

## MISSION FIELD.

When Mrs. Capron was about to leave home for the foreign field, her father, realizing the bitterness of the separation asked, "How came you ever to think of being a foreign missionary?" Her reply was, "Why, father, I have heard you pray for missions all my life, and now I am going to answer your prayers."

An appendix to the Congo grammar has just been completed. The article has been a great perplexity in this language, and some forty-three rules have been found necessary to define its uses.

The *Missionary Review* quotes from a missionary in India: "Hinduism no longer has a really sure hold on many, as it is easy to discover from repeated expressions of the people to us. I believe that in stillness God is preparing a transition of the masses into Christianity."

There is an extraordinary demand for Bibles in Uganda. It is said that ten thousand copies of the gospel were sold in a period of five months, besides many tracts explanatory of the Christian religion. The people generally are anxious to learn to read before they are baptized.

A miserly man, on being urged to give proportionately, replied that that was the way he was giving. He gave in proportion to the religion he had.

"What shall I do for Christ?" asked a young disciple of Bishop Selwyn. "Go where he is not, and take him with you," was the venerable bishop's reply.

The missionary spirit is nothing more than the Christian spirit turned in a definite direction; and therefore, to attempt to excite the missionary spirit without the deepening of the Christian disposition is all lost labor. I have the profoundest distrust of all attempts to work up Christian emotion or Christian conduct in any single direction, apart from the deepening and increase of that which is the foundation of all—a deeper and a closer communion with Jesus Christ.

Why are thousands of Christian women waiting idly at home, "dying for the want of something to do," when the appeals from the Mission Field are so urgent? Are they waiting for opportunities? India alone will furnish them. Or for a call? They may hear it in the cry which has been sounding in the church for centuries.—"Come over and help us."

It will be readily understood that our missionary brethren in Turkey are waiting with intense interest the report of the Commission appointed by the European Powers to investigate affairs in Eastern Turkey. The accounts that have been received indicate that, notwithstanding the immense difficulties standing in the way of thorough investigation,—especially the difficulty of securing testimony from those who give it at the peril of their lives,—witnesses have been before the Commission who have dared to tell the truth. It may fairly be expected that the results of the investigation, which it is now said will be concluded in the course of a few weeks, will bring to light facts which cannot be disputed, in view of which the European Powers will be constrained to take some decisive action. In the meantime it is refreshing to know that the United States government has despatched some of its war vessels to Turkish ports on the Mediterranean with reference to the protection of American citizens in that empire.

Rev. Mr. Loomis, the Agent of the American Bible Society in Japan, reports that in his visits among the soldiers in the hospitals he finds not only Japanese but Chinese. These Chinese come from widely different parts of the empire, and they are much impressed by the practical demonstration of the blessings which flow from Christianity. On asking a Chinese colonel at Hiroshima what he thought of Christianity, and if he understood the significance of the red cross that was on the sleeve of every patient, the colonel replied that he knew that it was the teachings of Christ that made people kind to their enemies. This Christian work for the soldiers will permeate every part of Japan and many parts of China. On February 24th, three more Japanese Chaplains started for the front, making five in all. Permission has not yet been received for foreigners to go as Chaplains, but the matter is under advisement. *Missionary Herald*.

## WHAT MORMONISM IS.

In 1821, over seventy-four years ago, there lived in Manchester, Ontario County, New York, a farmer-boy named Joseph Smith, then but sixteen years of age. This boy said that while he was alone in the woods praying, two figures came from Heaven and talked with him, telling him not to join any church, because they were all wrong in the things they taught. Two years later, so said Joseph, the vision came to him four times in twenty-four hours, telling him each time that there should be shown to him a book which was now hidden in the ground. This book was to be taken from the ground and translated by him, and he was to be the teacher of a purified religion.

Under a stone on a hill near Manchester, Joseph claimed that he found the golden plates upon which the book was written, and with them the two stones, the Urim and Thummim, which were keys by the use of which the plates were to be translated. For four years, however, they could not be removed, and during that time the angel instructed Joseph as to the things which he was to teach.

At last, on September 22nd, 1827, the plates were delivered to Joseph. He did not tell in what language they were written, but said that under the care of the angel he translated them, and then returned the plates to the heavenly visitor.

This supposed translation is what is known as the "Book of Mormon," and is the foundation of Mormonism. It claims to be a true history of the settlement of America by three colonies of emigrants; the first of which came here as early as the time of the confusion of tongues, after the building of the Tower of Babel; the second came about 600 B.C.; and the third nine years later, though the latter two colonies did not know of each other for about four hundred years.

Two parties, the Lamanites and the Nephites were formed and finally in 384 A.D. after a long war, the Nephites were all killed and the Lamanites—Indians—were left in possession of the country.

Before the destruction of the Nephites, who were supposed to be very great and very good, Mormon, a commander of their armies, gathered together the records of his people and copied them on the golden plates. These were finished by his son Moroni, who hid them in the hill Aumora, where, 1400 years later, Joseph Smith claimed to have found them.

By those who are not Mormons, it is now generally thought that Smith made up this book of Mormon from the manuscript of an old romance written by Solomon Spaulding and quotations from the Bible. As written by Smith the book taught very little that was evil, and much that was good, but all the good part was taken from the Bible.—*Over Sea and Land*.

The growth of mission work in Japan is marvellous. There are 226 male and 210 unmarried female missionaries; (including wives) a total of 625; there are 134 stations, 750 outstations, 364 organized churches, 3,422, adult baptized in 1894; total adult membership 39,240; theological students 353; native ministers 258; unordained preachers and helpers 536; contributions of native Christians (1894) about \$35,000.

A notable address has recently been made by the Bishop of London to his clergy on foreign missions. The points made were, first, that ministers were bound to instruct their people about missions, not as an outside matter, but as an integral element in religious life; second, that they first need to instruct themselves. Four special subjects of study were pointed out: (1) The New Testament, definitely and deliberately as a missionary handbook; (2) early post-apostolic missions; (3) missions of the Dark Ages; (4) modern missions. The first and fourth the bishop regarded as more essential. Observation leads us to believe that the bishop's point, that ministers first need to instruct *themselves*, is as true in this country as it is in Great Britain. It is often amazing to find the ignorance as to missionary operations in modern days on the part of those whose business it is to lead the Lord's forces for the conquest of the world. Some of these who ought to be leaders frequently speak quite boldly of their deep interest in foreign missions, while they know next to nothing about them.

Frequent allusion is made to the density of the population in China, and language is sometimes used that would imply that the land is so overrun with human beings that they are obliged to live in boats, on the rivers or bays. But as a matter of fact the density of the population in China is but little over that of France, and not half that of England and Wales. Not including the vast