

would be well for your missionaries, in so far as the banks of the Yang tze Kiang are concerned, to settle down where they can most usefully labour, and without incurring a heavy expense, until matters assume a more definite shape, and the balance of power on either side, points the way.

THE MISSIONARY WORK OF THE IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Missions of the Irish Presbyterian Church may be classed under the five following heads, viz., 1. Home Missions; 2. Missions to Roman Catholics; 3. Foreign Missions; 4. Jewish Missions; 5. Colonial and Continental Missions. From the last Reports of the various Mission Boards, as presented to the Assembly at its late meeting, we give the following brief view of their several operations.

1. THE HOME MISSION.—The main object of this mission is to foster mission stations, to give temporary aid to weak congregations, and to new congregations that have no assistance *ab extra*, and to enable ministers to visit distant outposts, and keep up occasional preaching in stations removed from the reach of the ordinary Sabbath ordinances. From the Report it appears that aid has been extended to upwards of forty congregations, while upwards of sixty outlying stations have been supplied with the means of grace at a comparatively small outlay, the ministers cheerfully giving their services, and the people welcoming their visits from time to time. Nearly one-half of the congregations aided are in the South, and from year to year not a few thus aided assume the position of self-sustaining congregations. This domestic mission, backed as it has been with church and manse building schemes, has done much for the cause of religion in Ireland.

2. MISSION TO THE ROMAN CATHOLICS.—In connexion with this department of the mission work there are at present 18 missionaries employed. The average attendance on these services each Sabbath is in the aggregate about 900, but as many of the missionaries have outlying stations, the total number of persons receiving spiritual instruction from these missionaries may be estimated at about 1800. About one-sixth of the whole may be regarded as having been delivered from the ignorance and superstition of P-pery. There are also day and Sabbath-schools, viz., 31 day-schools, with 1131 pupils, and 26 Sabbath-schools, with 600 pupils. One-half of the pupils attending the day-schools are the children of Roman Catholic parents. Colporteurs are employed distributing the Scriptures and religious tracts, and the missionaries visit the people and converse with them as they

have opportunity. Of late their access to the people has been easier than formerly. In Dublin there is a distinct mission. The attendance at the principal preaching station is about 100. There are day-schools with 200 children in the roll, about 80 of them being children of Roman Catholic parents. There are two Sabbath-schools, with an average of upwards of 100 in attendance. Other agencies are employed, such as the visits of Scripture-readers, visiting by members of the church, a mission library, tract distribution &c.

3. FOREIGN MISSIONS.—The Foreign Mission has been in operation for about 21 years, and has now reached a position of great importance and magnitude. The earliest occupied station is Rajkote, where there is a small native church. The Rev. Mr. Pestonji, a native minister, is employed here along with Rev. Mr. McKee. Gogo is supplied by Rev. Mr. Wallace, and Surat by Rev. Dr. Glasgow, and Rev. Mr. Montgomery. Here there is a large and important church, composed both of Europeans and natives. The schools are large, and the press is largely used. Borshd, a very strong and promising station, is occupied by Mr. Taylor, and several native assistants. The baptized at the several stations are about 200 in number. It is considered most desirable to occupy Ahmedabad. The mission in India has been eminently successful. The Bible has been translated and published, as also the Shorter Catechism. The Psalms of David have been published in a metrical version for the use of the people. Tracts have been written, printed and circulated, and schools have been maintained. At an early period of the mission, a Mussulman of high rank was converted, Abdur Rahman, and he has since proved eminently useful. The Mission Board earnestly appeals for increased countenance and support.

4. JEWISH MISSION.—The Jewish mission has been 19 years in operation. The stations occupied are three, viz., Hamburg, Bonn, and Damascus. At Hamburg the work has been going on prosperously under the care of Dr. Craig. There are each week 5 services in summer, and 4 in winter—all conducted in the German language. There is a Sabbath school with 41 teachers, and 449 scholars, with various societies and other agencies. During last year 2000 Bibles have been sold and 300,000 tracts distributed. Since the mission was begun 40,000 copies of the Scriptures have been distributed. During the last year 40 new communicants have been added to the church. Some of the fruits of this mission are preaching the gospel in other regions. At Bonn

the work is superintended by Dr. Graham. Mr. McNaughton, the present Moderator of the General Assembly, visited Bonn during the year, and reports on the whole favourably of the mission. Dr. Graham is doing a good work, but feels his relationship to the Lutheran church to be somewhat delicate, and hindering.

At Damascus the troubles during the past year, involving the sad and violent death of Mr. Graham, one of the missionaries, have led to the breaking up of the mission at Damascus. The two surviving missionaries, the Rev. S. Robson and Mr. Ferrette, after leaving Damascus took up their residence in Beyrout, where they have been eminently useful in ministering to the temporal and spiritual wants of the little colony of Protestants in Beyrout. Their services have been highly appreciated, and have been acknowledged by the British authorities. Notwithstanding the troubles in which the mission has been involved, several baptisms have taken place, and at Nebk twelve communicants sat down at the Lord's table. May these troubles soon cease, so that the mission may be resumed in peace and tranquility.

5. THE COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL MISSION.—In connexion with the colonial mission report, reference is made to the union in Canada now happily consummated. No ministers have been received from Ireland during the past year. But the Assembly has continued their grant of £100 per annum for home missions, and a liberal grant of £150 for the Buxton mission. During the year a minister, the Rev. Mr. Hall, has been sent to British Columbia, where he has now arrived and is diligently employed in preaching to the Presbyterians and others who wait on his ministry. Aid has been given to the church in New Zealand and Australia, to both of which colonies several ministers had been sent out in previous years. Numerous applications are made for preachers required in numerous localities—applications which receive from time to time due attention from the Board and from its respected Convener, the Rev. Mr. McClure of Londonderry.

The continental department of the work is more immediately under the care of Prof. Gibson, who takes a deep interest in this matter. In connection with this object very effectual aid has been given to the Belgian missionary church,—the central Society of Evangelization (of France,) the Evangelical Society of France,—the Union of Evangelical Churches and the Evangelical Society of Geneva, and the Waldensian Colony in South America. For these vari-