

the Shantung province; it has been a great success, and has proved itself worthy of expansion and development. The rare supplies of religious tracts stored in the central stations demand a more aggressive policy in distribution, so that they may speedily get into the hands of the people. These and other reasons have prompted Mr. Brown in making this new departure, and with the cordial support of friends he feels sure of success.

Advantages of the Scheme.—1. Bibles and tracts are carried by his men. 2. The barrow makes a respectable Bible and tract stall at fairs and in the market-place. 3. The teacher carries his bed and belongings for one month's absence from his home. 4. He carries a bench, which makes a platform for preaching and teaching purposes. 5. The barrow passes through towns and villages which are apt to be neglected in regular work. 6. It combines manual and Christian work. 7. As the tract societies do not employ colporteurs, it is a system of tract colportage. 8. It is a cheap mode of doing a most effective kind of mission work in China. 9. The barrow is an object lesson before the eyes of the people. "Jesus doctrine books," "I am the Way, the Truth" etc., "God so loved the world," etc., "Come unto Me," etc., are all read as the teacher passes from place to place.

The Number of Buddhists in the World.

Dr. A. P. Happer, in reply to the statement that "Buddha has more followers than any man that ever lived beside him, his adherents being estimated at 500,000,000," or one third of the race, has published a number of articles strongly demonstrating that this is a false statement.

He says in substance that Hassel, in the Penny Cyclopaedia, estimates Buddhists at 315,000,000; Johnstone, in his Physical Atlas, at 245,000,000; Perkins, in Johnson's American Atlas, at 320,000,000; Professor Newman, at 367,000,000 ("Ten Great Religions," page 146); Edwin Arnold, at 470,000,000. From such diversity it is plain the data are not reliable.

In Siam, Burma, Tibet, China, Mon-

golia, Manchuria and Ceylon they most abound. In some it is the state religion, controlling the whole population, as in the first three mentioned. In some it is the faith of a large portion, as in the last three. But in China it is followed in connection with Confucianism and Taoism, and in Japan with Confucianism and Shintoism; hence the difficulty of estimating the Buddhists in these two lands. Confucianism is the state religion of China, and Shintoism of Japan. To make up 500,000,000 Buddhists we must estimate China's population at 400,000,000 and count them all as Buddhists! At least 80,000,000 in China alone are Confucianists.

Dr. Williams, in "The Middle Kingdom," ii., page 259, says, "No one there is called Buddhist except the priests and nuns." Dr. Edkins adds that, strictly speaking, this name applies only to those who have shaven heads, priests and nuns. In Japan the birth of every child is kept with Shintoist rites; and at every death Buddhist ceremonies are observed. In both lands all three religions are tolerated, and adherents of either may worship according to the rites of the others.

It would be liberal to estimate Chinese Buddhists at 30,000,000. If we count half the Japanese as such it adds 20,000,000. If we reckon the whole population of other countries as Buddhists, we may get in all 86,500,000 more, making a total of only 86,500,000! Professor Monier Williams, of Oxford, the greatest authority in Great Britain, thinks 100,000,000 a large estimate for this total.

In Daniel's "Lehrbuch de Geographie" (1891) adherents of Christianity are reckoned at 452,000,000; Zockler's "Handbook" for the same year, at 447,000,000 (Roman Catholics, 210,000,000; Greek Orthodox, 87,000,000; Protestants, 150,000,000). Daniel's book estimates Mohammedans at 120,000,000; others, guessing at large numbers in Africa, where no census has been taken, would reckon them at 180,000,000. In either case Buddhists fall from 40,000,-