

cepted, and an appeal has been made for funds.

—The interesting fact is stated that while the number of Christians in Japan is only about one in one thousand, and in no province do Christians even approach to a majority, yet there have been eleven members of the House of Representatives chosen from their number. There are also three professed Christians in the House of Peers. A Christian has been chosen President of the new House of Representatives. A former vice-president of the liberal party is an active Presbyterian elder. After his election he was advised to give up his office in the church, as it might create prejudice against him, but he replied that he regarded his office in a Christian church as more important than his seat in the Diet. It was then suggested that he absent himself from the meetings, but he answered that he regarded attendance at Christian worship as a greater privilege, as well as a higher duty than any other. This shows sturdy Christianity in Japan.

—It is said that Hebrew is rapidly becoming again a living tongue in Palestine. Jews driven by persecution from other countries are gathering in the land of Israel. They do not know each other's language, but all of them understand something of Hebrew, and the consequence is that Hebrew is becoming the medium of communication among them. Two weekly newspapers are now published in Jerusalem in Hebrew. It would seem expedient that missionaries to the Jews in Palestine should be able to speak in the Hebrew language.

—Thibet is one of the few countries where the preaching of the Gospel is prohibited. Very little is known of the people. The population is set down as 6,000,000. They have two forms of religion, one of which is a type of Buddhism. Various attempts have been made to carry the Gospel into the country, but they have all been practically unsuccessful. The Moravians have long waited to enter the field, having sta-

tions on the confines and books prepared in Thibetan to equip the missionary as soon as the wall is broken down. A prayer union has been formed among the Moravians to pray for the opening of Thibet.

—Dr. B. H. Badley, President of Lucknow Christian College, writes to the *Independent* of the North Indian Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Its foundations were laid in the dark days of the mutiny of 1857, by Dr. Butler. In August, 1858, the statistics were : Missionaries, 3 ; helpers, 7 ; church members, 1 ; probationers, 4 ; orphans, 6 ; day scholars, 41 ; native congregations, 35. In 1889 the figures were : Missionaries, 30 ; Zenana and native, 72 ; helpers, 389 ; church-members, 4989 ; probationers, 4793 ; orphans, 617 ; day scholars, 17,241 ; Sunday-school scholars, 28,400 ; native congregations, 13,529. The mission has its own publication house, a theological seminary, a college, and a woman's college, and is in all respects splendidly equipped for work.

—In the year 1800 only one twenty-fifth of our population was in towns of more than 5000 inhabitants. Now more than one fourth of our population is massed in cities. This fact is startling. It has its great lesson for the Church. Here is where the work of evangelization must be pressed. While we are sending missionaries to foreign lands, God is sending thousands of foreigners to us, that we may Christianize them right at our own doors. The problem of city evangelization is one of the great problems of Christian missions to-day.

—Dr. Arthur Mitchell, Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, was greatly impressed in his recent visit, with the vast unoccupied fields in Central China. He found cities of from 75,000 to 300,000 with not one missionary of any denomination. These fields are open, too. "There is as little excuse," he says, "for leaving a city of 100,000 on the New York Central Railroad without a single preacher of the Gos-