

vigorous growth of the native Church than even the most sanguine anticipate. The conversion of India is no longer a dark problem. Let us have unswerving faith, work patiently, pray earnestly, and expect success, and a great work will assuredly be done."

JEWS.—In the *Jewish Times* we find mention of the return of Professor Gratz and Messrs. Levy, Potzin, and Gottschalk from Palestine. Their report is set down by the *Jewish Times* as "an additional argument against the folly of encouraging the emigration of the Jews to a country which has no other claim than that of a venerable monument of the past." There are now, it appears, about 16,000 Jews living in Palestine, and "their average state of culture is much below that of their fellow-religionists in Europe. They have no visible means of support, spend their time in idleness, praying, and Talmud-reading, and foolish pining and sighing on the ruins of the temple, eking out a miserable existence by the charity of the Jews of Europe, America, and Australia." Curiously enough, the memorial of their visit by Professor Gratz and his companions also suggests "the general elimination from all Jewish prayer-books of the portions referring to the hopes of Israel in the restitution of the Holy Land to the possession of Israel, and the rebuilding of the temple by Divine Providence." The *Times* considers it "not only a folly but a crime to feed the sickly imagination of poor, ignorant people by the hallucination; as if one spot on earth had a greater value in the eyes of God, and prayers sent up to heaven from a certain locality find sooner a hearing from the throne divine." According to a recent decision of four hundred Rabbis, the omission of the prayer for the advent of Messiah and the restoration of the Sacrifices is equivalent to a denial of the faith.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND.—The following occurs in a letter from the Rev. Matthew McGavin, of the above Church, to the Moderator of the United Presbyterian Synod:

"The numbers of Presbyterians in the colony amount, as is generally supposed, to fifteen or sixteen thousand. Our ministers are only fourteen in number. They are located principally in the towns, and with their congregations have been formed into four presbyteries—Brisbane, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, and Maryborough. Each presbytery maintains, as far as it can, an ecclesiastical or ministerial oversight of the surrounding country, supplying the stations and agricultural districts with the preaching of the Word. From the distance of one congregation from another, and the difficulties and expenses of travelling, many ministers are denied the privilege of meeting with their brethren in Presbytery or Assembly, and in consequence the meetings of at least one Presbytery are few. In Brisbane, which, with the two suburbs of South Brisbane and Fortitude Valley, has a population of 15,000, we have four congregations and four ministers. Other denominations have in all fourteen churches, making together eighteen places of worship, with their respective ministers. The Roman Catholic Church, which I have not included, has at least four churches. All our ministers are supported by the freewill contributions of their people, their being no civil establishments of religion, and no Government aid to the churches; and as our congregations are made up principally by the hard-working industrial classes, they have in general their own difficulties to contend with."