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# Presbyterian Record. 

Von. XXV.

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ago. This difference is immense, and in bringing it about the work of Chiniquy has had no small part.

His life has one great lesson for us. He knew by long experience, knew as we cannot know, the spiritual condition and needs of his fellow countrymen. He knew from his own personal experience, the change from bondage to freedom, and for forty years, like the Hebrew chieftain of long ago, has he sought with intensest energy to lead them to the Canaan of freedom that Christ gives.

He is gone, but the work is only begun. The Bible, the charter of individual and national liberty, is still but little known among the great body of the French Roman Catholics of Quebec. There is neither demand for it nor supply.

Rev. S. J. Taylor, our Superintendent of French work, not long since went to see if he could get a French New Testament at any of the French book stores in Montreal. He visited several of the leading ones. At the first two there was not one to be had. At the third he found one, an expensive copy such as most people could not buy. At the fourth he got one, the only one they had, paying 87e for a Testament that the Bible Society sells for 15 c .

This fact shows that there is no demand nor supply, and that apart from the copies introduced by the Protestant colporteur, the Word of God is practically unknown. If such be the case in Montreal, how much more in most of the rural districts that are largely unreached by the thought and questioning that more or less stirs the city life.

One-fourth of the population of the Dominion is practically without the Word which God has given to guide through time to eternity. Our work, our duty to them, as fellow-citizens, as patriots, as Christians, is to give Ehem that Word. Our work is not to make of them prosolytes, or Protestants, or Presbyterians, but to
give them the Word of God, and to seek to lead them to study it and follow "where it leadeth." If they can follow it and remain in the Church of Rome, well. If they eamot, they should not bo left in ignorance of it in any place where they camnot follow it.

This Recond has not a little* which it is hoped will interest and profit. On two great themes, the meaning and privileges of baptism, and the best method of giving to missions at home and abroad, the next four pages give food for thought. Pages 41 to 44 have some interesting glimpses of life and work by some of our haborers in the gold regions of the far West and the Yukon. From pages 45 to 58 are messages from our missionaries in Trinidad and Central India and Honan, telling of our work which they are trsing to do for us and of its progress; and the last half dozen pages, show what we have tried to do, by the different Schemes of our Church, for the world's betterment during the month of December.

Attention is called to the article on page 35, on "Special Object" giving. Please note these points: (1) In choosing special objects e.g., scme person in India or China, as our work, and with whom we wish to correspond, etc., wo incrcase the work of conducting the business of our missions and therefore the cost of it. (2) We do not know so well as the Missionary Board that has charge of the work what is most needed or where our gift will do most goorl. (3) We may thes hamper those whom we appoint to take charge of the work for us. ( 4 ) We are liable to pauperize the one whom we support and thus defeat the end for which we give. (5) We clo not get the good ourselves that we might from the work for an interest narrows to the special object for which we give, instead of broadening to grasp the whole work as ours. (6) We miss in some measure the good of the highest aim, that of giving simply as to Christ, in obedience to His command.

The Doukobors, two thousand and again two thousand, with more to follow, exiles from Russin, have landed and have gone to our far West to make for themselves new homes in a land of freedom. They have been welcomed by yoice and press, for their clean healthy bodies, their high toned morals, and their dauntless faith and
courage under sore persecution, prominence being given to one or other of these according to taste.

One point may be noted. They have been driven from thoir homes, they have lost everything, they have come to our land, all for conscience sake. Conscience is a valuable commodity in any country. Russiahas none to spare and her policy is suicidal. Canada cannot have too much of it. Her fields and forests and mines are of great worth but more essential to her true prosperity is " a good conscience toward God and toward man." This is probably the largest single importation of conscience in the world's history and well may we rejoice that Camada is the recipient of it. May it spread.

Many hundreds of "ammal meetings" have been held throughout the chureh during the past month. In most of them the results of the year haye been encouraging so far as financial matters are concerned. For all the good that comes, let grateful lives give thanks during the New Year.

In Jamuary Record, 1899 was inadvertently called "the last year of the century." We are only in the 9th year of this decade and the 99th of this century. 1900 will be the tenth year of the former and the 100 th of the latter.

All orders and payments for either the Special Presbyterlan Recond or Children's Notice Recorl, should be sentsirect to this office, and not through other channels, but no orders for any other publications should come here.

All payments for S. S. Helps for the past year, 1S9S, should be sent to this office.

All orders and payments for S.S. Helps for 1890, also for Topic Cards and Booklets, but not for either of the Records to be sent to Rev. R. D. Fraser, 592 Markham St., Toronto.

Iouth's Record was intended to supplement, nct to supplant, The Children's Record. As the orders for the former came in, about three-fourths of them were found to be in place of the latter. It was not well to cut down the oid for the apbuilding of the new, and it has been thought best not to publish further issues of Youth's Record in the meantime, and to try and make The Children's Record more helpful to all the young people.

EVILS OF "SPECIAL OBJECT" (IIVING.

Two hindrances to the best results in mission work have grown up with modern missionary giving, hindrances due largely to the zeal of gen-orous-hearted men and women who do not realize that much depends upon how they give, as well as how much they give.
One of these hindrances is the giving to irresponsible parties, more or less genuine, who make touching appeals for work which they clain to be doing. I have seen it stated recently that there are fifteen hundred such, chicfly Orientals, ou the Continent of America, many of them finding it a fertile pasture.ground.
The other bindrance is the selection of some special object in our own mission work, instead of giving to the Fund which supports it, and allowing the Committee in charge of it, and that knows most about it, to use the gift to the best advantage of the work as a whole.
The latter evil received special attention at the Annual Conference of Foreign Mission Boards of the United States and Canada, embracing about ninety missionary societies and churches, which met in New York on the 11th of January. As one of the n:nety, our own Church was represented by Revs. Dr. Warden and R. P. Mackay.
The object of the Annual Conference is to study the best, most economical, and most successful methods of carrying on Foreign Mission work, to learn, all from each, and, if possible, to bring all up to the best of each, in short, to make the Foreign Mission work of the Churches of this Continent yield the largest results in the world's uplift.

A Committee of the Conference on " Special objects" had been gathering information during the year, and their report is very full and complete. This Committee had sent to the Mission Boards of the Continent a serics of seventeen questions, such as: Qucstion 1. "What approximate proportion oi your work is supported by special object-giving ?" Q. 7. "Do your discourage your missionaries from directly appealing for gifts to their friends at home?" Q. 15. Do you regard special object giving as, on the whole, advantageous, and therefore to be encouraged, or as a necessary evil, to be restricted as far as possibe," etc.

A large majority of answers agree in substance as to the disadvantage of such giving, and that it should be turned into the regular channois as far as possible.

After an exhaustive summing up of the
answers to the varions questions, the Committee say :
"If we believe that the tendency toward indis. criminate specinl object giving is fraught with embarrassment and peril, why not say so? The Boards are presumably composed or men who know the work of their particular sphere, and it is distinctly within their province to kindly and persuasively seek to show the people the more ex. cellent way. way not frankly explain to them the practical difficulties which develop in connection with this form of missionary support?

Let us boldly emphasize the truth that the supreme motive for giving should not be interest in a particular person or institution, but loving obedience to the command of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, who has directed His followers to preach the Gospel to every creature, and the further fact that of the money given for this purpose the Boards are the duly appointed admin. strators.

These Boards have been constituted by the churches themselves for this express purpose. In reliance upon the gifts of the people, and with no other human resource, most of the Boards, at the beginning of each fiscal year, make large appropriations for the salaries and work of the missionaries, and absolutely guarantee their full and prompt payment. This policy is only just to distant and isolated missionaries, but it would be impossible for the Boards to maintain it if they could not control the gifts of the churches, which are their sole source of supply.

They have a wide ontlock over the whole field. They are in constant correspondence with the missionaries in every part of it. They know clements in the situation, which, from the nature of the case, are not known to the churches. Not, therefore, because they are any wiser in themselves, but simply because of theirspecial relation to the work and their experience in conductingit, they are in a position to judge better than others where money can be used to the best advantage.

The donor does not usially suspect the difficulties in his selection of a special object. He naturally chooses the most attractive phases of the work, while others less attractive but equally important are ignored.

Still less does it occur to bim that it has an unfortunate influence on native helpers to know that they are specially supported in America. Probably he has not been reminded that centuries of poverty and opnressioi: preutispose them to an undue reliance upon the missionary, and that experience has shown that extraordinary care
must be exercised in the distribution among thom of foreign monoy, lest they be pauporized in spirit and led to a dependence upon the home churches demoralizing to themselves, and incompatible with that spirit of self-reliance which we are carnestly endeavoring to inculcate.

The statement that " such gifts will not interfere with the regular contributions "has generally been found illusory. It is the experience of the Boards that in the outcome they do interfere, and that they weaken the giver's sense of respoisibility for the maintenance of the general treasury by concentrating and narrowing his sympathies to a partıcular point.

More seriously, the principle denies to the Boards and to the Missions the benefit of natura increase in contributions. The amount which was being given to the regular fund and which " will be given anyway " may have been, and indeed, usually is, entirely inadequate to the just needs of the work and to the proportionate ability of the donor.

Our chief safeguard against inevitable and frequent losses by death, failure, and other causes, and at the same time our main hope for such an ealargement of missionary operations as will enable us to respond to the calls of Providence and the urgent necessity of millions still unevangelized, lies in the large and steady increase of gifts to the general treasury unembarrassed by conditions. This essential purpose is seriously endangered if the diminished gifts of the past are to be regarded as the basis for the future, and the extension of the work made possible only in isolated cases which have happened to attract the attention of particular donors.
It should, mureover, be rembered that however sincere and far-reaching the intentions of the donor may be, the Boards have the real responsibility for the maintenance of the work, and mus', after his death, or in the event of his inability or disinclination to continue his gift, assume the financial burden of its support. It is, therefore, only just that the approval of the Board should be deemed a prerequisite to the inauguration of work, especially when that work involves the employment of native helpers or the aceupisition of property. Cases have frequently occurred in which Boards have been thus compelled to assume responsibilities which they would not have approved, and which have caused considerable anxiety and financial loss.
It ought to be clearly understood that the dis. position of givers to send money directly to the field, with the request that it be not counter as a
part of the regular approprintions, but be used for some indepondent work, is based on radically wrong views of the object for which the Boards exist, of the responsibility for the support of the missionaries which they have incurred on the authority and by the direction of the churches of the paramount importance of the regular work as compared with outside objects, of the economy of the Board's administration, of the risks which are insoparably incident to enterprises depending on the wisdom or life of individuals, of the relation of church members of the Boards which use their own authoritative agencies for the disbursement of missionary funds,
We are aware that the amount given by the friends of $\Omega$ particular missionary may be small, and that the temptation is strong for one to interest his friends in the plans for which the Board cannot furnish the needed funds. But each one of the thousands of missionaries has such friends, and a large part of the dependence of the Board is on the family and church circles represented by these missionaries, which in the aggregate form a most important part of our constituency, Manifestly, if each missionary encourages or allows his own circle in that measure to send its gifts in any measure directly to him, the source of our supply would be dried up.
If it be said that people will often give to theirown missionary friend or relative when they wonld not give to the Board, we reply that, as a rule, the missionary himself can control that matter. If he is loyal to the Board, his friends will be. He represents their forcign missionary interest, and their attitude will be influenced by him. There will be no trouble if he says to them: "Send your gifts to the Board; The Board will provide for me and for my work, if those who love me and the work will send their money to its treasury."

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the interests of the Boards and of the missionaries are identical, and that if they do not stand together, and bring united pressure to bear upon the church at home, the cause will suffer irreparable damage.

The missionaries themselves frankly recognize this. One of them recently wrote: "I firmly believe that a great deal of this special object difficulty might be aroided if every missionary would not only refuse to encourage it, but use every opportunity to work up enthusiasm for "stock in the general fund." I have failed to find one individual that was not capable of conversion by five minutes personal conversation."

And yet, while wo urge a larger giving to the general treasury, we ungrudgingly concede that " there is a powor in tho concentrated individual interest that must be reckoned with, and, if possible, oncouraged frankly and honestly." Wo should not indiscriminately oppose, but wisely guide this movement. Within proper limits it may be made to subserve our great purpose. We ought to be able to convince our constituents that the object of the Boards in desiring to, control gifts is simply in the interest of the missionaries themselves, and of the work, that we may be able to send to them the amount called for by the annu'l appropriations, that in making these sugges. tions our main desire is that the Lord's money should be used to the best advantage, and not jeopardized or unwisely expended, and that the Boards have no disposition to unnecessarily alter the direction of a designated gift, but that they only reserve the right to safeguard the interests of the cause and to provido for emergencies and for necessary changes demanded by unlooked -for developments.
The inclinations of millions of people are not to be changed in a moment by a riva voce vote. Sound education is always a slow process. But we can and we ought to take at least one clear step in advance, and in order that inguiry and discussion may issue in something definite and practical we recommend that the following resolution be submitted to the consideration of the various Boards represented in the Conference :
"In view of the serious and increasing complications incident to special object giving outside of the regular appropriations, and to the assignment of individual native helpers and pupils and particular schools and other institutions within them, we recommend that so far as practicable special object givers be advised to contribute toward one or more of the following classes of work approved by the Board and included in the regular appropriations for a given station or Mission, taking shares therein without more specific designation.

1. Missionaries.
2. Evangelistic Work.
3. Educational Work.
4. Medical Work.
5. Miscellaneous, including building, etc.

We trust that this may commend itself to the judgment of both the Boards and the givers, as a means of placing the whole system of special object giving on a better basis, and of avoiding the numerous and frequently trying annoyances of the present system."

BAPTISM, ITE MEANING AND PRIVILEGES.

A lheit for the shorter catbohism view of baptism just as it stands.

By Irrs. Anna Ross; Evart Training Home, Toronto.

## Question 94. What is Baptism?

Answer. Baptism is a gacrument, wherein the washing with water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our engrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the Covenant of Grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.
Q. 95. To whom is Baptism to be adminis. tered?
A. Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church till they profess their faith in Christ and obedience to Him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.
Baptism is here declared to signify and seal three things. It is also stated that baptism is to be administered to the infants of those who are members of the visible church. And there is not a note in the whole explanation of the subject to indicate that the ordinance in the case of infants, signifies or seals less than it does in the case of adults.
Now, may I be excused for asking a question which pach reader may onswer according to his judgment? Is it a usual thing amongst us for a parent, as he presents his infant for baptism, to count that ordinance to signify and seal the engrafting of that child into Christ, its partaking of the benefits of the Cuvenant of Grace, and its engagement to be the Lord's? If the parent does not do so, then either the parent must be wrong, or the Catechism. It is a position very dear to my heart that in this particular point the Catechism is emphatically right.
Baptism in the case of an adult ought to be a real transaction between earth and heaven, in which there is active faith in the Word of God on the part of the receiver of the ordinance, and certain responsive grace on the part of God. If the faith be wanting the baptism becomes a mere form, though a significant one. In the case of the infant it ought still to be a real transaction between earth and heaven, in which there is active faith upon the word of God on the part of the parent, and certain responsive grace on the part of God. If the faith be wanting, the baptism becomes a mere form, though a significant one.

The ground of the efficacy of the ordinance
either cass is a real faith upon the promise of God.
Here is the promise: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.". Notice, there are two parts in this promise, but we must believe that they aro equally true. Individual faith in the first half of that promise engrafts the believer into Christ, gives him a right to all the benefits of the Covenant of (irace, and necessarily implies his engagement to be the Lord's. Baptism, which signities and seals these three things, is evidently the right thing.
Parentalfaith in the last half of the promise binds God's faithfulness to engraft the whole household into Christ, giving that whole household a right to all the benefits of the Covenant of Girace, and the making of them willing in the day of His power to yield themselves wholly orar to be the Lord's. Is not baptism, which signifies and seals these three things the right thing in the case of such a houschold, and does it not mean for the household exactly what it meant to the indiridual? But if the ordinance is administered in either case without the faith taking hold of God's faithfulness, it is merely a form.

A parent so laying hold upon God's promise for his house, has the same right to count God's faithfulness pledged to engraft that whole house into Christ that he has to count himself engrafted into Christ. The only difference is this: His faith for himself engraftshim instantaneously into Christ, whereas his faith for his household may still leave the matter of time in God's hand. He may be kept waiting for the fulfilment of the promise "as those that watch for the morning." But he has a right to do his watching as those who watch for the morning do theirs, in the greatest confidence that it is coming, and not one moment behind time either. While he is watching for it, he can in faith count it his already. He can mingle his prayers, which are really rather reminders than petitions, with heartfelt thanksgivings for the answer that has not yet come, and so his joy and confidence will hallow God's name while he is watching.

The other most precious truth is this: A parent so laying hold upon God's promise for his household has the same right to lay hold of the Covenant of Grace for them that he has for himsclf. He can claim (not merely ask for) God'sadequate mercy for his child's umrighteousness. He can plead, Thou art faithful and just to forgive this child and to "cleanse it from all unrighteousness." When he finds, as he surely will, his own utter inability to teach that child, saying, "Know the

Lord," ho can rest joyfully down upon the second promise, "For all shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest of thom." In that promise God Himself undertakes to do the teaching, and it shall be done. Ho can claim in behalf of his children the crowning promise of the wholo Covenant, that God shall "put his laws into their mind and writo them in their heart, that he will be to them a God, and they shall be to hima people."

Tho making them willing to bo wholly the Lord's is involve:l both in their engrafting into Christ, and in their actually partaking of tho benefits of the Covemant of Grace.

What then is the attitude of the believing parent in presenting his child in baptism? This is the attitude he has the right to take. He can look upon that ordinance as signifying to the child exactly what it would signify to hinself, and sealing to the child exactly what it would seal to himself. He not only gives the child over to God as Hamah did, to be His in life and in death, but he accepts for the child, on God's promise, its engrafting into Christ, and aright to all the benefits of the Covenaut of Grace.

There are two steps that congre-

## "Holiness" Marks.

gations are generally unwilling to take, to give up part of their membership to start a new cause, even where it may be needed, in a growing com. munity, and, on the other hand, to unite whero such union would phainly be for grood. In the former case the congregation does not wish to weaken itself and assume larger burdens, and in the latter neither wishes to lose its identity.

In both cases the trouble arises from taking too low a view of why the Church exists, what it is for, the extension of Christ's Kinglom, the winning of men to righteousness, and not the glory or comfort or pleasure or strength of any congregation.

It is a token that a Church is breathing a higher life, realizing a nobler ideal, when she is willing, on the ono hand, to sink her own identity in union with a sister congregation, or, on the other, to lessen her strength and standing in the cyes of men to form the neuclous of $a$ new cause for Christ. Some happy unions have recently taken place in our Church, in Vancouver, far West, in Lachute, Que., in the East, and in other places. May the result be greater strength for the extension of Christ's Kingdom in our land.

## Our thome calk．

Of interest，Cannda wido，was the recent Ammual New Year＇s gathering of the Presbyterian Sabbath Schools of Montreal in Erskine chureh， on account of the exhibition that it gave of the success of two dopartments of the mission work of our church．In one part of the great throng of between two and three thousand，wero some fifty pupils of Pointo－aux－Trembles schools． Their sweet singing of a beautiful French hymn was most impressive．In another part wero nearly one hundred Chinamen who attend our mission Subbath schools．They sang the hymn：－ Jrsus loves me this I know For the fible tells me so，etc．， in their own language，with the vast assembly joining in the chorus in English，and after finish－ ing it they had to sing a verse or two again． Here is the hymn as they sang it：

|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |
| 生愛門愛係係朋愛䱈 |  |
| 前我他找耶耶灰我愛 |  |
| 我愛橘拾穌鮴他我我 |  |
| 愛到我他愛愛肯所 |  |
| 他底開命找我當知 |  |
| 死愛把 | 我 |
| 後我他有 |  |
| 領罪小罪聖係 |  |
| 我人羊孹臺耶弱書 |  |
|  |  |
| 到真喚可告解他話他希進洗新愛强我 |  |
|  |  |

If the whole church could have seen and heard these two bands，singing so expressively in their own tongues the praises of that Saviour，of whom， as the only Mediator between God and man，they have learned from us，it would make the whole church thankful and resolved to do more．

A good deal of interest，writes Prof．Baird from Winnipeg，－was created in our little circle by the reception of two young Galicians into the College to prepare for Christian work among their fellow countrymen，of whom there are now 14，000 in the Canadian Northwest．We havo had a good deal of talk with representative men
among them and they feel that there is no pros－ peet of boing followed by priests of the Greels Church to which they belong．
The Roman Catholic Church has been making vigorous efforts to bring them under her influence， but they regard her as the enemy of freedom and resent her overtures．They have of their own accord made proposals to us and tho prospect is that a very important work may be opened up among them．

The young men who have been received are young men of likely appearance，of fairly good primary education and seemingly of good Chris． tian character．They are highly commended by representative men from among their own people， and our work has the very hearty sympathy of the Government officials in the West who have been ruperintending the locating of these people and the management of their affairs．

## CHURCH NOTES AND NOTICES．

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CALIS．
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From Charleston，Leeds Co．，Ont．，to Mr．A． L．Manson，of E．Tilbury．
From Kenyon，Glengary，to Mr．K．A．Gollan， of Hilton，Man．
From Leamington，Ont．，to Mr．N．D．Keith． Accepted．
From St．Andrew＇s ch．，Guelph，to Mr．A．J． NcGillivray of London．

From Knox church，Walkerton，to Mr．J．S． Conning，of Caledonia
From Spencerville，Ont．，to Mr．John McDou－ gall，of Holton，Que．

## INDUCTIONS．

At Thorburn N．S．， 10 Jan．，Mr．J．A．Mac－ kenzie．
At St．indrew＇s Ch．，Truro， 10 Jan．，Mr．R． Strathie．
At Clyde and Barrington，N．S．， 28 Dec．，Mr． A．D．Stirling．

At Mt．Pleasant Ch．，Vancouver， 28 Dec．，Mr． M．H．McIntosh，late of New Westminister．
At New Edinburgh，Ottawa， 13 June，Mr．N． A．McLeod．
At St．Andrew＇s ch．，Buckingham，Mr．W． Patterson．
mesignations．
Of Springfield，N．B．，Mr．J．A．McLean．
Of Cardinal，Ont．，Mr．Geo．MeArthur，to accept a call to Ogdensburg，N．Y．

Of Keady，Owen Sd．Pres．，Mr．Burnett．
Of Turin，Chatham Pres．，Mr．J．Beckett after a pastorate of thirty years．

## obituaries．

Rev．Charles Chiniquy，D．D．，passed to his rest， at his home in Montreal， 16 Jan．in the 90th year of his age．He was born in Kamouraska， （Lue， 30 th July 1809，was educated in Quebec semi－ nary，and ordained to the priesthood 1833，$\dot{\alpha} \dot{t}$ the
age of 24 years. Ho was chaplain of the Marine Hoapital at Quebec, 182.1 to 1838 His first parish was Benuport, near Quebec, whence he was transferred to the larger parish of Kamouraska. Giving up his parish he made his headguarters in Montreal and from 1846 to 3851 gave himself to temperance work in the Province of Quebec. Chosen to lend a colony to Illinois ho took 5,000 French Cauadians to Liankakee in that State, and a littlo later led the whole colony out of the church of Rome. For many years he has made his homein Montreal, travelling and prenching in this and other lands.

Rev. Thomas MacAdam was drowned in Tor. onto Bay on the evening of 16 th Jsn. Born and trained in Scotland, on coming to Canada his first charge was at Strathroy, Ont. From this he accepted an appointment to a professorship in Morrin College, Quebec. Resignugg his position there he afterwards accepted a call to North Bay where he labored for some two years, resigning a few months since and remoring to Toronto. A clear strong mind and warm heart combined to make him attractive as a preacher :nai beloved as a friend by those who leteiv him, and most by those who kney: inim best and who mourn the sad pontiant that so suddenly called him away.

Rev. John Stewart, died 6th Jan., at his home in Kincardine, Ont., aged seventy-tbree years. He was born at Loch Gilphead, Scotland, and was educated at Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Coming to Nova Scotia, he was ordained and inducted at Earltown, Pictou Co. Removing to Ontario, he was settled for four years in Knox Church, Kincardine, then for a time at Blyth, afterwards at Dunwich and Kintyre, then at Chalmer's Church, Kincardine township, and at Keady, in Owen Sound Preabytery. The later years of his active service were epent in pioneer work in Manitoba. Since his retirement some years siuce he has lived at Kincardine.
Rev. Ed ward Aston, was born at Eccleshill, near Bradford, Eugland, lis father being for thirty years Congregationalist minister there. He was educated at Airedale College and was minister of Congregational churches at Morpeth and at Newburgh. Coming to Canada he joined the Presbyterian Church and was settled as Merrickville, Ont. He was stricken with paralysis while attending a concert on Friday evening, 22nd Dec., did not fully recover conscionsness, and a week later passed away.

Rev. Wm. R. Sutherland, who passed to his rest, 29th Oct., ult., was born in Sutherlandshire, Scotland, 1823. His family came to N.S., when he was quite young. He was educated in Picton Acaremy and Glasgow University, and Knox College, Toronto, being a member of its first classes and graduating in 1848. He was ordained 16th Feb., 1848, a pastor of Knox Cburch, Ekfrid and Burns Church, Mosa. Thirteen years later the congregations were divided and he remained minister of Ekfrid, afterwards organizing Burns Charch, Glencoe, ministering to this united charge until his retirement 18th Oct., 1883. On the 16 th Feb. last, the Presbytery of London celebrated his jabilee in the Ministry, and 29th October he was called to rest.

## presbytery meetinas.

Synod of the Muritime Provinces.

1. Sydney, Sydney Mines, 22 Feb.
$\because$ Inverness, Little Narrows, 14 Mar., 11 a.m.
2. P.E. Island, Chrlt'n, St. Jas., 7 Mar., 11 a.m.
3. Pictou, New Glasgow. 7 Mar., 1.30 p.m.
4. Wallace, Amherst, 7 Fob., 2.30 p.m.
5. Truro, Truro, 21 Mar., $11 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$.
6. Halifax. Hx. Chal. 14 Mar.
7. Lunenburg, Bridgwater, 7 Mar., $10.30 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$.
8. St. John, St. John, St. A., $1 \pm$ April.
9. Miramichi, Cumpbellton, 28 Mar., 10 a.m

Synod ofi Montreal and Ottata.
11. Quebee, Que., Chal. 14 March.
12. Montreal, Mont., Knox., 14 Mar., 10 a.m.
$1^{2}$. Glengarry, Cornwall, 14 Mar, $10.30 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m}$.

15. Lanarles E:ein., l'embroke, 6 Mar., 8 p.m.
16. Erockville, Morrisburg, $27 \mathrm{Feb} ., 3.30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$.

## Synod of Toronto und Kingston.

17. Kingston, Kingston, St. A., 21 Mar., 2 p.m.
18. Peterboro, Pt Hope, $1 \mathrm{st}, 14$ Mar., 2 p.m.
19. Whitby
20. Lindsay, Woodville, 21 Mar., 11 a.m.
21. Toronto, Tor., Knox., 1 Tu. ov. mo.
22. Orangeville, Orangev:ils, 14 Mar., 10.30 .30 am .
23. Barrie, Barrie, 20 Mar, 2 p.m. $; 21$ Mar. 9 a.m.

Q4. North Bay, 7 Mar., 10 a.m.
25. Algoma, Webbwood, March.
26. Owen Sound, O Sd., 21 Mar. 10 a.m.
27. Saugeen, Palmerston, 1+Mar., 10 a.m.
28. Guelph.

## Synad of Hamilloa and London.

29. Hamilton, Ham., Knox, 21 Mar., 9.30.
30. Paris, Brantford, Zion, it March, 10.30 a.m.
31. London, 14 Mar., 9 a.m.
32. Chatham, Windsor, St. A., 14 Mar., 11 a.m.
33. Stratforil.
34. Huron, Clinton, 14 Mar., 10.30 a.m.
35. Maitland, Teeswater, 7 Mar., 10 a.m.
36. Bruce, Walkerton, 14 Mar., 10.30 a.m.
37. Surnia, Sarnia, St. A., 13 Mar., 7 p.m.

## Synod of Mranitobur and the North- West.

38. Superior, Fort Wm., 1st week in March.
39. Winnipeg, Man. Col., 2 Tu., Mar., bi-mo.
40. Rock Lake, Boissevain, 1st week March.
41. Glenboro, Glenboro, 6 March.
42. Portage, Ca lra., P. la Pra., 7 Mar. . 10 a.m.
43. Brandon, Brandon, 7 March, $10 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$.
44. Minnedosa, Binscarth, 8 March. 10 a.m.

45, Melita, Melita, 7 Mar., $9 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$.
46. Regina, Indian Head, 1 March.

## Synod of British Columbia.

47. Calgary, Lethbridge, (provisionally, 22 Feb.)
48. Edmonton, Lacombe, date not fixed.
49. Kamloops, Revelstole, 28 Feb.
50. Westminster.
51. Victoria.

## LETTER FRON YUKON.

MY HEV. J. PMRNGLE,
Glenorn, B.C. 17 Nov. 1898.
Dear Dr. Warden-
In a for minutes a man leaves for Wrangell. It is doubtful if he ever reaches his destination. It is storming furiously and the ice is sunning in the river.

This is to let you know that I am woll and that the work is progressing as well as we can expect.

Our community is scattered over about four miles of trail. The peopleare glad to have religious services and attend woll.

I go from cabin to cabin and have "family" =s, richer in blessing for them than even the Sunday services, frr home ecenes rise before them and the door opens for God to come in.

I shall tako a collection for Home Missions on Thanksgiving day. It will give me an opportunity to tell men and women of various charches -and many of no church-about our work, and besides, every little helps.

I think Atlin should be laid hold ci not later than February. There is going to be a rush without doubt and seores from this district are there or are planing to go. There are about 5,000 claims staked out, which means that 10,000 or 15,000 people will be in the district next spring.

They ought to be looked after, even though the boom should callapse as did the Stickine boom.

A crowd of gold-scekers on the wing need the gospel more than any other mass of men I have ever met. There are the reckless, the indifferent, the professing Christians without back-bone, the earnest Christians, the discouraged, the despairing, good and bad men who have spent all and are at their wits end. They all need Christ very much, and are glad to hear the Saviour's name znost of them.
I have received no letters for nearly two months, and doubtless shall not until January or February. We are totally ignorant of what is going on in the outside world and will be glad when the blockade is broken by Jack Frost.

Christmas will. be full of memories, and thoughts of people, homes and churches commenorating in various ways the coming of the Child King.
I can see, if not feel, the shadow of an acute bome sickness falling over us up here. Bat we have after all the heart of the Christmas time, Jesus, and our thoughts about IIm and nur blessings from Him.
I shanlisend you reports of the work as I can, but
do not bo surprised if the spring opens before you get another letter from me.
"All unseon the Master walkoth
By the toiling servent's side, Comfortable words he speaketh While his hands uphold and guide."

## A YUKON PICTURE.

a missionary's journey.
A vivid picture of a journey that was not too luxurious, is given in a later letter by Mr. Pringle. It was written from Fort Wrangell, Alaska to Rev. Dr. Warden, under date 6 of January, '99. The journey was an unexpected one down the Stickine from Genora to Fort Wrangell.
"Five started, bat one turned back the second day.
"We left Glenora on Thursday, the 8th of December. The first three days were very pleasant, cold and bracing, though the ice was dangerous.
"On the llth, Sabbath, we rested. From the 12th to the 14th it snowed every day, as, I think, it snows nowhere else, and we had to snowshoe every foot of the way, breaking a trail for our dogs.
"On the four days following, 15th to 18th, we had to camp, on account of persistent and heavy rain. We were driven foom the ice where our tent was, by the overflow, and had to camp in the woods in six feet of snow.
"From the 19th to the 22 nd we tramped through slush sometimes up to our knees, and on the evening of Wednesday, the 21st, we reached a deserted cabin on the point formed by the junction of the Iskont and Stickine rivers.
"We were almost without food, shared what we had with the dogs that, notwithstanding, ate the netting out of our snow shoes.
"Next day, Thureday, 22nd, we made the police camp at the Boundary, thisty mileo north of Wrangell, with only a small can of Fluid Beef" in our " grub-box."
"Of course we were well treated at the line, treated royally, and ate two hearty dinners between 1.30 and $5.30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$.
"Next morning, Friday, 23rd, we started again, and all that day end Saturday trudged through slush almost botiomlese, in which both dogs and sleighs were afloa.t.
"Christmas Eve, Saturilay, 24th, we reached the edge of an expansion of the Stickine, called the Desert. A cold wind with heavy rain was driving from the North. We were dremblretal.

Streams, cold too, were running down our backs, but we did not mind it, for we had not been dry for naarly two weeks.
"That Saturday night, Christmas eve, we sat up until two o'clock drying our clothes and blankets. At twelve we wished each other a happy Christmas, and then sang some of the old hymns. We reminded each other that the best Christmas gift we had, sitting, around our sheetiron stove in the Stickine Desert, in common with our friends in Toronto, Galt, Aberdeen, and St. Paul,-God's best gift, Jesus of Nazareth.
"Of course $r$ e talked about home and loved ones and friends, and told of Christmas gatheiings and doings in old days when we were there to see them. With the Saviour's blessing invoked, and the hymn 'Saviour, again to Thy dear Name we raise,' we lay down to sleep, to sleep as they only can who toil hard all day and have their home in a tent.
"There was no stir in 'ac: hoose' till about noon on Christmas, the Day of Rest. Then we had our Christmas dinner, bacon, beans, hardtack and coffee. No trimmings, no luxuries, but, we had good appetites and enjoyed our Christmas fare.
"Then came our Christmas service. First, half a dozen hymns, then two chapters about the wondrous birth, and a chapter from Ephesians about the Christmas, or rather the Christian, spirit. Then the minister preached about the meaning of the birth of Christ, and we joined in prayer for ourselves, our dear ones, and the Church.
"Oh, it wasa poor service, but our hearts were tender, and the tears not easily held back. And Jesus was there, and memorics of facisand scenes and voices for which we keep a treasure room, into which strangers do not come, only God and ourselves. And I do beliere that when we get 'Home,' and see the record written with God's hand, that little service will be bigger thansome with choir and organ and crowd.
"Monday we were off at daylight, nine o'clock. We reached the head of Cottonwood Island, seven miles from Wrangell, at 10.30 . The ice was gone ! !! We had to travel, to make four miles to the south of the Island, for six hours, cutting our way through fallen timber, alders, and 'Devil's clubs.'
This last is one cf the most vicious members of the vegetable kingaom. Three or four stalks from one root, grow along the ground for a foot or two, then upfrom three to ten fect with an almbsturniorm circumiorence from ground to tip.

Throughout their length they are clad in thorns which break offin the flech and irritate and fester. Held down by the sleighs as they passed they would when released fly back. Involuntarily we put up our hands and grasped the stalks to save our eyes, and suffered in our hands. For three days after getting to Wrangell I could not close my hands nor hold a pen.

At dark we reached the C. P. R. steamers, were generously treated by Capt. Wilson, who takes care of them, and on Wednesday morning, twenty-one days from Glenora, reached $\mathrm{W}_{\text {rangell. }}$

I think it will be best for me to make my way to Atlin. Our people ut Glenora and Telegraph are all leaving, except those who cannot leave. Of one hundred and fifty people in Glenora, twenty-five left for Atlin within the week before I left for Wrargell. Everyone who can will "hit the trail" for the North.
It will be easy-comparatively--to get through before the break up in the spring. It is a journey of two hundred and seventy miles, but I shall have companionship, which makes a great difference in a trip such as $I$ contemplate. I shall find when $\bar{I}$ get there many old friends who will stand by me in organizing and establishing our work in the New Eldorado.

I think the best arrangement for Glenora is to send a student there in the spring in the first boat-May 15th, and be guided by his report as to further course.

If Atlin turns out to be an approach to what those say it is who have been there and have told me their story, some with pen and ink, some face to face, our work there will be permanent, and I think self-supporting before long. The work in my present field is of course important, and ought to be prosecuted, but for scores at Glenora there will be thousands at Atlin. Every steamer up is crowded, and Atlin is the Necen of the pilgrims.

I shall pat up a ient and if possible hold a lot or two for the church at Pinc Creek as well as at Atlin city. They are twenty-five miles apart.

The letters which I have received from friends in the East expressing sympathy with us in our work up here have touched me inexpressibly. Tears have come unbidden as I have read the words of old friends and of strangers, assuring me of their prayers and support. I have never before had any such experience, and I thank God it has come to me in work at one of the outposts. I have written to some of them and shall write to others by the next mail."


## REMINISCENCES OF A VETERAN.

Rev. Alex. Dunn, of Whonnock, B. C., at the close of a recent sermon at Mud Bay, one of his former fields of labor, spoke a few touching words that suggest at once the contrast between the past and present in that new land; and also the beautiful appreciation by the aged pastor of the tender tie which bound them together, and of their kindness and co-operation in the hardships of pioneer work. A hard working, sympathetic, and appreciative pastor, will, as a rule, make a sympathetic and appreciative people. Mr. Dunn said:-
" Singularly enough it is just 23 years since I conducted the first service in the Bay, in a private house. Of the congregation here this forenoon there is not a single person present who was at that service.
Contrast the long journey, nearly 40 miles, from Langley to Mud Bay, by New Westminister, in 1875, occupying a full day, over roads and trails rough and dangerous, varied every few miles by the difficulty of getting around a fallen tree or over flonting corcuroy, -with the ease and comfort with which I have to day performed the comparatively short trip by the direct road from Langley, returning in the evening after preaching at Cloverdale.

But difficult and trying as such journeys then were, on the appointed day and as near the appointed hour as possible, I always got here. Arriving almost dizzy from the rough and hurried ride, clothes bespattered with mud, I shall always remember the kindly egleam of welcome which passed over the faces of the congregation, patiently waiting in their sents.

Though you are not the first settlers of this Bay, most of you came in some twenty years ago. You. will therefore always be to me with a few families now absent, the people with whom I had most to do, and through whose zeal and hearty co operation this substantial church was erected, free of debt, in $1 \$ 85$.

In some 24 or 25 settlements on the Lower Fraser, and on Vancouver Island, I have been the first Presbyterian Missionary. In only two or three cases did I ever reccive unkind treatment. Had an evil disposed or injurious person stumbled into this neighborhood, he would soon have found out that he musit either behare himself or remain without company.

To this phace it has been always an ummixed pleasare to come. Though I now seldom see you I do not forget you. For you and for your children my fervent prayers are offered up."

## NOTES FROM BRITISI COLUMBIA.

Rev. Joseph McCoy, formerly minister at Egmondville, Ont., and more recently of Chatham N.13, accepted an appointment from the llome Mission Ccmmittee to Cascade City, a new field in South Kootenay, because of the building of a line of railway. The following letter has been received, giving his first inmpressions of the place, etc.

$$
\text { Cascade City, B.C., Jan. 3, } 1899 .
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Rev. R. H. Warden, D.D.
Dear Sir,
It is just three weeks since I arrived here, having spent a little over seven days in the journey, besides a day in Winnipeg, a couple of days at Qu' Appelle, and the Sabbath at Brooklyn.

This last named place is a construction town on the shore of lower Arrowhead Lake, forty-two miles from Cascade City, where Rev. Mr. Munro, a graduate of Manitoba College, has done good work, and is continuing to do so ; but as the place is regarded as only temporary, for the forwarding of supplies to various railway camps, his work will probably soon end there.

I spent the Sabbath there, and took part in the services with much pleasure, a pleasure closely associated with pain, because of the abounding intemperance and utter regardlessness of the Day of rest. But, dark as it was, here was an open place of worship, with a courageous and faithful young preacher trying to lead the men a way from abounding wickedness to the recognition of God, and to the effort to live a better life.

On Monday forenoon the stage started, about ten o'clock, and for four hours the horses labored up and up the mountain, till we arrived at a place six miles from Brooklyn, where we had dimer. About three o'clock we began again and at nightfall had reached what is called the summit house, eleven miles farther on, where we found supper and lodgings for the night. Next morning shortly after daylight, we resumed the journey, and at evening we arrived at this place.

The road is rough and in many places steep. . One could almost walk the road as fast as go in the stage. Indeed, I malked up all the long steep grades for the sake of the poor horses, and I walked or ran down the long steep descents for my own sake, for I was much airaid of the whole thing going over in these narrow places, and then down from fifty to two hundred feet.
The first week I was here I found quarters at is hotel, of which there are fourteen in the place; but as this was far too expensive, I rented a room and as they say out here, "I batch it."

The first Sabbath I held service in the schoolhoase, the attendance being twenty in the forenoon, and thirty in the evening. The next Sabbath the attendance was about the same in the forenoon but considerably larger in the evening. And last Sabbath was very unfavorable, the snow falling fast, and the night very dark.

At the close of the evening service the first Sabbath a committee was appointed to take steps toward the erection of a church building; and the representatives of the Town-Site Company told us they would donate a suitable lot, free, when the people would build a church.

The business of the place is very dull at present and it is thought best to wait a few weeks before a canvass of the place is made for subscriptions to the church building. But we expect that in the course of a month or six weeks, there will be such improvement as will warrant decided action.

The collections have been fairly liberal, considering the congregations; but the chief men are not satisfied with that, and intend doing something more towards the maintenance of the missionary.

The stores are all open on Sabbath, sereral of them finding that their business day; and the bars of the hotels are open night and day, and also all Sabbath.
It is claimed that this is necessary, because of the condition of the country, and the fact that the great bulk of the population is in a constant movement.

There are few families settled here. The great proportion of the inhabitants are men working in the construction of the railway, prospectors, teamsters, storekeepers, hotel-men, and speculators.

There are several towns like this aloug the line of construction, from Brooklyn to Greenwool.

Just what the prospect is for this place becoming one of considerable importance, it is difficult to say. Various opinions are held. It is not an agricultural place, for it is only a good sized nest among the mountains. It is true that there are considerable bench lauds along back from the river, but not enough to sustain any large population. Moreover, they would need irrigation.
There is a splendid waterfall close to this place, which is about to be developed for the producing and transmission of the power to any needed point.
There is a great deal of low grade ore in the mountains about; but whether enough of high enough grade to become profitable mines, is yet to be determined.
Mrach hope is entertained here that the railmay
company will construct at this point a large smelter for the reduction of ore. If this should materialize there would be quite a few people located here, as at Trail.
I visited the hospital and found quite a number there, some with broken limbs, some with fever, some with wounds of other kinds. Some of them did not understand English very well, being either Italians or Swedes; but they all gave respectful attention to the singing of hymns, the reading of the Scriptures, the comments on the same, and the prayer.
I received very kind attention and courtesy from the physician in charge.

I have visited the engineers' camp, where I found a very kind reception. Several of them attend the Sabbath services; and some of them have promised to escort me as guide to the laborers' camps any evening I wish to go. It would be useless to go to hold service in any of these camps in the daytime, for the men are scattered along the road.
We have about a foot of snow on the level; and the temperature at the lowest last night was four degrees below zero.

## THE LATE DR. COCHRANE.

The Rev. Dr. Warden has received the following appreciative minute from the colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland:--

At Edinburgh the fifteenth day of November 1898 years, which day the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland being met and was constituted;

Inter alia The Committee have learned with profound regret of the death of the Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Convener of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and they desire to place on record their sense of his distinguished services in connection with the spread of the Gospel throughout the Dominion. The remarkable energy, and enthusiasm, the stirring eloquence, and administrative capacity, which he brought to this most important enterprise, rendered Dr. Cochrane's name a household word in Canada, and won for him the esteem and gratitude of the Church at Home. This Committee have to acknowledge their indebtedness to him during the past twenty-five years for his admirable reports of Home Mission work, for his wise counsel, and for the inspiration of his untiring zeal. They would heartily assure the brethren in Canada of their sympathy with them in the great loss which the Church there has sustained through the removal of this eminent minister, and their earnest prayer that it may please God to sanctify the event to the furtherance of the Gosuel in all parts of the Dominion.

Extracted from the Records by Rev. George Milne Rac, D.D., Secretary.

# Our foreign Silissions. 

A POST CARI FROM KOREA.

Dear Mr. Scott-
We are on il visit here to see McKenzie's church and grave. We are writing this in the church parlour of McKenzie's church, the first church in Korea built by entirely native funds, the first to have an elder ordaned over it (and as yet the only one.) The only Presbyterian Elder in Korea is the man who was Mrcienzie's host when he lived here. It is the first church to establish a Christian school, the first chureh to enduw its school, for this school is now supported by the income of property set apart for the parpose, the first church in which an infant was baptizel, the first also in which a person baptized in infancy has since been received as a church member, the first chureh to send out and supporta travelling evangelist of their own, the first church to build a manse (as they are now doing.) It is most wonderful to be here and see all this and much more. We are all very well, and at language study. Yours truly, Robert Grierson.

## Death of Dr. Thompson

After a long contlict disease has won, and J. J. Thompson, M.D., late our missionary to India, is at rest, at the early age of 36 years. He was born in Downie, Ont., studied at Toronto University, and after practising medicine at Kirkton for a short time offered to go to India as medical missionary and was accepted and sent out in 1895 by our Church. In 1S96, Miss Emily Lick, of Oshawa, went out, and they were married upon her arrival at Bombay. Early in 1897 he was taken ill. Consumption rapidly developed and they had to return. They came through Winnipeg when our Assembly was meeting there in June, 1897. Emaciated and worn, unable to sit up, it seemed as if he could live but a few days. Rallying somewhat he went to Denver towards the end of that year, and for a time seemed to improve. But discase had gone too far, and on the 10 th of January ult., after fourteen months at Denver, he passed to his rest. The young widow with her little one will have the sympathy of the many who realize that he laid down his life doing our work for the "ealing of India's ills.

"In the unclaimed district to the South-West, of us, there are two million people without one single witness for Christ," writes our missionary, Mr. Slimmon, from Honan. "And remember, we are responsible for that district, for, years ago, we got another Socicty, when it was choos. ing a district, to take up another field and leave this for us to work. That is eight or'ten years ago, and yet the district remains empty to this day. Will it be possible to send us out at least one other missionary this year? it is ten years since God has laid this region on my heart, and he has kept it steadily before me all these years. I feel that the time is come at last. I am working here and waiting for ITim to open the door. Can you join me in prayer that 1899 may see another to take my place here, and sce me fully set at liberty for that work?"

## preaciinsg in the honan cities.

In a letter just received by Rev. R. 1'. Mackay, written from Sin Hsien, Mr. Goforth writes:
This morning while I walked around this city on the wall and thought of the multitudes within the walls and in the villages, over the plain, dead in trespasses and sins, an overpowering feeling of helplessness came over me. How can these dead be made to live? Then came the assurance from en high : "Go prophesy unto the multitudes in this valley and the Spirit of Godshall make them live'.
This city of Sin Hsien is 30 miles from our station of Chaug Te, in a beautiful valley, moumtains surrounding it on every side. Wie have been here ten days. Preaching has been keptupten to twelve hoursaday. Ourlistenershave variedfrom one in the morning to one humdred inthe afternoon.
I feel the lack of efficient helpers. I had to leave Mr. Wang at the central station, and Mr. Ho is the only good speaker with me. I speak myself from four to six times a day, besides keeping control. We never had any enquirers in this city before, but during these days more than ten men, besides several women, seem to lave become hopefully interested.

I am now going to all the cities and larger towns, proposing to give about ten days to each. Before. I came here Mr. Grifith aud I were ten days at Lin Chang IIsien. Preaching was kept up there on an average about twelve hoursa day--audiences numbering from one to fifty men. huring these days a good many seemed much interested.
Whilst witnessing for Christ there, we realized mach of the Holy Spirit's power. Onc of our well-to do converts accompanica us at his own expense.

In a few days $I$ go to Wu An Hisen for ten days, where two converts are going to accompany me at their own expense. They say the Lord has done so much for them that they are constrained to do something for others. This is a hopeful feature of this Chang 'Te field. These two men have of their own accord volunteered to help. In a few years the Holy Spirit will fit men to help build up His Church. Pray for us and get others to join you.

## NaRROW ESCAPE OF MR. GOFORTH.

Mrs. Goforth writes "Last week Mr. Goforth returned from a two week's tour in the West aud was home for just a few days. On Saturday afternoon he was sitting in his study with several Chinamen, some from the official residence, when he was called out by a man hammering the back gate with stones. Without waiting to think of dauger he opened the gate, when the man outside jumped upon hini. Mr. Goforth managed to parry the blows aimed at him and got hold of the fellow and with the help of those inside he was over-powered.
Fortunately the Yamen men who were in the study were witnesses of the whole aflair, and they took the man, a nice looking, finely built young fellow-to the official.
The next day his brother came and pleaded for him, and was told that the foreigners would let the whole thing pass if he would promise good behaviour in the future.

When the brother returned to him, he met the maniac again, who caught up a knife and said he was going to the foreiguers and this time would kill Mr. Goforth. The brother tried to stop him, when with one sweep of the knife, he cut off the brcther's head, and then started down the street with the head in one hand and the knife in the other, making for our compound.

Who knows what might have happened-for none dared go near him-had he not stopped by a well to wash the bloci of his hands, and whilst doing so dropped the kuife-when others who watched, seized and over-powered him and brought him to the Yamen, where the poor wretch is to pay the गenalty of his crime with his life. Though he is $:$ raging maniac Chinese law makes no difference. Chinese Christians look upon it as a merciful deliverance, and rightly too."
"The present condition of the Cr - jese is truly pitiable and will 1 am sure call fort your deepest sympathy. Drought, fionds, rebelliors, cholera, and now the proclamations doing away with everything tending towards the opening up of the country that the Emperor had done. The antiforeign feeling is very marked owing to th ose chauges."

## LETTER FROM TRINIDAD.

[This letter from Mrs. Murton was not written for publication, but its excellence and interest is our excuse for taking a liberty, which we trust the writer will parlon.-ED.]

Tunapuna, Trinidad, Dec. 22, 1898.
Dear Friends-This is my last letter for 1808 . The year has been a trying one in many respects to Dr. Morton and myself. The work grows steadily while the strength to overtake it, though not yet perceptibly diminished, must be so before very long. We have much canse for gratitude in our continued ability for work, which is thought by those who know us best to be exceptional at our age.

Our district is forty miles long and in some parts twenty miles wide. The whole extent is dotted here and there with twenty-three selected centres around which are grouped the bulk of our Christian people. In nine of these centres the Lord's Supper is regularly dispensed. We have only two churches; at all other points services are conducted in our school houses or other small buildings.

Dr. Morton has two native ordained assistants -Rev. Paul Bhukhan and Rev. Audrew Gayadeen. In their work he has great satisfaction. They are both excellent preachers, one excels in preaching aud the other in administrative ability.
All the time I can spare in the afternoons is devoted to risiting from house to house and in hospitals. This is work that calls for faith aud patience; immediate or very evident results are not to be expected. There is little to cheer the lagying footstep or to encourage the despondent heart. Yet, I find great comfort and pleasure as I set out, sometimes walking sometimes driving, alrays wondering what will be the fisherwoman's luck to-day? Whll any suffer themselves to be dragged a little closer to the Gospel net that will make them Christ's forever?
In our village hospitals we usually find three or four Indian women at least, and about twiee as many men. We find them more open to good impressions than when surrounded by houschold cares. If we come across a man who can read (seldom or never a woman) we gladly give him a book or tract mhich is sure to receive good attention. Later on, if we meet the same indivilua?s in their homes they always give us a bearty walcome.

Most of my Sabbath afternoons have heen given to a part of Tumapuna, called Dack Street, thickly settied by East Indians. Their dwellings are a! 1
of the squalid character described in my last though some are much cleauer than others. The surroundings are highly insanitary, especially in the wet season. One fears to breathe, even for it short time, the noxious vapors suggested by the filthy and stagnant water lying close to many a door, or to sit beside the fever patient in the dark and ill-ventilated little rooms, bat go to them we must.
The distance from Back Street to Tunapuna Church is very short, yet every excuse, real and unreal, is given in answer to our efforts to get them to come to hear God's word. We have a rented room there where an evening class is held for teaching young men to read, and a morning class for girls. It is too discomaging to attempt reading with the girls, we confine ourselves to sewing and religious instruction. A few boys from Back Street attend the Tumapuan school.
Irnorance, poverty, drink, and vice, hold the people with a giant hand, but perhaps more than all other, is the influence of their Brahmins or pricsts. Idolatry is openly practised and angrily defended. The people listen to our teaching and say; "Yes, yes," but their assent usually means absolutely nothing.

My bible class held in the Tunapuma Church rom eight till nine on the morning of every school day has been a pleasant part of the year's work. This class I have held for nearly three years with very little interruption.

For two years I have tanght sewing in the Tunapuna School at times every day in the week but latterly only three days. This occupies about an hour and a quarter. I also teach the singing of hymns and songs in the school for fifteen minutes nearly every day.

I have done some temperance work. Seventyone names have been added to our pledge roll during the year, making the whole number pledged by our Blue Ribbonwork, 650 . We have just held two entertainments at the closing of St. Joseph and Tumapana schools. I trained the boys of my Bible class to sing and recite, mostly Temperance pieces. The St. Joseph sohool-masterYusuf Ibrahim trained some of his pupils very nicely, and together we held tro delightful little entertainments by which we realized over $\$ 10$ to be expended in some necessary improvements in the Tumapma Church.

With this slight and imperfect sketch of some of my beloved tasks I send best wishes to all who may hear or rea, and ask their continued sympathy and prayers.

Sarah E. Monton:

## a CHINESE CHRISTMAS IN CANADA.

Even China seems not to have been without a certain expectancy as to the advent of Christ, of whom the old Standard Dictionary of the Emperor Kang-hi has to say, "Jesus, called in the West, the Saviour of the world."

Early amnals tell of ambassadors or " wise men," having been sent towards the West in search of the Great Saint who was to appear.

One story runs that "in the 24th year of TchaoWang of the dynasty of the Tcheou, on the 8th day of the 4th moon, a light appeared in the southwest which illumined the King's palace. The monarch struck by its splendor interrogated the sages, who were skilled in foretelling future events.

They then showed him books in which it was written that this prodigy signified the appearance of a great saint in the West, whose religion was to be introduced into this country. The king consulted the ancient books and having found that the passage corresponded with the time of TchaoWang was filled with joy. Then he sent officers Tsi-yu, Hsin-King, and the learned Wang Tsun, and fifteen other men, to the West to obtain information. So seusible were these "wise men" of time and place of the Saviour's birth that they set forth to hail the expected Redeemer.

The envoy encountered in their way the missionaries of Buddhism coming from India announcing an incarnate God. These the Chinese took for the disciples of the true Christ, embraced their teaching and introduced them to their felloncountrymen as teachers of the true religion. Thus was Buddhism introduced into China in the place of Christianity.
-The apostle Thomas is reported to have thereafter reached China. Certainly the Nestorians left a Christian impress, and the Romanists proclaimed a Madonna, while to our Presbyterian pioneer, Robert Morrison, and a train of faithful followers, it has been given to fully and effectively declare the glorious gospel of the Incarnation.

Till now many "messengers of the nation" on the other side of the globe have been sent to us, and we ask with Isaial. "What then shall one answer them? That a true answer has been given by the ehurches of Montreal, and acceptably too, was happily evidenced when a large company of Chinese and friends gathered on Christmas week at Chalmers' Church to celebrate the advent of that Saviour of the World.
"A most inspiring sight," began Priucipal Shaw, inhis appreciative remarks about the "good work undstentatiously done by the Preslyterian
churches in Montreal;" while Principal George, and others, as representative of the upwards of a dozen ministers upon the platform, and of the several denominations, took part during the evening.

Chinese decorations were aptly arranged and Chinese lilies in their fragrant bloms ornamented the platform. The programme consisted largely of Scripture readings and recitations and the siuging of gospel songs, in which as in point of attendance and interest it was accounted agreat success. After woris of thanks to Chalmers' Church and to the teachers of the various Sunday Schools, by JuHo , and the presentation by the Chinese of a fine cake to Miss Woodington, the faithful teacher of the night school, all was concluded with Chinese music and the serving of simple refreshments.
J. C. T.

## THE HONAN PIONEERS.

At a College reunion, during a meeting of the General Assembly, Rev. John MacDougall, of Holton, Que., who had been one of our earliest missionaries in Honan, but was compelled to return to Canada on account of ill-health in his family, was asked to speak to "the health of the missionaries."
In beautiful words he spoke of our workers in Honan :-
"We have with as to-night one of our returned missionaries, and I rise to propose his health, and that of his fellow-workers. A previous speaker has told of the esteem in which we all hold our: eminent graduates. I am sure it will be taken asno token of any diminution of our respect or ourlove if I use the excellencies which have been mentioned as a foil to the worth of the missionaries whom I have personally known.

It was a strong team our Church sent orit to dopioneer work in Honan. There was Goforth, the best cxample I have ever known of the flamingevangelist ; Smith, the man of deliberate counsel, and of whom Dr. Reid said that his reports as. Treasurer of the Mission, were worthy of one trained in business habits and methods of exchange ; MacClure, the able physician and preacher, who, had he not been a medical missionary, might have attained eminence innthe law,-for I think the members of the Foreign Mission Committee present will recall the masterly brief he sent home, when it was proposed to transfer one of our number to Formosa. Aud when J , on my way home, sent in my card to the British Consul at Tientsin, a man whom missionaries fonud it hard to sec, I was at once admitted, for Dr. Mac-

Clure had been often with him in settling the looting case. Ifis Honor, the Cousul, then told me that he held a high respect for the Honan Mission, that its members were dwelling where a few years before travellers would not have rentured, and this because of the circumspection they showed; and that though he had been for twentyseven years in China, in contact with her civil jurisdiction, he had learned some new things about the administration of Chinese law through correspondence with our missionaries.
Then there was MacGillivray, the erudite scholar, the thorough linguist, fitted both by theological attainments and linguistic ability, to help in giving China a Christian literature. There was MacYicar, of whom Dr. Reid said to me, that no Clerk of Presbytery or Synod here at home, had clearer insight into the principles of Church law or a more thorough grasp of the details of procedure ; and there was MacKenzie, a sterling man, of most varied attainments, and of equal eminence in them all.

With these men it was my privilege, for three years, to be associated. It was like breaking with part of my life to separate from them. The greatest sense of loss a missionary can feel in leaving his chosen field arises from relinguishing the work of upbuilding a native church; for, gentlemen, I am ignorant of any higher honor than that of foumding the Church where it has not been,-a work that shall infuence the course of nations and the clestinies of men for generations and for ages after one has himself passed anay. But next to this comes the sense of loss in parting with one's missionary brethren. I have formed some close ties since returning, but I do not expect, however worthy the circles I may yet be thrown into, however intimate the friendships I may form. I do not expect again to form ties so close and so dear, entwining so tightly with the fibres of the heart, as those severed in leaving Honam.

It is the health of our missionarics abroad I propose. The words have a pathetic interest. When I think of the number who have had to return to save precious lives; when I think of those who have fallen in India and in China and elsewhere; when I think of the little graves in which are laid so many missionaries' children, I could weep, even now, as I propose the health of our Forcign Missionarics.

May God preserve their preciou.s lives; may His lrovidence supply them with the means of providing themselves more healliful homes; and though they breathe in tainted air, though they
live beneath a scorching sun, may He who keepeth Israel, who slumbers not nor sleeps, be their keeper, so that the sun smite them not by day, nor the plague by night ; so that no evil come. nigh their dwelling. May these sigus follow themr "In His name they shall cast out devils, they: shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up. serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing it, shall in no way hurt them; they shall lay hands. on the sick and they shall recover."
We pledge their Spiritual health as well. The Church places altogether too high an estimate upon the Spiritual life of our missionaries. Whatever our theories of perfection may be, they are supposed to have reached the highest plane. Alas, no. They have their failings and their sins as other men. As their bodies are weakened by breathing malarial poison, so their souls live amid! the deadlier miasmas of paganism. Yet even here: they bare a safeguard. They are there at the call! of duty, and a stern resolve to be true to the calll of duty at any cost comes to the soul of man, as; come the fresh breezes of heaven with healing in their wings to the fevered body laid low on the malarial plain.
Yet, where shall we find, notwithstanding, sounder Spiritual health than theirs? Judge of it by what is asked of our missionaries on furlough. Gentlemen, the British soldier on furlough is not asked, brave as he is, to stir the lagging pulse of patriotism in the nation, nor to raise funds for the army in India. Alas, for the health of public spirit, if this were needed! But we ask that the missionary, invalided home, shall raise our Spiritual health.
Let us, then, wish health to our missionaries, to all our missionaries of all Churches. May life and strength in abundant measure be poured into them from the fullness of God; may lifeand healtis flow through them to a corrupt and dying world, until in every people shall be established the: Kingdom of God, till every man of woman born: shall rise to the stature of the perfect man in Christ Jesus."

Land for a bungalow at Indore was granted by the Native Government in 1896. As no bungalow was crected, the Government agent is enquiring whether the gift was necessary. A bungalow is needed and has not been erected because of want of fundis. It will be necessary to act in order to retain tho land, whioh is more and more difficult to seblene for mistion purpinses.

LETTER FROM INDLA.
13は IEVV, J. WILKIE.
Mission College, Indore, Dec. 15, 1898.

## Dear liecord :-

You will be glad to know that the Normal Depurtment of our Training Class has been oflicially recoguized by the Educational Department of the Central l'rovinces, as a Normal school qualified to prepare students for their Normal School exminations and certificates. We have thus the honor of starting the first Normal School in Central India, with its nearly ten millions of people, aud we are one of four Normal Schools for the whole of Central India and the Central Provinces with a population of twenty-three millions. Only last week I received word that our College is recognized as the centre for the B . A. examination of Calcutta University-largely through the kind interest and large influence of Rev. Kenueth Mardonald, D.D., whom "Knox" honored a few years ago. We have also been made the centre for the Middle School examination of the Central Prorinces. Thus gradually our College is being more and more recognized as a centre of education here.

Perbaps I should say that being a centre means only that the students write for these several examinations in our college-not that we have anything to do with the setting of the papers or with the examining of the answers. Till we secured these for our college no student could go up for these examinations without going to the nearest centre,--in the B. A. examination over 400 miles distant.

Our Training class consists of two sections:
I. The Normal Department; in which we take in Christians and non-Christians, and
II. Our Bible Department.

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1. THE NOMMAL DEPARTNENT.
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The Elucational authorities of the Central Provinces give three classes of certificates, 2.e.

1. The Primary Grade, for those who have passed the Middle school or High school entrance examination.
2. The Sccondary Grade, for those who have passed the Matriculation examination.
3. The Collegiate, for those who have taken pars of the Cuiversity course. In all cases, in addition to the subjects appointed for these examinatious, they have a special Normal camination for cachgrade.
As our inst effort we sent up six at the last Primary examination-four Christians; and we send up next week two for the Secondary.

As we have regular chasses in the Collpge teaching the work of all these grades we put the students in the classes required and carry on this work without any extra cost. To Misses White and Ptolemy belong all the credit of whatever has been done in the Normal class proper. Between them from 2 to 5 hours a week has been given to this department.

We have three Christians in our First Arts (first two years) College c'ass and one in the Bible class; but their Arts work has not allowed them to take the Normal work, so we have none trying for the highest certificate.

All who have sttempted any school work in this country realize the great need of this department, as our Mission Reports from year to year amply testify. In the ordinary Hindu and Mohammedan school, teaching in any true sense of the term is not known. There is such a demand for teachers that unless we train our orn we must be content for the most part with the leavings of other Missions.

The Go:ernment of the Central Provinces insists that students of their Normal schools shall, if required by Government, teach for a number of years in Government schools after their course is ended. Ás our Normal school becomes better known we are sure to have many requests for teachers. This will attract many outside students and so give us the chinnce to influence and leaven with Gospel truth the teachers of the young in Central India. Can we over-estimate the possibilities involved in this? May God grant us every success and bring to us large numbers. Ours is as yet the day of very small things, but we are creeping on and hope some day to walk and sooa run.

Through the help of the radies, Misses White and Ptolemy, who have taken a hold of this work so carnestly and heartily, we shall be enabled to bring in our native Christian women who need the training as well as the men, and we intend at once doing more in the rernacular for a fairly good class, ready now to begin.

A kindergarten and practical mechanical training class ought to follow, and no doubt will in time. Already the effects of the training is seen in the work done hy these Christian teachers enough to encourage us to go on with ginm, even though no outsider should come; but I believe the adrantages will soon become so manifest that we will gradually get under Christian influence a large number of the teachers of Central India. May our loving Master guide us aright that this degited ent masy be attrinepe:

## i. ole bible departaent.

I shall try now to tell you of our second, or bible Department. In addition to the secular and Normal work all our Christian students of the ordinary chass spend at least two hours a day in the Bible Department.

We have two classes and Mr. Johory and I give an hour to each class each day, i.e., four hours daily bible teaching.
Mr. Johory takes up especially the works in Findi and Sanskrit that are regarded as Standard works on Hinduism, Mohammedanism, Christian evidences, etc., together with tracts on Astrology and Astronomy, Life of Christ, etc. ; whilst I take them over the Shorter Catechism, which they have all memorized and of which they have I think a fair understanding. and also the Bible itself.

They have prepared for themselves from a study of the Gospels, a harmony of the Gospels. Each Gospel has been taken up separately in ontline, the contents of each chapter being memorized, the chief features and peculiarities of each woted, and their difficult passages explained so far as it was possible. We have somewhat thoroughly gone over Genesisand Exodus, so that they cangive, as of the Gospels, the contents of each book and chapter, together with an explanation of the same, and the doctrines tanght: at least in a measure.
Of necessity our work has to be of a very simple nature, especially to the Junior class, and our aim has been not so much to teach Systematic Theology as to inspire in the students a love for the Bible and show them how to study it with proit.

Above all else we want them to be Bible students, to inspire in them such reverence for it and its Giver that they shall make it the rule and guide of their life. An outline of the different books, and the connection of the different events or arguments of these books, so that they may read intelligently the different sections of the book, is what we are attempting at present, and I believe with some profit, though as yet we have not made the progress we hoped for.

In addition to their class work in the College they all do some work in the Mohallas on Sabbaths and week days; but want of time has hindered as much supervision of this work as was desirable, and their class studies have also not allowed them to do as much as we mapped, out for them at the begiming of the term.

The Senior class understands English and so has regularly attended the College Bible class. In it we have takeu up briefly ;-God; sin ; the Bible, its inspiration, etc. ; a short outline of the chief points involved in the first chapters of Genesis; a
hurried review of the contents of the Old Testament; with amore lengthened studiy of Prophecy ; an outline of the Life of Christ; dwelling specially on Repentance, Faith, Prayer, need and nature of the atonement, etc.
Four in the Senior Training Class and five in the Junior Class have attended very faithfully all year and are now, I hope and believe, ready to do a measure of good work for the Master.
In the College Bible Class I think there inas been a deeper interest than ever before. Reverently they stand during prayer both at the opening and the closing of the class. In no case hare I been obliged to note any disrespect this year in this.

Most of the students have Bibles, and some of them read them very carefully bothin and out of the class. The answers given showed an intelligent interest in what had been tanght, and the questions asked showed the truth had taken a hold and was being seriously considered by some of them at least.
In the Ifigh School also the teachers all speak of increased attention. Some of the boys have not missed a day from Sabbath School for four years, and some expressed openly their faith in Jesus.
In order to get nearer to the students, we started, two years ago, our Weekly Conference, in which all are invited to speak freely on any thing, but especially on religion.

The following are some of the subjects under discussion this year: "Our hope for the future, ou what based ?" "Sin-its nature aud remedy;" "Points of difference and resemblance between the different religions of India: Is there any prospect of our becoming one?" etc.

Three or four students usually prepared papers or gave addresses, followed by an informal discussion, while I usually closed by gathering up what seemed of value and by emphasing what seemed to require it. We have got nearer to one another by means of them and some of the papers read and statements made are thoroughly Christian.

One student, in speaking of the different religions, said, "We require to know what God is, what sin is, how and what weshould pray for, and what heaven or our future is, before we can say we know auything of religion. Where can we get auy explanation of these in India? All say Jesus Carist was a good man, and some say he was a Prophet, but I say He is the Son of God and the Saviour of the world."

Three students are this year deeply interested, all Brahmins. Yon will join us in prayers for these young men especially, and also for us that our word may come to them in demonstration of the spirit and power.
J. Wilikie.

## LETTER FROM HONAN.

HY OT:R MISSIONARY PLRCY C. LESLIE, M.D.
Missionaries feel their isolation deeply and the need of coming together for mutual help. So it is that after five years, the missionaries of Shantung province, our neighbors to the east, decided to have a second conference, and very kindly invited our mission to join them.

Accordingly Mr. Nitchell and myself laid our plans to join in this one. It was no getting into a railroad carriage one night and finding yourself at your destination the following morning. Our conveyance was one of thoseindescribable cartswhich serve a great variety of purposes, so packing our travelling beds into the bottom we made ourselves as comfortable as possible and resolved to be patient and make haste slowly.

Our hotels on the road were good, bad, and indifferent, very few good and mostly very bad. Two successive nights we could not reach any place in particular, so simply spread our bedding and went to sleep in the cart. It was rather inconvenient when the other man got stiff and woke you up with a modest request to turn over so he could turn and get the kink out of his leg. The second night we got hardened to this and turned as a matter of course when we felt the sufferer tossing around as much as his circumscribed space allowed.

The third day out we reached a point where we got the encouraging information that our road was impassable further on, and at noon it looked very likely. We were still twenty-five miles away from the Yellow River but it was out for its annual visit, and this time had chosen a very inconvenient locality for us. In every direction water was seen, people trying to save a little of their crops out of three or four feet of water, some stripped to the waist, others plying around their fields in boats.
The improvised ferries were doing a flourishing business, and the arrival of two "foreign devils" raised their hopes to make a good lining to their purse. We however decided to risk our lot with a man who promised to lead us through a shallow place, and so by paying him about a week's wage we were in possession of his services.
It seemed pretty risky for a while, and when our three mules stuck fast in the mud and then tumbled down, our stock also took a tumble. However, at last we crossed the lake and reached a large district city where we were assured that carts had gone our road for the past two months -but not one had come back.
We felt blue but decided to push on, and took a
long rond to try and skirt the tlood. The second day wo reached the Yollow River at the junction of the Grand Camal. The river is well named. The water rushes past with a distinct yollow or coffee colur, but why that canal is called "(irand" is a Chineso pazale.

It was now vur turn to plan to cross the Yellow torrent, but we came to no suitable place for three days, our journey being along the lop of the great dyke which is meant to fight and keep back the enemy, but on either side of this dylie the water raged and waged its destructive warfare against the needy people-the river had broken the dyke.
On either hand the crops were under water and mostly destroyed, entire villages had been swept away, the people were taking defuge on the dyke camping out in straw mat tents, in carts, or lying on the ground with nothing but a starry heaven to afford a roof, and all with a future as dark as night.
Throughout all this the "contentedness," so peculiar to the Chinese, seemed to support the people, partly from ignorance of their true condition. Well has this dreadful river been termed China's sorrow, and well, only too well, does she fulfil such a mission.

With difficulty we crossed the break in the dyi:e in a large boatand then successfully crossed the river, arriving at the capital of Shantung on Sunday morning, where we were most cordially entertained over Sabbath and had an opportunity of seeing the extensive work of the American Presbyterian Mission which has been in operation there for twenty years.
It was long ere an opening could be obtained in this citadel of power, and early missionaries were repeatedly driven out ; but the victory has been won and intense prejudice overcome, the officials are quite cordial in their relations, and the day we were there we had the inspiration of seeing a congregation of three or four hundred Chinese Christians worshipping God.

Another week of rough roads, bad inns, Chinese fool, and we had arrived at Wei Hsien, prepared to enjoy a week of precious fellowship with missionaries of six nationalities and of various missionary societies.
And we were not disappointed. The associations of that gathering will live long in our memories. Here we met men who have been associated with the previous generation in China. They have seen the solid heathen mass without a ray of light. They have fought hard battles against fierce prejudice, and now they are privileged to
see a wondrous transformation. The Province now has about one hurdred and seventy-five missionaries, a native church is growing up which they have nursed from infancy, men are being called unto the sacred ministry of the Gospel, elders are being ordained inevery city, and many are being added unto the Lord of such as shall be saved.

The Spiritual tone of the Conference was probably the characteristic most predominant. Every morning a solid hour was spent in strictly devotional exercises. Such topics as "Confession and Humiliation," "Sanctification," "Consecration," made a fitting introduction to the day. The papers devoted to spiritual work were also numerous and among the strongest.
The spiritual life of the Native Church was one of the leading subjects. "We must not expect. too much of the Chinese in a religious way" is often urged against the development of the Spiritual life of all Asiatics. This is answered by the fact that Jesus Christ and all his Apostles were Asiatics and were not lacking in this. And again it is found by experience that the Chinese do develop a warm hearty Christian life as well as the Anglo Saxon.
A most interesting series of revivals has occurred in Shantung this last year, the work has been among the Christians-and their families and great blessings have followed. The people at first did not wanta revival-a pretty sure sign they needed it-and the missionaries had to spend much time and effort in visiting their homes, persuading, almost compelling them to come, being assured that God is ready to repeat Pentecost at any time and any place.
The Christians from the locality gathered together with this persuasion, living with their Chinese friends, and spent as long as three and and four weeks in these services. The day opened with a sunrise prayer-meeting, and then followed meetings, morning, afternoon, and evening. Men who had come under compulsion slipped away home only to return the next day with a circle of relatives and friends, and thus the spirituai tide rose from day to day. Towards the close, testimony and requests for prayer were made, men confessed to have been nominal Christians for years, but now to have tasted real Christianity for the first time, and many earnest petitions were offered for those still outside the Kingdom.
What are the results? Jealousy and enmity botween Christians has been melted away by the Spirit of God, the Christians are learning to give more largely and more readily to God and his
work, churches are calling for a mative pastor. Outsiders have been awakened and made enquirers. A band of gamblers came to the services, believed, and then sent for the olders to visit their dont, and they then and there made over all thei instruments which were burned. This house is henceforth to be made a house of prayer.

But to have a Spiritual church in China there is a condition which is imperative, and that is that the missionary himself must be Spiritual, must know the life more abundant, and then he may be the channel for transmitting power to others; and as this responsibility was borne ia upon us I believe we felt indeed how great was our need and how much we need your prayers and sym. pathy.

One great feature of the work which we visited en route was the happy relations existing between the American Presby'terians and the English Baptists, the latter mission being sandwiched in between the stations of the Americans. These two missions representing different denominations and different countries have such complete understanding and mutual relations, that nationality and denominational differences disappear as they realize that we have but one God and Father of all.

The conference considered at great length the terrible suffering and impending famine due to the havoc wrought by the Yellow River, the flood this year being claimed by some to be the worst in forty years. Hundreds of thousands of people are homeless, helpless, and hopeless. Sickness will be very prevalent. Families are putting together their meagre belongings and emigrating to some other part of the country, sometimes begging their way. One day we saw a man pushing and two women with bound feet pulling a heavy wheelbarrow, on which was loaded children and their earthly belongings, and thus they made their way day after day seeking to preserve their lives.
Feeling the situation as they did, the mission. aries decided to take steps to do all they could personally, to encourage the native Christians to aid, and we also appeal to the people throughout China, and across the sea to those who never having known want may esteem it a privilege to join us in this work of distributing relief to these needy people.

At the same time we are sending in a petition to the Chinese government to take immediate steps to prevent the recurrence of these frightful destructions which are a constant menace to the people, and indeed to the country, for the river
may change its course frequently and take another or soveral other directions to the sea.

And now we are home again, and having seen what we have seen and heard what God has wrought, we tako fresh courage as we look forward to the time when the people among whom we are working will hear gladly and many bolieve unto Salvation.

All seem agreed that great changes are impending in this Empire, and the time may now be ripe for a very large ingathering into the Kingdom of God. Certainly never before has China moved forward like she has these last few months, and we look for new movements from the seat of power at Peking. Shall we not as expectantly look for new movements from the seat of power at God's right hand?

## THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN CHINA.

With regard to hisis subject Dr. Leslie writes:-
For some years it has been felt that the unyielding conservatism of thousands of years was surely crumbling, but events have transpired in the history of China during the year 1898 that have marked a progress quite unparalleled and quite unexpected to the large majority of theso who ought to know and who have been intimately acquainted with Chinese politics.

This period has been marked by a series of Imperial edicts which have been issued from the recently retired Emperor Kuang Su , and all of them tended to the demolition of things Chinese and for the promotion of things Western.
The plan included radical changes in the Educational system of the country, a system which is thousands of years old, greatly revered, and which stands at the root of cie national life; edicts decreed that the old classical essays should be replaced by a knowledge of western sciences and a knowledge of the history and customs of other lands. Temples were to be used for the instruction of students if no other suitable place afforded opportunity, and in some cases the gods had already been cast out and preparations made for the new movement.

Officials favourable to the introduction of such reforms were rapidly promoted to the heads of the most important positions which the Government offers. Such rapid and radical measures were looked upon with some fear by those who had the best interests of the country at heart as being too rapid and before the country was prepared for them.

Great has been the surprise that the edurated men have been accommodating themselves to the changed conditions and the hated foreigner. Usually a missionary has been sought out and applied to for books and instruction on these subjects, and in this way it .was hoped and is still hoped that the most important class of the com-munity--who hitherto have been unreached and unreachable-were now ready and glad to come and listen to the foreigner and new doors of opportunity for the Gospel thus created.

At this stage the pendulum swung the other way. On the 22nd September the young Emperor was summoned to the apartments of the Empress Dowager (who previously held the reins of power in the conservative direction). Since that memorable datethe Emperor has not been seen in public, and although a French physician has been called to attend his Highness in his indisposition (?) there is no certainty that it was the Emperor that he saw. Is the Emperor dead or alive? That is the burning question just now, and while the opinion prevails that he is alive, still he has been so successfully submerged that so far as his influence goes he is dead, and the Emprese reigns and with no uncertain grasp. Many of those in power have been deposed, others have been ex. cuted, decrees have been recalled, and for the present China has sunk back into the lap of that immovable stagnation which is her certain destruction as a nation.

But every observer recognizes that this cannot last, progress must come, reformation if not re-formation is inevitable. China has reached a crisis, inaction must give way to reaction and a new China formed out of the ruins of the last great Eastern nation to surrender to the civilization of the ninetcenth century.
You ask, why do the Foreign powers not force the Government to produce the Emperor, dead or alive? We all ask that. Probably nowhere but in China could such conditions exist that prevents the world from knowing whether the Emperor is alive or dead. Facts are hard nuts to crack.

Mr. Slimmon writes:-"The work here at Hsin Chen is making progress. I was for a few days recently at the outstations of Ho Tao and Pei Mao, and found the believers standing fast. Proof that the Christians at this station are growing is the fact that they have promised to give $\$ 15.00$. My own cook, who is not even recorded as a 'catechumen,' is giving nearly a tenth of his wages for Christian work."

# Doung Deople's $\mathfrak{w l i c t i e s . ~}$ 

THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE'S " PLAN OF STUDY."

Conduzted by Rev. R. D. Fraser, Convener.

The monthly Topics are so arranged as to be adapted to the various sorts of Young People's Societies. They are set down for the second weekly meeting of each month and the Topic is treated in the " Record" the month preceding, in order that Societies may have the materials for the meetings in hand well in advance.
The special "Topic Card" for the Presbyterian Y. P. S. C. E. Societies has been issued as before. It embraces the "Uniform" Topics, the Monthly Topics of the Plan of Study, and the Questions on the Shorter Catechism for each meeting throughout the year. Price $\$ 1.00$ per 100.
" Rooklet containing the same matter, and also Daily Readings for the whole year, price $\$ 1.50$ per 100 . Societies may have local matter printed on one page of cover of Booklet at extra cost of $\$ 1.50$ per 100 .

Orders and remittances for Topic Cards and Booklets to be sent to

Rev. R. D. Fraser,<br>592 Markham St., Toronto.

## For 1899.

The Monthly. Topics of the Plan of Study for the New Year follow naturally upon those of the two years preceding. They take up fresh periods in our Presbyterian Church History, as well as some of our own mission fields not previously discussed in detail. The Book of Praise gets two meetings. One meeting is devoted to the important question of Church Membership, another to "Our Own Socicty," and still another to the General Progress of the Work of Our Church and its Outlook for the Future.
tile remaning topics are as follows.
February-The marks of a Good Hymn, illustrated from the Book of Praise.
March-Our Work in the West Indies.
April-Presbyterianism in Ireland; its origin struggles, characteristics, influence.
May-Church Membership, definition, privileges, duties.
June-Thomas Chalmers and his times.
Juiy-The work of our Woman's Missionary Socicties.
August-A great Scottish Hymn Wiriter, Horatius Bonar, and his Hymns in the Beok of Praife:

September-Our own Society; the deepening of its life, the strengthening of its work.

October-What our College Students do for Home Missions.

November-Dr. Duff, and Missions in India.
December-Our own Church ; the Old Century and the iNew.

## Topic for the week beginning March 12.

## Our Work in the West Indies.

Psalm, 97 : 1-9.

## Literature.

Reports of the Foreign Mission Committee in the General Assembly Minutes from year to year, also The Message published by the 'Woman's For. Missionary Society, Eastern section, and the Presbytemian Record, especially the March issues, which usually give a review of the work of the year in Trinidad. (See next issue).

## PROGRAMME.

A map of South America with Trinidad adjoining will be found very useful. Some one should be prepared to give a description of the Island of Trinidad which is the main mission field, its physical features and climate.
The industries of Trinidad. The present condition of the sugar industry might be found a very interesting topic.

The East Indian in Trinidad.
The origin and general features of our mission. ary work.

The names of the missionary staff. (See pas, 153, General Assembly's Minutes for 1898).
The various agencies at work, day school, Sabbath school, preaching and college.

PARAGRAPIS.
I. Trinidad, an island helonging to Great Britain, and the most southern of the West India Islands, is about fifty miles loug and varies in breadth from about thirty to thirty-five miles. It was discovered by Columbus in 1498 and named by him Trinidad, because of the three mountain summits which were first seen from the masthead when discovered. It has been in the hands of British since 1783. It is not so momntainous as the Caribbean Islands generally. The mountains are clothed with stately forests and their margins are fringed with over-hanging mangroves dipping into the sea. The island has several good harbors, and some largo rivers. Its chief town is Port of Spain, one of the finest towns in the West Indies. Its most important exports are cocoa, sugar, and other tropicial producte. It is a Crown Oolong.

## II. Thie and patience.

II. "Two facts have been pressed upon our attention during the year.

1. That thoroughness in missionary work requires time as well as toil. The gourd that sprang up in a night withered in a night. Those who embrace Christianity with out much grounding in the trath, or without much struggle with conviction, are not usually the most satisfactory. This indeed, is true of tribes and nations as well as of individuals. The most abiding results are not so much associated with rapid ingathering, as with continuous and well-directed toil.
2. That after ingathering, there follows the equally important and more laborious work o upbuilding. As vegetable growth in the tropics is very rapid, every plant requires constant caro and attention, else a total failure in fruitase, through drought, or the ever growing grass and weeds, will be the inevitable result. Spiritual growth, though not correspondingly rapid, is in even greater danger of being blighted by surromding influences. Hence the necessity of conslant care and attention in teaching and fostering after baptism ; else one is left, as in the case of the unpruned grape vine, with but barren sticks."

Rev. W. L. Macrae.
III. THE MISSIONARY'S WORK.
"The work of the missionary is too varied to describe in $\Omega$ few paragraphs of an Annual Report. He is kept busy, managing cighteen schools, all of which have to be frequently visited, paying a staff of sixty teachers and catechists every month, conducting correspondence with Government regarding the assisted schools, making building contracts, superintending and paying carpenters and carters, looking after building material, bookkeeping for all this wide and varied work, reports, returns, and estimates, giving medicine to the sick, writing certificates, wills, agreements, and settling quarrels and disputes, etc.

It is a matter of regret that we must do so much secular work, yet all seems to be necessary in carrying on our work of teaching and evangelizing.
N. THE WORK OF THE CITECHISTS.

It is the duty of our mative catecbists to visit, teach, and look after all the Christians in their district, and in many places to assist the teacher in gathering the children into echool, to give religious instruction in the schools, to teach night echools, to visit hospitals, to preach and sing the Gospel from door to door on tho Estates, and to
preach on Sabbaths in tho various stations assigned to them. On Saturdays they come to San Fernando to receive Bible teaching, which is gc.erally given by Rev. Lal Beharri; to get instruction for the next week's work; to report the number of meetings they held during the past week; the number of peoplo present, those interested, secret inquirers, open inquirers, and applicants for baptism, etc, all of which information is carefully recorded, and is useful to the missionary for reference when he visits that district. Our catechists generally have been faith. ful, and some of them have done good work."

Rhev. S. A. Fraser.

## V. THE SHORTER C.ITECHISM.

"Last year it was considered best to call up only one class of students and bring them into residence every alternate week. This enabled us to group together the students who most urgently needed training, to bring them forward more quickly, and to shorten our terms.

As a text book I took the Shorter Catechism in Hindu, translated by our missionary, Rev. A. W. Wilson, of Neem:ach. The students were required to commit the answers to memory; and a select number of direct proof texts were given out and written by them on the vide margin of their books. To some, this course was a condensation and review of previous work, of which the ever-increasing wonder was, that so few words, asily committed to memory, implied so much. It scemed altogether appropriate to the 250 th anniversary of the Catechism to introduce it in Hindi in our College course, and it was a pleasure to receive so excellent a translation from the hands of a Canadian brother."

Rev. Dr. Morton.

## OUR WORK IN THE WEST INDIES.

## MY' IEEV. JOHN MORTON, D.D.

Though in the West Indies, it is East Indian work. In 1545 the first ship arrived in Trinidad with East Indian immigrants. Brought doubtless by an unseen lrovideut. visibly the gorernment of Trinidad sent for them. They willingly accepted what appeared to them favorable terms, and being found to suit the need of the colony the immigration was contimued, aud extended, until thes now number about 85,000. They are Hindas and Mohammedans, spealing Hindi and Crdu, or it mild comlination of these dialcets.

Twenty years later the writer spent two months in Trinidad for his health. He knew nothing about Indian immigration, and it was no part of his plan to go to Trinidad. His ship sailed for Barbados and the best market. So a sore throat and the price of oak staves brought him here at the end of 1864, and Mission work brought him back three years later.

I had been interested in missions from schoolboy days, yet accepted a home charge, and declined the invitation of Dr. Geddie to go to the New Hebrides. My call had not then come; but both Mrs. Morton and myself felt called to Trinidad. We, as secondary agents I suppose, began the work, at least we labored here alone for three years.

At that time the East Indians (abont 25,000 ) lived either on, or near, the Sugar Estates; a large proportion of them were recent arrivals from India with very strong prejudices. Very naturally we were suspected and misunderstood and until we had acquired the language, could only put in the defence of well doing. People came for medicine and some of the children came to school, for they could appreciate these things in a selfish way. Their aspirations were, however, low, and we had great need of patience.

Those three years of preparatory work with so much sickness and so little to show, still seem in the distance the hardest period.

I can remember my first attempt at preaching in the old Iere Church long since crumbled to dust. The carious crowd who gathered in to see and to hear the stammering preacher, the smiles of many, and frowns of some, and blank listlessness of others, the strain beforeband, the after depression, thirty years have not effaced it.

Native workers could not be found, and there were no means to pay them, so I taught school for nearly a year, acquired the language and began to agitate for a second missionary.

Toward the end of 1870 Rev . K. J. Grant, now Dr. Grant, arrived and began work in Sam Fernando.

Funds began to come in, at first chiefly from sugar planters, and schools were opened in various directions. For a time we xemoved to San Fernando and both missionaries worked in conjunction.

Rev. Thos. Christic arrived in 1S73, and took up the Conva district, where three schools had already been opened by myself. In 1876 I removed to lrincestown, and in 1881 to Tunapuna.

Rev. J. W. Macleod succeeded me at Priacestown, labored for five years, and died in Trinidad.

He was succeeded in 1886 by Rev. Wm. L. Macrae.

Rev. A. W. Thompson, appointed in 1890, occupies Couva, and Rev.'S. A. Fraser appointed in 1S91, is Dr. Grant's co-adjutor in the San Fernando district.

Revs. J. K. Wright and F. J. Coffin each labored in this work for over four years and retired on account of health.

Our mission has been greatly indebted to the labors of the missionaries' wives, and of the Canadian lady teachers, among whom space permits me to mention only Miss Blackadder who has been in the field 22 years.
The history of the mission cannot now be written, but it may be noted that two considerations have contributed to give unity to it, namely, that Dr. Grant and myself, the first two missionaries, have been so long spared to the work, and that as soon as a third missionary arrived, a Mission Council was formed, which has all along guided the policy of the Mission.
We have had no great sudden sweeping movements of the people towards Christianity. There has been ebb and flow but no flood tide and no arrest of the work but what might be described as local and temporary.
The agents have worked on with old and young, mele and female, gaining here one, and there a family, in the face of an influx of over tiro thonsaud fresh immigrants yearly.
As the people have moved out to work in Cocoaor purchase Crown Lands, we have endeavored to follow them, and have found this toilsome part of our work one of the most fruitful and satisfactory. In my own field there is a great deal yet to be done in reaching outlying Cocoa Settlements.
Last year in Las Lomas, one of these settlements, the people got out wood, raised contributions, gave work, and some of the Christian women sold their silver oruaments, to erect a place of worship. It is small but neat and comfortable, and costin all $\$ 200$, only $\$ 56$ of which was contributed from outside. A similar morement is at present ripening in another settlement.
The foundation of our work in moulding the coming generation is Christian education. Our school-houses, used also as chapels, are dotted everywhere. This mast always be the case in dealing with the Hindus as a people of letters.
But Trini:? ${ }^{\text {d }}$ is not a corner of India, and our work differs in some respects from work in that country. The people come as laborers and poor. This fact is no disgrace, perhaps not eren a draw-
back, but it has to be counted with. They cannot make us grants of land and large gifts to colleges as mative princes sometimes do in India. They and we must work up patiently; and while some have risen, and will rise, to better circumstances, to judge of their contributions and of the progress of our mission, it has to be remembered that we came to aclass who, generally speaking, were meducated and poor, and that the love of books as a source of mental development andipleasure, apart fromany worldly advantage, is of very slow growth.
Indian children born heze are only partially East Indian and even their fathers change after a few years residence. So far as the change indicates emancipation of mind from the bondage of caste aud custon,, it is well ; when it leads to the adoption of creole notionsandeustoms itisa source of weakness. The East Indian has nothing to gain by imitating Africa, as some of them seem foolishly inclined to do.

The matives have attempted no schools excent an occasional small Mohammedan one, for the teaching of Arabic. Our schools have only the dificulty that arises from the poverty and vis inortia of parents.

It is otherwise with our Church work. The lindus extemporize places of worship wherever a feast is held, in a private house, or booth of palm leaves. In this village two more permanent temp'es have been erected. One of them is wholly of brick, the brick burned, and the temple erected and tecorated by themselves. No hand bot that of East Indians touched it. It is only a room for the idols and only the worshipping priest and those who wash and tend the idols enter it. The body of worshippers remain without.

The first temple was set up in opposition to our work, the second in rivalry to the first, competitors in business became competitors in temples.

Our school-work is largely engrafted on the Govermment Iducational System and so far as thus engrafted, three-iourths of the cost of it is borne ly Government. One of our elders and workers, Mr C. C. Soodeen, represents our schools on the Board of Education.

Our Elucational system is, horrever, not a substitute for the preaching of the Gospel but an aid to it. Fach missionary's district is Jarge, containing from twenty to thirty places for regular Sabbath services, besides Fstates, Hospitals, and Hamlets. The missionary alone would be lut "a voice crying in the wilderness." Hence our large staff of trained natives who carry to clowds, to groups, families and individuals, the Word of Life.

This implies the training of native agents. We
found none here to begin with, and we sent abroad for none. We trained our own. Step by step the best we could get were trained, used, and further trained, at first by each missionary till the way was opened for a Training College, and even yet each missionary prepares for and supplements the college work.
In 1890 Dr. Grant, when home on furlough, secured from Rev. George M. and Mrs. Clark, of Ottawa, $\$ 1,000$, and an equal sum from Mrs. Bronson, senr., of the same city, towards a college building. In addition $\$ 2,382.78$ were obtained in Canada, and $\$ \mathbf{j} 69.46$ and property worth $\$ 600$ more were contributed in Trinidad. The site and building having been sccured the College was opened in February, 1892.

Our College has two departments-a training school for teachers and a training school for missionary agents. The money cost of the former is met in full by a grant from Government. The latter costs $\$ 600$ per annum. No student can attend the training college who is not a working catechist. We want applied Theology.

The students come into residence from Monday till Friday every alternate week. The rest of their time is spent at therr work. We pay their travel, and supply them with lodging and conveniences. They pay for their food. I know no college run on the same lines. But as the missionarics have to do the teaching, and the sturdents have wives and families to support, we had to adapt ourselves to circumstances, and the plan works successfully.

There are East Indians in Grenada, St. Vincent, Jamaica, and Demerara. We have sent native workers to other churches in Grenada and Jamaica. In Deme...ia, by Rev. J. B. Cropper and in St. Lucia by native agents, we carry on the work. We have also returned men to India who proved usefnl there. Space will not permit me to enter upon this subject nor will I anticipate the statistics for 1898 which are to appear in the Reconn for Marcb.

A word only with respect to cncouragements. When we fix our attention on some points and persons, when we think of what might have been, and of what we desired, we lave had no doult some bitter disappointments. But when we look back to the point from which we started, when we consider the materials with which we had to work, the evils with which we had to contend, our orm insafficiency for these things and the present crident results, we cannot butacknowledge with thankfulness that "The Lord hath done great things for us whercof we are glad "

The Church year closes on Friday, 31 March. All contributions for the Schemes should reach Dr. Warden or Dr Morrison on or before that time, as the books close promplly on the afternoon of that day.


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|  | Nor"an ......... 500 | $J^{1}$ A Turnbull.... 10 |  |  |
| Quem's Univarity | Manitou ........ 5000 | W \& CH Witehell 50 | k and Rell... 500 | ( ${ }^{\text {W Praser...... } 100}$ |
| Home Miss | Ptes. Ch Irgland 48277 | Uoo Mit, hell - | M venealy $\cdot . .5$ m | 1 Cumringer.... ${ }^{\text {fo }}$ |
|  | Summer Session Fund |  | Rev J ucyillan 5000 |  |
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| Dr Sinith, India 1010 | Macliren.Otta. $5^{\prime \prime} 001$ | G E Faulkner . 2500 | Lawrenctown and Cow | - C Armstiong.. 100 |
|  | And Allan Mont. 5000 |  | Bay |  |
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| Melrose . ...... 500 |  | Geo stairs - .. 25 (0) | Rev R Murray .. 500 | Rev W J Fowler. 500 |
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| Friends.Almonte. | all Que. Treasurer | A Vilson ${ }^{\text {a }}$ - 2 , 0 |  | 'apt WmMurdoch 1 (0) |
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| Cumber |  | H A Flemming 2.50 | O | M. Donald..... 100 |
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| Rev ${ }^{\text {d Claston - } 500}$ |  | \& J Scriven.... 20 nom | heniff Belcher .. 500 |  |
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| Gamebridge, ce . 2300 | Lachine.......... 600 | W A Henry...... 1000 | t. |  |
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| r Whiting...... 30 | Dafo | lfred Costley... 25 | James | Pugsley...... . 2500 |



## FORM OF BEQUEST.

"I leave and bequeath the sum of, [the amount being written in words, not in IIgares]-to the ........................ Fund of the Presbyterian Ohurch in Oanada,-(Here - tate whether Eastern or Western section)-and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being, of the said $\qquad$ Fund, shall be a good and safficient discharge to my Estate and Executors."

## BY ITS FRUITS.

One woman in China asked, "What difference does it make whether we believe in Jesus or in idols?" Another woman replied, "I can tell you that myself. I'm not a Christian yet, but my son-in-law is. He used to smoke opium, never brought home a cent of money to his family, but took all their clothes and pawned them, also the furniture and bedclothes. He used to beat his wife and children nearly to death. But one day he went to a Jesus chapel and heard them preach. He kept going back every day, till at last he believed on Jesus, and joined the church. Now you just ought to come to our home and see how happy we all are. One of the first things he did after he became a Christian was to hunt me up and take me home."-Ex.

## ON DUTY.

A Christian is always " on duty"-never " off duty." He must always let the uniform of holiness appeal. He is set apart for the service of his Mastor unvemittently. Into his life there has entered a something which reminds him that he mustalways be on his best behavior, and must always be seeking to live not to himself, but to him whose he is and whom he serves. His actions are ever a matter of concern to his Lord, and he takes pleasuro in nothing that is opposed to Him. The life is one of complete self-surrender, in little things and in those of greater conseazence. - Moratian.

The question of Missions is not one of figures or possibilities, but of obedience to God. "Go teach all nations," was the farewell message of Christ. The church that fails to contribute some little share to this work simply fails in its plainest duty. The church at Corinth even in its infancy held a responsibility to the great world outside. "There are some who have not the knowledge of God, and I speak this to your shame." How many to-day have not the knowledge, and the reason why constitutes the shame of the general Church.

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