

THE CHURCH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

MAY, 1895.

CURRENT EVENTS AND THE KINGDOM.

OUR SUNDAY-SCHOOL MISSIONARIES.

"The Presbyterian Sunday-school missionaries are as interesting a body of men as Detroit ever had the privilege of entertaining," said a daily newspaper, reporting the recent conference of these earnest laborers. The glow of enthusiasm which accompanies successful effort in building up the kingdom, always makes men interesting.

RHODESIA.

This name has been proposed for the large territory acquired in Africa by Great Britain through the influence of Sir Cecil Rhodes. In its capital, Buluwango, where Lobengula so recently ruled, are found, not the low Metabele huts, but substantial brick houses. The two thousand white people, engaged there in mining and agriculture, need the restraints and uplifting influences of the Gospel.

THE HOPE OF JAPAN.

"Christianity the hope of the future." These words were written on the banner of the Okayama Orphanage, which hung outside the veranda of a hotel in Hiroshima as 30,000 Japanese soldiers, bound for the seat of war, filed by. On the veranda a band of musicians from the Orphanage played and sang patriotic songs. "Long live Japan," shouted the orphan boys, and the soldiers responded, "Long live Christianity."

RESULTS OF THE EASTERN WAR.

Ideas will now be introduced, says Dr. Arthur H. Smith, which it would have required fifty years to get into the heads of the Chinese. They had adopted modern armor,

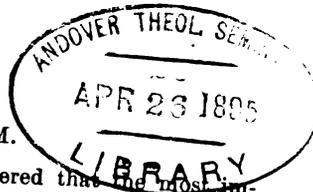
but have now discovered that the most important thing is the man behind the gun. Conscience and character, two things which the Chinese lack, and which they cannot buy in the markets of the world, may now be valued more highly.

CHRISTIAN WORK IMPERILED.

The Hova works near Tamatave were bombarded by the French cruisers on April 4. *The Chronicle*, whose April number gives a full account of the results of Christian work in Madagascar, states the situation thus: The moral and spiritual progress of an intensely interesting people, the prosperity of hundreds of native churches, the religious education of many thousands of Malagasy children, the reverent observance of the Lord's day, the freedom enjoyed under the Hova Government by Protestant as well as Catholic missionaries, and a very extensive and varied Christian work, are all imperiled by this crisis in the island's history.

PEACE IN CHINA.

"If my blood can aid in bringing about peace, I cheerfully give it." This is the reported language of Li Hung Chang, when brutally assaulted by a fanatical assassin in the streets of a Japanese city. Deploring this attempt upon the life of China's peace ambassador, the Emperor of Japan at once ordered an unconditional armistice. It is the general belief that before the expiration of this armistice satisfactory terms of peace will be arranged. Dr. W. E. Griffis expresses the hope that Japan will act reasonably and generously as well as justly towards China;



FREEDMEN.

A SPECIAL CASE.

The Board of Missions for Freedmen for the best interests of the general work under its care, is compelled to be very guarded as to its permission to allow special appeals to be made in public prints by individual workers on behalf of the needs of their own particular fields; but now and then there occurs a special case where such a permission seems to be in the mind of the Board fully justified by all the surrounding circumstances; such is the case in connection with the work at Birmingham, Ala., now under the care of Rev. E. M. Clarke, one of our colored minister who has been laboring for several years on that field faithfully, in the face of unusual discouragement. The following statement of Mr. Clarke's case, made by himself, is published with the endorsement of the Board.

MR. CLARKE'S LETTER.

Dear Brethren:—As you are aware I am the pastor in charge of a colored Presbyterian church in Birmingham, Ala. We have 27 members. We have services, regularly, twice every Sabbath; and Sabbath school with an average attendance of 30. In addition, I am conducting a day-school in connection with the public-school, with an average attendance of 65. We have no house in which to worship; and the people of the congregation are all very poor; and many of them are destitute of the necessaries of life. We hold our services in an old dilapidated church building, which, at best, is very poor protection against wind or rain. This is the only colored Presbyterian church in this County; and we are right in the centre of a colored population embracing at least fifty thousand souls. We have an opening here for a grand work; but owing to the lack of a comfortable house in which to worship, our work is greatly hindered. My income is so small that I have to live in any kind of a cheap shanty I can get. I don't mind this so much if we could have a church building. You are our only hope. We appeal to you as our brethren in Christ to help us in this work. Anything you can do for us will be gratefully

appreciated and prayerfully remembered. Property is now very low; and I think \$800 would buy a lot and build us a house; or \$500 would buy the lot and building we now occupy; and I feel sure that for cash it can be bought cheaper than that. Fraternaly,

E. M. CLARKE.

This statement of Mr. Clarke's was submitted to a prominent elder in one of the white Presbyterian churches (Southern) in Birmingham, with a view to getting his opinion of the situation; and with his permission an extract from his reply is herewith appended:

Dear Brother:—There is a small error in the statement of Rev. E. M. Clarke of this city, in reference to his work here; but it is not important. A statement is made in the appeal that his is the only colored Presbyterian church in this county. Our Church organized a small colored church in this city about three years ago: but the members are scattered. They have no house of worship and no pastor. I sincerely hope you can put Clarke in the way of getting himself and his little congregation housed. He is an excellent man and just as faithful and patient as can be. His work has appeared to drag; but when his impediments are considered this is not surprising. I sometimes think we are all too impatient about our progress in the colored work as compared with the results obtained by other denominations; but when we stop to reflect that our Church insists on having a pure doctrine preached by men who live pure lives, to people who are expected and required to make their lives conform to their professions, we cannot hope to make as much show of progress as others less careful in these particulars. Clarke is a valuable man to the Church, and he has suffered privations that would have driven most men from the ministry to some other calling. This community sadly needs a great many more like him. I offered to help him buy a lot and build a house, and examine title for him without charge. I will freely give him such assistance as I can render. Truly yours,

M. A. MASON.

The Board hopes that this letter of Mr. Clarke's with its emphatic endorsement by one who is on the field, and knows whereof he speaks, will meet the eye of some generous friend of our work and result in the securing of the amount of money necessary to build in Birmingham a house of worship at a moderate cost—which house, if so secured, will also be used as a school building in which the work of both teaching and preaching will be carried on to the glory of God and for the spiritual good of the race to which Mr. Clarke belongs, and for which he is so faithfully laboring.

EDWARD P. COWAN,
Corresponding Secretary.

ALBION ACADEMY AND ITS PROSPECTS.

This institution, situated at Franklinton, N. C., is under the care of Rev. John A. Savage, D. D., a prominent colored minister in connection with the Presbytery of Cape Fear, of which he is Stated Clerk. The Board of Home Missions for Freedmen supports five teachers in connection with the institution. There are a number of other helpers in the work whose support is obtained from other sources. It has an enrollment of about 235 pupils, of whom 110 are males and 125 females. Sixty of these are boarders. One hundred and ninety are professing Christians. The following letter from the President of the institution sets forth, clearly, its conditions and needs.

Dear Sir:—Three years ago, almost, I took charge of this work. The outlook was cloudy and vague. Signs of discouragement were patent and numerous on every side; but to Him who is always a present help in time of trouble I went. He heard me. He is blessing me. The kindness and interest of the Board in me gave me fresh courage. My hopes were strong. My trust unwavering. During the three years God hath blessed us exceedingly. Amid difficulties we have been able to maintain a solid hold upon the people of this section of North Carolina—the Eastern. I say it with no boast, but what is the truth, that our school is the best preparatory school in the State, established by the Presbyterian Church, and heartily supported by the Freedmen's Board.

Our students who have entered the actual work of teaching carry higher recommendations from the County examiners than any who are likewise engaged from schools in the same grade. They are teaching in all parts of the State. Some have gone to other States and are distinguishing themselves, not only as teachers and scholars, but as exemplary men and women. Young men and women come to us from all parts of the State. They are an industrious kind. They are frugal and ambitious. Many of them produce cereals and sell them at the markets at a low cost in order to maintain themselves in school. Some of them, even now, are trying earnestly to sell some corn and meet their obligations. A great sacrifice is made by them to support themselves, here, so determined are they to obtain an education. We have also that stamp of young men who are aspiring to the ministry. A large percentage of them have so expressed their purpose. The young ladies are looking forward as teachers—not merely in common schools but in seminaries of note. The work is growing rapidly. It is known throughout the State and its influence felt, as our students go to the many places wherever they may be employed. I am proud of the work. I am exceedingly thankful to the Board for its interest and favors, and for its hearty endorsement and support of me in needful times. I am grateful to God who has blessed us abundantly. May the richest benedictions of heaven ever abide with the Board in its government of this work and all others, and with each member of the Board who has ever been so kind to me. Pray for us that God may give us his special care in showers of blessings. The dozen or more of young men here, who are preparing to enter the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, beg an interest in your prayers. Our pupils are teaching in schools with an enrollment of over 5,000. The whole of eastern North Carolina is now patiently looking to our school for help. The piteous cases of poor boys and girls come to us daily. They ask, "cant you help us?" One boy writes "I will serve you five years if you will take me in your school." Another writes, "I have \$10 which I have made and saved while I was sick, can't you take me?" To these I have said no. My heart goes out to them. Our buildings are very small and over crowded. Oh, how I long to send sunshine into the huts of the poor; into the black, sin-cursed districts.

Faithfully,
JOHN A. SAVAGE.