

Mr. Robson, writing from Damascus, represents the country as still in a very unsettled state, and such as to create serious apprehensions in regard to the future peace of Syria. The Moslems are represented as ready for new outrages if an opportunity occurred. At Damascus there is good demand for Scriptures. The Sabbath attendance is about 25, and about 45 boys attend school. Mr. Ferrette continues to labour at Beyrout, not without encouragement. He has an average attendance of 30 on the Sabbath.

Mr. Robson had an interview with the Prince of Wales and his suite at Damascus, to whom he had an opportunity of giving correct information in regard to the massacre.

MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

From intelligence in the July number of the *Home and Foreign Record* of the church in the Lower Provinces, we learn that the trials of the New Hebrides mission have been crowned by the entire breaking up of the mission of Tana. After a succession of fierce and murderous attacks from the natives, continued during several days, in the course of which the church was burned, Mr. Paton and his friends escaped to a vessel, which very providentially appeared, and reached Anciteum in safety, where the members of the mission received them with kindness and sympathy. All Mr. Paton's personal property, and nearly all the mission property, to the value of about £600, has been stolen or destroyed. This does not include the mission houses. Mr. Paton concludes by saying to the church, "Do not lose heart. Satan's apparent triumph may be only of short duration. True, to some Tana may appear to be now what it was 20 years ago; but I believe there is an amount of religious knowledge communicated and believed even now in Tana, that all the powers of darkness will not be able to withdraw; and even now in Anciteum Mr. Matheson has 12 of his Tannese living with him and daily under his instruction. Let us then examine and learn from the past, diligently improve the present, and hope for victory at no distant day. Thy will be done." After Mr. Paton's escape one white man at Tana was killed and another wounded. Mr. Paton is about to visit the Colonial churches for the purpose of seeking to stir up the missionary zeal and interest of the churches, and to urge the Sabbath Schools to assist to procure a vessel of about 70 tons, so as to be able to carry on and extend the mission work among the islands near Anciteum.

ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The July number of the *Messenger* contains several letters from the missionaries in China. Their general complaint is for the fewness of missionaries. Many important places are without a single missionary. The missionaries represent that Rome is making the most strenuous effort to take advantage of every opening. At Pekin no Protestant missionary is allowed to reside, or even to visit, while Popish priests in large numbers are at work, and a Popish cathedral rears its head in that metropolis. The missionaries urge that the representative of Britain should look better after the carrying out of the treaty, which secures to all equal religious privileges, and that the various religious societies should not quietly allow Pekin to be monopolized by Romish priests.

MISSIONARY ITEMS.

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—This Society has this year 170 missionaries, viz: in Polynesia 25; West Indies 22; South Africa 37; China 19; India 61; Madagascar 6. The native agents employed are about 800. The total receipts for the past year were £79,576 5s. 2d.

CIRCULATION OF THE SCRIPTURES IN ITALY.—During the last three years 80,000 copies of the Scriptures have been sold by 50 Colporteurs in Italy.