

without disintegration. Not a few sagacious observers say that, like a compulsory celibacy, which is a cover to a promiscuous concubinage, this renunciation of polygamous *marriages* means a secret and systematic concubinage without the seal of decent forms. We hope that this surrender to the law may be a genuine step in the right direction, and we hope so the more because we are satisfied that Mormonism will not long survive if this, the head and front of its offending, be cut off.

All eyes are now turned toward the Jews. Russia seems fast fulfilling the prophecies which are believed to outline her future, in a malicious and unjustifiable persecution of the Israelite. The edict of 1882 she is now enforcing mercilessly, and the result will be the expulsion from her territory of a million or more of this proscribed people. They seem to have no rights which a Russian is bound to respect: to be limited to certain Jew's quarters; and to be denied the privilege of owning or hiring land except under outrageous restrictions. Meanwhile Bishop Blythe calls attention to the literal fulfillment of prophecies which indicate their ultimate regathering in their own land. Whereas in 1843 there were but 800 Jews in Palestine, now, 47 years later, the number is multiplied nearly *tenfold*, and is constantly increasing; and they have come to stay and are building extensively in the vicinity of Jerusalem.—Ed.

#### Replies to Correspondents.

The editor is constantly receiving letters of the following, or similar import and purport, and as he has to handle many thousand letters a year, individual answers are impossible. We therefore reply to such correspondents in one general communication. The letters to which we refer propound such inquiries as these:

1. Having given myself to the Lord as a foreign missionary, I wish to know how to go, and where?
2. In volunteering, does a person place himself under a mission Board?
3. Do the Boards pay expenses?

4. Can one choose his field, or must he go as the Boards direct?

5. Must one wait till the Boards of the church are ready to send him out?

6. What steps must one take who desires to go?

7. What preparation is necessary, or is there any special preparation needful, any prescribed course of study, etc.? Is a theological course a necessity?

8. Could a graduate from a high school, who has a thorough training in the higher mathematics, calculus, mechanics, architecture, besides a general knowledge of the sciences, find a useful field abroad?

9. Is there a demand for teachers, and if so, what kind?

10. Does the Y. M. C. A., in foreign lands, open a sphere for such as feel specially interested in, and qualified for, work among young men?

11. Where is there a field to begin work, and that has the following characteristics: 1, unoccupied by any other missionaries; 2, a language that one who is a little tongue-tied could master; 3, where missionaries have a *legal* permit to enter?

12. What books would you suggest to read?

13. What part of India would you advise as a field? What fields could you recommend especially as promising and inviting?

14. Would the expenses of husband and wife be less than those of two single persons separately? Should one go married or single?

These inquiries will give some idea of the catechising process to which we are subjected. We have numbered the questions, and the answers will be found under corresponding numbers.

1. The first matter to be settled with any man or woman is this: Am I cordially willing to put myself absolutely at the disposal of the Lord? The more our own will is merged and lost in His will, the more usable we are. God does not allow an instrument long to be idle, which is thoroughly prepared for His uses. And He has ways of His own of indicating both the field of labor and the path by which it is to be reached. Were there a truer self-surrender and less self-reserve; were there more believing prayer, and less dependence on man, God's workmen would sooner get at work where He would have them, and be more successful in their spheres. This primary dependence on God's providential and spiritual guidance being assumed, we may take counsel of any one who is presumably able to advise.

2. Mission Boards are merely the representatives of the various denominations in carrying forward their missionary schemes. If a volunteer wishes to go out to a field in connection with any particular denomination he places himself at the disposal of the particular Board of that denomination. There are some