

missions. Remember for a moment how they have been made to believe in immersion as the only Bible mode of baptism. Pastors have preached on baptism, and prayed about baptism, and administered baptism, and had controversies over baptism, and our denominational papers have had editorials on baptism, and communicated articles on baptisms, and paragraphs on baptism, and letters on baptism, and news from the churches about baptism, until baptism, baptism, baptism, is the word that has been made ring in the Baptist heart and conscience. Our people are strong on baptism. Some of them are so strong on it, they are weak on other things. Now the fact that we are so thoroughly indoctrinated on baptism is a gratifying fact, and contains a suggestion as to how we may become indoctrinated in missions. We must preach about missions, pray about missions, write about missions. We must keep the facts about missions, and above all, the Bible doctrine of giving for missions before our people. Doubtless you have made a mistake in preaching on missions only once a year, and that when a collection was in view. The people associated the subject of missions with an inward struggle against giving money. They were never permitted, by the pastor's preaching, to look at the great doctrine of missions by itself, apart from appeals for money, as the command of Christ to all believers. Hence missions to them do not mean a binding duty, a glorious privilege and act of loving loyalty to Christ. In short they are not educated, indoctrinated, rooted and grounded in the Bible teaching about missions. My advice to you (and experience justifies it) is this: Let the doctrine of missions have a prominent place in your regular preaching from Sunday to Sunday. Pray for the missionaries and boards from time to time. Circulate tracts among your people quietly, which will present to them the various mission fields. Send to the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond if you desire tracts, and you can get them free. All this when no collection is in view. Create missionary conviction first, then your collection will be easy. The reason so little money is raised by many appeals for missions is, that there is nothing to appeal to. *Conviction, conviction, conviction*, this is the first thing, the last thing and the middle thing to be kept in mind by pastors if we are ever to bring our churches up to their true measure of duty. I am no prophet, but I make a prediction, that the pastor who sets earnestly about creating missionary conviction will rejoice in greatly enlarged collections and soon have a revived church along all lines of Christian activity. Is never fails. Try it.—*The Miss. Jour.*

STATE OF RELIGION IN THE FIVE REPUBLICS OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

Repeatedly comes the request, "Tell us of the needs of Central America and the work for Christ which is being done there," and we are thus assured that our work and its wants are borne above on the wings of prayer from many a mission circle in the dear home land. God, in His great love, has caused to be removed every external obstacle which would forbid the advancement of His kingdom here. Central America is open to the gospel, and the few faithful workers are pleading for reinforcements.

GUATEMALA.—A change came over the Republic of Guatemala in 1871 when General Barrios became President. Priests were no longer allowed to walk the streets in ecclesiastical vestments; the processions, so calculated to delude the people, were suppressed, and the nunneries

were opened to public gaze. Seventeen years later, this reformer was killed by a traitor when on his way to Salvador to institute a reform there. Since then the processions have been partly revived and the cloisters undisturbed; but the government is no longer ruled by Catholicism. All are privileged to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience, and now it is time for the Church of Christ to plant her standard here. Skepticism and infidelity are gaining ground; the evil one is on the alert and will, if possible, deceive the very elect.

This Christmas week every devout Roman Catholic has a *nacimiento* at home. This is a sort of basket usually made of tissue or gilt paper containing a doll, partly nude or gayly dressed, according to the liking. For days the streets have been full of these for sale, as well as of many small images, pictures and all kinds of Christmas adornings. Yesterday being the President's birthday, the city was gayly decked with flags, and in the evening public buildings were literally covered with lanterns, while music and fireworks filled the air—a scene representing a strange mixture of political and religious motive. These people are always celebrating. Hardly a week passes without a feast or holiday of some kind.

Ours is the only mission in this Republic of 1,500,000 inhabitants, having one station in this city (Guatemala), with a branch interest at San Augustin and a hopeful outlook at Quezaltenango. Are not two missionaries with their wives, two native preachers and a teacher, a small force? Education and commerce are fast advancing down here, but the Sabbath is profaned and God's name dishonored everywhere.

NICARAGUA has a population of nearly 300,000. The Roman Catholic religion is protected by the constitution, but recent legislation has opened the door to Protestantism. Government no longer supports the priesthood and promises to protect missionaries. At Graytown there is a small Episcopal Mission, among the Mosquito Indians, is well known. The majority as these 6,000 Indians are Protestant Christians, and aid the Missions liberally according to their means. When they were told that the Republic had taken charge of the Reserve and that they might revert to their old customs, have open saloons, work on Sunday and have as many wives as they pleased, they were indignant, and exclaimed, "We have just come out of heathen darkness, and now these people want to push us backward into it."

HONDURAS is the most backward of the Central American Republics, but less fanatical and more willing to hear the gospel than some others. Foreigners are protected, though not well received on account of a political difference in which they sided against the government. There is an English Methodist Mission among the negroes at Puerto Cortez. There was a native mission, but the missionary died, the school was abandoned and nothing has been done for two years. The climate is trying, but the need is great. These 375,000 inhabitants, mostly Indians, are partially civilized but wholly without the gospel.

SALVADOR has no missions. This Republic is well advanced commercially, is densely populated and full of Roman Catholic churches and priests, who are supported by government. There are many Germans, a few of whom are anxious for a Protestant interest.

COSTA RICA has a mission at Port Limon under the Jamaica Baptists. Also the "Central America Mission" which is undenominational and supported by free contributions. Five missionaries are doing good work at