

as the royal city till David won Jerusalem from the Jebusites, when the seat of empire was transferred to that place.

We were up next morning at the first dawn, and visited the town. It is situated on the slope of the hills that bound the valley to the east, and is irregularly built. The most prominent object, as well as the most interesting, is the old mosque, which evidently occupies the site of an older building. A large portion of its walls is of ancient masonry, the stones being hewn and bevelled, and in all respects similar to those yet to be seen belonging to the Temple at Jerusalem. This mosque is very generally believed to be built over the cave of Machpelah, and Christians, Jews and Moslems agree in honouring it as the burial-place of the great patriarch. The six sepulchres of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and of Sarah, Rebekah and Leah are said to be distinguished from one another, and have even been described; but Mohammedan fanaticism rages more violently at Hebron than even at Jerusalem, so that since the crusades no Christian has been permitted to enter this great sanctuary of the faithful, and we have not that evidence which precludes all doubt. Somewhere here certainly must be the cave of Machpelah. Under the mosque is as likely as any other place, but at present at least we cannot speak with greater certainty. The two pools or reservoirs which now supply the inhabitants with water are evidently works of great antiquity, and the southern one is said to be that on which David hanged the murderers of Ishbosheth.\*

But one of the principal objects in Hebron or the neighbourhood is the tree called Abraham's Oak. It is a tree of enormous size and great age, and, throwing aside the many legends connected with it, we can recognize it as the last representative of the oaks of Maunre, which once probably covered this plain, and under the shade of which the patriarch was wont to pitch his tent. From Hebron we returned through the valley of Estcol, and sauntered over the same hills and valleys we crossed the day before, until we again reached the pools of Solomon, and then, taking the path to the right, we followed the line of the old aqueduct which skirts along the defile of Urtas, and entered Bethlehem from the south.

Bethlehem is only about 6 miles south of Jerusalem, and the road leads through an interesting and picturesque region. Immediately on the other side of Bethlehem is the well or cistern for whose water David lodged when in the cave of Adullam.† The wells of Palestine preserve their identity through the many centuries of its history, no doubt in a great measure owing to the rocky soil in which they are cut; and they are indeed the public cist-

erns to which all resort, and still the shepherds bring their flocks thither to water, and still the women come with their pitchers and sit on their margins and talk over the village gossip. We passed the geoly said to mark the tomb of Rachel, who was undoubtedly buried somewhere near here;‡ and then came to the convent of Mar-Elias, which stands on the brow of a hill from which we obtained a view of the holy city. The road then leads across the valley of Raphaim, and over the narrow ridge which separates it from the ravine of Hinnom, then by the pool of Gihon and up the opposite ascent, and enters the city by the Jaffa gate.

MISCELLANEOUS.

AUSTRALIA.

Religious Statistics of South Australia.

The following statistics of the "Religious of the people of South Australia" have been published in the Government Gazette—

	adults.	children.
Church of England.....	23,295	20,292
Roman Catholics.....	9,606	5,989
Wesleyan Methodists.....	7,629	6,693
German Lutherans.....	6,230	5,005
Independents or Congregationalists.....	3,339	2,029
Church of Scotland.....	2,766	2,055
Free Church of Scotland..	2,222	1,915
Bible Christians.....	2,135	2,081
Baptists.....	1,859	1,565
Primitive Methodists.....	1,841	1,831
Christians.....	886	772
United Presbyterians.....	877	697
Unitarians.....	304	189
Hebrews (Jews).....	210	150
Moravians.....	132	85
New Church (Swedenborg-Society of Friends.....	84	40
Other Denominations.....	339	234
Mohammedan and Hagan....	94	18
Religions not specified.....	868	722

Combined Total.....	117,967
Omissions and Travellers....	1,033

Total Population..... 119,000

MISSIONARY STATISTICS.

The Presbyterian Herald thus sums-up the extent of the work and the number of labourers employed in the Foreign Missionary field.

If we come to figures, we will find, computing the population of the Globe at 1,000,000,000, that of this number Paganism has 600,000,000; Mohamedism, 120,000,000; Judaism, 5,000,000; Christianity 275,000,000. But, upon looking more narrowly, we find that of the nominal Christians only 85,000,000 are Protestants, while the Romanists are 135,000,000, Armenians, Nestorians, &c., 5,000,000; Greek Church, 50,000,000.

If we proceed next to inquire what the 85,000,000 of Protestants are doing for the conversion of the rest of the World, the answer will be as follow:—

Total number of Ordained missionaries.	1,400
" Assistant.....	1,000
" Native Helpers.....	2,500
" Communicants in Missionary churches..	191,000
" Scholars in Missionary schools.....	182,000

† Gen. xxxv. 16-20.

If, in the next place, we inquire in what proportion this work has been performed by the several Protestant Churches, we will find that the various Congregational bodies in this country and Europe have sent out—Missionaries 366; the Episcopal churches—English 275, American, 19=294; Methodist churches—English Wesleyan, 107, American, North, 32, South, 20=189; Moravian Missionaries, 158; the various Presbyterian churches, over 400.

To the missionaries, as stated above, must be added the assistants and native helpers, whom we will not now enumerate, but will proceed to point out the mission-fields, and give the statistics of each as nearly as we can. The following are the principal places where missions have been established:—

American Indians, Miss. and Assistants	384
" " Communicants.....	2,868
" " Scholars in schools.....	2,477
Africa, Missionaries and Assistants....	435
" " Native Helpers.....	116
" " Communicants.....	24,389
" " Scholars.....	24,618
Asia—India, China, &c., Miss. and Asts.	911
" " Native Helpers.....	1,875
" " Communicants.....	27,203
" " Scholars.....	84,137
Islands of the Pacific Ocean and China Sea,	
Miss. and Assistants.....	201
" " Native Helpers.....	531
" " Communicants.....	42,518
" " Scholars.....	53,446
West Indies and Guiana, Miss. and Assist.	355
" " Native Helpers.....	236
" " Communicants.....	76,072
" " Scholars.....	16,868

In concluding this exhibit, it may interest our readers to know that of the whole number of Protestant missionaries in the World those sent out by the English-speaking countries are 1,006: German, 321; French, 15; and that of the English-speaking missionaries the United States send out 400.

POETRY.

[Selected for the Presbyterian.]

ATHANASIUS CONTRA MUNDUM.

By the late Dr. GEORGE WILSON.

O Athanasius!—thy too subtle creed  
Makes my heart tremble when I hear it read;  
And my flesh quivers when the priest proclaims  
God's doom on every unbeliever's head.

Yet I do honour thee for those brave words  
Against the heretic so boldly hurled,  
"Though no one else believe, I'll hold my faith,  
I, Athanasius, against the world."

It was not well to judge thy fellow-men,  
Thou wert a sinful mortal like us all;  
Vengeance is God's; none but Himself doth know  
On whom the terrors of His wrath will fall.

But it was well, believing as thou didst,  
Like standard-bearer with thy flag unfurled,  
To blazon on thy banners those brave words,  
"I, Athanasius, against the world."

Thy faith is mine, but that is not my theme;  
'Tis thine example I would preach to all;  
Whatever each believes and counts for true,  
Of things in heaven or earth, or great or small.

If he believe it, let him stand and say,  
Although in scorn a thousand lips are curled  
Though no one else believe, I'll hold my faith  
Like Athanasius, against the world!

\* 2 Sam. iv. 12.

† 1 Chron. xi. 17.