

taught to Bible-women similarly situated. A new dispensary has been opened at Paruttipalli, and another one is being erected at Nagercoil. Toward the latter H. H. the Maharajah of Travancore has contributed Rs. 300. The evangelistic work of the mission has been encouragingly successful, 411 adults from heathenism having been baptized during the year. During that period 503 persons were admitted from the rank of adherents to that of church members.

Japan.—Progress. An interesting letter appears in *The Christian Advocate* from Abel Stevens, D.D., now in Japan. He groups together an extraordinary chapter of events, indicating the rapid approach of Japan toward Christian civilization.

The following is a summary of the remarkable changes that have taken place amongst the Japanese :

1. They have abolished their old dual sovereignty, and restored to power their ancient Mikado, the representative of a dynasty more than 2,000 years old.
2. They have thrown off the strongest system of feudalism that history records.
3. They have established a single national army, a navy, and a general police after the Western models. All these are clothed in European costume and drilled in European manner.
4. They have organized a remarkable system of national education, which Gen. Grant pronounced, when here, the best he had seen in his circuit of the globe. It was devised by an American. It comprises primary or common schools, normal and polytechnic academies, and an Imperial university on the model of the German university.
5. They have established a mail system, and have entered into the "Postal Union." After the example of England, their postal department includes the savings-bank system, and the deposits (mostly by the poorer classes) for last year amounted to \$12,500,000, nearly double the amount of the preceding year.
6. They have established a scientific medical faculty, with native physicians educated in Europe, and all the European improvements, in place of their old medical jugglery.
7. They had no knowledge of the public journal before the arrival of Perry; they now have the public press, including no less than 500 periodicals—dailies, weeklies, monthlies; political, literary, scientific.
8. They have introduced the steamboat, the telegraph, the telephone, etc., now made by native hands. Native companies navigate the rivers and neighboring seas with excellent steamers, quite satisfactory to foreign travelers.

9. They are to have in 1890 a constitutional government—the first native example of it in Asia.

10. They have separated Shintoism and Buddhism from the Government, and abolished their administrative Bureau of Religion. Universal toleration prevails. The ancient faiths are considered barbaric and incompatible with the new career of the empire. The Government acknowledges itself to be without a religion, and is considering what form of Western cultus it may best adopt.

11. They have legally recognized the Christian Sabbath, and it is observed as a day of rest by all Government offices, the public schools, banks, etc.

—**Japanese Views of Christianity.** Several eminent publicists of Japan are carrying on a very interesting discussion just now. The object is to determine whether or not it is advisable for the people of Japan to embrace the Christian religion. *The Japan Weekly Mail*, in a recent issue, summarizes this discussion. It states that those connected with the movement say that Christian dogmas are a bitter pill to swallow, but advise that it be swallowed promptly for the sake of the after effects. Mr. Fukuzawa, a well-known writer, urges this course, although he says he takes no personal interest whatever in religion, and knows nothing of the teaching of Christianity; but he sees that it is the creed of the most highly civilized nations. Professor Toyama, of the Imperial University, has published a work to support his view. He holds that Chinese ethics must be replaced by Christian ethics, and that the benefits to be derived from the introduction of Christianity are: (1) the improvement of music; (2) union of sentiment and feeling, leading to harmonious co-operation; and (3) the furnishing of a medium of intercourse between men and women. It is argued by others that the youth of Japan, being free from the thralldom of creeds, and free to act according to reason, are so far in advance of Europeans, and instead of talking about adopting a foreign religion, Japanese should go abroad and preach their religion of reason to foreign countries. Other writers urge the same views. The writer in the Yokohama newspaper says that those who urge the teaching of Christianity represent an influential section of educated Japanese opinion; they are signs of the times. "To Japan, in an emphatically agnostic mood, came Western science, with all its marvelous revelations and attractions. At the shrine of that science she is worshipping now."

Jews.—Dr. Dalman's statistics of the work and success in Jewish evangelization must surprise all who have not watched the course of events. There are no less than 47 Protestant missionary societies devoted exclusively to this arduous vocation. These employ 377 missionaries, laboring at 157 centers of Jewish population, and have an annual income of about