

has brought to us peace and protection, and we no longer require the spear."

Syria.—Mrs. Eddy, of the Presbyterian Syrian Mission, who has spent forty years in that field, describes very vividly the changes wrought in that time. She has kept house in Syria in twenty-seven different houses. Some think the missionaries have good times. So they do, if they can; but not such as they have in this country. When she reached Beirut there was no rich church building; but even then she could "sing the songs of Zion in a strange land." Now they have a large church edifice, a choir, a hymn-book—some of our tunes set to the hymns—a Sabbath-school room built as a memorial offering. There are five other churches. There is a large Beirut seminary. Houses and homes have been greatly improved. In times of sickness, instead of finding pictures of the Virgin, we see the Bible laid upon the pillow of the sick. Great changes are noted in the speech of the women. Cursing, formerly so common, has in a great measure passed away. There is a prayer in the home. Then hardly a woman could read; now many read in their homes. The women are learning to pray in their meetings, which are much blessed.

—The number of blind seen in the East is very distressing. There are blind schools at Beirut, Damascus, and Tyre. Blind Scripture readers have the *entrée* of Moslem homes, a privilege which blindness confers.

Thibet.—A Moravian missionary named Letzen, with his wife, certainly is to be written with those who love their fellow-men. For thirty years he has been preaching and working at a station in the Thibetan mountains, without the sight of a European face, and with the post-office fourteen days distant, separated from them by the high passes of the Himalayas and dangerous streams.

Y. M. C. A.—The Twelfth International Convention of Young Men's

Christian Associations opened in Amsterdam, August 12th. The total number of delegates was about 500, of whom 100 came from America and 100 from England. There were also large delegations from Holland, Germany, Switzerland, and France. Sweden, Italy, Russia, India, and many other countries were also represented. The officers elected were President, Count Von Hogendorp, of The Hague; Vice-Presidents, George A. Williams, of London, William E. Dodge, of New York, and Count A. Bernstorff, of Berlin. The annual report showed 4151 associations affiliating with the central committee, of which there were, in the United States, 1305; in Canada, 80; in Great Britain, 614; in Germany, 800; in Holland, 387; in Switzerland, 379; in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, 223; in France, 66; in Russia, 9; in Asia, 92; and in Africa, 13.

Samoa.—The Samoan group have a Christian population of 30,000. In the largest of the islands there are not fifty families that fail to observe family worship. Last year, besides supporting the Gospel at home, they sent a thank offering, as their custom is, of \$9000 to the parent Missionary Society of London to help to carry the good news farther on. When a church-member dies, they still keep his name on the books, and put a mark after it, denoting a word picture which means, "We cannot think of him as dead either to us or to the work. We shall give a contribution in his name, that the cause may not suffer by his removal hence."

General.—The Scarritt Bible Training School for Missionary Workers in Kansas City is a new institution projected by the late Dr. Scarritt, who bequeathed a tract of ground and \$25,000 in money, on condition that \$25,000 more be raised by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This sum has been promptly raised, and the corner-stone has been laid for the building. The design is to train young men and women for home and foreign mission work. It is expect-