

mut Universalist Church, Boston, has resigned, and goes out under the auspices of the Universalist General Convention. He takes a corps of workers with him, and expects to stay at least five years "to start with," he says. He will make his headquarters at Tokio, and \$20,000 has been raised to back him up. The Episcopalians also have chosen one of their ministers, the Rev. Edward Abbott, brother of Dr. Lyman Abbott, to head their column of workers in Japan. The Sunrise Kingdom as a mission field is taking on new importance in the thought of Boston.

—Nine new missionaries have been appointed to Japan the present year by the American Baptist Missionary Union—an addition of thirty-three per cent. to its working force in that country.

—One-half of the population of Japan is in the southern part, but most of the missionary work has been done in the northern-central portions.

—Lieut. Murdock, of the U. S. Navy, says that the Japanese are so eager to learn that while they care only for secular knowledge, they will take religious instruction with it. This is the great opportunity for missionary work in Japan. The country must soon become Christian; but the Japanese are so independent, they will modify the Christianity of the West to suit Japanese ideas. He thinks they will dispense with our denominational distinctions.

—Translations of the Book of Jonah and Matthew's Gospel in Ainu, by the Rev. J. Batchelor, the Society's missionary to the Ainu, in the northern island of Yezo, in Japan, have been printed at Tokio for the British and Foreign Bible Society.

—The death of Dr. Joseph Nishima, the founder and head of the *doshisha*, or college of the American Board at Kyoto, is greatly to be lamented. He had visited America several times. Born in Yeddo in 1844, he fled to this country at 20, and was educated at Amherst and Andover by Mr. Alpheus Hardy, of Boston, and was ordained to the ministry in 1874. At the meeting of the American Board the same year he made a powerful plea for Japan, which led to the founding of the *doshisha* at Kyoto. By means of this college or training school for young men, his influence on the religious life of Japan was very widely felt. This was the institution in which so powerful a work of grace under Secretary Wishard's labors about a year ago was recorded, resulting in the conversion of about 100 of the young men connected with it. Who will take his place?

**Jews.**—Judaism breaking up. The *Jewish Quarterly Review* says that religion among the Jews is a dead thing. In Austria the Jewish teachers have openly broken with Judaism; in Australia Judaism is an anemic invalid; in America, even more than in Germany, the

boldest, the most liberal, the purest, doctrines of natural religion are preached by salaried Jewish ministers. Both Biblical and Rabbinical Judaism seem to have had their day. The cloak that could not be torn off by the tempest of Christianity and persecution bids fair to be thrown off under the sunshine of rationalism and tolerance.

—Missionaries among the Jews in all the countries of Continental Europe report an increasing interest in Christianity among that people. They are affected by the movement inaugurated by Mr. Rabinowitz, of Kixheneff, Russia.

—It is announced from Constantinople that the Sultan has sanctioned the erection, at Bethlehem, of a chapel for Protestant pilgrims. It is said that this decision is most gratifying to the German Empress, who has had the scheme particularly at heart.

—All the best sites along the hill country of Judea, between Jerusalem westward and the sea, have been bought by Russia, and covered with splendid Greek temples. The great pilgrimages of the day are from Russia to Palestine. Every year about 30,000 or 40,000 Russian pilgrims visit the Holy Land.

**Madagascar.**—The new hospital in Antananario is built by the Friends Foreign Missionary Society, and not by the L. M. S., as we stated in our September issue. The latter society, however, aids in the work.—J. M. S.

**Norway.**—Missionary Skresfrud's annual report of the Norwegian Lutheran Mission in Santalistan, states that during the past year 415 heathens and 82 children of Christian parents received the sacrament of baptism. The membership is 5,272, and the number of stations, 14; these are supplied by Norwegian missionaries and native teachers and catechists.

**Palestine.**—*The Guardian* of November 20 gives the following facts, as stated by Dr. Blyth, Bishop of the Anglican Church in Jerusalem, in an address at the Church of St. Margaret, Lothbury: In 1841, when the bishopric was founded, there were 8,000 Jews in all Palestine. In 1883 there were 20,000, but so great has been the increase of late that in 1883 the number came up to 70,000, about the number that came up from Babylon. The Bishop further stated that while the feeling of these Palestinian Jews towards Christians was losing its bitterness, and an agricultural aptitude developing, the fertilizing rains, known in Scripture as the "latter rains," had been granted for the last two years, although they had been withheld from, perhaps, the time of the exile.

**Portugal.**—Mr Herbert Casals, of Oporto, in order to encourage the circulation of the Holy Scriptures in the country, is publishing an illustrated edition of the Bible in Portuguese. The work contains the common translation of the Vulgate, with the text of