

the authorities of the Free State are desirous to aid missionary societies in all possible ways so that a barrier may be made against the Arabs. Mr. Grenfell says that if the railroad between Stanley Pool and tidewater were only built, the Arabs would find their vocation gone. He affirms that a railroad could do much more than could an army. The work at Balolo station is most promising. People listen attentively, and express much surprise over the teachings of the Bible. For instance, they cannot see why God should object to their stealing one from another. But Mr. Grenfell says, that though they acknowledge that the Commandments are good, "they are not yet prepared to accept the awkward restrictions their adoption would entail."—*Missionary Herald*.

—The following list gives statistics of the various Protestant missions working on the Congo:

Baptist Missionary Society, established 1878: In the field, 21; on furlough, 7; studying medicine, 1; transferred to other missions, 3; in home work, 2; *left the mission, 4; dead, 25. Total, 65.

American Baptist Missionary Union, established 1878: In the field, 23; on furlough, 9; studying medicine, 1; in other foreign missions, 7; in home mission work, 8; *left the mission, 5; dead, 18. Total, 71.

Simson's (New York) Mission, established 1884: In the field, 3; *left the mission, 5; dead, 1. Total, 9.

Swedish Mission, established 1886: In the field, 10; on furlough, 3; dead, 3. Total, 16.

Bishop Taylor's Congo Mission, established 1886: In the field, 11, helping other missions, 2; *left the mission, 11; dead, 7. Total, 31.

The Congo Balolo Mission, consisting of 11 members, is not included in this list, as it has only recently been established.

V R Those going home by April mail are included above as "on furlough."—*Missionary notes from the Congo*.

England.—The British and Foreign Bible Society has, during the eighty-one years of its history, issued from its London Depository alone 29,000,000 complete copies of God's word, 32,000,000 Testaments, and nearly 12,000,000 portions of the Bible; a total of 73,000,000 or nearly 1,000,000 a year, or enough to furnish every twentieth inhabitant of the globe. Truly England's noblest cathedral is her great Bible Society.

Formosa.—A Rapid Conquest. Sometimes the conquest of Christianity in foreign fields is quite rapid. Dr. Mackay, the distinguished missionary on the island of Formosa, off the coast of China, writes: "Fourteen years ago I arrived here. All was dark around. Idolatry was rampant. The people were bitter towards any foreigner. There were no churches, no hospitals, no students, no friends. Year after year passed away rapidly; but of the persecutions, trials and woes, of the sleepless nights; of the traveling barefoot, drenched with wet; of the nights in

ox stables, damp huts, and filthy, small, dark rooms; of the days with students in wet grass, on the mountain-tops and by the sea-side, of the visits in a savage country, among the aborigines, you will never fully know. Fourteen years of toil have passed away. Yesterday 1,273 rejoiced in singing praises to the Lord God Almighty. To God alone be all the praise, honor and glory. There are now hospitals as well as churches, native clergymen as well as teachers, colleges as well as primary schools in Formosa, and the native Christians largely aid them."

Greece.—Mr. T. R. Sampson, an intelligent missionary at Salomica, admits that the call for laborers in Greece is not so urgent as in China or Japan, but says that there is now an opportunity in Macedonia, Epirus and Asia Minor such as never has existed before, and may not exist there long, should Russia or Austria come in. The work can be done only by Americans, for they are not mixed up with politics abroad, nor embarrassed by State establishments at home. The rest of the world is open to Christians of all nations alike, but in this part of Europe the circumstances particularly favor those who come from the western world.

India.—The Disintegration of Hinduism. Thus the work goes on, and has been going on for seventy years, now with a larger staff and now with a less, but with an ever increasing volume and with results which still in a great part await the future to declare them. This work among the lower classes is not so conspicuous in its results as that which is carried on among the higher. It is not pulling down the pinnacles of the Hindu temples, but it is disintegrating their foundations. At Sâr Nâth, near Benares, is a huge Buddhist tope of brickwork, through which antiquarian investigators have driven a single tunnel just at the ground level. The mighty mass stands all unshaken by that. But one by one the bricks are loosening where they are exposed, and by and by the whole structure will collapse. We are driving tunnels in all directions through the mass of Hinduism. The lower classes are being permeated by the dissolving element of Christian truth, and the mortar of ignorance and superstition is being picked out from the joints of the caste system. Even if the higher classes were untouched, the work in and around Calcutta could not fail to tell at last.—*Christian Missionary Intelligencer*.

—A new sect, called the Arya Somaj, is attracting considerable attention in North-western India. Its purpose is to oppose Christianity by restoring the worship taught in the ancient Vedas. An orphanage and school have been established in Bareilly by the sect, which is probably the first effort ever made by the natives of India to provide a home for the care of helpless and neglected

* Many of these are connected with Mission work at home.