

MISSION NOTES.

—An American missionary has obtained, after an interview with General Ignatieff, Russian Minister of the Interior, a letter to the authorities, allowing him to preach to the inhabitants of the district of the Caucasus.

—In the last forty years one hundred and twenty missionaries on the west coast of Africa have fallen victims to the climate; but the converts to Christianity on the field now number thirty thousand or more, and thirty-three missionary societies are at work now in Africa.

—The seventeen churches in Japan connected with the American Board, embrace a membership of 669 and 11 ordained ministers. The total amount contributed by them during the past year was 4,452 yen. A yen represents about 60 cents of our money. A labourer here receives not more than one fifth of what is paid to a labourer in the United States. The sum should then be multiplied by five to fairly represent the Christian giving of the Japanese people. The reports of the various out stations indicate remarkable progress, with great promise for the future.

—Some of the difficulties under which native evangelistic work is pursued in Madagascar are brought to the surface in the narrative of a native preacher's experience, which occurs in the recent letter of an agent of the London Missionary Society: "At Mahabo we have an evangelist stationed—one of the finest specimens of a stalwart, respect-commanding Christian that the island has produced. He was once a dirty little slave boy herding cattle. As a youth and young man he was a palanquin and baggage bearer, and in that capacity travelled with the Society's deputation in 1873. Some how or other he had contrived to learn to read, and had been received as a member and recognized as an occasional preacher in country places by one of the Antananarivo churches. His zeal found abundant opportunity for exercising itself when travelling with large gangs of baggage men, and Dr. Mullens dubbed him The Black Chaplain. Afterwards he accompanied Mr. Sewell and myself to the west, and his fearlessness in speaking the plain truth before the little despots of provincial governors we fell upon during our journey made me resolve to employ him in the Ambohibeloma district. With great difficulty he persuaded his master to allow him to take the engagement for a few months, during which he brought about a very unmistakable change for the better in one of the worst places under our care. When he asked for further leave, and proposed to pay half his wages to his owner, as he had formerly done in the days of his burdenbearing, he was threatened with punishment if he did not settle down again to his native level as a slave. After waiting some time, and finding there was no regular employment given to him, he begged for leave to redeem himself, asking his master to name the price. The reply to this was an angry refusal and a violent outburst, and the apparently helpless slave was told to pay down \$100 and go about his business. Fortunately all this passed before people who could be produced as witnesses, so that the master could be held to his word. The hitherto almost helpless bondman quickly saw his opportunity, and rushed off to Mr. Parrett, saying, 'Lend me the dollars; he has consented to sell.' Mr. Parrett gladly consented, and in a few days, to the owner's intense vexation, the whole affair was legally settled, and the new freeman on his way down the Iboina to work as the society's evangelist on the west of the Betsiboka." *S. S. Times.*

TEMPERANCE NOTES.

—According to the Brewers' Hand book, 200 new breweries were established in

the United States during the year ending May 1, 1881, the total sales of beer for that year being 14,115,466 barrels against 9,752,030 in 1877. And crime has also increased with fearful strides, though perhaps not quite so fast as the beer.

—A copy of the August 13 issue of *The National Liberator*, a Chicago temperance paper, was sent to every religious paper in the United States, with the view of inducing them to set about a vigorous agitation in behalf of prohibition.

—It is stated that a movement is on foot to acquire by purchase the Royal Polytechnic Institution of London, for the purpose of making it the centre of English temperance work, just as Exeter Hall is the centre of Young Men's Christian Association work.

—The \$1,000,000 excess over last year in the United States Internal Revenue receipts came from the tax on cigarettes. In Philadelphia several boys have become blind from smoking them. Physicians say that the poisonous ingredients used in the paper wrappers and in the adulterated tobacco, cause an incurable cataract, which first destroys the sense of smell and taste, and then attacks the eyes.

—The law and order people of Chicago are to be commiserated in view of the conduct of their mayor, who not only attends the Sunday picnics of the German societies, but in public address eulogizes beer drinking. On one of these occasions he is reported to have addressed the crowd as follows: "God Almighty has given men beer because their systems demand a stimulant." Do all the respectable people vote in Chicago?

—The Ohio Temperance Convention, recently in session, in its platform denounced both the great political parties, and demanded a vote of the people on a constitutional provision prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, and in the meantime the enactment of a stringent local option law. The activity and interest manifested throughout the Western States in the great question of prohibition has been referred to by us on previous occasions, and there is little doubt that it will be one of the political issues of the day before very long.

—The prohibition movement in North Carolina has met with signal defeat. The majority against it is very large, reaching, it is said, some 40,000. The issue, however, has not been a strictly temperance one. The proposition originated in the Legislature, which was Democratic. The Republicans were therefore foolish enough to make it a party issue, and vote solidly against it. The negroes were sufficiently blinded to cast, it is said, a unanimous nay. What the result would have been if the canvass had been confined to the single question of prohibition it is difficult to say. Indirectly one beneficial result has been secured by the new division of parties. The canvass was fair and peaceable, and the election seems to have been honest.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS NOTES.

—A central noon-day salvation prayer-meeting is the latest agency instituted by the Salvation Army in London. General Booth proposes to make the meeting of such a character that Christian business men may invite their unconverted friends to attend, with a view to securing their conversion.

—Genuine revivals attending Protestant evangelical work are reported from Nimes and other cities of France. In Nimes the Free Church and the Methodist Church are nightly crowded with anxious inquirers, and on several occa-

sions large numbers have been unable to find admittance.

—At the close of the services, August 14, of the Chinese Sunday-school connected with the Mount Vernon-street Congregational Church, in Boston, a letter was read from one of the Chinese students at Hartford, who had been recalled to China. The student firmly declared his intention to adhere to the Christian religion, and asked that the prayers of his teachers should follow him to his own land.

—A new sect has arisen at Lake View, one of Chicago's northern suburbs, under the leadership of Mr. H. G. Spafford. They take the name of the "Church of the Overcomers," and believe in personal inspiration, in direct communication with God, in a literal rendering of the Scriptures as applied to mundane affairs, and in the final salvation of all the universe, including also the devil.

—Portugal has for a year or two been one of the most tolerant Catholic countries in Europe. Protestants and other dissenters have enjoyed a full measure of liberty in public worship. We now read in a Catholic paper these ominous words:—"Signs are not wanting that the Catholics of Portugal, who have been for so long tyrannized over by Freemasons, are awakening from their lethargy. It is now proposed to form a Catholic Union, to unite the Catholics of all ranks in defence of the rights of the Church, and the Congress is to meet again in three months, to consider a scheme for effecting this, which a committee has been appointed to draw up."

—Captain Ebenezer Morgan, of Groton, has given \$25,000 to Rev. Dr. Thos. J. Conant, of Brooklyn, N.Y., one of the American revisers of the Bible, to prepare an edition of the Scriptures which, when completed, with plates and copyright, is to be presented to the American and Foreign Bible Society, a Baptist organization, of which Captain Morgan is president. The edition is to give the object, divine authority, contents, etc., of each book, with short explanatory notes at the bottom of each page. Capt. Morgan is a zealous member of the Baptist denomination, who, from humble life, has amassed a large fortune in the whaling business and in the Alaska fur trade. He has done much to aid the Suffolk Institute and feeble Baptist churches in the State.

—The Scottish Free Church Commission of Assembly has adopted a resolution of regret that the Electrical Exhibition at Paris is to be kept open on Sunday, regarding such a desecration of the Lord's Day as inconsistent with due reverence and obedience to that God to whose goodness the world is indebted for all the great blessings which have accrued to it from the advancement of electrical science. It hoped that the directors of the exhibition would reconsider and reverse their resolution, and that, at least, the British and American exhibitors will see that their department of apartments be closed. The Committee on Sabbath Observance was requested to consider whether it was competent to take any steps in the matter, and the moderator was ordered to sign any petition of the Committee in the name of the Commission.

—The *N. Y. Independent* says:—"The spectacle of the Bishop of Liverpool giving social recognition and courtesies to members of the Wesleyan Conference could not be expected to pass without some one being found to give it an expression of his disapproval. The fault-finder in this case was the Rev. H. Willis Probyn Nevins, editor of the *Christian Apologist*, who wrote to him, 'As a clergyman who is troubled and perplexed by seeing your lordship extend your hos-

pitality in so pointed a manner to dissenting ministers, may I ask if it is, indeed, true that you hold them to be as truly priests and competent to consecrate the Eucharist as your lordship is?' The Bishop replied: 'Wesleyan ministers are certainly not clergymen of the Church of England; but, after the unkind treatment which John Wesley and his people received from the Church of England, last century, and after the good work they have done, I shall never hesitate to treat them with respect.'

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

—Dr. Garnet, the newly appointed minister to Liberia, has a daughter who is a missionary in that country, teaching school in the place where her great-grandfather was taken prisoner and sold to a Maryland slave-dealer.

—It was after hearing Dean Stanley that a chance attendant at Westminster Abbey made the oft-quoted remark: "I went to hear about the way to Heaven, and I only heard about the way to Palestine."

—Professor Proctor says that with a good telescope 100,000,000 suns can be seen, and that each of these suns is the centre of a universe. Relatively speaking, it would seem that this proud earth is of but little account.

—Lieutenant Condor has found, close to the spot where he places the site of the crucifixion, which is still called the Place of Stoning, a Jewish tomb of the Herodian period standing alone, cut in the rock. "Can this be," he asks, "the new Sepulchre in the Garden?"

—Dr. Cuyler, of Brooklyn, at a meeting in London the other day said that, since leaving New York he had only taken off his hat twice, and that was once when he entered the gates of Jerusalem, and again when the steamer swung round and revealed an American college at the foot of Lebanon.

—Emperor William of Germany was recently presented with a curious pen, that supplies itself with ink while writing. The old Kaiser thanked the donor and said: "I should like to own a pen that would write only what is good and true; and then I wish all our journalists and reporters might each have one just like it and use no others."

—At Chautauqua, the other day, a little girl was asked if she were a Methodist. "Oh! no!" she replied. "I am a Brethren, and my mother is a Brethren too." These were of the United Brethren. At Montreal one of the Plymouth Brethren was asked why they never spoke of the Plymouth Sisters. "Oh!" was his answer, "the Brethren embrace the Sisters."

—Dean Stanley's death bed was a quiet and peaceful one. In the morning the sacrament was administered by Canon Farrar, the Dean himself pronouncing the blessing in a full, intelligible voice, and taking leave of every one individually, including the servants. The day passed quietly, and as evening came on his breathing grew difficult, but there was no sign of pain. He often spoke at length and with earnestness, but only a word here and there could be made out. Death came calmly, without even the motion of a limb.

—The Archbishop of Cologne has had, says a Catholic paper, a curious experience in a recent examination of children. "Is the Sacrament of Confirmation necessary to salvation?" he inquired of a boy. "No, Monsignor," responded the lad; "but when there is an opportunity of receiving it we should not lose it." "Well said," replied the prelate. Then turning to a girl, he asked if the Sacrament of Matrimony were necessary to salvation. "It is not," was the quaint reply; "but when the occasion arises it should not be lost."