

regularly taught, not a few of whom attend the old church. For six months Mr. Nutting has had a select school of twenty girls. The station has been too weak, most of the time, to give much attention to training native helpers, but a plan has been devised for entering efficiently into this department. The contributions of the church have been \$137 94, of which \$30 were for foreign missions, and \$87 30 from females.

There is more than usual religious inquiry among the old Armenians. The native brethren are welcomed to their houses, are invited to call again, and listened to with much interest. During Lent they attended meetings in great numbers, and more than one hundred of the traits on repentance and holiness were sold to them by one man. This awakened state of feeling is still more remarkable among the women. Besides the usual prayer meeting, four others are now held weekly in private houses by the ladies of the mission, mainly with reference to old Armenians; and not unfrequently, of twenty or twenty-five present, fifteen or even more are of this class.

#### ARABKIR.

Mr. Clark arrived in Arabkir, with his family, the first of October, 1853. Shortly after, and when he had studied the language only six months, he commenced a service in a private house, with the assistance of his teacher. Eight or ten were only present. A room, which was fitted up for a place of worship, was opened December 18, with a congregation of thirty-two. In a month this number doubled, and the place having become too strait, a larger room was with some difficulty obtained; and now the hearers have increased to more than one hundred, which fills the place, the largest that can be obtained. It is the general feeling that a place of meeting is needed that will accommodate three hundred. A service is held during the week, besides the two on the Sabbath. A school with twenty pupils has been commenced. An earnest desire for instruction exists among many lads and young men who, from their age, are obliged to work for their daily bread. "Many have come to me," says Mr. Clark, "with tears in their eyes, and expressed an earnest desire to attend school." One young man belonging to a very intelligent class after having pursued a kind of preparatory course in Mr. Clark's family for three or four months, is now laboring as a colporter in Khar-poot and vicinity. Another who has been a priest, is giving attention to the doctrines of the gospel, that he may enter on active labors in book-distribution and preaching in the neighboring villages. He is a man of a lovely spirit, and his heart yearns for the salvation of the people. He has already preached some excellent sermons in the place of worship.

The preliminary measures have been taken for the organization of a community, in which every desirable aid has been received from the Turkish authorities. Indeed such has been the course pursued by the Pasha and others under him, that Mr. Clark says: "Many a time have we been affected to tears in thinking of the good hand of God that has so wonderfully provided for our personal comfort and protection, as well as for the success of the cause of our dear Redeemer." More than three-fourths of the Armenians of the city, it is believed, are enlightened in respect to the errors of their church, and yet they cling to them. "There is a strange mixture of intelligence, independence and maturity of opinion, with an inconsistent practice." Progress, however, has been very rapid. A year ago Protestant books could not be circulated. Not a Bible or a Testament from the Protestant press would be read. But now very many copies of the Bible have been sold, even to leading Armenians of the old church, and the demand continues. Tracts are scattered through the

whole city, and not a day passes without a call for them and other books. Prominent men in the Armenian church are making efforts in various ways in behalf of the truth. Some of great influence are advising their friends to join the Protestants saying, 'We will wait a little. Now we have access to all. We will persuade as many as possible, and then bring up the rear.' This class often visit the missionary, but never come to the public services. They appear deeply interested in the work.

#### CHINA—AMOI.

By the urgent importunity of Chieng-Choon, one of our native Christians, who delights in a tour for preaching, Mr. Burns was induced to start with him and another brother, Tick-Choon, on such a tour. They left this place on the 9th of January. Their only definite plan was, to go with the gospel to some region where it had not been heard. They went, by boat, to a market town on the main land about fifteen miles distant, called Peh-chüi-jä, (White water fort,) which is a commercial centre for an extensive region full of agricultural villages. Here they intended to begin work, expecting after a few days at longest, to go forward, making known the gospel message as they might have opportunity, and just where the Master might providentially lead them. But for two months continuously the brethren were shut up to this one place and the nearest villages, in holding forth day and night the word of life. Almost at the very first declaration of the truth, some persons were interested and became earnest inquirers. From that time to the present, the work has been gradually gaining in importance. Mr. Burns has rented a small building, the upper floor for his dwelling, while the lower is a preaching place. This is visited by many persons who come in on market days from all the surrounding region, for the purposes of trade. There are twelve such days in each month. Public worship is held on the Sabbath and every evening, and is attended by a goodly number of apparently interested listeners. Of a few, hope is indulged that they have really passed from death unto life. Numbers have renounced their idols. Some have burnt and destroyed them.—Others have given them to the brethren to be thus dealt with. Two of our native brethren are constantly employed in connection with Mr. Burns.

In March, Mr. Burns and two brethren made a tour of some weeks further in the interior, visiting some places to which they had been earnestly invited by persons who had visited them at Peh-chüi-jä. While they were absent, two other native brethren continued the labors at the first place. At this time it was my privilege to make a short visit there. I found such an awakened interest and spirit of inquiry as I had never before met with among Chinese. It did seem as if the Holy Spirit was at work.—The most marked cases are of young men of some education, and endowed with considerable zeal and energy. These are very active in efforts to awaken the attention of others. From the first there have been opposers to the movement, and recently there has been manifested a disposition to annoy and disturb the public worship. There are firm idolaters there, and the spirit of persecution is not wanting.

Mr. Burns thinks the time is near, when it will be an incumbent duty to gather those who give evidences of regeneration into the church.—One of these has already been with us at Amoy, and was examined as to his Christian experience and knowledge. Never, in any instance, have we met with a case among the Chinese indicating more clearly the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart. He was not however then received to church fellowship, it being thought more prudent that there should be some delay.

For the administration of the ordinances and the pastoral oversight of the disciples there, Mr.

Burns looks to us during the whole course of his ministry; he has ever acted as an evangelist, and is unwilling to do otherwise. It is this feature of the case, and the intimate connection of our native brethren with the work, which brings us, as a mission, into so close a relation with this wonderful visitation of God's mercy.—With our hearts and hands full as they are here in Amoy, we scarcely know what we are to do. Although those converts might be gathered into the church here perhaps, yet for their own spiritual interest and usefulness, the proper place is doubtless their native town. In this case, pastoral oversight will be needful. This would be exercised by Mr. Burns so long as he remains in the place. But his desire and purpose are not to be tied down to any locality longer than he feels he has evidence of a special call. While this is the case, the most we could do would be only an occasional short visit. The burden of the work would devolve of necessity on native brethren.—*Missionary Herald.*

#### HOME MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND—BIRR.

The year that has just closed has taken Dr. Carlile from the Birr Mission. Last annual report, after recording the death of his beloved partner, noticed that he was himself obliged, by his sinking health, to leave Parsonstown for a season. It soon became apparent that his separation from the active conduct of the mission was final, and in September last he formally resigned his charge. The work at Birr continued to engage his sympathies, and frequently to employ his pen, until, on the 31st March, after an illness so gradual as to leave him busy at his Master's work almost to the last hour, the lamented superintendent of the mission fell asleep.

It illustrates the care with which the Lord provides for the carrying on of His work, that the ministers who followed the remains of Dr. Carlile to their chosen resting-place amongst his flock at Birr, should immediately afterwards unite in solemnly setting apart a successor to him in the labours and responsibilities of a mission-field. This providence has a voice. It reminds us that our prayers and efforts ought not to be intermitted, and it promises that God's continued blessing will not be wanting.

In November, the charge of supplying the mission-station with ordinances for a few Sabbaths was incidentally committed to Mr. Horner, then minister of Saltersland, in the Presbytery of Magherafelt. At once there was a unanimous and strong expression of desire, on the part of the mission-agents and congregation, that he should become their pastor, and take the superintendence of the mission; and, after much careful inquiring for the mind of God, an application was forwarded to the Directors, to take the necessary steps for his appointment. To this the Directors acceded, and Mr. Horner having been loosed from his congregation on the 17th January, entered at once on the charge of the mission.

During the year, the usual agencies have been, with very slight exception, in uninterrupted operation; and on the whole, in the face of much very determined opposition, the work remains uninjured, and progressing.

#### THE CONGREGATION.

The unsettled prospects of the mission for some time past afforded a useful opportunity for testing the sincerity of our adherents, and we have reason to be thankful that few in whom we had placed confidence have disappointed our hopes. Notwithstanding the increasing drain on our numbers by removal to other places, we have preserved an average of five-and-twenty families, once Romanist, readily maintaining a connexion with us. Three families were added to the congregation during the year. The history of one of these is interesting. It includes the husband of a deceased member of our communion, to