

tudes of people from the surrounding country were celebrating the Feast of the Ascension. The earth opened suddenly and engulfed a large part of the city, shattering and destroying the remainder. The amount of suffering occasioned by this single disaster is incalculable, but it is known that more than 250,000 lives were lost.

### South America.

The Moravian missionaries are the only foreigners who ever venture into the Bush Country of Surinam, South America, whose magnificent tropical forest scenery is in strong contrast with the complete moral desolation and deep feeling of wretchedness of the people. Nor do these missionaries venture to reside there permanently, on account of the deadly climate of the country. However, regular visits by them are made from Charlottenburg to stations on the Cottica and Commeyne rivers, and from Bergendal to the Upper Surinam and its tributaries. Accounts of these journeys among the several settlements of converts, each with its little church of palm-thatched roof and walls, its school and native teacher, often abound with results and incidents of deep and touching interests. At Maripastoon, on the Saramacca River, there is a comparatively large congregation, whose pastor penetrates far out into the forest region and along the water-courses in his visits to smaller villages. Among the Aukas the missionaries not only do not meet with opposition, but receive a warm welcome. These Christian Bush Negroes, surrounded as they are by the grossest heathenism, are the objects of special solicitude by the missionaries; also from the fact that among them mysterious "winti" possessions occur, which, in their fearful character, resemble the afflictions of the demoniacs described in the New Testament. Yet, singularly, the Cross has won its greatest triumphs in the midst of those who cling to the worst forms of heathenism. The chief difficulty now to be encountered in Bushland is a cultivation of regards for and attachment to Christian family life. To this end efforts are specially directed.

### Christian Literature in Arabic.

The Arabic language is the spoken tongue of 60,000,000, and the Sacred language of 120,000,000 of Moslems. What have Christian Missionaries done in utilizing this only vehicle for communicating religious truth to so many millions of our race.

1st. They have translated the entire Bible, and it is now issued in many editions, either complete or in parts. An edition of the Gospels in raised Arabic characters is also issued for the blind.

2d. They have prepared and published some sixty works both religious and educational in this character.

3d. They edit and publish a weekly religious journal, which has a large and constantly increasing subscription roll throughout Syria and Egypt.

Among the religious works already issued from the Syrian Mission press in Beirut, are the following: Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Edward's History of Redemption, Nevins on Popery, Bird's Letters on Romanism, Alexander's Evidences of Christianity, Guide to Scripture Study (648 pp.) Office and Work of the Holy Spirit, Hymn Book (200 pp.) Book of Social and Family Prayer, Imitation of Christ, Religious Story Book for Children, (Illustrated,) Bogatzky's Golden Treasury, Newman Hall's Tracts, Catechisms large and small, and with proofs, several Scripture question books, and many pamphlets, sermons, tracts, &c. There are now in manuscript, ready for the press, A Complete Concordance of the Bible, Mosheim's Church History, Harmony of the Gospels, Notes by Rev. Mr. Calhoun.

Two native converts of the Syrian Mission, Drs. Meshakah and Wortabet have also written able works, which have been published.

In course of preparation is a dictionary of the Bible, also a work on Systematic Theology, and Commentaries on the Pentateuch and Gospels.

Among the educational works issued at the Mission press, though not always at Mission expense, are Geometry and Trigonometry, Algebra, Arithmetics, Geographies, Grammars, and Reading Books of higher and lower grade, a work on Logic, another on Rhetoric, also one on Natural History. Some medical works on Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene, a Chemistry, a Botany, and an Atlas of the World. In manuscript are a Natural Philosophy, an Astronomy, and a work on Moral Science.

A learned native convert, Mr. Bistany, is the author of a magnificent Dictionary of the Arabic Language in 2 vols. 1200 pp, he is also editor of a semi-weekly newspaper, and a semi-monthly magazine, devoted to science, literature, politics and general information. Both are published at Beirut, and circulate largely throughout the Orient.

A missionary named Pagell, station Poo, Thibet, writes that the lama (priest) Gjalzan, whom mention has been made in his reports, has now openly professed his desire to become a Christian. He has for many years been vainly seeking peace for his soul; this he now hopes to find in Christ. The missionary commenced to give him instructions preparatory to baptism. He is a man of much learning and belongs to one of the