

Editorial and Contributed.

FIELD NOTES.

THE returns show an increase in the London, Montreal, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and probably Newfoundland Conferences, but a decrease in the Toronto Conference. The latter fact is accounted for in part by a falling off in some of the Mission Districts in consequence of a reaction after the boom in real estate a year ago.

Now, what about next year? Reinforcements have been sent to the North-West and British Columbia, involving a good deal of additional expenditure, and many places are yet unsupplied. If we keep pace with the needs of the work, more missionaries must go out next year, if not this, and that will require a larger revenue. Let the friends of Missions "devise liberal things" for 1883-4.

NEVER was the demand greater in the department of foreign missions. The very successes of the past urge us forward. We have sown the grain of mustard-seed, and the tree is beginning to put forth its branches; but it only calls for the more vigorous cultivation. Those in darkness are getting a glimpse of the light: it is ours either to take them by the hand and lead them on, or leave them to fall back into the previous gloom. We must not be weary in well-doing. The promise of reaping is only to those who faint not. Let us begin at once with the purpose of faithful, persistent labor through another year.—*Helping Hand.*

THE REV. O. GERMAN AND WIFE, after ten years faithful service among the Indians of the far North, are now in Ontario. Bro. German will remain for some time to superintend the printing of Hymn-books, Tracts and Catechisms in the Cree tongue, and will be available for Missionary Anniversaries. Brethren who desire his services will please communicate with the Missionary Secretary, who will arrange a programme of appointments. Bro. Enos Langford, of Oxford House, is also in Ontario, but will return to the North-West almost immediately.

THE REV. GEORGE M. MEACHAM, D.D., is expected in Canada about the end of August. The effects of climate have necessitated an earlier return than was anticipated, but it is hoped that in the bracing atmosphere of his native land Bro. Meacham will quickly recuperate, and be able to render good service at missionary meetings during the winter.

BELLA BELLA.

THE REV. C. M. TATE and wife, who have done such excellent service among the Indians of the Pacific Coast, are now in Ontario, on furlough, with the consent of the Missionary Committee. They expect to return to their field of labor about the beginning of September, the interval being spent with friends and in much needed rest. Bro. Tate writes from Hamilton, under date of June 26th, as follows:—

"For some months past we looked forward with glad anticipation to the time when we should visit Ontario. After a journey of three weeks from our home at Bella Bella, we are glad to report, through the OUTLOOK, our safe arrival, and the kind reception tendered us by our ministerial brethren and the friends in general. Our twelve years of labor among the Indians of British Columbia have not been free from trials, and had we been working for an earthly master we would have added hardships and privations. Yet in the midst of all the difficulties that have presented themselves, we have seen the work of the Lord prosper in that land, and heathenism fall before the sound of the Gospel trumpet. It is scarcely three years since we went to our present field of labor, yet when we look upon this people in their present state, and remember what they were when we went to them, we cannot but exclaim, "What hath God wrought!" Not only in our own village has all opposition to the Gospel ceased, but the surrounding tribes, who were very bitter in their opposition, are now joining our people in serving God, and we believe ere long the influence of the Gospel will be so strong that it will be impossible for heathenism to exist.

"Our village does not improve very rapidly in regard to buildings, as we are living far away from any saw-mill, and it is difficult to procure lumber wherewith to build. We have plenty of timber, but no means of cutting it into boards. I am happy to say that our Conference has given permission to take subscriptions for the purchase of a saw-mill. This will be a great boon to our people, both as a means of industry, and in supplying them with lumber for building their houses; and will also be of great benefit to us when we come to build our church. The surrounding villages will also need lumber shortly, both for mission buildings and private houses. We have received a few subscriptions already, and trust that by the time we are ready to return to our field of labor—about the beginning of September—we shall have enough to procure the object desired."

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR BELLA BELLA SAW-MILL.

Rev. A. Sutherland.....	\$5 00
" E. R. Young	2 00
" W. L. Scott.....	1 00
" J. W. Savage	1 00
" Geo. Brown.....	5 00
" J. Webster	1 00
Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Cox.....	25 00
Rev. A. B. Hames	1 00
" E. S. Rupert	1 00
" A. Browning	1 00
" J. C. Willmott	1 00

Rev. Geo. Washington	\$1 00
Mr. Baraclaugh	0 50
Miss E. Knott	1 00

Friends who desire to aid the above enterprise may send their contributions direct to the Mission Rooms.

LECTURES ON THE RELATION OF CHRISTIANITY.

WE have had frequent occasion to call attention to the enterprise and energy with which our devoted missionaries in Japan are carrying on their work. Indications have not been wanting from the beginning, that the missionary department of our Church was providentially directed to that important field. And it is equally evident that the same divine Providence which has set an open door before us in that country has been supplying us from time to time with the right kind of agents for carrying on the work. It were invidious to make comparisons when all hands performed their part so well. Each with his own peculiar gifts, according to the wisdom given to him, has been laboring with energy and success for the common cause. But in most instances we have to leave them, severally, to speak for themselves in the interesting correspondence which it is our privilege to publish from time to time. A bold, and, as we judge, a pretty successful attempt upon the part of the Rev. C. S. Eby to awaken an interest among the educated classes of the Japanese in the Christian religion, and to secure their attention to what is to be said in its behalf, however, deserves special attention.

Brother Eby has conceived, and, with such assistance as he could get, has executed the project of delivering a carefully prepared and elaborate course of lectures in Tokiyo, between January and April of the present year, on the "Social, Political, Historical, Scientific and Ethical Relations of Christianity." No one but a student who has given special attention to the various subjects embraced in this comprehensive programme, can have any adequate idea of the arduous nature of such an undertaking. And when it is remembered that each of these lectures was delivered both in English and in Japanese, it will be seen that the labor of their preparation must have been immense. Of the course, which occupied fourteen weeks in delivery,—one lecture being given either in English or Japanese each week,—one, that on "The Relation of the Christian Religion to Natural Science, especially to the Doctrine of Evolution," was given by Professor Ewing; and another, on "Christianity in History," by Professor Dixon; the rest of the course was the work of Mr. Eby himself. And from the comments which have appeared in the Japanese

journals which have reached us we judge that it has fully answered the end aimed at by its projector.

The leading Yokohama newspaper, the *Weekly Mail*, speaking of these lectures, says: "We desire to record our conviction, founded upon evidence which reaches us from all quarters, that they have proved a most remarkable success in attracting the attention of the educated classes of Japanese to the principles of Christian morality." The *Mail* also quotes a highly appreciative and eulogistic notice of them from the *Rikuga Zasshi*, a Tokiyo journal, from which we quote the following sentences: "They appear to have exactly hit the mark, by attracting the attention of the upper classes of the Japanese, more particularly and efficiently because they were given both in English and Japanese. For keenness of argument, depth of thought, and eloquence of utterance they have no rivals." Not only in Tokiyo, but throughout the whole country, the report of these lectures will awaken a new interest in the subject, and there can be no doubt that in conjunction with other influences they have had much to do with the fact that public attention in Japan is so largely directed toward Christianity at present.

Speaking of the manner in which these lectures were received by the Japanese people, the *Mail* remarks that, "there were not wanting times when the disciples of Confucianism and Buddhism made their presence and their dissent audible, but they were always obliged to yield to the liberal and enthusiastic spirit of the bulk of the audience. Once, after speaking fully an hour and a quarter, the lecturer, fearing that his hearers must be wearied, proposed to postpone the conclusion of his address, but the audience vehemently objected to such a course, and listened to the end with unflinching attention. If any other evidence were needed of the spirit roused by the lectures, it was furnished by the numerous enquiries, verbal and written, subsequently addressed to Mr. Eby, all of them, we understand, distinguished by a tone of honest and anxious thoughtfulness.

Surely our brother may be congratulated upon the success which has already attended this enterprising and arduous effort to awaken an interest in Christianity in the minds of the higher classes of the people among whom he is prosecuting his evangelistic labors. And we earnestly bespeak for him an interest in the prayers of the thousands of our readers, that the interest which has apparently been awakened may be deepened and intensified, until it shall result in the turning of many unto God.