

inasmuch as the movement there continues to progress. The number of those who are feeling convictions of sin, who are seeing the folly and danger of the idolatry in which they were born, and are being brought to cry, "What shall I do to be saved?" is on the increase. We are called to sing of judgment, inasmuch as sickness and debility are putting an arrest upon another and yet another of our beloved missionaries in that land. We stated in our February Number that Messrs Mackay and Smith were obliged to desist from their labours, and to seek, for a season at least, the restorative influence of their native land. We have now to add, that Mr. Miller is also obliged to withdraw from India, and to proceed to Australia. This dispensation is the more severe that it has taken place at this moment. Their labours were never more blessed than now, when they are called to leave them; and the prospects of the Mission in India were never so bright at any former period of its history. But it becomes both the missionary and the Church to bow to the dispensation, cherishing all the while a firm reliance on the wisdom and the love of Him from whom it comes. To the Great Master of the vineyard it belongs to say how long his servants shall labour, and when and in what way they shall rest; and he has been giving some very afflicting displays of his sovereignty in this respect in calling away his servants both from the Home and from the Foreign field.

But what we would fix attention upon here is the fact, that our devoted band of labourers in Calcutta is melting away, and needs to be recruited. Some of them have laboured long—have borne the burden and heat of the day—and must ever live in the veneration of the Church, not only for their own graces, but for the honour their Master has put upon them in the work he has enabled them to do. Others require only a temporary respite, and will soon return, by the blessing of God, to the work they love in the land of their adoption. But, meanwhile, the work in India must not be permitted to stand still. The Church, while relying on her Head, who has promised to send forth labourers into the vineyard, must use such means as are in her power for obtaining more men. The work is great, the need urgent; and we trust both probationers and ministers will seriously consider how far they may be qualified for, or called to give themselves to this great work. It were much to be regretted should any suspension of the agency throw back that work, or damp the movement now so hopelessly in progress. With these observations, we leave the following extracts to speak for themselves. The first is from the pen of the Rev. Mr. Gardiner, of Calcutta, of date the 5th December, and is addressed to the Convener:—

This mail will convey intelligence to you of the medical certificates which have been given in the case of Messrs. Miller and MacKay. The former has little hope held out to him by his medical advisor that he will soon be able for the trials of the Indian climate again, if ever. Mr. Mackay has been a complete invalid during the greater part of this year, and it is well now that he has the prospect of a change.

In these circumstances, we are very glad to hear of Mr. Pourie's appointment, and pray that the Lord may richly bestow his grace upon his servant, and fit him for this arduous work.

Mr. Ewart, of Calcutta, also writes us. After expressing his sense of the dispensation which is removing at the same time both Mr. Miller and Mr. MacKay from the work in India, and the loss he is sustaining especially in the departure of the latter, with whom he has lived so many years in friendly and brotherly intimacy, and from whose matured experience he has derived much and valued aid in his work as a missionary, he goes on to give us some interesting glimpses of their every-day missionary arrangements.

I fully expect more fruits of our labours here in process of time. Meanwhile, we are cheered by the few cases of conversion that have occurred within the last few months. The young men are all getting on satisfactorily, and I trust are growing in knowledge and love of the truth. I have now a pretty large Christian congregation of males and females and children every Sabbath evening; and, as they had become too many for one room in the mission-house, we have lately fitted up the hall of the house where the married converts live, as a chapel.

Last Sunday evening, Prayma, one of the females lately baptized, was present in our small congregation, along with her husband, to present their infant daughter for baptism. The husband is Shiba Chandra Banerjya. He has not come forward as a catechist or preacher, but he is now acting as a stated teacher in the institution, and he is one of the most laborious and useful assistants we have. He does not confine his labours to the institution; he accompanies Mr. Smith every Sunday to the village, which he visits, and preaches to the people. He also does a great deal, in Calcutta, by going from place to place, and preaching the gospel to such as he finds willing to listen.

When these letters were written, our missionaries were on the eve of their annual examination. The institution would close about the middle of December. Immediately thereafter the missionaries would be scattered throughout the towns and villages of the Presidency distributing tracts and proclaiming the glad tidings of the gospel. May a blessing rest upon their labours, so that, as the result of them, peace may come into many an Indian home, and the love of Christ take root in many an Indian heart!—H. and F. Record.

#### CONSTANTINOPLE.

It is a comfort to the Christian to know, that God can over-rule all things for the advancement of His own cause, and can, when amidst scenes of blood and slaughter, cause the good seed of the kingdom to take root. This is shown in a remarkable manner, by the present encouraging state of Mission in the East. The following interesting communications are from the *Fisco Church Record*:—

#### REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S WORK.

We beg the attention of our readers to the following important letter. It is a review of the work and progress accomplished in the capital of Turkey during the year. It shows that war, with all its sufferings, is doing more than could have been accomplished in ordinary circumstances, in many years by many missionaries. The national prejudices of the Moslems are melting away. They begin to see their inferiority in all the resources which civilization opens up; and what is far more blessed, they begin to see their need of a Saviour, and to inquire after the Bible. The following extracts are from Mr. Thomson's letter, of date the 18th of January.

#### SOCIAL EFFECTS OF THE WAR.

Since last I wrote to you, another year has closed over our heads, and it is natural to revert to some of those features which it presents in a missionary point of view, with reference to this country, and this city in particular. The all-absorbing event is, of course, the war—pregnant with calamities no doubt to all the countries engaged in it, and sending mourning and woe into countless households, but yet mingled with much mercy, and destined, we believe, to accomplish a mighty revolution in the East, in a moral and religious as well as a political point of view. Of the hardships which have thus descended upon the city, dearth of provisions is the most prominent; but it is ground of much thankfulness that there has not as yet been any serious fear of inadequate supplies of either food or fuel, though apprehensions seemed at one time well founded.

There appears also to be employment for most of the people, so that the actual sufferings of the poorer classes are probably not much greater than in former years. But it is in a religious aspect that so much that is hopeful presents itself. The friendly contact of the British, French, and Turkish populations has done more in a few months to break down Turkish intolerance, and to convince the Moslems of their great inferiority in all the arts, sciences, and resources of civilization, as well as to inspire them with respect for the character and creed of the Franks, than, humanly speaking, could have been accomplished by twice as many years of missionary labour. This is a most important fact, and it shows how the Lord, when his own time comes, can overrule the most trifling calamities for the accomplishment of the purposes of his own mercy.

#### SALE OF BIBLES, &c., AMONG THE TURKS.

Many very interesting facts might be stated illustrative of the awakening spirit of inquiry among the Moslems; but some, indeed most of them, it would be imprudent at present to divulge. I may however state, that during the last few months we have sold our Turkish Bible, twenty-seven Turkish New Testaments, and thirty one Turkish Gospels and Psalms to Moslems,—and that by an agency not a trad. I directly for the Turkish population, and prosecuting the work only very incidentally. What may have been sold by other agencies in town, I cannot tell; but certain it is that very many Turkish minds are in a most interesting state of inquiry, and that the Lord seems at last to be opening a way for his blessed truth among them. Nor is the state of the Greek, Italian, Bulgarian, Caramanian, and even Servian lands less interesting. Among all these nations, very large quantities of Scripture have been sold, far exceeding those of former years; and thus affording indubitable proof that the message of salvation is attracting their serious attention. This is in the highest degree hopeful, and we cannot doubt that its influence will be most salutary, whatever events coming years may have in store for us. The sales of this mission alone are about quadruple those of former years; but even this gives a very inadequate idea of the numbers of Scriptures put into circulation, as so many new agents have now been engaged in the work, particularly the excellent colporteurs of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who devote their attention exclusively to the allied forces, and the Frank population, and the shipping.

#### SALE OF RELIGIOUS BOOKS AMONG THE JEWS.

In turning now to the Jews, the people to whom our efforts are most directed, we have something similar, though on a humbler scale, to report. Here, too, our sales are considerably more than double those of former years, and though too large a proportion of them are still the mere Hebrew text, which is but imperfectly understood, still even it supplants books, the tendency of which is more than questionable; and the number of Spanish books sold is besides also increasing. With respect to our own publications alone, the sale of those of former years has increased somewhat, while the *Old Testament Stories*, published this year, has been so popular as in four months to realize as much as one-half of the whole year's sales of the rest. The extremely low prices at which we have to sell our publications makes the pecuniary result insignificant; but the numbers circulated and read are very encouraging indeed. A few copies of the Shorter Catechism, with proofs in Spanish, have also been sold; but we did not anticipate any considerable general sale for it, having designed it almost exclusively for our school where we have already begun to experience the benefit of it. We have also published, during the past month, a short tract on the Martyrs of Madagascar, which has considerably interested the Jews; while we hope to issue next week a translation of a little book for the