

imparted, it can only be given after school hours by a duly accredited minister or priest. Can such a state of things continue? Can anything show more clearly the sadly benighted condition of this great country. Only the Gospel can save it from its moral degradation. Oh, that the day of a great second reformation were at hand!—C.H.

EGYPT.—The Presbyterian Church has reason for special interest in the late war, and for special gratitude that success has crowned the efforts of our gallant troops. The Presbytery of Egypt was virtually extinguished by the cruel and murderous efforts of Arabi's partizans who hated Christianity, and eagerly availed themselves of recent lawlessness to kill or to drive into exile all the Presbyterian missionaries, teachers and flocks. But now the old standard-bearers are flocking back to their old posts, and they hope to resume work with greater alacrity and ampler success than ever. It well becomes us to remember in our prayers the Presbyterians of Egypt. It is noted that though the missionaries with their families had to flee for their lives, the property of the Mission suffered but little harm.

A. B. C. F. M.—Our readers will understand that these letters stand for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the oldest and the largest missionary organization in the United States. The *seventy-third* annual meeting of this Board has just been held in the city of Portland, Maine, with the usual manifestations of enthusiastic interest. There was no hall or church in Portland nearly large enough to hold the crowds who came from all parts of the country to listen to the reports and addresses of the office bearers, missionaries, and friends of the Association. But none were allowed to go empty away, "overflow meetings" being conducted in several of the churches simultaneously with the exercises in the City Hall. It is a good thing to hear that the missionary spirit still lives in New England and that having begun a good work in years gone by, they are fully determined to carry it on.

The progress and work of the Board since its organization may be briefly stated thus: Organized in 1810, its receipts the first year were not quite a thousand dollars, now they are more than half a million a year, indicating what may be considered a permanent investment in the churches of eight or ten millions. In 1812, it sent out its first missionaries. Newell, Judson, Hall, Nott and Rice—it now reports present number of missions, 20; stations, 84; out stations, 708; ordained missionaries, 164; assistants, 260; physicians 10; total from this country, 456. Native churches, 291; native pastors, 148; native helpers 1,576; native church members, 19,755.

Scholars in all Schools 36,865. Its missionaries have reduced twenty-six different languages to writing and prepared grammars and dictionaries, not only of value to them, but to students of comparative philology. Their contributions to geography, archaeology and ethnology would fill many volumes. In nearly all the fields occupied, they have been obliged to prepare text books, for use in the schools, and in all of them have either originated or contributed largely to the production of Christian literature. The translation of the Scriptures into the vernacular language of the people, has been their first work, followed by the introduction of Christian works, original or translated. The educational work of the Board has embraced primary schools, boarding schools for both sexes, the normal school, the college, and the theological seminary. It has organized three hundred and twenty-five churches, with more than 76,000 members, and has printed from mission presses, in forty-six different languages, more than 1,500,000,000 pages of 2,400 different publications. Its fields of labour are in Africa, India, Ceylon, China, Japan, Turkey, Micronesia, Hawaii, Spain, Austria, and Mexico, and amongst the Indian tribes of N. America. The total receipts of the Board for the year were \$651,483.84—including \$189,705.63—appropriation from the Otis bequest. The meetings were continued during four days, from early forenoon till late in the evening, without any abatement of interest on the part of the six thousand persons who attended them. Meetings of the Woman's Board of Missions for the East were held at the same time, when reports were read and addresses of a very interesting kind were delivered by the ladies. That society has now under its care 21 branches, comprising some 800 auxiliaries and from 500 to 600 circles among the children. In the foreign field it has 92 missionaries, 76 Bible women, 21 boarding schools and 114 village and day schools. Its total receipts for last year were \$71,230.52.

Home Missions.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

Western Section.

THE half yearly meeting was held in Toronto on the 10th, 11th and 12th of October. Claims for mission work in Ontario and Quebec were passed to the amount of \$10,000, and in Manitoba for \$6,000, for the past six months. The reports from the fields are on the whole encouraging, considerable progress having been made during the past year. On every side the work is opening up, and urgent demands are being made for ordained