

## MISSION FIELD.

## The Missionary Review of the World.

There is in the January number a very striking chromo litho graph frontispiece—the god Ganapati of India—with a short account of the way in which he became an elephant headed god. Having quarrelled with his father Shiva his head was struck off. His mother insisted on his restoration, but the head could not be found. Shiva in his perplexity saw an elephant and took off its head and put it on the body of his son. He, as a compensation, gave him the promise that he would be most worshipped in India, which is true. At all ceremonies Ganapati has the first place.

The January number of the Review has been devoted for some years to a review of the world's religious condition. This is always important to the student of missions, and interesting to all who are watching for the time when Jesus shall reign. The review is not complete but sufficiently extensive to be very interesting and hopeful.

## ARABIA.

Abraham prayed O that Ishmael might live before Thee. The Arabians are the descendant of Ishmael and are intensely Mohammedan. Only within the last ten years did Christian modern missions begin to evangelize these 11,000,000 of the followers of the false Prophet. There are now the following three missions in Arabia.

1. Ion Keith Falconer, a wealthy young Scotchman, arrived at Aden in 1865, and at his own expense founded the Ion Keith Falconer Mission, which is at Sheikh Othman—ten miles inland from Aden. He placed himself under the Free Church of Scotland but bore all the expense of buildings and medical helper. Within a year and a half he died but others have taken up the work, and there is at the present time promise of great blessing.
2. The Reformed Church of America in the year 1889 started a mission in Eastern Arabia, in Busrah, Muscat and Bahrein Islands.
3. The North African Mission started a mission in the vicinity of Mount Sinai, where a young German is employed.

## PERSIA.

Persia is stagnant and falling into decay politically, commercially and religiously. Mission work amongst the Mohammedans is not promising. The law of Islam—that every convert to Christianity must die—is enforced. Work amongst the Nestorians in Oroomiah, Isfahan, Teheran, Tabriz, Salmas and Hamadan, is more or less encouraging. Protestantism is getting a recognized place in the nation.

## INDIA.

Dr. Boggs takes a birds'-eye view of the condition of missions in India, noting seven conspicuous features.

1. The larger gatherings amongst the depressed classes. The Methodist Episcopal Church received 1,000 converts in 1893. They have received 45,000 since 1889, and are at the present time receiving about fifty per day. The American Baptists at Ongole, the C.M.S. at Trimevelly, etc., are all gathering large numbers from the lower castes.

2. The conflict between the advocates of purity, temperance, etc., and officialdom on the other. The active crusade against the opium trade and the imprisonment of the Editor of the Bombay Guardian and three missionaries will be remembered. For a month they lay in the Bombay jail because they denounced the opium clubs of Bombay. Besides the opium it is known that provision is made for licentiousness for the 7,000 British troops in India which must rouse to the depths the souls of all who love purity. The spread of the drink curse is also an object of alarm and needs attention. Yet instead of sympathy, the missionaries who visit a street in Bombay inhabited by prostitutes, in order to warn them of wrath to come are insulted and driven out by the police.

3. The influence indirectly of Christian teaching on non Christians. The *Nautch*—the dance of professional prostitutes at receptions, marriages, and all celebrations, which is approved by orthodox Hindus, is beginning to be looked upon with shame by many prominent Hindus who advocate its abolition. The Hindu Moral Reform Association condemns concubinage. At Serampore during the Juggernaut festival although the Brahmans did their best the populace refused to lay hold on the ropes and pull the car.

4. The meetings of missionaries for the quickening of spiritual life which is a very common feature of missionary vacations on the hills. This fellowship includes all denominations which makes

it the more hopeful. The personality and indwelling of the Holy Ghost is much emphasized.

5. The Gospel preached in English, to the educated natives by such distinguished visitors as Pentecost, Varley, Haslam, etc. Many educated natives will listen in English who would not in their own language.

6. Much activity in Sunday School work, which is greatly due to Dr. J. L. Phillips the S. S. Secretary for India.

7. The steady expansion and deepening of the roots of the Church of Christ. At even the present rate of increase in a hundred and fifty years India would be Christian, but the rate has been constantly increasing.

## SIAM AND LAOS.

The Siamese live in the Southern part, and the Laos are a people living in the North of Siam. The Laos are living under four Governments,—the Southern portion under Siam—the Eastern under France—the North under China and Britain in the West. The Siamese in the South have changed by contact with foreign nations—having with modern improvements, such as steam, electricity, etc., also received modern vices. The Laos to the North are living in primitive simplicity and comparative purity. They have no caste distinctions, and their women are not secluded. The rulers have been friendly to the missionaries, even giving grants in aid of their work. Their religion is pure Buddhism, without a mixture of Confucianism or Hinduism. But Buddhist literature does not satisfy the head or heart. The country is thus open to the Gospel. The American Presbyterian Church is doing work in both fields and with much encouragement. Amongst the Laos, the work has been wholly evangelistic and the ingathering is greater than in the Siam mission, in which there is literary work such as translation and newspapers as well as medical work. In the Laos mission there are about fifty native evangelists—some of the congregation supporting an evangelist for three months or six months in the year. The whole population of Siam is only about 8,000,000 and it ought not to be long until stations are planted so as to bring the Gospel within reach of all.

## THIBET.

Miss Annie Taylor and her band, sent out by the recently organized Thibetan Pioneer Mission, are detained at Darjeeling, the Lieut. Governor of Bengal having refused permission to enter Thibet. Sir Chas. Elliott, the Lieut. Governor is not himself opposed to missions but they fear that the trade relations recently entered into with Thibet will be disturbed by the presence of missionaries. The Band however, are in no way discouraged, they have moved forward to Snatong, in Sikkim, on the borders of Thibet, where they are surrounded by actual Thibetan life, and learning the language, feeling assured that when they are ready to enter the Lord will open the door.

## COREA.

This land is now passing through such experiences as will compel important changes. Whatever they be, no longer can the exclusiveness of the past continue. The country is about the same size as Great Britain, and has a population of ten or thirteen millions. In 1870 the United States sent a fleet, under Commodore Rogers, which destroyed five of the forts but the government still held out and refused to negotiate a treaty. In 1876 the Japanese made a similar attack and succeeded. Mission work was first begun by Jesuits from Peking, in about the close of the last century, and according to the Jesuit method of *making converts*, they reported a considerable number. Protestant missions began only about ten years ago, and at present there are sixty-one missionaries counting the wives of missionaries, who are necessarily much engaged with their own homes. The actual working force is not greater than twenty at any one time. A new mission called the Korean Stinerant Mission, has been organized this last year, Mr. Malcolm C. Fenwick as superintendent.

## JAPAN.

The war in Japan has in some quarters disturbed the missions. The Christian evangelists and priests have to take their place in the ranks as well as all others, no exemptions are made. New power and influence won by success, increases the responsibilities of the Church. There are new treaties with England and the United States that will remove some hindrances and give the missionary more liberty. Although the native church has so much work to do at home, they are projecting a foreign mission to Corea, which, it is expected, will bring blessing to the home church. Japan and Corea have special claims on the prayers of Christians at this time.