

ITEMS.

Sixty-five Protestant missionary societies are at work in India. There are 560,000 native Protestants—an increase of 150,000 in a decade.

During the late Japan-Chinese war, the Bible Society has distributed, through its agency in Japan, thirty thousand copies of the Gospels among Japanese soldiers and sailors.

The converts in the Samoan islands have given as much as \$9,000 in one year to the work of missions. The Fijian Christians contributed \$5,000 a year to the same cause, and the Church in the Friendly Islands numbers 30,000 and gives \$15,000 a year.

Dr. A. T. Pierson says: "In 1866, when I was first in Europe, I could not carry a copy of the Bible inside the walls of Rome. Last year (1893) there were twenty-nine Protestant chapels in the city of Rome and preaching openly carried on in them with impunity."

In Japan there 226 male and 210 unmarried female missionaries (including wives), a total of 625; there are 134 stations, 750 out-stations, 364 organized churches, 3,422 adults baptized in 1894, total adult membership 39,240: theological students 353; native ministers 258; contributions of native Christians (1894) about \$35,000.

The revered authoress, "A. L. O. E.," who went to India as a missionary and died in December 1893, was buried at her own request without a coffin. The funeral of the Rev. F. Sandford, of the Delhi Mission, cost only about five shillings, and so in many places missionaries are striving to dispossess the minds of converts of the notion that a Christian's funeral ought to cost a quarter's income, which it often has done.

At the great examination held at Wuchang last year twelve thousand literary candidates competed. The Central China Religious Tract Society gave a package of books and tracts to each candidate before he left the examination hall. Only a few refused them. At Nanking no less than

forty-five thousand Christian books, or tracts, or portions of the Scriptures, were likewise given to a still larger number of literary candidates, and most of them were accepted.

RECENT DEATHS.

Rev. W. Hall, M.A., of Montreal Conference, finished his earthly course early in May, under very painful circumstances. For several years he was afflicted with intense mental depression. During one of those seasons he committed the fatal deed which cast a gloom not only over his own family, but over thousands by whom he was beloved as a singularly saintly man. Few men displayed more of the spirit of meekness. He was a most perfect Christian gentleman. Never robust physically, he occasionally travelled abroad for the benefit of his health. For the last eight years he resided in his native city, first as a pastor and then as principal of the French Institute.

The Rev. James C. Slater was a superannuated minister and a member of Toronto Conference. He closed his eyes in death May 15, 1895. For forty-nine years his name occupied a place on the ministerial roll, though for the last thirteen years he had been a cripple from inflammatory rheumatism. Occasionally he was wheeled into Sherbourne Street church in an invalid's chair, when he always greatly enjoyed the services. Mr. Slater was a minister in the third generation, his father and grandfather both having served the Church in the same capacity. He had the advantage of being a pupil at Kingswood School, England. We next find him an apprentice to the firm of Samuel Budgett, "the Successful Merchant." His early training made him an expert in financial matters. His affliction was endured with great patience and resignation. Those who visited him felt assured that he was ripening for heaven. The writer of these lines was a neighbour of Mr. Slater's for two years, and delights to record his tribute of praise to the memory of his sainted friend.

WAITING.

I AM waiting for the coming of the bridegroom in the air,  
I am longing for the gathering of the ransomed over there,  
I am putting on the garments which the heavenly bride shall wear,  
For the glad home coming draweth nigh.

Oh! the glad home coming. It is swiftly drawing nigh,  
Oh! the sad home longing will be over by-and-bye.  
"Lo! the Bridegroom cometh," holy watchers soon will cry,  
For the glad home coming draweth nigh.