

in the Andaman Christian Orphanage, to return them to their parents.

—Bible Distribution. The British and Foreign Bible Society's district secretaries from all parts of the country held their annual conference on Monday. There are in England 5,407 societies, auxiliaries, and branch associations. Besides raising funds for the society, these branch organizations distribute copies of the Scriptures in the localities in which they are situated. The society makes no profit by the sale of the Scriptures, as they either give or sell them at cost price. To give an idea of the extent of the work it may be mentioned that they send away to different parts of the world between 7,000 and 8,000 Bibles, Testaments, or portions of Scripture every working day, or five copies every minute. The society spends £70,000 annually for printing Bibles in this country, and a considerable sum in foreign countries.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

—Salvation Army. Marshall Booth, in reviewing his forces at Chicago, said that within twelve years 1,000,000 men and women have been rescued from the slums and transformed into self-supporting, sober, Christian citizens by its work. He is prepared to establish at once in London ten more Rescue Homes, for 300 girls (which will enable the Army, by the help of God, to rescue at least another thousand a year), and also to establish ten food and shelter depots, six for women and children only, and four for men, with a capacity for 1,000 beds per night for women, and 500 for men and 200,000 meals per week, or at the rate of 547,500 beds, and 10,400,000 meals per annum. He appeals for \$75,000 to meet the expense of fitting up and furnishing the said twenty buildings.

—The £10,000 debt of the Wesleyan Missionary Society has been cleared away at two strokes, first by a magnificent donation of £4,000 by Henry J. Atkinson, Esq., M. P., and the remaining £6,000 by a family collection on Christmas day last throughout the Methodist Church in England.

India.—Bishop Thoburn writes from Calcutta, Jan. 24, 1889:

The Bengal Conference met at Allahabad, Jan. 17, and adjourned Jan. 21. The statistics showed an increase of more than 10 per cent. in membership, and of more than 4,000 in Sunday-school attendance. One young man was admitted on trial, and two received into full connection. Three were ordained deacons, and one elder. The Conference has as yet only twenty-six preachers on its roll, but five others were read out as "Missionaries in Malaysia." I intend, if spared, to go down to Singapore and organize the Malaysia Mission in the course of the next two or three months. Bishop Fowler was at the Conference during the last two days, and added very greatly to the interest of the occasion. He preached on Sunday, and spoke at several of the public meetings with the same vigor and inclusiveness which distinguish him at home. Dr. M. V. B. Knox, of New Hampshire, was also

present, and was cordially greeted, and his presence highly prized.

—Twenty-three missionaries and members of missionary families reached Bombay, December 31st, by the *Arabia*. Seventeen of the number come to reinforce the missions of the M. E. Church in India, Burmah and Malaysia. The remaining six represent several different societies, including the Disciple or Christian Mission at Bilaspur, the North Berar Mission at Akola, the C. M. S. Mission South of Poona, and the Canadian Presbyterian Mission at Indore. Miss Dr. Baldwin and Miss Dr. Merrill go to Bilaspur to the Disciple Mission, Miss Sinclair and Miss Scott to Indore. Miss Bates casts in her lot with the Berar Mission at Akola.—*Bombay Guardian*.

—The British Government sells to the highest bidder the exclusive privilege of distilling and selling alcoholic liquors within a certain district. The holder of the license increases his sales regardless of consequences or of the remonstrances of the better portion of the native population, with the terrible result that that population (almost entirely total abstainers previous to British rule in India) is becoming demoralized and impoverished. From this influence even the native converts to Christianity do not escape. Statistics show that while there were in 1880 41 habitual and 163 occasional drunkards among 20,000 professed Christians, in 1883 the number of such drunkards among 30,000 Christians had increased to 250 habituals and 274 occasionals. The increase is said to have been still more rapid during the last five years, and to be yet larger in proportion among the non-Christian portions of the people. This must be a fearful counterweight to the influence of English foreign missionaries.—*N. Y. Evangelist*.

—We learn from the *Free Church of Scotland Monthly* that there is a great movement toward the gospel in the Santal Mission of the Free Church. The Santal Mission, like our Darjeeling Mission, is mainly, if indeed not exclusively, concerned with aboriginal peoples. Writing from Pachamba in November last, Rev. Andrew Campbell says: "Since I last wrote to you I have had the great privilege of baptizing 110 persons. We have still many applications, and are taking them up as we find opportunity. One special feature of the present movement is that the people come in families."—*Church of Scotland Record*.

—In one of his letters from India Mr. Cane, M. P., gives a sickening account of the opium dens at Lucknow. In one he counted on the floor down stairs alone "117 human swine of both sexes." There were more up stairs. He had seen the gin palaces of East-end London on Saturday nights, he had seen men in delirium tremens, but "never such horrible destruction of God's image in the face of man as in the 'Government' opium dens at Lucknow."

—The Buddhists, Brahmmins, Confucians and Mohammedans, number—700,000,000 souls, have had prohibition over a thousand years.