 3—Prayer for the Sabbath schools of the Congregation.
 - " 10—Bible Reading, "The Lord knoweth us."
 - " 17—"The right and wrong way of giving pleasure," Rom. xv. 2.
 - " 24—"Bethel Revisited," Gen. xxxv. 14-15.
 - Dec. 1—Missionary Service.
 - " 8—"The Word of God as a Weapon," Eph. vi. 17.
 - " 15—Service of Song.
 - " 22—"The Gift of Gifts," John iii. 16.
 - " 29—"Thoughts for the close of the year."
 - 1887.
 - Jan. 5—"How we should regard the future."
 - " 12—Annual Meeting of Congregation.
 - " 19—"Weights to be Discarded," Heb. xii. 1.
 - " 26—"Dissimulating Love," Rom. xii. 9.
 - Feb. 2—Bible Reading, "The Lord leads us."
 - " 9—"Christ gives Joy," John xv. 11, Isa. lxi. 1-3.
 - " 16—"Discouragements and Comforts in the Christian Life."
 - " 23—"Hindrances to Christian Development."
 - Mar. 2—Missionary Service.
 - " 9—Service of Song.
 - " 16—"Loving and Hating," Matt. x. 37-38.
 - " 23—"What man was, is, and may become."
 - " 30—"Christ's Message of Love," Rev. iii. 17.
 - Apr. 6—"From the Depths to the Heights," Psa. 130.
 - " 13—Bible Reading, "What are we chosen for."
 - " 20—"Christ the Door," John x. 9.
 - " 27—"Sorrow according to God," and Cor. vii. 10.

Mission Work.

COREA.—Corea now rejoices in its first baptized convert. Only recently has the hermit nation been opened to missionaries. This first convert heard about Christianity by reading what a Chinese book had said against Christians and the religion of Christ. He was led to try and look further into it, and now rejoices in the glorious liberty of the Gospel.

CUBA.—The Spanish Government votes to free 26,000 slaves. Senor Labra moved in the Spanish Chamber of Deputies at Madrid that the Government free, as soon as possible, the remaining 26,000 slaves in Cuba. The Government agreed, and the resolution passed unanimously. The president of the Chamber congratulated the members on the "crowning of the glorious work of the abolition of slavery."

A GOOD SENTIMENT.—The presbytery of Osage, U.S., at a late meeting, held a missionary meeting on the evening of the 29th September. The following sentiment uttered by one of the speakers on the occasion should be well pondered over by all lovers of missions: "Foreign missions and home missions are so blended that no man can tell where one ends and the other begins, and any man who does not feel a deep and lively interest in both has no worthy conception of the spirit of the Gospel."

WHY MISSION WORK LANGUISES.—The Rev. J. C. Hill, missionary of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., in Guatemala, in writing to the New York Evangelist says, that missionary churches, all things considered, give more for all purposes than the home churches. The Church at home is not advancing in her gifts for missions in proportion to her numbers. What is the cause of it? "I am convinced from my experience, as a pastor and a missionary, that it is because the whole Gospel is not preached. If new members of churches at home were taught and impressed as the converts in missionary churches are as to the prime necessity of contributing every one of them, and in proportion as God prospers them, then there would be a steady forward march of the Church in its offerings."

THE SITUATION IN JAPAN.—One of the oldest and ablest of the Japanese preachers in Tokio, lately expressed his views of the situation in Japan as follows: "Teachers are in demand everywhere, and we want men to go with our preachers and to show them the art of preaching so as to lead men to Christ. Thirty new men should now be sent to Japan for the special work of evangelists and teachers. The next ten years is to decide the future of Japan, and the Romanists and Greeks are making desperate efforts to get the precedence by firmly and fully establishing their faith in every part of the country. The minds of many of the people are turned towards Christianity, and in their ignorance of the difference of the various forms of religion, they accept the first that comes. Men will also gladly go from this land to any country where there is need of Christian work. The Japanese converts are doing nobly in their efforts to spread the Gospel among their own people, and with experience and proper training will make good labourers in other fields."

SHE KISSED IT.—Here is a pretty picture for our young readers. They many show it to their parents and grown-up friends if they will. Perhaps a look at it may do some of them good, as well as the little ones. "The teacher of a girls' school, away in Africa, wished her scholars to learn to give. She paid them, therefore, for doing some work for her, so that each girl might have something of her own to give away for Jesus' sake. Among them was a new scholar, such a wild and ignorant little heathen that the teacher did not try to explain to her what the other girls were doing. The day came when the gifts were handed in. Each pupil brought her piece of money and laid it down, and the teacher thought all the offerings were given. But there stood the new scholar hugging tightly in her arms a pitcher, the only thing she had in the world. She went to the table and put it among the other gifts, but before she turned away she kissed it! There is One who watched and still watches people casting gifts into His treasury. Would He not say of this African girl, 'She hath cast in more than they all'?"

HABITATIONS OF CRUELTY.—Stealing is a serious crime and should be severely dealt with, but even for stealing children—a heathenish crime—it is inconceivable that a man should be condemned to a living death for ten days in the midst of a thronging crowd. The Rev. J. N. Hages, a Presbyterian Missionary in Soo-Chow, reports a case as follows: "A man charged with stealing children and selling them was condemned to die in a standing position. He was confined in a cage just large enough to enclose his body; his neck was surrounded by a frame that raised him from his heels. Thus he was

partially hanging and partially standing. In this condition he was placed at the entrance of the city temple, a point that is thronged from morning till night. Some of the people, thinking to make merit, it is said, gave him food, and some bricks were placed under his feet, thus releasing him and prolonging his life for a time. This stopped as soon as the officials discovered it, and a guard placed around him to prevent a similar occurrence in the future. This poor man lived about ten days after being placed in the cage."

CURIOUS CUSTOMS AMONG THE CHINESE.—When boys fall sick there are two very curious customs. Sometimes the little fellow is made a priest and dressed in priest's clothes. His parents think the gods will not make him die when he is dedicated to their service. But they may not want him to be a priest, as he would have to change his name and leave his family. After a time they take him to a temple, and get the priest to burn incense to the idols and chant prayers. When he has finished he takes a besom and chases the boy out of the temple, who comes home and puts on ordinary clothes. Others try to cheat the gods. They put a silver wire round the boy's neck, and leave off mentioning his name, calling him a pig or dog. They imagine the god, who is looking for a boy, will not search their house for one when he hears them speaking only to a dog. All the children have old coins and charms tied to their clothes to keep off the evil eye and drive away wicked spirits.—*Church of Scotland Mission Record.*

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS. The American Board consists of a body of 231 commissioners or corporate members, scattered all over the country. These men are the only voting members, and form a close corporation. Considering how scattered they are, and the age of many of them (over fifty of them have been corporate members twenty or more years), they are very faithful in their attendance at the annual meetings. There is the remarkable number of 129 present at the last meeting in Boston; but there the place was favourable, and the jubilee meeting called every one that could possibly attend. At Columbus, O., two years ago there were sixty-one corporate members present; by far the largest delegation being from Massachusetts, which sent twenty-one members; twelve of them, however, being executive officers, whose duties as secretaries and members of the Prudential Committee, etc., required them to be present. Besides the corporate members, there are thousands of honorary members, who have the right to take part in discussion, but not the right to vote. The business of the Board is conducted by ten men, as Prudential Committee, chosen from the immediate vicinity of Boston. There are three secretaries, N. G. Clark, D. D., and Judson Smith, D. D., foreign secretaries, and E. K. Alden, D. D., who has charge of the Home Department.

THE GOSPEL IN SONG.—In Formosa the hymns used by the converts embody and express very clearly the principal doctrines of the Gospel, and have been found of great service not only in the instruction and edification of believers, but in attracting the attention of the heathen to the truth as it is in Jesus. In India it is the same. Dr. Chamberlain, writing from Madanapalle, says: "The Telugus also readily catch up and become very fond of some of our livelier American tunes, especially those with a chorus, or refrain, and we make use of them; for the novelty of the foreign music sometimes rivets their attention. Many years ago I translated into Telugu the children's hymn,
"Jesus loves me," this I know,
For the Bible tells me so,"

and taught it to the children of our day-school. It was scarcely a week before, as I was going through the narrow streets of the native town on horseback, I heard singing that sounded natural, down a side street. I stopped to listen, cautiously drawing up to the corner, where I could, unobserved, look down the street, and see and hear; and there was a little heathen boy, with heathen men and women standing around him, singing away at the top of his voice:
"Jesus loves me; this I know,
For the Bible tells me so."
Yes, Jesus loves me;
The Bible tells me so."

And as he completed the verse, the question arose: "Sunny, where did you learn that song?" "Over at the missionary school," was the answer. "Who is that Jesus, and what is the Bible?" "Oh! the Bible is the Book from God; they say, to teach us how to get to Heaven, and Jesus is the name of the Divine Redeemer that came into the world to save us from our sins; that is what the missionaries say." "Well, the song is a nice one, anyhow. Come, sing us some more." And so the little boy went on—a heathen himself, and singing to the heathen—about Jesus and his love. "That is preaching the Gospel by proxy." I said to myself, as I turned my pony and rode away, well satisfied to leave my little proxy to tell to his interested audience all he himself knew, and sing to them over and over that sweet song of salvation.

Woman's Work.

MILDMAY CONFERENCE.

AT the Mildmay Missionary Conference held in London, England, Oct. 5th, 6th and 7th, the subject of "Woman's Work," occupied the attention of the Conference during one afternoon. Mr. C. H. Judd, presided and gave a brief, but weighty exposition of Scripture teaching, as to the public ministry of women. Miss Ricketts, of the Presbyterian Mission, China, spoke of her work in that country; Miss Poulton, of South Africa, and Mrs. Gardner James, represented the Young Women's Christian Association work in Europe. Following is a summary of Miss Ricketts' address:

CHINA.

Miss Ricketts repeated the oft-quoted last command of the Lord: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. . . . I, I am with you always, even to the end of the world." So difficult did Christ deem this work, that He gave the promise of his continual presence. We are here to-day to ask how this command has been obeyed. The Churches alas! have mostly delegated the work to societies and individuals, instead of making it their chief concern. So at this stage of the Christian era there are a thousand millions of heathen yet without the Gospel; while only some three millions have been converted to Christ. The annual contribution of the churches to missions is about one million pounds; while 124 millions are spent on intoxicants, thirteen millions on tobacco and snuff, and twelve millions on amusements. Notwithstanding the depression of trade, there seems to be plenty of money for self-indulgence. The Lord is calling us as a nation to self-examination, and it may be to judgment, because of our failures in these matters. Our talk about consecration means nothing unless we carry our faith into action. Consecration is not merely singing hymns and being moved with fine feelings; it involves crucifixion of the world and the flesh, and daily self-denial. Two texts come to my mind: "There remaineth much land to be possessed," and "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." We must look on the whole ground, and not on any little corner of it.

Think for a moment of China, with its social miseries and cruelties. No woman in South China, would think of rearing more than two female children; all the others she will destroy. Those who survive are mutilated by the cruel custom of foot-binding. The unhappy children sometimes die under the agony of the pain. The parents do not scruple to use violence and cruelty in this torturing process. When of a marriageable age the girls are married by arrangement of their parents; they have no voice in the matter. They not infrequently drown themselves in order to escape this misery. When they grow old the poor women are neglected, and their wretchedness is extreme. They long for death. Any kindness shown to them by strangers overwhelms them with gratitude. If English women could experience for a little while the hopelessness of heathenism they would be more willing to leave their pleasant homes in order to carry the Gospel to these Chinese sisters sitting in such gross darkness.

Miss Ricketts spoke of the remarkable increase in Chinese missions in recent years. The circulation of the Scriptures in the vernacular tongue will do much to deepen and establish the spiritual life of the converts. The British and Foreign Bible Society have helped greatly by grants to Bible women. The Chinese, as a race, have splendid possibilities, and our English sisters would be well rewarded for going forth to China; there would be many to take up the work at home. The labours of Chinese missionaries in the past have been abundantly blessed. Since God has been faithful to us in all our work, let us be faithful to his command and to our glorious calling. God grant that we may continually feel the burden of the heathen upon us!

An auxiliary of the W. F. M. S., was organized in St. Andrew's Church, Campbellford, on the 1st Oct. Mrs. McEwen, of Lakefield, President of the Presbyterian Society, and Miss Dickson, of Peterboro, attended the meeting and explained the nature of the W. F. M. work. The following are the officers elected: President; Mr. F. Dinwoodie; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Jas. White and Mrs. Bogart; Secretary, Miss M. Dinwoodie; Treasurer, Miss E. Moore. The Society starts with a membership of twenty-five. The spirit of the meeting was very encouraging, and augurs well for the success of this important branch of Christian endeavour.

THE STUFFED SKIN OF TRUTH.—Dr. T. L. Cuyler understands the art of "putting" things, as will be seen from the way in which he "puts" his opinion of one of Ward Beecher's "utterances." In a recent article, Dr. Cuyler says, "My brilliant neighbour has unwisely said that 'Doctrine is only the skin of truth set up and stuffed.' Just imagine St. Paul writing to Timothy, 'Give attendance to—the stuffed skin of truth.'"—*National Baptist*