

age, as much as in us lies, all the regular establishments which are in harmony with the constitution of our churches. We are far from thinking that this constitution is now what it ought to be; but ameliorations should be made with order and wisdom. As we desire with all our heart, those true ameliorations which contribute, with the blessing of the Lord to the prosperity of the churches, to their revival, to their edification; so also we reject certain means of action, such as the consecration of men who have not studied regularly, the preaching of persons unauthorized by the usage of our churches, and all other things which would tend to lead to a sort of chaos in ecclesiastical organization and discipline.

"The reformed church of France, is in our view a church of God; it is God who has raised it from the bosom of darkness, who has sustained it in times of difficulty; who has given it the glory to number many faithful martyrs. It is not in vain that the Divine grace has caused it to subsist to our days. We have the intimate conviction that the God of goodness is reserving for it better times; that it will be again in his hands a blessed instrument for the salvation of souls."

In fine, the objects of the Society are clearly given out in the following paragraphs:

"A Christian society which proposes to labor for the revival of true piety, ought before all, to be interested in a lively manner, in the propagation of the Holy Word, and take an active part in this excellent work. But as their exist already other societies, formed for the special purpose of printing and distributing the sacred books, it is in the magazines of these societies that we shall procure those distributed by us; for we will second, as far as the Lord shall accord us means, the Christian societies which labor for the same end and in the same spirit. We desire not to assume their place. A commission formed from the midst of the counsel will be charged with all that concerns the Biblical department.

"Another commission will occupy themselves with religious publications, and point out to the Council the works judged suitable to be bought, or spread, or printed. It will decide by vote, questions whose nature may render this measure necessary. Amongst the religious tracts published by the Society, some will be historic, containing biography of the fathers of the church, and of Christians who have lived since the Reformation; others will present a little commentary on various books of the Bible; and others will be consecrated to the apologetic, to the exposition of the truths of the gospel and the rules of Christian life.

"Other commissions will be charged, 1st, with schools and establishments for Christian instruction, and the moral regeneration of childhood, youth, and mature age. 2d, propositions relative to the amelioration of the liturgy, sacred hymns, everything connected with the worship and ecclesiastical organization. 3d, with the holy work of evangelical missions amongst unchristian people and nations." &c.

Here is an abridged view of this Society, which holds in its Council of administration the names of the most commendable pastors, such as MM. Mailhard, Villaret, Jousse, Hugues, Pascard, etc. After having made known its existence and its views, I must defer the details of what it has already accomplished till another letter.

Yours,

PH. B.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

WE shall form a very imperfect and inadequate idea of the actual amount of success which, by the divine blessing, has attended the labours of faithful Missionaries in heathen lands, if we look only to the number of individuals who have actually been "turned from dumb idols, to serve the Living God." Success in this great enterprise is a relative term, and ought to be used relatively to the ultimate end we have in view. Whatever conduces to that end;—whatever, directly or indirectly, immediately or remotely, facilitates its attainment, is to be regarded as, to a corresponding extent, realizing our expectations and our hopes. Now, the present is pre-eminently, perhaps we should say *characteristically*, a period of preparation. Not only are the great moral, and we may add political problems which affect the individual and social happiness of men, in process of solution, but the materials of all kinds which are henceforth to be employed in advancing the best and highest interests of the human race, are continually accumulating. It is impossible, we think, for the enlightened Christian to reflect on the amazing progress that has been recently made in the acquisition of foreign languages,—the reduction of some of the most barbarous of these to a written form,—the translation, into every leading dialect, of the Holy Scriptures,—the raising up of men, just as they are needed, intellectually, morally, and physically qualified for the various departments of missionary service, and, above all, the rapid multiplication of native preachers in connexion with most of our Missionary stations, without perceiving and acknowledging that there is here a mighty apparatus in the use of which the church is yet to realize an amount of success, which the most sanguine philanthropist has scarcely ventured to imagine.

Look, for a moment, at the last particular in this brief and hurried enumeration. In the south seas,—in South Africa,—in the West Indies, the number of native preachers and teachers is daily multiplying, and their qualifications of every kind for the office of spiritual instructors, are continually augmenting and improving. Nor is this all. The spirit of missionary enterprise is spreading more and more extensively in all the quarters now referred to; and there appears to be no reasonable ground of doubt, that in the course of the next age, not