

THE Baptist Missionary Magazine reports that in a village about seventy miles of Hangchow, the Gospel has spread with great rapidity in the last four years; altogether 140 have been baptized. The work began through the visit of a scholar of that district to Hangchow, where he heard the Gospel and received it. On his return he found, to his surprise, his friends and relations ready to hear and accept. The work has advanced to the present stage entirely through native agencies, excepting the visits of a missionary to examine and baptize converts.

ONE of the most beautiful works of Christian charity of our day is the visit of missionary women to the Zenanas, or the apartments of the native women of India. Entirely secluded from all men but their husbands or near relations, and with no female doctors, their sufferings when sick are indescribable, and thousands are left to die without needed aid. An Indian princess recently said to a Zenana visitor, "Tell the Queen, whose slave I am, the Princess of Wales, and all the men and women of England, of our misery when we are ill?"

Two obstacles to the advancement of Christianity in India are thus stated by Lord Shaftesbury:—"The government system of education is spreading scepticism rapidly over the whole face of Hindostan. I am sorry to say that the government system of revenue is very much encouraging the liquor traffic, and within the last ten or fifteen years inebriety has made a progress in India that never was known before. The very progress we are making in bringing the natives of India to larger and more liberal notions brings with it concomitant dangers and difficulties."

PALESTINE is endeavoring to keep pace with the outside world. A new city is going up on the west side of Jerusalem outside of the gates. Along the turnpike to Jaffa runs a telegraph wire, and on the plain of Sharon stands the large Jewish Agricultural College surrounded by a model farm and thrifty nurseries. Bethlehem is also a thriving town nominally Christian, carrying on manufactures in mother of pearl. The Bethlehemites brought back from the Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia, about \$70,000 as the net profit of the sale of their beautiful wares. Though outward progress is to some extent observable yet, alas, Palestine is bound down by the cruel tyranny of the Sultan.

THERE have been 2,757 baptisms during the past year at Telugu, India, and in the space of six weeks the Rev. J. E. Clough (Baptist) visited fifty-two villages, baptizing 1,003 persons.

THERE are now seventy-two Protestant Churches with 4000 members in Japan. The congregation of Osaka has sent a native missionary to labor in Isa, a rich, populous, and idolatrous province.

ANCIENT Nazareth is now the site of an orphanage under the supervision of the Education Society of England. It has been opened four years, and there are in it now thirty-six girls, of ages varying from four to fifteen. Here, whether of Greek or Latin, Moslem or Jewish parentage, they are all taught to love the one true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. They have a beautiful home, built by the generosity of English travellers.

Presbytery of Halifax.

The Presbytery of Halifax held visitations on the evenings of the 6th and 7th Sept., in Upper Musquodoboit and Sheet Harbour.

At the former place four ministers and one elder with Rev. R. Whillans, B. A., of Nepeau, Ottawa Presbytery as corresponding member were present.

After an admirable sermon by Mr. Layton on the vision of the valley of dry bones, the visitation was proceeded with.

For more than two years, Upper Musquodoboit congregation has been vacant, and during that time not less than sixty deaths have occurred. Notwithstanding its long vacancy it is now in a hopeful condition though its spiritual machinery is not in active operation and the schemes of the church are much neglected. Family worship however is observed by a large proportion of the people, and the church is never closed on Sabbath though the preacher be not present. Payments for supply are also made regularly and all arrears due the late pastor have been swept off.

The burning question with the congregation at present is the site of a new church which they seem anxious to have settled before a moderation in a call is asked for. The building now occupied is fifty-four years old, and was erected about two years after the settlement of the Rev. John Sprott. A new building is required, but all are not in harmony as to where it shall be built.

The Presbytery urged as present duty the calling of a minister as appearances