

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

China.—Thirty-five years ago, not a single Protestant Missionary was living within the bounds of the Chinese Empire. Since then nine provinces have been occupied, and at the 12 treaty ports by forty missionaries, and the other nine provinces have been traversed by missionaries, while of forty thousand nominal Chinese christians, thirteen thousand are communicants. During the past year the Gospel was preached in one thousand towns and cities where it was not previously heard.

Madagascar.—It has been declared that “the number of converts in Madagascar during the past thirty-five years, probably exceeds the number of converts in the Roman Empire for the first three centuries of the christian era.” The Queen of the island is a professing christian, a warm friend to Education and Temperance, and affords every facility for the prosecution of missionary operations amongst her subjects.

Syria.—Syria still continues to be a promising field of missionary operations. The missionaries of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in that land of Bible wonders are prosecuting their work with zeal and encouraging success. New fields of labour are opening before them year by year. In a recent letter Dr. Metheny writes that there are eight villages crying out for the establishment of schools, and offering to provide school houses and accommodation for the teachers. The “handful of corn” is being sown on the mountain tops; “the fruit thereof shall yet shake like Lebanon.”

Aneityum, New Hebrides.—When the Rev. William Geddie, from Nova Scotia, entered upon Aneityum, he was designated by some traders “the fool missionary” for proposing to live and labour amongst the most brutish of all the dwellers in the New Hebrides. In the spirit of the Master who came to seek and save the lost, Wm. Geddie remained and laboured for thirty years, and when he passed away to his glorious reward, those whom he had been instrumental in turning from idols to the service of the living God, wrote this epitaph:—“When he came here there were no christians; when he went away there were no heathen.” The translation of the whole Bible in the language of the people has recently been completed, and three thousand seven hundred pounds of arrow root was not long ago sent to England to pay for the printing by the “British and Foreign Bible Society.”

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The English and American Bible Revision Committees are said to have decided to print the Revised Bible in paragraphs, according to the sense, rather than in chapters and verses, and the poetic parts in poetic measure.

The Pan-Presbyterian Council is officially announced to meet in Philadelphia on Thursday, September 23rd, and will close with a devotional meeting on the evening of Sabbath, October 3rd. Preparations for the great gathering are already far advanced