

## MISSION NOTES.

*From the Advance.*

—Roman Catholicism has lost 190,043 members in Ireland during the last ten years: the total census of the church at present is 3,951,888.

—Rev. R. W. McAll has added three more halls to his Paris work, bringing the number up to twenty-eight and now the halls need workers.

—Missionaries in China refuse to admit opium smokers to church membership. Opium kills about 160,000 persons annually in China, it is estimated.

—The Australian Missionary Society reported the receipts of the year aggregating \$73,386. Of this sum nearly one-half came from New Zealand and the Fiji Islands.

—Dom Pedro, Emperor of Brazil, a country absolutely Roman Catholic, offers to pay the expenses of those Protestant ministers who may be disposed to come to his dominion to preach the gospel.

—The republic of Nicaragua has expelled the Jesuits from its dominion on account of their attempt to control the government, and seventy-three of them have arrived at Panama on their way to new homes.

—In Tapitenea, one of the Gilbert Islands, the people have gathered and burned all their weapons of war, have passed prohibitory liquor laws, and imposed heavy fines on those guilty of Sabbath labour or desecration.

—One of the Secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, in an address before the Conference at Midway Park, England, spoke of Ceylon as being the centre of a work which in the future may be the means of evangelizing India. All classes of Europeans and Orientals meet in this small island, and the effective evangelistic work done there is by them carried to widely sundered peoples. There are now on the island 38 missionaries, 82 native ministers, 7,259 communicants and 35,000 baptized adherents.

—Nearly a year ago steps were taken by the Central China Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church to establish a school of the highest grade at Kiu-kiang. The project was carried forward with great rapidity, buildings admirably adapted to the purposes in view were secured and are now occupied, and Rev. T. C. Carter was placed in charge. The institution has been named "Fowler University of China," in honour of Rev. C. H. Fowler, LL.D., who, as Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, has special supervision of the entire China field.

—Mr. David Jones, who was well known two or three years ago in his labours among the Chinese in Chicago and Eastern cities, writes from Canton, China, where he is just beginning his second year of labour, that he has been suffering from illness, but is now better. He is under commission of the British and Foreign Bible Society to distribute the Scriptures through the region of country around Canton. He speaks of one of their leaders having gone to England for a year, and on his return he hopes to bring with him a number of helpers. The plan is to get a few highly educated ministers for ministerial and literary work, and then men of a strong piety and faith and ordinary attainments for the work of colporteurs and evangelists.

—There are now 680 foreign missionaries labouring in India, representing 32 missionary societies, an increase of 67 since 1871. Of this number England takes the lead with 244; Germany follows with 131; and the United States comes next with 117. Thirty of them are the sons of missionaries born in the country, and eleven others were born in the country of European parentage. Of

the United States Ohio sends the 18, the greatest number. Of native ordained agents there are 389, an increase of 164 since 1871. The number of native Christians is set down as 340,623, besides whom there are reckoned to be at least 150,000 "unbaptized Christians," or people who are in various stages of Christian education. Of the 680 missionaries only 28 are physicians, and there is an increasing call for such all through the country.

—The mission of the English General Baptist Missionary Society in Orissa, India, is just sixty years old. It was begun in 1821, amid many discouragements, and it was seven years before the first convert was baptized. It was the headquarters of Jaganath idolatry, and infanticide, suttee, meriah sacrifices, and other barbarous practices prevailed. Now these rites are no longer performed, caste has been greatly weakened, and the Bible is taking its place among the sacred books of the people. Fifty-six missionaries in all have laboured in this field, and there have been 1,795 baptisms, not including those of the American Free Baptist Mission in North Orissa. The present number of church members is 1,073, a net gain of eighty the past year. The receipts of the Society for the year for its missions in India and Italy were \$31,864.

—Dr. Murray Mitchell, who has been visiting the missions in Asia in behalf of the Free Church of Scotland, writes from India: "I have been profoundly interested in watching the doings of the Brahma Somaj, which is split into three strongly antagonistic sections. I have twice seen Keshub Chunder Sen. On one occasion the conversation occupied two or three hours. He is as eloquent as ever, and apparently as full of hope regarding his own work. But his position is thoroughly illogical, and I believe he must soon advance toward full Christianity, or recede from it. There ought to be much solicitude and prayer in connection with this remarkable man. Crowds still hang on Keshub's lips whenever he comes forth with one of his set orations. Yet in Bengal, and especially in Calcutta, he has certainly lost influence; and this chiefly in consequence of the marriage of his daughter with the Raja of Cooch-Behar, in circumstances and with accompaniments entirely irreconcilable (so his opponents assert) with his own strongly avowed principles. I have also met with the most influential man in the Sadharan Somaj. The body at present professes an expansive Theism; but there is, I fear, some danger lest this degenerate into a contracted Deism."

## GENERAL RELIGIOUS NOTES.

—The *Watchman* says an atheist is no more qualified for a statesman, than a Nihilist for a ruler.

—Canon Haddon's words in St. Paul's, in connection with the late International Medical Congress, were bold, but not irreverent. "The labours," he said, "of Jesus of Nazareth were frequently more like those of the doctor of a London hospital seeing his patients than those of an ordinary clergyman." The Canon instanced seventeen cases of cure by our Lord which might have presented themselves for treatment at a modern hospital.

—We congratulate the Baptists of California. The Rev. I. S. Kalloch, D.D., and we hope his son, too, has withdrawn from the Baptist district and state conventions. His church thus becomes an Independent Church, which is bad for other independent churches. He is said to have announced two things: one that he is a candidate for member of Congress, and the other that he will now retire from politics. The latter looks credible. He has retired from the ministry once and from politics once before. The trouble is that he won't stay retired. —*N. Y. Independent.*

—There is one Methodist relic which is preserved with great care. It is Wesley's pocket Bible, which he used to carry on his preaching tours and also used in his private devotions. Its genuineness is well assured, having been passed upon, we believe, by some Methodist committee, which has investigated the matter with all the care of a Catholic Congregation of Beatification; looking up the miracles of a possible saint. This Bible is annually put into the hands of the newly-elected president of the British Wesleyan Conference, carefully kept by him, and occasionally reverently shown to discreet devotees, and then passed down to his successor.

—The singular event of the union of a Northern and a Southern Presbyterian Church took place at Rogersville, Tenn., August 28th. Lots were drawn to decide which church should go to the meeting house of the other for the ceremony. Then, after the congregations had assembled, a ballot was taken to determine the ecclesiastical connection of the united church, and resulted in 102 votes for the Southern and 46 for the Northern church. The officers, beginning with the two ministers, offered their resignations, which were accepted. The officers were re-elected. "Then followed prayer, and benediction, and handshaking, and a quiet dispersal."

—Our attention has been called to a tendency that is sometimes apparent in reports of evangelistic services—that of exaggerating the numbers of professed converts. We are fully sensible of the evil, though we venture to hope it is not a widely spread one. We would not wittingly give it the remotest countenance or currency. While it is not glorifying to God to misrepresent His work in any particular place by understating it, we feel that the habit of numbering the converts is one that is fraught with peculiar dangers. God requires of us strict truth, not only in the inward parts, but in all the outward arrangements and representations of our work for Him among our fellow-men. —*Christian.*

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

—Chester A. Arthur, now President of the United States, was the son of Dr. William Arthur, a Baptist clergyman.

—President Garfield died on the anniversary of the battle of Chickamauga, in which he won great distinction for personal heroism and cool, clear-headed generalship.

—Out of six millions of coloured people in the Southern States the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South reports thirteen communicants and one coloured minister.

—Secretary of War Lincoln has prohibited the use of tobacco at West Point. It is stated that four-fifths of the students are addicted to its use. It may be difficult at first for them to break the injurious habit, but the government which educates men for its service has a right to demand that their bodies shall not be weakened or their brains injured by a worse than useless fashion.

—Is it not time that some of the other religious bodies should try the experiment of a "Congress?" That of the Episcopalians and that of the Unitarians, under another name, are very successful. Why do not the Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Congregationalists, the Baptists adopt it? So asks the *N. Y. Independent.*

—The new Czar of Russia and his advisers are wisely recognizing the power of the press by authorizing the publishing and gratuitous circulation of a paper every Sunday, in which subjects of political, historical and scientific interest will be discussed, together with the news of the day. Three or four copies are to be sent to every village and these read aloud

to the inhabitants. If this paper is wisely conducted it may prove a powerful influence for good.

—The girls, says the London *Spectator*, have taken a remarkable place in the London University honour lists of the B. A. examinations. Of the six in the English honours list the first and two others were girls. In German two of the four in the honour class were girls. In mathematics the first of the three in the honour class was a girl. In the examinations for bachelor of medicine the first of three honours in anatomy went to a girl; and one of the three honours for materia medica and pharmaceutical chemistry went to a woman. May be they will be allowed to practice medicine in England by-and-by.

—The Bishop of London lately admitted twenty laymen to the office of lay readers. *The Church Times* says that the Bishop received those presented to him nearly in the formula of the ordinal of the diaconate. The candidates then knelt before him, while he severally delivered into their hands the New Testament, saying: "Take thou authority to read and expound the Holy Scriptures where thou shalt be appointed to serve." The service then proceeded with a portion of that used in the ordination of deacons, and the benediction having been pronounced, the Bishop delivered an address to the readers on the duties of their office.

—In the colony of New South Wales are 300,000 acres of land, yielding an annual revenue of £10,000, constituting an estate originally granted by King George IV. to provide funds for religious and educational purposes. Although the colony has long since adopted a policy opposed to State aid to religion, ecclesiastical influences have been too powerful, or the friends of voluntarism too apathetic, to allow of the necessary steps being taken to put an end to the anomaly. The Rev. J. Jefferis, LL.B., of Sydney, having aroused public attention to the matter, a Bill, introduced by Sir Henry Parkes, passed through both houses of the Colonial Legislature, declaring these lands waste lands of the Crown; and information is just to hand that the Royal assent has been given to the measure, which is entitled the "Church and School Lands Dedication Bill." The revenue arising from these lands will henceforth be used solely for educational purposes. —*Nonconformist.*

—From the time of Niebuhr downwards, our historical idols have been, one by one, demolished, until little of romance remains in the annals of the civilized world. The last to be assailed by the iconoclast is the highly-dramatic story of Joan of Arc, to whom statues have been reared, if she has not been actually canonized by the Romish Church. No doubt seems to be at present cast upon the martial exploits of the Maid of Orleans—for it is upon record in the archives of the city that she received two hundred and ten livres from the Town Council for her services at the siege of that place; but authentic documents have recently been brought to light at Mentz which indubitably establish the fact that the heroic damsel was not burnt at all either by the English or her own countrymen, but that she lived to be a respected matron, having, in 1463, been married to a Sieur de Hermoise, or Armoise, of Lorraine, and apparently—as the old romances say—"lived happy ever afterwards." Thus has modern research spoilt a touching tragedy, the supposed truth of which has been attested by a statue in the city with which her name is associated.

—The appointment of Rev. Geo. Granville Bradley, LL.D., to succeed Dr. Stanley as dean of Westminster has been approved by the Queen. He is a son of the late Rev. Chas. Bradley, and was educated at Rugby under Dr. Arnold. He