

The Bible is being circulated among the masses. The number of readers is multiplied. Those who believe are bolder, but at the same time more discreet. Those who do not believe are forced to concede that the Bible is the source of religious knowledge, and the referee in all cases of doubt or dispute. Those who are far from the spirit of the New Testament claim to be evangelical. Everything is ripening for a grand demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit."

Turkey.—A concession has been granted by the Sultan of Turkey for the construction of a railway between Jaffa and Jerusalem; and a still more important railway scheme has been approved by the Imperial Council, and only waits the sanction of the Chancery and the signature of the Sultan. That scheme includes a line from Acre (Ptolemais) to Damascus, running through Galilee, crossing the Jordan near the waters of Merom, and passing by the ancient Casarea - Philippi, leaving Mt. Hermon on the left. The projector craves, also, the sole right to run steamers on the Sea of Tiberias.

—The total imports of Damascus for 1888 were \$3,056,670, against \$1,991,215 for the previous year; and the total trade rose to \$4,746,825, against \$3,698,585 for 1887. The only industries in the province worth noticing are the bitumen wells on the western slopes of Mt. Hermon, for which a concession has been granted netting 65 per cent. to Government, and 35 per cent. to the contractor.

United States.—Departure of Missionaries.—A memorable meeting, on the occasion of the departure of a large number of missionaries to different parts of the world under the care of the A. B. C. F. M., was held in Boston August 29th. The missionaries number 49 in all, of whom 19 are returning to fields of labor which they have already occupied, some of them for a long term of years, while 30 are going out for the first time, several of them being children of missionaries. Of the whole number, 20 are going to Turkey, 8 to Japan, 17 to China and 4 to India. One of the new missionaries is a granddaughter of the Rev. William Goodell, D.D., of Constantinople, whose life was spent in planting the institutions of the gospel in the Turkish Empire.

—The appropriations of the American Baptist Missionary Union for the year ending March 31, 1890, amount to \$402,785.71. Much new work is provided for, and the schedule is more nearly in accordance with the estimates from the missionaries than for many years.

—Non-partisan Indian Schools.—It is announced that Commissioner Morgan has determined to substitute as rapidly as possible on the Indian reservations non-partisan public schools under the supervision of the Indian Bureau, for the schools under charge of several religious

bodies—Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopalian, Quaker, Roman Catholic—which have received Government support since General Grant's first administration under the contract system. This is done on the ground that the Government cannot sustain sectarian institutions. The system was a mere makeshift, and it must be abandoned. The purpose to abandon it, however, is not original with General Morgan. It was broached under the Cleveland administration and was one of the things for which Mr. Cleveland was roundly abused. The Government cannot, of course, abolish the mission schools of these religious bodies. They have a perfect and equal right to maintain them, but not under contract with the United States.—*Springfield Republican*.

—The Indian Industrial School recently established in Tucson is one of the most promising institutions in Arizona, and although it has been organized only about one year it has 70 Indian boys and girls, all of whom appear to be making remarkable progress in conforming to the habits of civilized life.

—The Roman Catholic Plenary Council of 1884 authorized a revision and rearrangement of the Catholic prayer-book. This work has just been finished, and will shortly take the place of the books which have been in use hitherto. It is so arranged that the entire service of the mass for every Sunday in the year can be followed by the congregation just as it is said by the clergyman. Every page in proof sheets was sent to every Catholic bishop and archbishop in the United States, and, as issued, it will have the unanimous indorsement of the hierarchy.—*The Independent*.

—There are 1,000 Christian Chinamen connected with the Congregational missions in California and Oregon.—*Spirit of Missions*.

—Chan Chu Sing, a converted Chinaman, has been licensed as a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and will engage in mission work among his own people in Los Angeles, Cal.

—Missionary Interest in America. Rev. H. Grattan Guinness is still in the United States, and (writes Mrs. Guinness) is being graciously prospered in his efforts to help poor Africa. After completing his tour in Ohio, with Dr. Ashmore, he traveled West to Kansas, taking Nkoiyo, the Congo youth, with him, and held missionary meetings in the towns of Marion, Peabody, Newton, Arkansas City, Wellington, Wichita, Hutchinson, Florence, Emporia, Aveline and Topeka. Many noble-hearted Western pioneers were led in these meetings to volunteer for missionary work in Africa. A new mission was founded, bearing the name of "The Sudan Pioneer Mission," and a branch established, with enrolled members, secretary and treasurer, in each town. This