

THE

Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

FEBRUARY, 1875.

WHAT OF THE NIGHT ?

Properly speaking we do not live now in the world's night time : the Sun of Righteousness has risen with healing in His beams. Still, alas, there is much gloom and darkness in the moral world. The conflict between good and evil, between light and darkness, between truth and error, is as far and wide. Let us view the field. Missionary tidings from heathen lands are of a large extent encouraging. New fields are being opened up in Asia and Africa, and a band of faithful workers in China and India is increasing. Native churches are becoming self-supporting and are sending forth native missionaries. In India it is recently noted that the number of European agents is actually stationary, if not decreasing. This is a discouraging symptom ; but now that attention has been pointedly directed to the fact in England and elsewhere we are to be hoped that a change for the better will soon appear. To counterbalance this symptom and cause of weakness, we have the prospect of extensive religious revivals in some districts, where thousands have been added to the Church of Christ. Nations and agencies are multiplied ; and the conversion of India will under God be effected by the agency. By every mail we receive news of important accessions to the Church of Christ. But, alas, what are these in a population of 240,000,000 ! The missions are increasingly successful in the brighter spot is presented in the Asiatic continent than the fields so far evangelized by Baptist missionaries. In going to Africa we read with delight

of an effort to establish a strong mission in the field explored by the illustrious Livingstone. The strong man of God died in the lonely wilderness, on his knees, praying for Africa. His prayer will surely be answered, and the establishment of a mission in that region is the first step. The intrepid explorer, Stanley, is now, if living, far in the interior attempting to complete the enterprize in which Dr. Livingstone fell. The Christian churches will surely be stirred up with fresh zeal to go in and possess that mysterious land.

Not long since a gallant British army invaded the kingdom of Ashantee and brought the rude monarch of that region to something like reason. We learn that a devoted band of missionaries are about to attempt again this perilous and deadly region. It is only right that the soldiers of the cross should be as brave and venturesome as the soldiers of the Queen.

Turkey is still oppressing Protestant converts. The acts of violence are chiefly committed without the knowledge of the Central Government, and at a distance from European influences. It is impossible that Christian nations should tolerate acts of gross persecution against the Christian population of Turkey. It is said that there is a general revival of Mahomedan zeal and fanaticism throughout all the lands that own the sway of the "Prophet," the persecution in Syria and Asia Minor being but symptoms of a wide-spread movement.

From Russia accounts reach us of persecutions to which converts from the national religion are subjected. In some cases these