

and speak at the funerals. But some of our missionaries think that the time has not yet come for ordaining the natives, who, they say, are too little inclined to be governed by their countrymen, etc. The Missionary Society has therefore requested the Government to send an able man to Greenland to visit the missions, and has deferred passing any resolution as to the ordination of the natives until this gentleman shall have returned and expressed his opinion on the matter.—*Evangelical Christendom.*

Japan—Protestant Prospects.

It is only about three years since Protestant missionaries came to this country, and yet within that short period such a change has already come over the people as augurs well for the future history of Christian missions. The missionaries upon their first arrival, and indeed, for some considerable time after, found the Japanese altogether unwilling to converse about Christianity.—The subject was no sooner broached than, with a terrified appearance, they at once changed it for one less dangerous. They intimated that the subject was prohibited in Japan, and, by a significant drawing of the hand across the throat, silently intimated the punishment attending the infraction of the law. It is gratifying to find, however, that the Japanese no longer display any signs of fear when religion is mentioned.—Remarks are now made, and questions asked, with the greatest freedom, utterly astounding to one who has read the edicts of former times. How it is that so great a change has come about in so short a time may be accounted for from the fact that Christianity is now better understood.—*Evangelical Christendom.*

Syria.

Mr. Jessup wrote from Beirut, in October: "The latest news from Hums is, that the good work is steadily advancing. . . . Indications are not wanting of the presence of the Holy Spirit in some parts of our field. One of the members of the Beirut church has passed through a somewhat remarkable religious experience during the Summer. . . . Several young persons from the Protestant community of Hasbeiya, residence in Beirut, are now passing through what appears to be very deep conviction of sin. I have rarely seen individuals so completely broken down by a sense of their utterly lost children. . . . One of the students of Abeli Seminary has recently been converted in a somewhat remarkable manner. These evidences of the Spirit's presence cheer our hearts."

State of Religion.

The question is often put; "What about the progress of vital godliness in Italy?" We feel our incompetence to answer. The number of Bibles circulated, and of Bible readers, of evangelical preachers and meetings and adherents, of schools and school children, is increasing rapidly, and our persuasion is that the vital element is present in the onward movement, amid much curiosity, hypocrisy, and formalism. More than this it would at present be rash to say, as the intense excitement on political subjects is both helping and hindering, in a curiously mixed manner, the cause of the Gospel. Our own conviction, so far as information reaches us from various quarters, is that souls are being enlightened and converted in ones and twos, here and there, while we are equally convinced that no great spiritual blessing from on high has yet descended on poor Italy. For this we long and pray, in the hope that God is now secretly preparing the men of great faith and deep humility and practical godliness who are to be used as instruments when his time to favor Italy has come.

Father Chiniquy Again.

At the late meeting of the Presbytery of Chicago, the Rev. Alexander F. Kemp, from the Canadian Presbyterian Church, was present as a corresponding member, and laid a memorial upon the table, in reference to the Rev. Chiniquy, desiring that something be done, either to relieve and restore his standing in this Presbytery, or, if he still desired it, enable them to receive him and his people under their care. This, at least, was the end contemplated by the memorialists, if not specifically stated. A motion was made to raise a committee to report at the next stated meeting; but it was, after discussion, laid on the table, and though afterwards taken up, action upon it was refused. The memorial itself was respectfully answered, but any initiative process for the restoration or relief of Mr. Chiniquy declined.

Sandwich Islands.

We are grieved to record the loss by fire of the large Seminary edifice at Lahaina. The pupils that were boarding in the building escaped with their lives, but many lost their clothes and books. The native Christians have lost no time in making liberal collections in their churches for its reconstruction. Rev. S. E. Bishop, who has been the American Seamen's Chaplain at Lahaina, has been called to the Native Church at Hana, on the same Island, (Maui,) and has accepted the call.