

361 new catechumens, 211 new communicants, and 305 adults learned to read.

AFRICA—The Cape.—A deputation from French Protestant Missionary Society weeks ago waited on the Colonial Secretary (Lord Carnarvon), to represent to him the injuries they had sustained at the hands of the Dutch Boers, who had driven them from the scene of their labors among Basutos. Their spokesman, the Rev. E. Ellis, the first French missionary to South Africa, stated that

they had churches, chapels, parsonages, school-buildings at nearly all the stations. They had some 300 to 400 communicants, 100 schools attended by 300 scholars, and day-schools having as many as 600 pupils. Success in the civilisation of the natives had been most remarkable, and barley, oats, wheat, and various other European and British vegetables, and fruit-trees had been cultivated by them. All had, however, been put in jeopardy by the breaking-out of the war between Mosheesh and the Boers, which ended so disastrously to the former, and the Government of the Boers thinking that the best means of bringing about the termination of the war was to exile the missionaries. Accordingly, the President issued an order, and soon after the missionaries saw hundreds of armed men before their doors, ordered them to leave the State. They were accordingly taken to the frontier, and exiled—where they are now—in the town of Pekaia. As soon as peace was proclaimed, the missionaries thought they might return to the State, and for that purpose applied for permission to do so, but were refused. The Government of the Boers would not allow the missionaries to return, and the number of stations thus abolished was ten, the number of missionaries attached to them being twelve. However, after an interview with the Governor of the Cape, and some remonstrance by the French Consul at the Cape, it was announced that the Missionaries would be permitted to return to their stations, but only on condition that the stations should be considered the personal property of each Missionary, that each missionary should remain in the country as a colonist, and make no use of the land for preaching the Gospel; and that they should pay £100 for each station before they could consider themselves proprietors of it. His lordship would understand how possible it was for the Society to comply with these conditions—first, because the missionaries did not go to South Africa as merchants or agriculturists, for although they instructed the natives in the arts of civilisation, the only position they could occupy was that of Christian teachers; secondly, because the natives saw them accept the offer, they did not feel they were betrayed; and, thirdly, because some of the missionaries were already old and were unfit for the work of establishing new stations. He therefore hoped that

his lordship might be instrumental, in the hands of God, in obtaining them some relief.

Lord Carnarvon, in reply, expressed his deep regret at the sufferings of the missionaries, and his desire to do all in his power to obtain their safe and honourable restoration to the scene of their labours.

AMERICA—United States.—The Jewish community in the States is estimated to number about 300,000. The assembly of delegates which is their chief representative and executive body, is about to found, at Philadelphia, a college or normal school for their officiating ministers and professors. The State Government has authorized the proposed college to grant the usual degrees and diplomas.

TAHITI.—Melancholy accounts of the condition of the Protestant Churches in Tahiti come to us from France. These Churches, it will be remembered, are offshoots of the French Protestant Church, and owe their establishment to the once powerful influence of France in the Otaheitan group. In opposition to the Protestant missions, the Roman Catholics work with their wonted indefatigable energy, to win the islanders to the Roman faith. The result is a severe check to the success and progress of the Protestants. A conference of pastors, deacons, and teachers, was held in April last, at Papeete, at which 80 were present. Reports on the state of the Churches and schools were read. These were on the whole discouraging, as will be seen from the following extracts, which should stir up the faithful to pray for this struggling Church holding its ground at once against Heathenism and Romanism:—

At Papeete, since the last conference, ten offending members have been excluded from the communion of the Church; three have died; eleven have been admitted. Twelve children have been baptised; six marriages performed. The total number of Members, which at the last conference was 307, is now 305. 210 scholars were on the books when the schools were closed. Immorality and intemperance are the two evils of Papeete. Our church has suffered from them. Let us watch, pray, and be faithful. At Faa we have undergone a check. A priest has opened a school in this district. Forty-three Protestant scholars attend it; fifty two have remained faithful to our school. Three persons have become Catholics. At Punaavia, our faithful brother Terani maintains his ground, but is overburdened; Paea, not having yet chosen a pastor, Terani has the management of two churches. At Pappara the number of members has fallen from 300 to 100! A Catholic chapel has been built. The defection of forty members to Romanism has afflicted this Church. At Papeuriri there is some life, and five Catholics have been restored to the Church. At Tautira our ground is kept. Notwithstanding the presence of the priests,