

Other Churches and their Work.

Eighteen of the London theatres are occupied for divine services on the Sabbath.

The Baptist Missionary Society, the oldest Missionary Society in the world, which, this year celebrates its centenary is aiming to raise a special fund of \$500,000 for missions, and to increase its annual work by a similar amount.

"It is stated that the Jews in Hungary are to have legislation in their favor. They are to be placed on a footing of equality with the different Christian creeds, while the existing prohibition of unions between Jews and Christians will be abrogated."

Nine new languages have, during the last year, been added to the Bible Society's lists of editions of the Scriptures. It is significant that four of these belong to Africa, of the others one is for the West Indies, one for China, one for the New Hebrides, and two for the Russian Empire.

The London Missionary Society are starting a grand forward movement and are aiming to add one hundred additional missionaries by the time their centenary is reached in 1895. The cost of carrying out the object aimed at will be \$125,000 additional to their present work but in faith they are going forward.

"North India is the scene of a stirring and powerful religious interest. It began last year and shows no abatement. It is largely among the lower caste, but though the converts are from this caste, they are said to be 'both physically and intellectually the equals of the members of the higher castes.'"

The *Missionary Review* computes that Protestant Foreign Missions from the United States, Great Britain, and the Continent maintain 8,048 stations and out-stations, with 5,594 missionaries, and 35,343 native helpers, and that the communicants number 681,503. The money given last year was about \$11,420,500.

The statistics of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, as presented at Portland, show the number of ministers to be 6,266, an increase of 43; licentiate, 411, an increase of 37; churches 7,076, an increase of 6; communicants 816,427, an increase of 8,631; contributions to home missions \$995,934, an increase of \$309, to foreign missions \$812,622, an increase of \$28,217.

"Sweden, by statistical exhibit, is shown to be thoroughly Protestant. Out of a population of 1,774,409, only 810 are Roman Catholics, or 16 out of every 100,000; and next to it in this respect is Norway, which is under the same sovereign, and has only 512 Roman Catholics out of 1,818,853 inhabitants, or 27 out of every 100,000. In both of these countries the mass of the population adheres to the Lutheran Church."

The U. P. Church in Scotland has 571 congregations, with 185,298 members, 12,134 Sabbath School teachers, giving instruction to 103,760 scholars, and last year its contributions were £335,733; over £80,000, or about \$400,000 of which went to missionary or benevolent purposes. In 1897 it celebrates its jubilee, being, under its present name, four years younger than the Free Church.

Twenty-seven years ago there was hardly a college bred negro living; now there are 1,000 college-bred ministers in the Southern States. Then there were two newspapers edited by

colored men; now there are 151. In 1865 there were two negro attorneys; now there are 250. Then there were three colored physicians; there are now 749. To-day there are 247 colored students in the universities of Europe."—*Phil. Pres.*

"It has only been a few years since it was unsafe for one to be found with a copy of the Bible in Rome, but now in Rome and all through Italy the Bible is freely sold, and in many places gladly welcomed. The report for the year 1891 shows the sale of 7,509 full copies, 16,827 copies of the New Testament, and 143,212 copies of portions of the Scriptures, an increase of 13,778 over the year 1890. Dr. A. Meille writes: 'I feel justified in reporting that no book is so largely bought or finds so many readers in Italy at present as the Bible.'"

When Lady Dufferin began her scheme for the improvement of the physical condition of the women in India, seven years ago, it was hardly expected that in so short a time such striking results would be achieved. Last year 466,000 women received treatment. The staff now consists of nine women doctors and thirty-one assistants, and the number of native and Eurasian women under instruction steadily increases. Last year there were 207. The fund has at present an income £5,000 a year, after having erected hospitals and dispensaries at a cost of £120,000.

"Rev. Dr. Newman Hall, of London, has retired from active duty after a pastorate of fifty years. On July 10th he preached a sermon marking that event, and on the evening of July 12th he was presented with testimonials and an illuminated address in the presence of an immense congregation. Dr. Hall's retirement is the close of a remarkable career, during which many thousands of souls have been brought to a knowledge of the truth through his preaching and writings. His famous tract, 'Come to Jesus,' has been translated into forty languages, and three million copies have been issued."

"A native preacher working under Mr. Thomson of Amoy, one of the missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of England, gave him lately some interesting indications of the breaking up of idolatry in China. He said, for example, that in one of the temples in the district where he was laboring there were ten large idols, which had been objects of much veneration. But one day the temple took fire, and all the idols were burned to charcoal. It was a market day, and there were crowds in the town, who made very light of the loss of the idols, saying, 'They couldn't run away or call any one to save them. Why, they were less able to take care of themselves than rats, or chickens, or dogs!'"

Curious facts are revealed by the census regard the religions of India. Out of the total population of 287 millions, "Hindooism" claims 207½ millions, but this is a loose term—meaning, it has been said, "any religion which is not Mahometan." Nature worship is very common among the ruder tribes. Mohammedism counts for 57 millions, Buddhism 7, and Christianity only for 24 millions. There are 17,180 Jews, and the Parsees amount in all to 89,887. The Theists, Agnostics, Atheists, and the like are only 289 all told. Brahmos or professors, a reformed Hindooism, count only for 4,301, of whom nearly all are in Bengal. The newly-founded title of Aryan is borne by nearly 40,000 chiefly in the Punjab and the North-West provinces. The significant result is that Hindooism is as strong as ever.—*Belfast Witness.*