

Islands.

News from South America.

EVANGELIZING THE CANARIES.

THE Protestant General Mission of Funchal, Madeira, was commenced in the autumn of 1894, having for its object the evangelization of the one hundred and forty thousand inhabitants of the island. The work of the Rev. William Smart has been successfully carried on for twenty years among the sailors of the port, where about a thousand ships per annum call with their vast aggregate of people from every clime. The Sailor's Rest was established about twelve years ago, and is prettily situated, overlooking the Public Gardens in the centre of the town. Although serious opposition has been met with, a church organization has been formed and the work is taking hold upon the people. It has all been organized under the Protestant General Mission. The hall which accommodates 250 people, is often filled during the hour of service.

With this centre of operations, where the testimony for Christ is ever a banner unfurled, the work has branched out even thus early in its progress: and at Santa Cruz and Machico there are sub-stations, each in charge of Portuguese evangelists. The latter station is almost at the base of the high mountains which encircle the fertile valley, which contains about twenty thousand of the country people. This outpost has also suffered persecution, the house being stormed once at midnight, with no more serious damage than the breaking of all the windows. The evangelist and his noble wife were threatened and "boycotted," but held their ground and preached Christ to the people.

This young mission has been used and blessed of God in the ingathering of souls, but a large and unbroken field of labor lies just before it. The population is large, but, owing to the mountainous nature of the country, communication is difficult, and to establish a firm basis of aggressive work will require the opening of ten mission stations. What has thus far been accomplished has been carried forward by the freewill offerings of God's people.

No wonder a process of demonstration goes on in India through drink sent from England. There passed through Madina in one week, as shown from the posted daily returns in Liverpool, 900,000 cases of gin, 24,000 butts of rum, 30,000 cases of brandy, 28,000 cases of Irish whiskey, 800,000 demijohns of rum, 36,000 barrels of rum, 30,000 of Old Tom, 15,000 barrels of absinthe, 40,000 cases of Vermouth; and yet we send missionaries to elevate and save this same people!—*Missionary Review*.

A DEADLY blow has been struck at Mohammedanism in India by the translation of the Koran into simple, idiomatic Urdu, the language of the common people of a part of northern India. Mohammed forbade the translation of his book, and his superstitious followers have believed it could not be put into any language except Arabic, the language in which it was written. The translation into Urdu is the work of an able Mohammedan convert to Christianity, and it has caused consternation to the defenders of Islam. The power of Islam has been that its book existed only in Arabic, which few in India understand, or in ambiguous paraphrases. Now that it is in form to be read by the common people, there is a panic in the camp of Islam. Two Mohammedan copyists engaged on the translation have abandoned Islam in disgust. "The word of God! It is not even the word of a decent man," they said.—*Baptist Missionary Magazine*.

WE have just read with a very great deal of interest, two letters addressed to different persons, from Mr. George M. L. Brown, who lately left our midst to enter upon mission work in South America.

One of these is an account of his voyage from England to Buenos Ayres. This is a detailed description of the weather, the persons met with and the interesting incidents occurring from time to time. His soul seems to have experienced somewhat of a rapture as he lay stretched out on the upper deck, gazing into the moon-lit sky, wafted by the breezes so welcome in tropical climes. He is carried back in thought to the days of childhood, and memory recalls the scenes of earlier years, when his mother kissed him a fond good-night and drew the curtain to shield him from the moon. To put it in his own words, he says: "I don't forget those old scenes and never will. Only last night I dreamt of dear mother."

The account of his Sunday service on the vessel is to be noted, as it was the first religious service ever conducted on that boat. When he mentioned the propriety of holding a meeting, some jeered, others expressed their disapproval, while others thought it fanatical. The captain, however, was not a member of the dissenting school, but made provision for the meeting by providing seats and an electric lamp. The following were the members of his congregation: The captain (who had attended service twice in seven years), second and third mates, two saloon passengers, the ship's carpenter, the East India cook, the chief and second stewards, one engineer and two sailors.

The one great thought that forced itself upon the mind of Mr. Brown was the great dearth of religious influences and the awful need for Christian activity and truth.

He relates an interesting experience with the officials of the Customs Department of Buenos Ayres, one of whom upon opening his trunks, inspecting his baggage, etc., came across a parcel of New Testaments in Spanish, and requested Mr. Brown to give him a copy, which he was only too pleased to do. The official was seen soon after seated alone intently reading the Word of God. This certainly was most encouraging.

The second letter is a brief account of his first impressions of his new surroundings. His reception by the Christian friends of Buenos Ayres was most cordial. He speaks in very warm terms of a Mr. Torre, who has taken charge of a religious bookstore, the only one of its kind in all those parts, so that it is a light shining in a dark place. Rev. Dr. McLaughlin received him very warmly, and urged him to take a course in theology in their college.

Dr. Drees, who is at the head of the mission work in Buenos Ayres, has offered Mr. Brown a position in a school at Ascension, as teacher. Another school was also open to Mr. Brown; but not feeling himself sufficiently acquainted with the language of the country, he has not committed himself, but is praying for guidance that God will direct him into the right path.

It certainly is very encouraging to find so many kind-hearted servants of Jesus Christ in a region so devoid of true religion and so sunk in moral depravity and ungodliness. His heart has been very much comforted and his faith in God intensified by such gracious manifestations of His watchful care.

In closing, he says: "The Lord is certainly dealing very graciously with me." We hope soon to be able to report further of Mr. Brown's operations and plans.