

Missionary Survey.

THE GOVERNOR of Hong Kong, a Roman Catholic, has intimated that there are fewer Christians in China now than were there a hundred years ago. Of course he means fewer Roman Catholics; and in this sense his assertion may be correct; but a century ago there was not known a Chinese convert to evangelical Christianity; and there was not a single Protestant missionary in that vast Empire. There are now over 600 Christian missionaries, including missionaries' wives, and other ladies, and thirty-five thousand converts to Protestantism; and the number of Church members increases year by year with wonderful rapidity. Adam MacCall, the leader of the Congo mission, while eagerly pressing to reach Stanley Pool, was taken sick. He died at Madeira, where he had gone for medical aid. He was a man of rare energy and devotion, and his death is severely felt. Africa has been largely opened up to Mission enterprise; but it is still "the dark continent," with millions of heathen who have not so much as heard that there is a Holy God, or a divine Saviour. Oh, the tales of sorrow and woe unspeakable that come to us from heathen lands! Well may we pray with ever-increasing fervency, "Thy Kingdom Come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Two hundred girls slain that their blood may make mortar with which to repair a dusky monarch's shanty-palace! Is not this a call loud as a trumpet-peal for Christians to haste to the rescue? Men buried alive under the corpses of Chiefs—slaves sacrificed by scores to "follow" deceased masters,—these are still the common-place tragedies of African Heathenism. Two hundred and fifty-three millions of souls were counted in India at the last census. This is fully ten times the population of England; it is seven times the population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. It is more than five times the population of the United States; it is nearly fifty times the population of Canada. We have been aiding the evangelization of this vast country—to what extent? To what amount? We are represented in the field by Rev. Messrs. Douglas, Campbell, and Wilkie, and the Misses Rodger and McGregor. Great prosperity has attended the work of Missions in various parts of India; and it may well be hoped that in answer to the prayers of faith, good news will come to us from our own faithful men and women. Let it be remembered, however, that some of the missions that are now most prosperous were twenty years without gaining more than five or six converts! Chunder Sen, of whose reformation in India such high hopes were once entertained, proves himself a pretentious nullity. He claims to be more than

equal to the Lord Jesus; but in works he is a failure. Mr. Bergen, of the American Presbyterian Mission at Ambala, gives an account of a communion service held among the lepers at that station. The arrangements that were necessary in the service to avoid the contaminating touch of the lepers rendered the scene peculiar. There must needs be a cup for the missionary, another for an old and blind man, who, on account of his infirmities was obliged to live among the lepers, and another for a daughter of a leper, who, though now sound and well, is liable to have the disease break out in her at any time. Very few of these lepers have fingers with which to take the bread, and the missionary must place it so that they can reach it with their mouths. What a boon is the gospel of Christ's love to these poor people! The best news from Turkey is that Mohammedans in considerable numbers are becoming subject to the faith of Christ. Christian colleges and schools have done great things for Turkey, and are doing more and still more. The light is spreading over the "hills of darkness." It is the same in all places: the convert is exposed to scorn, hatred, and active persecution.

Concerning Missions in Japan, a missionary says:—"The Buddhist priests have shown of late an unusual activity. Perhaps they begin to think that the inertia of hugeness does not furnish a sufficient safeguard against the active and untiring attacks of the Christian missionaries. If so, they are not much mistaken. Their lazy existence, their perfunctory incantations and half-hearted homilies, furnish an unmistakably marked contrast to the never-flagging industry and self-denying zeal of the western missionaries. Long and tolerably intimate intercourse with the Japanese enables us to say, that the pure upright lives and single-minded earnestness of our own missionaries have not less power of persuasion here than the doctrines they preach." The great theatre meetings held last summer in Kiyoto and Osaka, Japan, have roused not only the Shinto priests into holding great opposition meetings, but have compelled the newspapers to report as items of news the growing power of "the Jesus Religion," as Christianity is termed. "Christianity appears to be spreading over the country with the rapidity of a rising tide," observes one paper. Another says—"The priests are desperately eager to stem the rapidly-advancing flood of Christianity, which threatens to drown them out at no distant day." The *Osaka Nippon*, said to be the ablest paper in Southern Japan, is bold in its advocacy of "the Jesus Way," on the ground that no other religion has ever given liberty to any nation. The official organ of the Government, which stands at the head of the Press of Japan, recently had a remarkable editorial on "the folly of fighting the foreign religion."