

December. Sir Culling Eardley laid before the committee a letter from the Rev. R. G. Brown, missionary to the Jews at Aleppo, concerning a remarkable movement among the Arabs under the influence of Mr. Skein, H. B. M.'s Consul at Aleppo; also a letter on the same subject from the Rev. Dr. Somerville, Secretary of the Board of Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, with which Mr. Brown is connected, which having been read, it was—

Resolved, That the subject of the missionary efforts among the Arabs referred to in these letters has the warm interest and sympathy of this committee; and that they cordially recommend the efforts now being made for these remarkable descendants of Ishmael to the prayers of God's people at home and abroad; and that the substance of these letters, together with this resolution be published in *Evangelical Christendom*."

GENERAL MISSION STATISTICS.

The impossibility of obtaining accurate and full statistics of existing foreign missionary operations is often quite perplexing, so defective are the reports of some of the societies.

But though full and exact statements as to what the Christian church is now doing for the pagan world can not be made, it is easy to ascertain that there has been, of late, great and most cheering progress.

Previous to the latest year of the last century, very little of organized, systematic and persistent effort for the conversion of pagan nations had been made, in modern times, by any branch of the Evangelical Christian Church, excepting the Moravians. Occasional and temporary efforts, some of them worthy of very high commendation, had been made.—by the church of Geneva in 1536; by Swedish Christians, in Lapland, near the close of the 16th century; by the Dutch, early in the 17th century; nobly, in the same century, by Elliot, the Mayhows and others in Massachusetts; by the king of Denmark, as early as 1705; and by Sargent, Edwards, and above all, Brainerd, in the United States, before the middle of the last century. The English Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, was chartered in 1701, but its operations have always had reference, mainly, to the religious interests of English colonies.

In 1732 the Moravians sent out their first missionaries. "The entire congregation did not then exceed 600 persons, and of these, the greater part were suffering exiles. Yet so noble and extensive were the exertions which they made, that within ten years their heralds had proclaimed salvation in Greenland, St. Croix, Surinam and Rio de Berbice; to the Indians of North America, and the negroes of South Carolina; in Lapland, Tartary and Algiers; in Guinea, at the Cape of Good Hope, and in Ceylon." But though having this example to remind of duty, and encourage, other branches of the Christian Church slumbered still, and scores of years passed away with so little movement, that when, about the year 1784, Carey proposed, as a topic for discussion in a Baptist ministers' meeting, "The duty of Christians to attempt the spread of the Gospel among heathen nations," it excited great surprise, and he was called an enthusiast by his brethren, for entertaining such a notion! At length, however, "the fulness of the time was come." In 1792,

the Baptists of England formed their Missionary Society, and soon, with Carey for a noble pioneer, entered on their foreign work. Gradually, but now with comparative rapidity, the conviction spread that the Christian church should, without more delay, attempt the evangelization of the heathen. Other branches of the church moved, other societies were organized,—the London Missionary Society in 1795; the Edinburgh and Glasgow Missionary Societies in 1796; the Netherlands Missionary Society in 1797; the Church Missionary Society in 1800; the Society for the Propagation of Christianity among the Jews in 1808; and the American Board in 1810. To the credit of the English Wesleyans it should be stated, that although their Missionary Society can not be named as among those earliest formed, they were a missionary body almost from their origin, and had been more or less engaged in foreign work for some years before the formation of the Baptist Society.

Since 1810, many other organizations, laboring for unevangelized portions of the human family, have come into being,—as many as 16 in Great Britain, 20 upon the Continent in Europe, 2 in British North America, and 15 in the United States. Nearly, if not quite, every branch of the evangelical Protestant Christian church, is now found to have entered on the foreign missionary work. Moravians, Episcopalians and Lutherans; Presbyterians—English, Scotch, Irish, Dutch, and Americans; Established Church, and Free Church; Old School, and New School; Baptist—Northern and Southern, Close-communication, Free-will, and Seventh-day; Congregationalists and Methodists, of all classes, have now their missionary boards.

NUMBER OF LABORERS.

The number of ordained laborers from Christian lands, now engaged in the foreign missionary enterprise of the Protestant Christian church, can not be perfectly ascertained; but exclusive of those laboring among Jews and Roman Catholics, and in some of the nominal Protestant countries of Europe, and classing all the "brethren" of the Moravian mission with the ordained, it is more than 1,500. With these are associated, probably, about 2,000 male and female helpers, also from Christian lands; and of native laborers, from among the people where the missions are situated, more than 100 ordained ministers, and some thousands of unordained preachers, catechists, teachers, &c.

Looking at different portions of the world, that we may see how these laborers are distributed, we find of ordained missionaries connected with different missions, though not at any time all on the ground, in Western Africa, about 116; Southern Africa, 165; Northern and Eastern Africa, 6. In Western Asia, European Turkey and Greece, 76. In Southern Asia,—India, Burmah, Ceylon and Siam, 478. In Borneo and the Indian Archipelago, 36. In China, 87, and Thibet, 3. Among the Islands of the Pacific Ocean, 142. Among the North American Indians, and in Labrador and Greenland, 171. In the West India Islands and on adjacent coasts of America, 236.

To give one preacher to every ten thousand souls, we need, not fifteen hundred, but ninety thousand missionaries. What

supply is this—two hundred and eighty missionaries for all the continent of Africa; four hundred and eighty for the two hundred millions of men in India, Burmah and Siam; and about eighty for the four hundred millions of China! Six preachers of the Gospel for the whole population of the United States, would supply us as well as China is now supplied!

INCOME OF MISSIONARY SOCIETIES.

Small as are, now, the contributions of most churches, and most individual Christians, for the great work; some encouragement may also be gathered, certainly, from contrasting the present with the past in this respect. When the American Board was formed, in 1810, the whole annual income of all the Protestant Foreign Missionary Societies then existing, probably did not amount to \$200,000.

Since that time, while the number of distinct organizations for the prosecution of this work has increased now to more than forty, their income has also largely increased. For the year 1859, the whole income of the English Church Missionary Society exceeded \$800,000; that of the London Missionary Society was about \$165,000, and that of the English Wesleyan Society, \$645,000. The English Baptist Society received \$130,000, the Foreign Mission Scheme of the Free Church of Scotland, \$89,000, and that of the Church of Scotland, \$40,000. Thus the united income of these six Societies, for the year ending in 1859, exceeded \$1,200,000. In the United States, the income of the American Board, for the same year, was about \$351,000; of the Presbyterian Board, \$212,000; of the Baptist Union, about \$102,000; and of the Episcopal Board, \$99,000. The receipts of the Methodist Missionary Society, for Home and Foreign Missions, were about \$185,000; the expenses connected with their Foreign Missions, not far from \$81,000.

There is another pleasant fact in this connection. While the number of contributors has been greatly increasing, some have been learning to give in much larger sums than formerly. A very considerable number now give, annually, by hundreds, and some by thousands of dollars, to this single cause. On making some inquiry, a few years since, it was found that more than one-twentieth part of all that the American Board had received in donations, the previous year, was given by sixty individuals. But a much larger number of individuals might be found, of fully as much ability as these possess, and who do what they do for the cause of missions through the same Board, whose united annual contributions would hardly support, in the foreign field, one preacher of the gospel.—*Ex. Paper*.

JAPAN.—Mr. Brown, of the Mission of the Dutch Church, writes, under a date of April 16th, from Kanagawa, that the missionaries were permitted to remain there, though the efforts of the government to get all the foreigners to Yokohama were not given up. He hoped they will not be disturbed for some time. All were waiting anxiously the termination of the political troubles.

Plenty and power are forfeited, when abused.

The wickedness of ministers, though it destroy themselves, yet shall not destroy the ministry.