

V.—THE MONTHLY CONCERT OF MISSIONS.

Siam and the Laos, Burma*—Buddhism.†

RECENT MISSIONARY PROGRESS IN SIAM.

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It is one of the admirable purposes served by *THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD* that it tends to make the interest of its readers in foreign missions a catholic interest; to make real and vivid what all profess—the belief in a “holy catholic church.” As we follow through the pages of the *Review* the trials and triumphs of the noble army of missionary workers we forget to ask of any man or any company, “Does he—do they—belong to my church?” It is more and more becoming evident in missions, and by means of missions it is being made evident with reference to the Church as a whole, that if one member suffer, all the members should and do suffer with it; if one member rejoice, all the members may and ought to rejoice with it. It is in the faith of this truth that in the month of May the directors of the *Review* ask its readers to turn their thought not to one of the great fields, occupied in common by the missionaries of many churches in many lands, but to a field in which a single church is at work. That field is Siam, with its ten or twelve millions of Buddhists and spirit worshippers; that church is the American Presbyterian Church (North), with its band of 45 missionary laborers. In this department of the *Review* for May, 1892, Dr. Ellinwood gave an admirable historical sketch of missions in Siam; to that article and to that on Siam in the “*Encyclopædia of Missions*” the present writer begs leave to refer his readers for general information as to the field, while he devotes this article to some of the more recent events in the history of missions in Siam, and

particularly in the Laos provinces. For, as is generally known, Siam is divided politically into two portions—a Southern, which constitutes Siam proper, and a Northern, made up of the tributary Laos provinces; and correspondingly the work of the Presbyterian Church is carried on by means of two missions, the Siam Mission and the North Laos Mission. Students of missions will feel no surprise to be told that the story of missionary advancement in the past few years relates chiefly to the second of these fields and the work of the second of these missions. The causes underlying missionary success are complex and subtle; they take in earth and heaven. How often has it happened that of two fields, contiguous it may be, at any rate, similar in the difficulties to be overcome, occupied by bodies of laborers nearly equal in number, and exhibiting the same measure of ability and devotion, one has been rejoicing with the joy of harvest, while the other forces its toilers to sow in tears, or, at best, to wait in patience for the early and the latter rain.

The Laos Mission is organized at present in three stations: First, Chieng Mai, the capital of the Laos provinces, occupied in 1867; here are stationed four ordained missionaries and a missionary physician, with their wives and four unmarried ladies. Here, too, is a boarding-school for girls and one for boys, a hospital and dispensary, and the mission press. Second, Lakawn, 75 miles southeast of Chieng Mai, occupied in 1885; manned by three ordained men, a physician, and four ladies; here are a hospital and dispensary, an industrial school for boys, and a school for girls. Third, Lampoon, 18 miles south from Chieng Mai, occupied by one ordained missionary and his wife; this is the headquarters of the theological training class, numbering about thirty members. With this brief statement of

* See pp. 210 (March), 261, 308 (April), and 328 (present issue).

† See p. 354 (present issue).