

aries now in China is said to be about ninety-five, and the number of Church members connected with Protestant missions not far from 2500. Nearly one-third of these are found in Amoy and the villages around it, where for several years success has been remarkable. And "one of the most cheering features in this success is the circumstance that it has been to a considerable extent owing to the spontaneous efforts of the native Christians among their heathen neighbors."

CHURCH AT HOME.

WHAT THE CHURCH IS DOING.

(From the H. & F. Missionary Record)

ACCORDING to the July *Missionary Record* (p. 120), the total sum raised for the Schemes of the Church of Scotland, and "for objects connected with the Church," is, for the year 1863-64, £81,740. Were this the real total of what the Church is giving, not in any way for self-support, but for charitable purposes, it would be much larger than she gets credit for from others, or than is realised by her own ministers and members. But my object is to show that this is but a part of her charitable donations, and that it has been here pre-eminently to "do good by stealth."

Last year I was met by the statement that my account of the Church's benefactions was only an estimate; and to those who had not taken the trouble of going carefully over the ground, as I had done, the estimate seemed excessive. The charge was hardly a fair one, inasmuch as my statement was a complaint that we could not get official statistics of what the Church is doing, and that we were driven to estimate in order to understand the extent of her liberality and worth. I propose this year to meet this charge by showing that, on the lowest ground, making hardly any estimate at all, and relying on figures already published, the Church is giving a great deal to the cause of Christ, more than she has ever made known.

There are three sums which are not included in our official statistics, but to which we have access through other documents, and on these alone I might rest my case. The Government Blue-book on Education contains, this year, a statement of the various grants made to the Churches in Scotland, and of the voluntary contributions with which these have been met during the past year. I quote from page 3 (Tables):

	Government Grant.	Voluntary Contribution.
Church of Scotland,	£52,477 6 5	£22,671
Free Church,	39,897 12 0	11,150
Episcopal Church,	4,478 13 4	2,742
Rom. Catholic Church,	2,230 0 0	902
	£46,604 6 4	£14,794

The item on which I fasten here, is the sum

of £22,671 given as voluntary contributions by the Church of Scotland to schools under Government inspection. A very small portion of this is included in the Education Accounts of the Church. The entire revenue of the Education Scheme is given as £5308, with £817 more for Female Schools, and £574 of donations and subscriptions—in all, about £6700 of voluntary contributions during the year. There are other sums, consisting of dividends, &c., but that is the amount of the Church's liberality which passes through the Education Committee, and is set down in their accounts. Of this sum, £1300 are expended on schools which are not under Government inspection; and this, added to the sum in the Blue-book, £22,671, gives £23,971 as the educational revenue of the Church last year, so far as it can be ascertained without estimate. But it must be borne in mind that there are many schools in connection with the Church, built and supported without any assistance either from Government or from the Assembly's Committee. I make no estimate of the amount expended upon these; but I draw attention to the fact that there is a large margin here untouched.

Another sum which does not appear in any shape in our *Missionary Record* is the ordinary church-door collections, part of which go to the relief of the poor in various ways. These are as much gifts of charity as any of the collections made for the Schemes. But no trace of them appears in our official accounts, and not a shilling of them goes to swell the total of £81,740, which is relied on as the amount of the Church's gifts. From the Report of the Board of Supervision, dated August 1863, it appears that there are in Scotland 764 parishes assessed for the support of the poor, and 120 not assessed. The assessed parishes raised, by ordinary church collections during the year, the sum of £19,025, of which £9652, 17s. 6d. was expended on relief of the poor. The balance, £9552, 18s. 10d. was expended on other purposes. These are known to be to some extent charitable—the payment of fees for poor children at the parish schools forming a very large item. But I am content to take the sum of 9652, 17s. 6d. as the definite sum of the Church's charitable contributions through her ordinary church-door collections in the assessed parishes. There remain the 120 unassessed parishes. At the same rate the sum raised by their collections would be £1516; but where there is no legal assessment for the poor, the church-door benefactions are much larger; and it would not be too much to set down £3,000 as given in this way. But I discard this sum altogether—I take the lowest ground of ascertained fact. I make no estimate. I rest on the sum of £9652, 17s. 6d., which falls to be added to the Church's charitable gifts, only remarking that it is notoriously far below the true total from this source.