

III.—FIELD OF MONTHLY SURVEY.

BY D. L. PIERSON.

Monthly Topics for 1896.*

JANUARY.

Outlook.
General Survey.

FEBRUARY.

The Chinese Empire.†
Confucianism and Taoism.
Formosa.
The Opium Traffic.

MARCH.

Mexico.
Central America.
West Indies.
City Missions.

APRIL.

India, Burma, and Ceylon.
Hinduism, etc.
Woman's Work for Woman.

MAY.

Siam and the Laos.
Malaysia.
Buddhism.
Unoccupied Fields.

JUNE.

Africa ‡ and Madagascar.
The Freedmen in America.
The Slave Trade.

JULY.

The Islands of the Sea.§
Circumpolar Missions.¶
North American Indians.
The Liquor Traffic.

AUGUST.

Papal Europe.
Roman Catholicism.
Bible Work.

SEPTEMBER.

Japan.
Korea.
Shintoism.
Medical Missions.
Chinese and Japanese in the United States.

OCTOBER.

Mohammedan Lands¶ and Religion.

Russia and the Greek Church.
Abyssinia and Eastern Sects.

NOVEMBER.

South America.
The Mormons.
Young People's Work.

DECEMBER.

Syria and Palestine.
The Jews.
Educational Work.

NOTES HERE AND THERE.

There is at present a state of unrest throughout the whole world, Christian and heathen, civilized and savage. "Wars and rumors of wars," outrages, financial instability, and in many cases the half-suppressed mutterings of a general anarchy are disturbing the peace and prosperity of nations the world over.

In the *United States* the financial crisis is scarcely over, the missionary boards are still weighed down with a heavy load of debt, and the Christian church-members are slow to respond to their earnest appeals. Strikes and general friction between labor and capital are every-day occurrences. Utah, just entering upon statehood, seems to many to bring forebodings of an unhallowed haven for polygamists and those of loose moral principles. Many fear strained relations with England because of the Venezuelan difficulty and the Alaskan boundary dispute. All these things affect missions directly or indirectly. The mission boards are endeavoring to hold their ground, the lacking sufficient support; in some cases there is even an advance to new territory. Foreign missionary rallies are awakening many slumbering Christians, and are scattering information as to the great work of God in the world's evangelization.

Dr. Ebenezer Erskine says, in regard to the future of the negro, that four facts have come to be regarded as quite settled: "1. That the negro is here to stay, and that his future home is to be

* It is our intention to have one or more articles on these subjects, in the months to which they are assigned, together with references to other articles in previous numbers. Those desiring to contribute are requested to have their article in our hands two months previous to the month to which their subject is assigned.

† Including Tibet.

‡ Except North Africa and Egypt, which are assigned to October.

§ Including Australasia.

¶ Alaska, Greenland, Labrador, etc.

¶ Turkey, Greece, Arabia, Persia, North Africa, and Egypt.