

course these devoted men and women had to breast opposition and sometimes dare and bear persecution. In the outbreak in Acapulco in 1875, several persons lost their lives, and the work for a while stood still in the State of Guerrero, until Mathilde Rodriquez went with her Bibles and tracts and anointed tongue to the homes of the people. Four years ago, Rev. J. Millon Greene went with Rev. Procopio Diaz, and found a welcome again in Guerrero. Within seven weeks they held thirty-two services, established six churches and thirteen congregations and baptized two hundred and eighty converts.

There were similar signs, elsewhere in Mexico, of a breaking down of the barriers of ages. When Mr. Forcada entered Zilacuaro twenty years ago, he found that for six years Bibles and tracts had been making ready the paths of the Lord. A Mexican had opened a bookstore and taken with him four hundred Bibles and a large lot of tracts, and had sold or given away the entire stock. The circulation of the blessed word of God had proved a similar John the Baptist, in Tabasco preparing the way of the Lord.

The policy of our missions in Mexico is to raise up an efficient native ministry to whose charge the churches may be entrusted. In the theological seminary at San Luis Potosi, this training work is carried on. The girls' boarding school, in charge of Miss Snow for five years, has now passed into the hands of Miss Bartlett, as Miss Snow has become Mrs. Hamilton. Twenty-five pupils are here gathered.

The fact that even figures sometimes lie, is illustrated in the reports of the statistics of the Mexican field. The reduction in the reported number of converts and church members has led some to depreciate the work and even to affirm that it is going backward. But at first all baptized persons were classed with communicants, and so reported; but according to the usage of the Presbyterian Board elsewhere, the lists of baptized children have been separated from those of communing members, and the latter only reported. The fact is that instead of a large loss, there has been a total gain of ten per cent. over and above all reductions and losses by death, and the work is growing both in interest and promise.

It is very difficult to give any fairly accurate photograph of the present condition of missions in Mexico. Before what is written can be put in type, the whole condition may have undergone such change as to demand a revision if not reconstruction of the report. At the time of the Jubilee Report of the Board of Foreign Missions, we had a total force of eighty-nine laborers, of whom fifty-six were native preachers, teachers or helpers, twenty-one licentiates, and four women. There were ninety churches, with 4,314 communicants, and a gain of one-sixth during the year. Over six hundred pupils were gathered in schools.

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