

The founders of the Society sought the approbation of the heads of the Church; and they waited more than a year for a reply from the Archbishop of Canterbury before taking any further steps. On the Archbishop at length informing Mr. Wilberforce that he would "look on their proceedings with candour," and that "it would give him pleasure to find them such as he could approve," the Committee resolved "to proceed with their great design with all the activity possible." They thereupon issued appeals for (a) men, (b) money, (c) prayer. (a) For four years there were no men. Only one Englishman came forward, Henry Martyn, and he ultimately went to India as a Company's chaplain, missionaries not being then allowed in the British possessions. (b) In three years 911*l.* was contributed. But (c) many godly people prayed over the matter, and in a few years the result was seen in rapid progress. No Bishops joined the Society till 1815. In 1841, the two Archbishops and the Bishop of London joined. The List now comprises five Archbishops and 110 Bishops.

The first two missionaries were sent in 1804 to West Africa. In 1809 men were sent to Australia and New Zealand; in 1814 to India (when the closed door was opened); in 1815-20 to Turkey and Egypt; in 1818 to Ceylon; in 1822 to the Red Indians of North America; in 1826 to the West Indies; in 1844 to East Africa and to China; in 1851 to Palestine; in 1856 to Mauritius; in 1857 to British Columbia; in 1868 to Japan; in 1869 to Persia. The West Africa Mission was extended to Yoruba in 1844, and to the Niger in 1857; the India Missions to Travancore in 1816, to Bombay and Tinnevely in 1820, to the Telugu Country in 1841, to the Punjab in 1852, to the Santals in 1858, to Ka-hmir in 1865, &c., &c. The China Mission was extended to the Cheh-kiang Province in 1848, to the Fuh-kien Province in 1850, to Hong-Kong in 1862, to the Kwan-tung Province in 1878, to the Si-chuen Province in 1890. The North-West America Mission (now in the Dominion of Canada) was extended to Saskatchewan in 1840, to Hudson's Bay (Moosonee) in 1851, to Athabasca and the Arctic Circle in 1858-62. The East Africa Mission was revived and developed in 1874, and extended to the Victoria Nyanza and Uganda in 1876. Egypt was re-occupied in 1882. In each case God opened the way when His servants were ready to go forward.

Of the one hundred missionaries sent out in the first twenty-five years, nearly half were Germans, obtained at first from Berlin, and afterwards from the Basel Seminary. In 1825 the Islington College was opened; and from it about 600 men have been sent out, the majority in holy orders. Of University men the Society has sent out about 300. About 300 have come from other sources. The roll up to the end of 1894 numbered 1335. The separate roll of women (not including wives) numbered 317, two-thirds of whom went out in the past seven or eight years. The Society's Missions have also been largely helped by the ladies of the Society for Promoting Female Education, the Indian Female Normal School Society (now the Zenana Bible and Medical Mission), and the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society. Thirty C.M.S. missionaries have been raised to the Episcopate, viz. Gobat, G. Smith, Weeks, Bowen, W. Williams, Hadfield, Royston, Russell, Horden, Burdon, Bompas, Sargent, Stuart, French, Speechly, Ridley, Moule, Poole, Hannington, Young, Parker, Tucker, Hodges, Reeve, Clifford, Hill, Newnham, Evington, Tugwell, W. L. Williams; and three Native Africans, Crowther, Phillips, Oluwale. The Native clergy ordained in connexion with the Society numbered 496 up to the end of 1894, and of these, 304 are still labouring in its service. There are over 5000 Native lay teachers of all classes.

The present statistics are as follows:—Missionaries: Ordained 344, lay 93, wives 274, single women 192; total 903. Native Baptized Christians 187,586 (of whom 56,538 are communicants); Catechumens, 23,038; total Adherents 210,624. Baptisms in 1894, adults 4478, children 7989, total 12,467 (returns incomplete). Schools, 2016; scholars, 84,725.