

loathsome and abominable and whose tendency is altogether corrupting. Ingenious methods are used to decoy the unwary and unwise into buying such books and paying large prices for them. If the agents of Mammon are thus active in doing evil, how much more should the friends of a true Gospel and a pure morality exert themselves to possess the land! If the good seed is not scattered abundantly the enemy will sow his bad seed, and the consequence will be loss and shame. First of all the Bible, then books, then tracts, religious papers and magazines, a pure and Christian literature,—should adorn the homes of our people. Bad papers, bad books, large and small, are but poison to the soul. Boys or men, are not better than the books and papers they habitually choose to read.

FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES.

The amount contributed by this Church for Foreign Missions last year reached the noble aggregate of \$622,000. We give as briefly as possible an outline of results. First from among Western Indians we have tidings such as these:—

Rev. Mr. Spalding of the mission to the Nez Percés, reports as baptized by him during the year, 72 Nez Percés and 253 Spokanes—making the whole number of communicants 947, or 694 Nez Percés and 253 Spokanes.

In Mexico there are three ordained missionaries, sixteen native helpers, 596 communicants, and 225 pupils in schools.

So great have been the encouragements given to the Presbyterian missions at the capital and in Zacatecas during the past year, that the Board has decided to send out two more men as soon as those of proper qualifications can be found.

BRAZIL.—The missions in Brazil have also been highly prospered. The eleven stations now occupied, report 104 additions on examination, and 23 by letter; the whole membership is 497; 91 adults and 116 infants have been baptized during the year; 417 pupils are in day-schools, and 265 in Sunday-schools; benevolent contributions have amounted to \$3,110.

CHILI.—The missionary forces consists of Rev. David Trumbull, D. D., who though wholly supported by his church in

Valparaiso, desires to be connected with the Board; Rev. A. M. Merwin of Valparaiso; Rev. Sylvanus Sayre of Talca, Rev. Samuel J. Christien of Copiapo; and Rev. J. M. Ibanez Guzman of Santiago.

The Chilian mission, as now constituted, derives its importance from the nature of the country and its institutions, from the fact that it is the *only Protestant mission* in the entire west coast of South America, and from the favourable beginnings which have already been made toward a work of great promise and influence in the future.

SYRIA.—The number admitted to the communion was 68, of whom 36 are females. It is very gratifying to see the number of women received into the Church increasing to such an extent, in a Mohammedan country.

The number of children receiving instruction on the Lord's day in Sunday-schools, has increased from 398 to 1195.

The benevolence of the Syrian churches is also \$100 in advance of last year, the sum contributed being \$1429. This is an average of \$3.27 per member. Considering the difference in wages of the two countries, which is as 1 to 5, this would be equivalent to \$7,717.200.

A new and flourishing church has been formed at the Zahleh station, on the eastern slope of Mt. Lebanon, consisting of 11 members. A preaching place has been opened among the renowned ruins of Baalbec.

The Mission Press has printed during the year, 11,195,650 pages, of which 3,380,000 were pages of the Scriptures.

The whole number of publications issued large and small, is 219,795. The number of volumes of the Scriptures distributed during the year, shows an increase over last year of nearly fifty per cent., and the same is true of other books.

The Syrian Protestant College has continued in its career of prosperity, and has, during the year, occupied its new and imposing buildings at Beirut.

The number of instructors is as follows. A president and 5 professors; 2 tutors, and 3 other instructors, all natives. In the Literary Departments there are 26 Pharmaceutic Course, 3. Eclectic Course, 16. Total 76. The graduates in 1873 were 6 literary and 6 medical students.

The two female seminaries of the Mission, one at Beirut and the other at Sidon, have continued their work with good success. That in Beirut reports 100 pupils, of which 39 are boarders. Five of the day pupils paying full charges are Jewesses, the first of that faith ever sent to that institution.

PERSIA.—The work among the Nestorians has been carried forward, as in former