

The Missionary World.

**H**OW beautiful upon the mountains the feet of the messengers that proclaim glad tidings of peace! These messengers are delivering their message in the Turkish Empire, even amid the marching of armies, the raids of savages, and thunder of battle. The Presbyterian Board and the American Board are doing a noble work there, and sowing a seed which perhaps shall spring up all the better after the fearful plowing of the land by the sharp ploughshare of war. How terrible upon the mountains and in the vales of that land, the marching of men of blood who spare neither mother nor infant,—who have no pity for the weak and helpless,—who show no mercy and apparently expect none! What a fearful commentary in the eyes of the world on the cruelty and folly and wickedness of men who are not under the power of the Gospel! It is good news then, that at this hour there are in Turkey 150 evangelical missionaries, 60 native pastors, 70 native churches, 60 stations, with about 20,000 enrolled converts. There are 17 Christian Boarding Schools, and 234 common schools. The Bible has been translated into Arabic, Osman-i-Turkish, Greco-Turkish, Armeno-Turkish, Armenian, and Modern Greek, and it is having a fair circulation in all, but especially in Arabic.

The Russian Empire—so vast, so unwieldy, so warlike—must itself be leavened by the living and pure Word of God before it can justly be regarded as the champion of Christendom. The Greek Church is little, if at all, in advance of the Roman Catholic in purity of faith and worship, the chief feature in favour of the Greek Church in Russia being its tolerance of the Bible in the language of the people. It is feared

by Protestant missionaries in Turkey that if Russia was to take possession of the country her rule would be more tyrannical, and practically more repressive of Protestantism than the rule of the Porte has been.

Here is a fact from Harput, in Eastern Turkey, which may well be conned with profit. The Turks, old and young, come to Sabbath School. None consider themselves too old to attend. All regard it as a duty and privilege to be where the word of God is made the subject of careful study. They read the Bible in their homes more than any or all other books. In this way, says the missionary, there is more Scripture knowledge among the people than you would find in many places at home.

A rich blessing has been descending during the year on the missions of the American Board. There were reported at the recent anniversary no fewer than twenty new churches and eighteen hundred new members. In Japan, the number of Churches and missionaries has doubled during the year; but what are these in an empire of forty millions! Five hundred new members have been reported from Micronesia: the isles thus turning to the Lord.

Never give up in the Lord's work! What an example of perseverance is furnished by the story of the Presbyterian Mission in Canton! For twenty-five years the missionaries laboured, and at the close of that period had gathered only thirty-three converts. In the next seven years the numbers increased six-fold, and the growth now is steady and comparatively rapid. In 1833 there were in all China two missionaries and two converts. Now there is a Presbyterian "Synod of China." A conference attended by 120 missionaries can be held regularly. Some 500 missionaries have laboured in China; and the converts number