

children. The attempt is undoubtedly inspired by the successful efforts of missionaries in this direction, and is intended to keep the children of Hindu parents from falling into Christian hands.

—In politics, in religion, and in religious and moral and social development, we have entered, or are entering, upon a new era of transformation under the quickening influence of the West; and it is the highest glory of the missionary that he has contributed no small share to this upheaval of a nation of 250,000,000.—*The Hindu of India.*

—There are 10,000 licensed opium shops in the British territories in India. The opium habit is increasing rapidly.

—Rev. E. P. Thwing, Ph. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., has recently traveled 4,500 miles in India. He says that 8,000 entries are yearly made in the official catalogue of vernacular and English works, issued mainly by Hindus, and on religion more than on any theme. "But Buddhist theosophy will never tear Christianity in tatters." Dr. Thwing has been absent from home six months, and has traveled 20,000 miles. After the Shanghai Conference, in May, he expects to remain till July in Japan. Mrs. Thwing is on her third missionary tour among the heathen villages, 120 miles southwest of Canton.

—As India is engrossing at the present time so much of the attention of the Church, some figures relating to its people and their religion may be useful. In March, 1883, the population of British India, including the Protectorates and Feudatories, was reckoned by the Government at 269,000,000. It is calculated that there are about two millions of Christians in India, counting Roman Catholics, Protestants, and adherents of what are known as the Eastern Churches. To the Remish Church about a million adherents are assigned; to the Syrian, Armenian, and Greek Churches about 300,000; to the Church of England, 360,000; to the Presbyterian Churches, 20,000; and to other Protestant communions, 153,000. There are still 106,000,000 men and 111,000,000 women who can neither read nor write. The languages spoken are 109.

Japan.—The first Protestant missionary landed in 1854; the first baptism took place in 1865; the first church was organized in 1872. Now there are 28 missionary societies at work, with a force of 443, male and female foreign missionaries, 142 native ordained missionaries, 257 native helpers, 8 colporteurs and 70 Bible women. There are 396 stations and out stations, 92 of the churches are self-supporting, and 157 partly so, with a total membership of 25,514, whose gifts, for all purposes, in 1883, amounted to \$48,340.93. The Sunday schools number 295, with 16,634 scholars in attendance. There are 14 theological schools, with 237 students, and 9,698 have been gathered into the missionary day

schools. The translation of the New Testament was not completed until 1880, and the whole Bible at the beginning of 1888. A few months later one society had distributed over 100,000 copies of the complete Bible, and, previously, more than twice that number of the various parts. No less than 575 daily and weekly newspapers, and 111 scientific periodicals are printed in Japan. There is also a good system of postal and telegraph service, with extensive lines of railway in course of construction. They manufacture their own locomotives and steamships, while last year's imports with the United States from Japan amounted to \$16,000,000 in value.

Madagascar.—The Chronicle of the Ladies Missionary Society contains an interesting account of the opening of a new church in Antranobiriky, Madagascar, on Christmas Day. One of the principal pastors from Antananarivo came with letters from the Queen and Prime Minister—the former containing 10l. Services were continued with great success for several days.

Scotland.—The Free Church of Scotland have received the following interesting items of news from their missions on Lake Nyassa. Dr. Laws reports the baptism of 32 converts at Bandawé. Dr. Elmslie records the application of the two first wild 'Ngoni for baptism. (2) Her Majesty's Consul, Mr. Johnston, F. L. S., having hoisted the British flag at the north end of the Lake—the missionaries, after 13 years' heroic exposure to danger, are now under some form of British protection against the Portuguese and Arabs. (3) The Rev. A. C. Murray, with Mr. Vlok, evangelist, has founded the first station of "the Dutch section of the Livingstonia Mission" at Caeweré's, fifty miles west of Lake Nyassa. This will constitute their central 'Ngoni Mission, as Dr. Elmslie's is North 'Ngoni, and Dr. Henry's is South 'Ngoni. (4) Dr. Henry sends an account of wonderful medical missionary work among South 'Ngoni of Chikusé's country.

Sweden.—A new Mission.—The Church Missionary Intelligencer reports that a Swedish expedition has been organized to proceed to Victoria Nyanza, with the intention of forming stations between that lake and Lake Tanganyika, for the purpose of co-operating in the suppression of the slave trade. One hundred Swedish artisans have entered into arrangements extending over three years. The leader, Mr. Sachrisen, has had experience in Africa, both on the Congo and on the Zambesi. Fifteen hundred native carriers are to be employed. Of the £250,000 necessary, £30,000 have already been subscribed for this enterprise.

—Swedish Missionaries, numbering about twelve, who were originally connected with the Livingstonia Inland Mission on the Congo, but who, at the time that mission was first