

district, in January last, strangers have increased in attendance at our meetings, and six persons have been baptized in that district. Elders Crowther, Wilcken and Fernley, who are laboring there, are much encouraged. We attribute much of the interest awakened to several influential gentlemen who have been attending our meeting, and are not afraid but rather proud to tell the truth concerning us. This, added to the efforts of the Elders and Saints, with the blessings of the Lord, has awakened a spirit of inquiry which we are pleased to note.

"Otley and Harrogate is a new district, having been opened hardly a year. Harrogate is the great Yorkshire health resort, and is visited by many thousands of people during the summer months. We have a nice hall in a prominent locality where we hold our meetings each Sabbath, and these we announce by advertisement in the papers, by posters and hand-bills, and are rewarded by the attendance of a number of strangers.

"Our labors in Otley are but recent, the Elders having turned their attention to this place at the commencement of winter. We have already received much encouragement, and, as in Hull, a number of influential people have taken an unprejudiced view of the message we bear, and are supporting our cause among their friends. Prominent among these is Mr. John Thompson, the manager of the Prudential Assurance company, in the Otley district, who is aiding us greatly by carrying the message wherever he goes, and introducing the Elders among his friends. Elders Hall and Weston are at present laboring there; Elder Weston having taken the place of Elder Jos. H. Salisbury, lately transferred to the Cheltenham Conference. Meetings are held on Thursday evening of each week, and are well attended.

"Elders Kerr and Merkley have been laboring of late in the Pudsey, Birkenshaw and Leeds districts, where they have been successful in placing the Gospel before many people, and a number have united themselves to the Church. In this district we also have a promising outlook for the summer season.

"Bradford district is large, very much scattered, and requires considerable travel to fill appointments.

Meetings are held at Clayton and Bradford on Sundays, and at Clayton and Sticker Lane during the week; full houses at each meeting, among whom are many strangers. Elders Jones, Snell and Tillotson have this district in charge.

"Early this month, in answer to requests for baptism, notice was sent into the districts near Bradford that Saturday evening, February 11, would be set apart for the purpose. At the time appointed eleven candidates presented themselves, making in all seventeen persons baptized since our conference in January.

"Last Saturday evening the Saints and their friends gathered in the Temperance Hall, Bradford, and enjoyed themselves in a social tea party. Much credit is due to the young ladies for the kind manner in which they presided at the tables and aided in the evening's entertainment, which consisted of speeches, songs, recitation and games,

and was indeed an enjoyable and pleasing affair.

"On Sunday, February 19, a district meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, Bradford, at which three sessions were held. At our morning service we had nearly two hundred persons present, which increased at our afternoon and evening sessions until only a few seats remained unoccupied. The Spirit of the Lord was abundant and the speeches of the brethren throughout the day were plain, forcible and impressive. We are confident that much seed has been sown which will not easily be uprooted, and that in the Lord's own due time the increase will be given.

"The Elders are all united in the work of the Lord, and are taking the heavy duties imposed upon them pleasantly and willingly. Owing to the small number of Elders in the conference, many times they have to hold meetings alone in order to meet all appointments, but the promise of the Lord is realized and they have strength sufficient to their day.

"My labors as a missionary are almost at an end, and I wish to express to my brethren associated with me, and to the Saints with whom I have been associated for several months past, my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the support and encouragement given to me, and I trust that they may be given undiminished to my successor, that he may be enabled, by the blessing of God and their support and encouragement, to continue the labor begun."

### THE CHINESE QUESTION.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The volume of correspondence with foreign governments for 1892, just published by the state department, contains the first exposition of the views of this government, as expressed by the late administration upon the Chinese restriction and exclusion acts of 1889 and 1892, made in response to repeated protests by the Chinese minister residing in this city. Tsai Kwo Yin's last communication on this subject is dated November 7th, 1892. In it he referred to previous communications by both himself and his predecessor, as far back as January 26th, 1889, to both Secretaries Blaine and Foster, "at an early date conveying to you the views of the President in an ample and formal manner," but that he had not received the promised statement.

To this communication Acting Secretary Wharton replied Dec. 12th closing the correspondence to the date of the preparation of the volume. He says the act of October 1st, 1888, (the Scott law) was brought about by regrettable failure to complete the treaty signed at Washington on March 12th, 1888. The failure of the treaty, through the withholding of the imperial ratification by China, says Wharton, exerted prejudicial influence upon the American sentiment. Wharton calls attention to the fact that the position of the Chinese in other countries and the foreigner in China, is different from that of the relations existing between other natives and foreigners when brought into contact with each other, due to the inherent "inmiscibility" of the mongolian and caucasian races.

Passing by the special occasions of grievances by reason of acts of lawlessness, Wharton proceeds to discuss the legislation which forms the basis of the protests filed. He says: "While more precisely providing for the exclusion of new coming Chinese laborers to our shores, in pursuance of the policy in regard to which the negotiations of the immediately preceding years, has shown the governments to be in substantial accord, the new legislation was aimed to meet the case of Chinese subjects, actually residing and laboring in the United States, by providing means whereby their right to remain and enjoy the privileges of residence, stipulated in the existing cases, should be confirmed to them, by an orderly scheme of individual identification and certification. The statute as completely aims to protect the persons and rights of all Chinese persons entitled to residential privileges as it does to prevent their fraudulent enjoyment by those not entitled thereto."

The necessity for this legislation, Wharton observes, is due to the fact that the heretofore existing temporary legislation was about to expire, and the further fact that negotiations for fuller international accord on the general subject failed under conditions which aroused the belief that the attitude of China was obstructive and the claims of the Chinese unreasonable.

Wharton continues, "It is regrettable that the attitude of the Chinese themselves appears to be as much one of defiance of the provisions of the statute as that of your government is of a protest against it, in advance of a fair trial of its workings. As for the charge of unconstitutionality brought against the penal provisions of the act in question, that is a matter to be determined as you are doubtless aware, only by the judicial branch of the government, which is as freely open to the Chinese subject as to the citizen of the United States. It is the duty of the executive, to enforce the law and no executive power exists to evade or repeal it. The province of the executive branch in this discussion is to bring about a better understanding of the matter and reach a good accord as to the principles involved. Such accord should not be far to seek, as you say in your note of November 8th: 'It is conceded that the imperial government has not encouraged the emigration of people from China to the United States, but on the contrary, in the negotiations between the countries on the subject, has in a most friendly manner yielded to a suspension of immigration.' It is perhaps unfortunate that the tangible expression of this friendly disposition went no further than the negotiations, which preceded the collapse of the treaty signed in 1888. I see no reason why a better understanding may not be brought about, whereby the position of China shall be one of amicable concurrence towards a rational and practical end, rather than one of obstruction to the working of the measure the adoption of which has been in a great degree forced upon the legislative power of the United States by the conduct of the Chinese people in this country and by the attitude of the imperial government in their regard."