

## Church News.

### The Mission Field.

In the Dutch East Indies there is a population of 27,000,000, and but seventy nine missionaries.

OVER 200 African converts in Uganda and the regions about, have suffered death rather than give up their faith in Christ.

THE Anglican Church has started a labour colony in South Africa, much like that which General Booth has projected in England.

On the Sangir Islands, near Celebes, and recently desolated by a volcanic eruption, out of a population of 80,000, the Protestant Christians number 20,000.

A Chinaman in Swatow (a non-Christian) has given £360 toward the cost of a woman's ward in connection with the medical work of the English Presbyterians in that city.

A NATIVE preacher in the Foochow Conference refused an offer of a consular position at \$50 a month, preferring to preach the Gospel with a salary of \$3 a month.

In China as in no other field medical missions have been made prominent. In 1890 there were 126 physicians, 61 hospitals, 44 dispensaries, and 100 medical students.

MADAME TEL SONG, as the result of several months' effort in America and Great Britain, has secured £1,200 to aid in establishing Christian training and normal schools for girls of higher classes.

It is fashionable in Madagascar to be a Christian, and this fact is a hindrance. The missionaries have to strive, not to get people into the church, but to keep them out until they give evidence of being truly converted.

THE Jewish Synagogue at Moscow, which cost £10,000, has been closed by the government. The Jews are deprived of it, and it is to be turned to "charitable uses." It was only completed last year. Such is religious liberty in Russia—in her ancient capital.

In Malaysia is a population of 60,000,000, mostly Mohammedan Malays. The British and Foreign Bible Society has seven European colporteurs at work, and twenty-five who are natives. At Singapore alone Bibles are furnished in forty-five languages.

In all from the beginning of work in 1834 among the Nestorians 100 men and women have been sent to this field from America. And all concerned are just now rejoicing in the completion and printing by the American Bible Society of the revised translation of the Syriac Bible.

THOUGH Fiji is so thoroughly redeemed from the terrible savagery of former days, yet Christian toilers have no rest, but rather find themselves compelled to resist determined aggression, and also to take in hand the heathen Hindu coolies, who are brought in great numbers to the islands.

In Japan, as in China, noting how Europe is establishing "protectorates," and annexing by the wholesale in Africa, Southern Asia, etc., multitudes are possessed with the idea that the design of Christianity is to steal their country; that it produces disloyalty to the emperor, etc.

ISLAM is to invade Japan as well as the United States, and with the aid of funds subscribed in India and Turkey. Some three years ago a young Japanese went to Constantinople to study the Koran, and is now again in his native land toiling with all his might to propagate his new-found religion.

REV. S. TROTTER WILLIAMS, native superintendent of the Countess of Huntingdon's churches in Sierra Leone, has recently dedicated two mission chapels in heathen localities, occupied by Sherbro and Mendi tribes. The entire cost of one of the stations was defrayed by Mr. William List, of London.

CHINA is the most conservative of nations yet it is surprising how many material changes have been introduced in recent years; the development of commerce, building of a navy, foreign weapons for the army, extension of telegraphic and railroad lines, and a growing desire to learn the use of foreign arts and sciences. With these changes, Christianity has found entrance among the people,

and the growth which has taken place is most striking.

AMONG the novelties of the times is a "New Islam," the term applied to a group of Mohammedans in India, who profess to have returned to the purity and simplicity of their early faith. They have abjured polygamy as a corruption of the teaching of their prophet.

THE Buddhists of Japan are renewing their fight against Christianity; are organizing "salvation armies" and "moral associations," buying up timber so that churches cannot be built, seeking to persuade hotel keepers not to lodge Christians, and in some cases they are resorting to force destroying chapels and other buildings.

NINE casks of missionary arrowroot have been sent to Edinburgh this year from Aneityum, New Hebrides, and three from Fortuna. The latter is a contribution from the native Christians to help prepare native teachers and to build the first church in Fortuna. It was these same "savages" who were glad to pay for their Bibles at the rate of about \$2 a leaf.

Of the students in the Tohoku Gakium, twelve were baptized during the last year, and thirty-nine are under special spiritual instructions. "The students hold services of their own in addition to the regular instruction and services. There are fifty-two young men studying for the Gospel ministry, with more to follow."

WHEN the missionaries went to Borac, they found a fierce population who beautified (1) their rude huts with the skulls of their enemies. These skulls were also their chief offering to their gods. In the southern part of the island the Netherlands Missionary Society has a church membership of 4000, and among the various tribes may be found 3000 members of the English Church.

SHADES of Philip II. and Torquemada! Angels and ministers of grace, defend us! The Calvinists are actually capturing Spain, and their presumption is amazing. The last and worst move is found in the setting up of two church judicatories: to wit, the Ex-abytery of Spain and Portugal and the Presbytery of Andalusia, both composed of native Protestants.—The Missionary Review.

Of the 700 colporteurs in the employ of the British and Foreign Bible Society, thirty are at work in Italy. During the year 1892, these workers disposed of 7,132 entire Bibles, 15,322 New Testaments and 140,103 other portions of the Bible—a total of 162,637 volumes. Besides these the Evangelical Book Concern in Florence publishes and sells its own editions of the Italian Bible.

ISABEL C. EARROWS says in the Outlook, that the excellent work of the deaconesses is making rapid progress in Germany, where every year there is a stronger conviction of the value to humanity of this service. At the outbreak of the cholera, every deaconess' home sent to the government a list of women who at an instant's notice could be sent into actual service.

A MILITARY graduate suffering with cataract was successfully treated in the Hankow Hospital. Returning to his home with restored sight, forty-eight persons with diseased eyes soon gathered about him, begging him to take them to the foreign doctor. So he led them, a procession of blind men, holding on to one another's rope, 250 miles to Hankow. Nearly all were cured.

CIVILIZATION is bound to enter Africa, for thousands of miles of railroad are already in use, and various projects are crowding forward. Ere long the locomotive is likely to be climbing from Mombasa, 650 miles, to Uganda, and the construction has been commenced of the Cairo and Cape Town telegraph line, with capital enough subscribed to build it as far northward as Victoria Nyanza Lake.

A TELEGRAM from Tunis is to this effect: Of 9000 pilgrims who went to Mecca from here in May, 4500 perished in the Holy Land (Arabia) of cholera and other diseases. The survivors have just returned, and say that on June 24th, over 100,000 Mussulmans, Arabs, Turks, and Indians gathered on the sacred mountain, when cholera broke out among them, causing terrible havoc. The returned

pilgrims add that of 700 Turkish troops sent to bury the dead, 600 died while performing this dangerous duty. Another report gives the loss of life as not less than ten per cent. of the entire number of pilgrims.

THE statement is made that the records of the college at Marsovan will show that the two teachers, Messrs. Thounmaian and Kaya-yau, at the time when they are charged with being present and participating in a seditious meeting, were at the college attending to their duties there. In this and in other cases the opportunity to prove an alibi was refused on the ground that there was no time for such matters.

REV. H. H. JESSUP, of Syria, gives some statistics as to mission growth within the past eleven years, which are quite encouraging. Since 1881 the number of Protestants in Syria and Palestine has increased from 6311 to 8593; the communicants from 1693 to 3974. Foreign laborers have increased by forty-six and native laborers by fifty-nine. There has been an increase of 4213 in the number of pupils in the schools, making the present number 18,837.

REV. O. F. WIKHOLM and Rev. A. D. Johansen, massacred by the Chinese mob at Sungpu, about 100 miles north-east of Hankow, belonged to the Swedish Missionary Society, one of the earliest of the Scandinavian societies in China. They had been in the country more than two years, and were acting under the direction of their senior, Mr. Lund, an experienced missionary. There seems to have been no unwisdom on their part; the local authorities appear to have been in full sympathy with the mob, and the entire affair makes a chapter full of unmitigated horrors.

WITHOUT fleeing from the scorching heats to the mountains for a few weeks each summer it is next to impossible for Europeans to live in India. And in these sanitariums quickening of another sort is conjoined; for from Kodairanal in the Palnai Hills, some 7,000 feet above the ocean, comes an interesting account of a spiritual conference not unlike the yearly gatherings at Keawick, England, and at Northfield in this country. Churchman and Nonconformists stood side by side in speech, and knelt together in supplication for the deepening of spiritual life. Preceded by a week of prayer meetings, the convention was held in the early mornings in one of the bungalows, where sometimes over thirty missionaries assembled.

### The Situation in China.

At the opening of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, Rev. J. H. MacVicar delivered an interesting address of which the following is a summary.—Mr. MacVicar first gave a graphic description of the troubles of 1891 when wars and rumors of wars filled the air for some months and they were made subject to a terrible suspense. The people arose and shouted that the foreign devils of China should be driven into the sea. The feeling of hatred against the foreign element became intense, and even the servants left the houses of the missionaries for fear of being massacred. The foreigners expected death at any moment. Then came the news of terrible riots in neighbouring provinces where nuns were dragged before the officials and charged with practising witchcraft. Buildings were looted and burned to the ground, and the soldiers who were sent presumably to render protection to the foreigners, actually turned their coats inside out and joined in the looting. Hospitals even were attacked. Graves were dug up and the eyes of the dead plucked out and the arms cut off. The people were complete masters of the situation. In spite of the commands of the military mandarins they continued the looting, and heaping all the stuff together dragged the mandarin by the queue to show him the big pile they had made. The lecturer related the troubles that took place in the Wesleyan Methodist district, in which two missionaries were brutally massacred, their heads being split open and bodies pelted with stones. This rioting continued in all districts, even in the face of the commands of the mandarins and edicts of the viceroy, and it was not until the foreign powers themselves threatened to