

dren have passed through these schools. The 15,000,000 of readers who have come from government and mission schools loudly call for pure and Christian literature. This is the most urgent need of India. We have created the appetite, and if we do not provide wholesome food, the devil through his agents in England and India will tempt them, and with the grapes of Sodom and the clusters of Gomorrah."

The Continent.—According to *Evangelical Christendom*, the Roman Catholic Church in France, in providing schools for the education of children free from government control, in ten years has spent more than 30,000,000 francs. In Paris there are more than 200 such schools, with 76,000 scholars, and in the whole of France 1200 monasteries and nunneries, containing 30,000 men and 130,000 women. As home missionaries there are 8500 priests, 33,600 nuns, and 3600 friars.

—From the twenty-fourth annual report of the Evangelical Church of Italy it appears that in connection with this body there are 26 churches and 35 stations, with 132 places visited regularly. The ordained ministers number 21; evangelists, 10; colporteurs, 8. There are teachers and Bible-women, Sunday-schools, and associations for young people. The communicants number 1697, and the adherents 6315.

—In 1907 the Swedish Mission in China was formed, and it has now in China 21 missionaries. This mission is associated with the C. I. M. In 1890 the Holiness Union began work in China. This mission, which has about 10 missionaries, is also connected with the C. I. M. The same year the Swedish Missionary Union and the Swedish Baptist Mission took up work in China. These societies have 20 workers in China, but they are not connected with the C. I. M. In 1891, 50 Swedes were sent out from America, who are supported from small Scandinavian congregations in that land, and are also connected with the C. I. M., while 45 have

been sent out from Sweden, who are in connection with the International Alliance of New York, and are supported by that association.—*London Christian*.

ASIA.

India.—Mount Maru, writes the Rev. T. Williams, of Rewarri, is, of all the sacred mountains of the Hindus, the most sacred. Its height, according to the Puranas, is 672,000 miles, or between twice and three times the distance of the moon from the earth! Mr. Williams has lately been in the region of the supposed site of this mountain, and has been able, by geographical demonstration as to the position of rivers and other mountains, to show the impossibilities implied in the myth.

—"It is the custom generally among the Singhalese," writes the Rev. R. T. Dowbiggin, of Cotta, Ceylon, "to receive a dowry with the bride, and this varies from 50 rupees to 20,000 rupees, according to circumstances. A dowryless girl has not much chance nowadays of getting married. However, there are exceptions. A young Christian man fell in love with a very poor fatherless girl, who at the time was also a Buddhist. He wished to marry her, but would not do so until she became a Christian. He put her under the care of a catechist and his wife, who taught her, and he paid for her board and lodging. After a few months she was baptized, and a month later married, the bridegroom paying for her wedding attire. The bridegroom wished to be married in our church, but in order to do so had to travel a distance of eleven miles in bullock carts, which took four or five hours each way.

—F. Becker Shawe, lately returned from Leh, on the borders of Thibet, tells this about one of the 'religious' institutions of that country: "These prayer mills contain a few written repetitions of some Buddhist prayer, probably the six-syllabled formula, 'Om mani padme hum.' Each twirl of the