

MISSIONARY ITEMS, SELECTED.

DURATION OF MISSIONARY LIFE.—The Christian Review states, that of 130 missionaries who had gone from Andover Theological Seminary up to 1858, the average term of missionary service was about fourteen years; of the 66 then living, the average was seventeen and a half years. Of the whole number, two had been in service 44 years, and 15 over 30 years. Of 260 missionaries in India, the average term of service was nearly 17 years. Many of these returned to their native land, and lived many years after leaving the missionary field.—The loss of life by violence, or by sudden casualty is very rare. Of nearly 1,500 persons belonging to the families of missionaries, and of officers and agents of the American Board who have travelled over all continents and seas, only two have lost their lives by shipwreck, one a Secretary of the Board, and one a missionary to China, three died by the hands of savages while on a tour of exploration, one was drowned while crossing a river near his dwelling, and several were massacred in their own houses by the Oregon Indians in 1848.

CHRISTIANITY PROSPERING IN MADAGASCAR.—Rev. Mr. Ellis the veteran missionary writes that the change in the administration of that island is hopeful. He thinks that if the nobles and the best friends of the country are true to themselves, and the compact between the sovereigns and nobles is maintained, there is a better prospect for the temporal and spiritual prosperity of Madagascar than ever before. The most intelligent and influential wish to maintain the existing friendly relations with foreign powers. The Christians show greater earnestness to spread the gospel among their indifferent or heathen countrymen. Their congregations are increasing, and additions are made to the church every month. Mr. Ellis enjoys the entire confidence of all the members of the government, and every assistance and encouragement they can give.

ANTICIPATING THE END.—A very general impression prevails among Mohammedans that great changes are about to take place, by which Christianity will triumph over and supersede their religion. A missionary of the Church of England at Nazareth, writes, "Most remarkable is the general faith of the Mohammedans in the speedy advent of Christ from heaven to destroy antichrist; the belief that the time will not be not far distant when the Sultan will be obliged to retire to Egypt, and when the Christians will even enter Mecca." Rev. Dr. Perkins, the veteran missionary to the Nestorians, in a recent letter states that he was visited by the highest nobles of the country, who alluded to the changes and commotions in the world, and very thoughtfully added, "Do you know what these things mean? I do. Jesus Christ is about to come."

TURKISH FANATICISM ABATING.—The missionaries at Kharpoot, in Turkey in Asia, were recently notified by the Pasha that the next day would be the second anniversary of the Sultan's coronation, and that it was expected that the Protestants, as well as the other communities, would celebrate it by illuminations. As the next day was the Sabbath, the missionaries informed the Pasha of their conscientious scruples against celebrating it, and requested him to accept an illumination on the following evening. When informed of their feelings, he said, "Certainly; no man to honor the Sultan should do aught against his conscience." He at once sent a messenger to the city, to order that not only Protestant, but all others who might fail to celebrate the day should be unmolested.

BIBLE CIRCULATION IN CHINA.—The Rev. W. Muirhead has furnished some interesting details of the progress of divine truth amongst the Chinese. The impediments are very great, but the weapons of the Christian's warfare are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, and to the casting down every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

"As to the progress and prospects of Bible work at this place, you will see