

proof that Christ still lives on earth. No human beings seem more miserable, and the gospel alone can smooth their pathway to the grave. We are glad to see that increased attention is given at present to the subject of leprosy, although much said about the sufferers in the papers is very harsh, if not inhumane. We have little doubt that this terrible affliction stalks in the wake of another almost equally terrible and repulsive disease, the fruit of social vice. In a remote province into which a regiment of soldiers introduced syphilis during the Mutiny, the leprosy became almost epidemic, but everywhere followed the path of the other disease.—*Indian Witness*.

—**Indian Railways.** Says the Administration Report of Railways in India for 1888-1889:

"The length of railways open for traffic in India at the end of 1887-88 was 14,383 miles; the length added during 1888-89 was 880 miles; deducting certain branch lines which have been closed, the total length of open line at the end of 1888-89 was 15,245 miles. Of the total open line of 15,245 miles, 9,738 miles are worked by Guaranteed, Assisted and other companies; 4,998 miles are worked by direct Government agency; and 509 miles are worked by Native States. During the year sanction has been given for the construction of additional mileage to the extent of 630 miles. The total sanctioned mileage on 31st of March, 1889, was 17,501 miles, showing an increase over the corresponding figures at the end of the previous year of 637 miles."—*Allahabad Pioneer*.

Madagascar.—"Mr. Henry E. Clark, of the Friends' Foreign Mission Association, who has been for many years a missionary in Madagascar, has written to us in reference to the paragraph in our last week's issue on Dr. Cust's new book, and the charge he brings that some English missionaries in Madagascar countenance slavery. Mr. Clark says that it is altogether incorrect to say that English missionaries in Madagascar countenance either slavery or the slave trade; that on the contrary their action is gradually undermining the system, and is preparing the way for its ultimate abolition."—*The Christian (London)*.

—A new hospital will shortly be erected at Madagascar by the London Missionary Society, assisted by the Friends' Foreign Mission Committee.

Russia.—Persecutions. A dispatch from St. Petersburg, dated July 12, is to the following effect: "The Government has totally suppressed the Lutheran Church in Russia. According to the latest official reports of the Holy Synod, those for 1885, there were 2,800,000 Protestant European Russia, and the bulk of these belong to the Lutheran

Church. The three Baltic provinces—Courland, Esthonia and Livonia—have a total population of nearly 2,500,000, the greater portion of whom are Lutherans. This is especially the case with the landed gentry, whose sympathies are essentially German. This is another step in the effort to fully Russianize the Baltic provinces, edicts suppressing German schools and the holding of lands by citizens of Germany having preceded it. Attacking the religious prejudices of the people, this step is regarded as much more serious than the others, and, as the State Church of Prussia is singled out, it will probably give rise to a protest from Berlin."

Scotland.—A great farewell meeting for African and Indian missionaries was held in Music Hall, Edinburgh, on the evening of the first Friday of the General Assembly. The missionaries were Rev. Alex. Hetherwick, F. R. G. S., Miss Christie (sent by the Ladies' Association), Mr. Duncan, and Mrs. Fenwick, about to proceed to Africa; and Rev. Henry Rice, Rev. Robert Kilgour, and Miss Augusta Reid (of the Ladies' Association), who proceed later in the season to India. The meeting, which was presided over by Rev. Dr. Scott, of St. George's, was large and enthusiastic.

South America.—The Transit and Building Fund Society of Bishop Taylor sent, from New York on the last Saturday of May, six more missionaries to South America, and \$10,000 more to erect school and church buildings.—*African News*.

Spain.—The Protestant Church of Spain numbers at present 112 chapels and school-houses, 111 parochial schools with 61 male and 78 female teachers, 3,545 boys and 2,095 girls. There are 80 Sunday-schools with 183 helpers, and 3,231 scholars. The churches are ministered unto by 56 pastors and 35 evangelists; the number of regular attendants of Divine service is 9,164; of communicants, 3,442. Pastor F. Fliedner reports steady progress on all sides.

—The Irish Presbyterian work in Spain. The Rev. Wm. Moore writes from Puerto Santa Maria: "The work was never so flourishing as it is now. I have been spending my leisure hours in 'setting up' a new geography (elementary), sorely needed for our schools, and which we are going to attempt to bring out on our little printing press. This geography is the translation of one compiled by Miss Whately for evening schools in Egypt and the Levant. It is the one branch of study of which the Spaniards seem to know nothing, and any school textbook one can find is so complicated and absurd as to be useless for elementary schools."

United States.—The International Medical Missionary Society, 118 East Forty-fifth street, held its anniversary exercises in Dr. Parkhurst's Church; it was an occasion of rare inter-