

College Journalism, to which in some respects it is analogous, and gloried in the publication of some three hundred sheets. But these were the days of small things, literally and figuratively; for "the cause" kept steadily gaining strength, and in 1876, the centennial year, as many as five hundred journals appeared in a month, thus ushering in the glorious period of prosperity that is still referred to by enthusiasts as "halcyon days." Then it was that the mails of the States and Canada were flooded with boyish efforts ranging all the way from untidy scraps the size of a post card and less, to well conducted magazines of nearly mammoth proportions; a flood which kept on increasing until in 1877 there were over six hundred distinct periodicals falling more or less regularly from toy presses. Here, however, the tide began to ebb, for troubles suddenly arose from an unexpected quarter, and blackened the amateur horizon.

[To be continued.]

MISSIONS IN PALESTINE AND INDIA.

THE religion of Christ is essentially a missionary one. Its founder came to this earth to seek and to save the lost. "Behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy which shall be unto all people," was the angelic announcement to the shepherds on Bethlehem's plains when the Prince of Peace was born. His whole career was one of self-denial and self-sacrifice. "He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many." Having finished the work given Him by God to do, after spending forty days with His disciples on earth after His resurrection from the dead, and just before His ascension to the Land of Glory from which He had come, He gave to His disciples the glorious commission "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." These went abroad (after the promise of the Spirit's outpouring had been fulfilled), and began to make known throughout all the eastern portion of the then known world, the knowledge of the way of salvation through the Crucified One. It had been well for the Church and the world were the Divine Master's commission followed out; and had like zeal as pervaded the early missionaries of the cross been displayed by all succeeding generations of ministers, so much of the world-wide field would not yet remain to be possessed.

Each century of the Church's existence has been marked by noted features, either of advance or decline, and it is noticeable that whenever there was a general awakening to the importance and reality of unseen and eternal things within the Church itself, then, also, a desire to make known to others, what yielded themselves so much joy and peace characterized its ministers. Even as late as 1796, however, in the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, a minister had the hardihood to affirm that to spread abroad the knowledge of the Gospel among barbarous

and heathen nations, seemed to him highly preposterous, while in the same assembly, a learned Principal went so far as to declare "the missionary societies with their united action and common fund, highly dangerous in their tendency to the good order of society at large." That, however, was during the dark days of Scottish church history. With the dawning of the Nineteenth Century came, also, to the various churches of Britain and America, an awakening from their torpor and indifference, and an earnest concern for the propagation of Home and Foreign Missionary work.

Naturally enough, the regions around where Heaven's great missionary lived, laboured, died, and ascended, were among the first looked after. The mission to Syria was commenced in 1819 by three American Missionaries. These landing at Smyrna, found the people in a deplorable state of intellectual and moral darkness, the religion of the False Prophet having overspread the land, and left the people, as all false religions do, in a most unenviable hopeless position. Many prejudices had to be met, many obstacles overcome, many dangers boldly faced, and much persecution endured for Righteousness sake; but the work of God progressed. He owned and blessed the labours of His servants. The devotion and zeal of these noble workers were, in the course of time, amply rewarded, and we are, therefore, not surprised to find that in 1881, about 72 years from the time the mission was commenced, the number of foreign labourers in Syria and Palestine was 191, added to these there were 581 native teachers and catechists, 26 churches, 140 preaching stations, 1,700 communicants, 302 schools with 14,624 pupils and 12 medical missions. During 1882, 21,000,000 pages in Arabic were printed at the Beirut Press, so that now in that land you have the press, the church, and the schools all in operation: the first, disseminating useful information and instruction broadcast throughout the land; the Church, through all its variety of agencies, making known God's way of salvation; the schools busy teaching the youth of the land a great variety of useful knowledge. With all these in active operation, it is to be hoped that, ere long, we will hear of the complete regeneration of that most interesting, and until recently, so very degraded land.

Turn we next to India. Here, also, we have very decided and striking proofs of the power of the Gospel of Christ and its incomparable superiority to all other systems. In 1834, the American Presbyterian Church chose William Read and J. C. Lowrie as their first Missionaries to that benighted land. They established four Presbyteries by 1842. Other workers were sent out from time to time. The Established, Free, and United Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, in the course of time, all sent out Missionaries, as did also the Baptist, Methodist and Episcopal Churches. When the latest tabular state-