

*Palestine.*—A Young Men's Christian Association has been started in Jerusalem, one branch of it to reach Anglo-Hebrews and another to work among the young men who speak Arabic.

—The Jerusalem and Jaffa Railroad will soon be ready for travellers. Already are the three American-built locomotives, Jerusalem, Jaffa and Ramleh, on hand. Outside of the Damascus Gate stands an electric light, a telegraph pole throws its shadow upon Jacob's Well, and a steam mill puffs near the ancient well in Nazareth. This means the breaking up of the isolation of the towns and village and the more rapid spread of enlightening influences from the hitherto almost unknown world.

*Persia.*—The Bagdad Jews have purchased in the last eight years 258 Hebrew New Testaments and 729 Hebrew copies of Matthew or Hebrews, besides many copies of the New Testament Scriptures in Arabic, Turkish, or other languages.

*Tibet.*—A Scottish Universities Mission has been established in Sikkim with three missionaries. "Sikkim is a wedge driven up from India, splitting apart Nepal toward the west and Bootan toward the east, and pointing to Lhassa, the holy city, the heart of Tibet. Sikkim lies on the threshold of Tibet. It is more, it is the door to Tibet."

—A grant of 30,000 rubles has recently been made to defray the expenses of another Russian scientific expedition to the Chinese province of Szechuen and the neighboring tablelands of Tibet. It will be under the care of M. Potanin, the well-known explorer, and will cover a period of three years.

—For nearly forty years agents of the Moravian Mission have been patiently waiting and working to gain an entrance into Tibet. When missionaries do enter, however, they will find ready for them a Tibetan dictionary and grammar, and a translation of the whole New Testament and some of the books of the Old Testament.

—While the Moravian missions at Leh

are seeking to penetrate Tibet from the southwest, the China Inland missionaries are hoping to secure an entrance on the northeast. They have already established themselves at a small Tibetan village on the very border. At first it was impossible to obtain a house to live in, but at last a Tibetan landlord was found whose scruples were overcome, and they are already established. An effort was made to drive them out, but the Chinese officials stood by them and they remained.

*Australia.*—After two missionary meetings in Melbourne recently, a hard-working man sent in the title-deeds of a farm of 93½ acres, worth £500, to be divided between missions to India and New Guinea. On being afterward spoken to about the largeness of his gift, he said, "This is how I look at it: Supposing I were a boy, and my father gave me a sovereign, but afterward wanted me to let him have part of the money back to help him in some work he was doing, and I gave him a threepenny piece, what sort of a son should I be?"

—The Moravians claim that their settlements of Ebenezer and Ramahyuck afford a tangible proof that the degraded "black fellow" can be reclaimed. In Victoria the race is fast dying out, but in North Queensland there are still vast tracts inhabited by them alone. The Rev. James Ward, his wife, and Mr. Nicholas Hey have been set apart for work among the latter. The Government have lent every assistance. A settlement has been decided upon in the Capo York peninsula, in the extreme north of Queensland.

*Hawaii.*—Mr. Okabo, who has charge of Christian work among the Japanese in Hawaii, reports 20,000 Japanese as now living at the islands. They comprise the largest body of foreigners there. Most of them go from Hiroshima or Kumamoto, two of the strongest centres of Buddhism in the empire, but, as they leave their religion with their possessions behind, they prove very susceptible to practical Christian influences. Gospel work is carried on in seven or eight places, with some 116 Christians as the result of three years' effort.