

Holland.

THE POPULATION OF HOLLAND amounts to 4,000,000 (with addition of 70,000 Jews), of which two-fifths are Roman Catholic, and three-fifths Protestant, belonging, with a few exceptions, to the Reformed Church. The Roman Catholics are retrograding rather than advancing in number, gaining in social influence—splendid churches rising in every quarter; the whole shop-keeping in the towns coming into their hands; their scientific position being heightened year by year; and their political weight almost balancing the two opposite parties. The Jew's who are collected especially in Amsterdam, are influential in the press, on the Exchange, and in the diamond traffic; half of them still keep to their orthodox Deism, the other half being "Reform Juden." The Russian and German anti-Semitic movement gained no ground in this country, and many high offices and university chairs are occupied by descendants of the Eastern race. Sad to say, the gospel influence among them is not a very gladdening one. The glorious days of the Capadoses and Da Costas are past.

The Missionary work in the Dutch colonies is conducted by four private and one Church society. A bill was carried last year against the intoxicating liquors traffic. Sunday schools are flourishing; the young men's societies not so much so. Sabbath observance is gaining ground, and a bill for Sabbath protection is looked for. On the whole the Dutch people are awakening from their slumbers; they are recovering the inexhaustible treasures of their old faith; and though slowly, still boldly they are lifting up their hand against the progress of rationalism, firmly resolved not to sheathe the sword before the old covenant shall be restored to its former might and glory.

III. Miss. News.

Asia.

There are twenty-one million widows in India, most of whom are the victims of child marriage.

Tokio, Japan, has its Twelfth Presbyterian church. The Presbytery is almost made up of native ministers.

PRAGMIR'S PROGRESS has been translated into almost all the languages of India. It is as popular with Asiatics as with Europeans.

There are 126,000,000 women and girls

in India, and at the most liberal estimate, not more than one in twelve hundred has been placed under any kind of Christian instruction.

It is said that the Chinese pay about a hundred and fifty-five million dollars annually to quiet the spirits of their ancestors, but that is the veriest trifle compared with what English-speaking people pay to excite their own spirits.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT has determined to establish 53,760 primary schools. The Empire is divided into eight departments, with one college to each. Children are to be compelled to attend the primary school.

The Moravian missionaries who have been laboring for years on the borders of Thibet, waiting for an opportunity to enter, have at last succeeded, and it is hoped that a mission will soon be established in that country. The Scriptures are being printed in the Thibetan language.

The Chinese Government has taken strong measures to put a stop to the growth of opium in Shing-King, in some instances the crops having been purposely destroyed. Only one in every twenty thousand of the people of China are professing Christians.

The following item appears in the English journals, but is not fully explained there:—"As far as the Emperor of China is obeyed in his own territory, he has ordered the closing of the Buddhist temples, being, in his estimation, places where nothing but immorality and superstition are conserved."

A letter from China, written about two months ago, says that Rev. Hunter Corbett, a missionary of the Presbyterian Church, had on a missionary journey baptized *fifty-nine* converts, and that Dr. Ma-teer missionary at Chefoo, reports baptism in one village of *forty-six* converts, and this a village in which a year ago the gospel had not been heard.

The various Bible Societies now represented in Japan, make it a rule never to give away the Scriptures. They have sold together 115,000 copies during the past year. It is stated that at Kioto a single copy of St. John's Gospel led sixty families to renounce idolatry; and that mass-meetings, for prayer have been held in Japan, when in one case more than 3,500 and in another 7,000 persons were present.

SIAM.—The seed for so many years prayerfully sown in Siam is taking root,