

Vv. 26, 27.—The Jews were regarded as the children, and the Gentiles as “dogs.” The children’s bread meant the privileges of the Jews. She replies most humbly in effect, “I am a dog; then though I cannot get a share of the children’s bread, let me get the crumbs—*this* crumb!” She will take no refusal.

V. 28.—The hinderances in her way only served to increase her faith; and through the Saviour’s grace her triumph is complete.

LESSONS.

1. God’s blessing, Christ’s mercy, is not confined to any one sect, country or nation, but some have peculiar privileges and advantages.

2. Let us not despair though Christ should seem to repel us. He is only proving us.

3. We should not be ashamed to acknowledge our low and lost condition.

4. As the woman prayed effectually for her daughter so may we pray for parents, children, brothers and sisters, and if we persevere we shall receive an answer.

5. Jesus *never* rejected a penitent petitioner. He will most surely save us if we look to him.

DOCTRINE TO BE PROVED.

True faith is humble and persevering. Phil. iii. 9, 12-14; John ix. 38; Matt. viii. 8-10.

Religious Intelligence.

Missionary Statistics.

1. *American.* The whole number of American Foreign Missionary Societies is sixteen—having under their care 2388 agents as missionaries, native preachers, etc.; 54,000 church members, 22,000 pupils, and an annual income of \$1,100,000 to sustain their operations.

2. *British.* In Great Britain there are twenty missionary societies, employing 6216 agents as missionaries, etc., and having 185,000 church members, 201,000 scholars, and an annual income of \$3,094,000.

3. *Continental.* On the continent of Europe there are twelve of these societies, of which six are in Germany. They have 811 agents as missionaries, teachers, etc., 79,000 church members 12,000 scholars, and an income of \$267,000.

4. *Totals.* The whole number of British and continental missionaries is thirty-two societies, 7027 agents or missionaries, teachers, etc., 264,000 church members,

213,000 pupils in schools, and an annual income of \$3,361,000.

The whole number of Protestant missionary operations in the world, as thus carried on by American, British, and Continental Christians in 48 societies, 9418 agents or missionaries, etc., 518,000 church members, 235,000 pupils in the different schools, and an annual income of \$4,481,000.

With such a machinery for operation in readiness and at active work, what is needed but the Holy Spirit to be poured out mightily from above to go with the word thus scattered abroad on its way to all the world and to every creature? Ask and you shall receive.

EGYPT—SCHOLARS FROM AFRICA.

Miss Dales, of the Egyptian Mission of the United Presbyterian Church gives the following account of the reception of five boys from the interior of Africa into the mission school in Cairo:—“A wealthy lady from Holland, who had penetrated those dark regions, brought with her recently to Cairo, eight children, five boys and three girls, whom she regarded with very deep interest and desired to have educated. All the boys and two of the girls she placed in our mission schools, to be supported at her expense. I very much regret, however, to say that one of the eldest and most promising of the boys died a few days since of typhoid fever. It seemed mysterious that when he was just beginning to learn the way of life and his poor dark mind opening up to the reception of truth, he should be removed; but God’s ways are not as our ways, and ‘He doeth all things in wisdom, and well!’”

A GREAT WORK COMPLETED.

We have before spoken of the approach towards completion of one of the greatest missionary works of the age—the full translation of the Scriptures into the Arabic, a language in which, and only in which, they may be read by a hundred million people. The work occupied eight years of the labor of the late Dr. Eli Smith, and since his death, eight years further labor by Van Dyck—both missionaries of the American Board, and eminently adapted to so important a service. Under date of Beirut, March 14, Rev. H. H. Jessup reports to the Board the account of an exceedingly interesting celebration of the completion of the work, by a missionary and Christian company, English speaking and native, of the premises of the mission press. In prayer, addresses and hymns they gave praise to God for his favour thus extended to the millions sitting in the region in shadow of death. It was the joyous auguration of a new era of missionary effort in Southwestern Asia.