

### United States.

There are six million colored people in the Southern States, and one-half of them do not know how to read and write.

There are, it is said, one hundred and ninety Presbyteries connected with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

There were forty-two colored delegates in the late Methodist General Conference held in Philadelphia, one Hindu, Ram Chandra Rose, one Eurasian, and missionaries from India, China and Italy. The colored men made a fine appearance, some of them being able and interesting speakers.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the New York Methodist Conference was organized in 1870 by seven women, and has now a membership of 90,000, of whom 20,000 belong to the New York branch. Last year the expenditure for mission work reached \$25,000, and the intention is to raise \$30,000 the present year.

The question of licensing women to preach was one of the questions before the late Methodist Conference in Philadelphia. It was hardly a 'burning question,' for no great fervency of speech was elicited, and the Conference decided the matter in the negative. Preaching is a privilege to which nine-tenths of the Christian women of this country are profoundly indifferent.

### Europe.

During last year 2,104 persons, mostly Roman Catholics, joined the Evangelical Church in Germany, being 200 more than the previous year.

Naples is the dirtiest, most ragged and squalid city in Europe. It has a population of 500,000, of whom about 40,000 are priests.

As the result of Waldensian Missions in Italy, nearly five hundred new members have been added to the church of Christ during the past year, and those are mainly from the Church of Rome.

Of 2,141 missionaries sent forth into the heathen world by the Moravian Church no fewer than 800 have died at their post. One of them, Dr. Zeisberger has laboured for sixty-three years with great success amongst the North American Indians.

Two Cardinals recently superintended a minute inventory of the contents of the Vatican, from its artistic and literary treasures down to the most trivial articles. The origin, position and value of every object were set down and the inventory was signed with all the legal formalities. This is supposed to indicate the Pope's intention to leave Rome.

### Asia.

The Governor of Zahleh, Syria, has two sons in the Beirut Protestant College and two daughters in the Female Seminary, paying full price for their tuition.

The United Presbyterian missionaries in North India report:—"The summing up of last year's work, made at the annual meeting at Jhelun, indicates even larger success than any of us anticipated. We shall report 1,132 communicants, a net increase of 524, or about 87 per cent. Of these, 559 were received on profession of their faith and 536 adults were baptized. Thus nearly one-half of the present membership was added during the year, and most of it from the midst of heathenism."

At the annual meeting of the Evangelical Alliance of Japan on January 10th, eighty-six churches were represented, reporting a membership of 5,398. Seventeen churches not reporting bring the membership at that date up to a total of 6,595. The contributions of native Christians were given at 16,166 yen (about \$13,000.) Twenty-five years ago there were no native Christians and no Christian literature in Japan. The increase of membership during the last year has been nearly equal to the total membership after seventeen years work.

### Africa.

When Livingstone died, nearly eleven years ago, three or four missions were in their infancy in Central Africa. To-day there are ten missions, with ninety workers, in active operation. But "What are these among so many?" The proportion is about the equivalent of one minister and one Sabbath School teacher to the State of Massachusetts.

The alarming consumption of alcohol in Switzerland has induced the government to propose fresh legislation on the subject. A prohibitive tax will probably be put on distillation.