

RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL.

“Fifty or sixty years ago,” says a Missionary report, “Japan was sealed. Morrison was alone in China. Judson and his wife were prisoners in Burmah, and thankful for eighteen converts. Bishop Heber declined to baptize a native, lest he should excite hostility. From India to Syria there was not a single missionary. There were none in Turkey. There were two or three along the west coast of Africa, and as many on the south. Madagascar had been only just entered. The Church Missionary Society were rejoicing over the first convert in New Zealand. Williams was gathering in the first fruits in Polynesia; and there were not six thousand native christians in heathen countries outside Guiana and the West Indies. Now, in Japan there are native churches, native ministers, and native students for the ministry, and a community of eight thousand to gather round the word of God. In China the christians multiply six fold every ten years. For every convert then in Burmah, there are more than a thousand now. In India there are not only accessions of a hundred thousand in ten years, but of a hundred thousand in two. In West Africa there are powerful christian communities; and in South Africa, where Moffat waited years for a conversion, there are fifty thousand christians. There are a hundred thousand in Madagascar, and there are large islands in Polynesia and the Western Seas where an idol would be as great a curiosity as in London.”

A CITY IN RUINS BY AN EARTHQUAKE

The municipal authorities in Agram, Austria, have prohibited for the present the use of gas. Vehicles are not allowed to drive at a rapid rate through the streets, as the slightest shock might cause the houses to fall in. No fires are lit, the chimneys being all destroyed or damaged. The main walls have rents in them every where, and the town bears the appearance of having been subjected to bombardment. Three castles in the neighbourhood are heaps of ruins. The inhabitants are very patient in their misery, but the rain adds to their sufferings. Houses are falling continually. The shops are all closed. The people assemble in the open places, not knowing what to do, and are panic stricken. The churches and schools are closed, not only in Agram, but in the surrounding country, which has also greatly suffered. All danger is not yet over. A strong wind would bring down many houses that have been seriously damaged. A special commission is visiting one by one every house in the town. There are about two thousand altogether.—*Witness.*