

Our Young People

This Department is in the interest of the Free Baptist Young People's Societies.

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THE C. E. TOPIC—Sept. 4.

CHEERING FACTS ABOUT MISSIONS IN JAPAN AND KOREA.

Zech. 14: 3-9, 20.

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

Bishop Thoburn, speaking before the great missionary conference held in New York in 1900, declared that "in Japan the light has been diffused still more rapidly and much more generally than in any other part of the Far East."

Because of that, Japan is probably the most important mission field of the world to-day. As Dr. Julius Soper said at the same conference, "We are in the midst of a great conflict in Japan. It is the greatest conflict that Christians have had to engage in since Constantine. If Christianity fails in Japan, on account of the position she has taken among the nations of the earth, it will fail in Korea, and China, and India, and sooner or later it will fail in all Christendom!"

Those are solemn and weighty words, and the more one thinks of them the more clearly one appreciates their truth. What a comfort, then, is the knowledge of the rapid and sure growth of Christianity in the Sunrise Kingdom!

There died last October in Japan a remarkable man, Kataoka Kenkichi. He was born the same year as Neesima. He became, when young, a distinguished soldier and statesman. For the last thirty years he has been a devout Christian, an elder in the Presbyterian church. For the past fourteen years he has been a member of the Japanese parliament, and for four terms he was elected Speaker of the House. He made no secret of his Christianity. He never entered the hall of parliament and took his seat to preside without bowing his head in silent prayer for God's guidance. He opened his official residence for Christian services, to which he invited men of rank and power. He was advised to resign his eldership, his friends fearing that his holding so prominent a Christian office would injure his political chances. His noble reply was, "I would rather be an elder in the church than Speaker of the House of Parliament." His funeral was marked by the Emperor with conspicuous honors.

This beautiful life is typical not only of the strength of Japanese Christianity, but also of the tremendous influence it wields. There is among

Japan's forty-four millions only about one Protestant Christian to a thousand, but the influence exerted is more as one in ten, so large a share have the Christians in the parliament, the army and navy, and the other posts of honor and power.

If that is the condition of the work in Japan, how about Korea, the country so closely linked to the Sunrise Kingdom? Here, among twelve millions of people, we find, after only two decades of work by a very few missionaries, more than 8,000 Christians. They are Christians whose ordinary topic of conversation with one another is the gospel, who preach Christ to those they meet in the road or about their daily tasks, who build their own churches and support their own ministers. Only among the most devoted Christians and churches in our own land do we find those that are worthy of comparison with Korean Christianity.

CONVENTION NOTES.

More money was paid out last year than was received. Our surplus is less than it was last year. It is the purpose of the Executive to spend largely this year. It is hoped the societies will keep this in view and begin early to make plans to devise ways and means, that we may be able to meet the convention next year with as much money in the treasury as we begin the year with. Last year's showing was not as good as some others in the matter of conversions. It is to be hoped that each member of the societies will begin the new year with a renewed consecration to the Lord's work, and earnestly seek the salvation of souls. "He that saveth a soul is wise, and it shall cover a multitude of sins." "Ye are the salt of the earth, and salt saves." Let each seek to save some one. Keep it in mind, and especially in thine heart.

COR. SEC.

Report of Corresponding Secretary of Young People's League.

The Christian Endeavor movement is now twenty-four years old, and, speaking in general terms, the last year has been its most successful. Dr. Clark, the founder of the organization, and its present president, has been on a round-the-world tour, and everywhere he has been met with unbounded enthusiasm. Everywhere, under every flag, he has found Christian Endeavorers repeating the pledge, reading God's Word, and singing hymns of praise in almost every tongue and language.

Among our own churches, the year has been one of quiet work and steady progress. After the League meeting of last year the Executive entered into an arrangement with Bro. A. D. Paul, by which his services were offered to the Conference Home Mission Executive, the League guaranteeing to meet all necessary expenses. Bro. Paul has been very busy, and his work has been productive of lasting good. The president and secretary of the League are both members of the Home Mission Executive, consequently his movements have been arranged so as to be of assistance to Endeavor work. His reports have from time to time appeared in the columns of the INTELLIGENCER, so that all are familiar with what has been accomplished. The effort put forth by the League to provide for this missionary work has been much appreciated by the Conference, and tends to show the interest taken in denominational work by the young people.

Acting upon the suggestion of last League, the secretary made application to Rev. Dr. Given, of the Free Baptist Mission Board, for the privilege of supporting three native workers in our India mission field. This was gladly granted, and three young men were set apart to be supported by the young people of New Brunswick. The young men are Razanie Fullerton, Roma Kant Samal and James Surgh—all connected with school and mission work in Balasore. A recent letter from the Rev. E. H. Lougher commends this work, and asks its continuance; also promises letters from these men to our Executive. No doubt it would be a good plan to have this work continued during the coming years.

The usual grant of \$25.00 has been made to all our young ministerial students who have desired assistance. All of the young people who are readers of the INTELLIGENCER have greatly enjoyed the prayer-meeting talks conducted by Dr. Amos Wells, as they have appeared each week in the INTELLIGENCER. These talks were arranged for by the Executive, and I feel sure no one will consider it an unwise expenditure of the League's finances.

The secretary has endeavored during the past year to supply all societies asking for it with helpful literature. All necessary cards and constitutions have been sent to such places as desired organization. This is a most helpful branch of work, and has been the occasion of pleasing commendation on the part of many who have been helped in this way to do better work.

It is a great pleasure to report the organization during the year of six new societies. These have been organized at Rowena, Campbell Settlement, Fair Haven, Pembroke, Millville and Norton. Several societies have failed to send reports to the secretary this year, so that it is impossible to make any statistical report. This will, however, be compiled by the proper committee. Societies reporting are Grand Manan, Fredericton, St. John, St. John (West), Gibson, Marysville, Bear Island, Woodstock, Pembroke, Norton, Beaver Harbor, Knoxford, Rowena, Oak Point, Fair Haven and New Jerusalem. Doubtless others will send reports to the League.

In closing this report, I desire to express appreciation of the continued confidence placed in me by the League, in that I have been continued so long in office. I think it would be better now that some other be appointed to this important office. I therefore tender my resignation as corresponding secretary, and request that it be accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

F. CLARKE HARTLEY.

HOW SHE FOUND THE SABBATH.

An old Chinese woman had become a Christian, and wished to keep the seventh day holy, but could never remember when it came. So after much difficulty she hit upon her own plan. Six chop-sticks were laid on a shelf, and each morning when she arose she took away one. The day when the shelf was bare was the Sabbath and work was stopped. On Monday all six sticks went back again and so the fourth commandment was kept.

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READ YOUR COMMISSION.

A story is told of a young naval officer from the State of South Carolina who found himself between two fires at the outbreak of the Civil War. It is to this effect: Fort Sumter had just been fired upon and compelled to haul down the stars and stripes. The home of the young man was near that place. He was loyal at heart, but shuddered at the thought of a civil conflict with his people on the opposite side.

At that time Charles Sumner was in the Senate, probably the leading Abolitionist there. He had returned from France, whither he had gone in order to hasten recovery from the wounds inflicted by Preston S. Brooks, when the latter used his cane in a cowardly attack. The officer had great respect for Sumner, and sought his counsel. "Suppose my ship," said he, "should be ordered to the south; what would I do?" "Read your commission," was the quiet reply of Sumner. "But, Senator, what if my ship should be ordered to the harbor of Fort Sumter?" "Read your commission," calmly repeated the Massachusetts statesman. "But suppose I should be ordered to fire on my father's plantation; what should I do then?" "Read your commission," was still the laconic answer.

Those three words of Senator Sumner were an expression of the rule of his own life, as well as that of every other man who achieves any success that is worthy of immortal record. In other language they mean that a man should do his duty regardless of personal feelings and personal consequences. Until we get above ourselves, and can read our commission with no other thought than to obey, we have not reached our true position in the sight of God.—*The Telescope*.

She was just then in the state of mind that people are in when you hear them say, "I can forgive, but I never can forget;" a sort of forgiveness, let me tell you, that isn't worth the name. It is base coin; and whenever you feel in that way toward anybody, you may well take a long breath, and think seriously before you say the "forgive us our trespasses" in the Lord's Prayer.—*Margaret E. Sangster*.