

American missionaries in the field, with over 2000 ordained native preachers; and upwards of 23,000 native assistants, catechists, teachers, and evangelists,—besides very numerous female missionary agents, &c. Without doubt our evangelizing agencies among the heathen have multiplied more than a hundred fold in one hundred years.

Eighty years ago the number of heathen converts under the care of Protestants is estimated at 50,000. The additions in either of the last two years, 1878 or 1879, would probably surpass that number; while the total converts now under Protestant care must exceed 1,700,000.

Eighty years ago the total amount contributed for Protestant missions was but £50,000 sterling. The amount now raised is not less than £1,250,000 sterling,—five times as much as the total income of the Romish Propaganda. Of this amount Great Britain contributes £700,000; America, £300,000, and Germany and Switzerland the balance. Eighty years ago there was 70 schools among the heathen; there are now over 12,000, with 400,000 pupils. At the beginning of this century we had the Scriptures in 50 translations, with a circulation of say five million of copies. We have the Scriptures now in whole or part in over 300 languages and dialects, with a circulation of about 150,000,000.

German missions have accomplished much, especially in Asia and Africa. The Rhenish mission in Sumatra has 2,400 baptized converts. The Basle mission on the Gold Coast has over 4,000 Negro converts. The Gossner mission to the Kolhs of India had in 1850 just four converts; it has now over 30,000 baptized converts. In 1843, there were in China but six converts, and twelve missionaries. The missionaries now number over 240, while the converts have increased two thousand-fold. In 1860, there were in the field, 20 medical missionaries; there are now 90.

It has been demonstrated over and over and over again by the missionary achievements of the last thirty years that the most degraded of heathen races, the Hottentots, the aborigines of Australia, the savages of the Pacific isles, can be taught the truths of the Gospel, and can be made to feel their need of a Saviour, and to believe to the saving of their souls. Races that seemed sunk to the profoundest depths of wretchedness and helplessness, have been raised to newness of life, and have been taught to read the Word of God in their own tongue. We need not point out the manifold significance of this fact.

Among the most hopeful features of our missions is the help rendered by women as missionaries, as teachers, and especially as organizers of Missionary Societies which are

rendering invaluable aid in the work of collecting funds.

A general survey of missions shows us that the wide world is open to the evangelist, and that to a hopeful measure the field has been occupied,—occupied by pioneers only! The vast army which is to possess the world for Christ has not yet been fully organized. Every church must help; every congregation, every christian! A church that is not a missionary church is dying or dead. A christian who refuses to aid mission work needs to be reminded constantly that the Lord's parting command was "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."

Systematic Beneficence.

THE following resolutions were adopted by the Presbyterian Assembly of the Northern States. They are just the resolutions that need to be carried out among our own delinquent congregations, which, alas, are not very few:—

Resolved, 1. In view of the many delinquencies reported, that all Financial Agents and Presbyteries be, and hereby are, directed to urge upon all our people and congregations to make some contributions to each and all of the Boards of the Church, and report annually to the Assembly on the subject, in the hope that the present number of delinquent congregations and Presbyteries may annually grow less.

2. That all our delinquent sessions and congregations be recommended to adopt some measures by which their people shall have opportunity to contribute at stated periods to the respective funds of the Church.

3. That where found practicable, the weekly Sabbath offerings by the envelope system be earnestly recommended to all our congregations.

The Committee on Systematic Beneficence of the Irish Assembly report hopeful progress. They conclude their report as follows:—

The times have indeed been depressing, but the question may well be asked, how far have God's people suffered from them as a punishment for want of practical sympathy with the advancement of His cause in the world? In the days of the Prophet Haggai the times were very bad—much was sown and little reaped, the people suffered from cold and hunger; the very wages earned seemed to be put into a bag with holes; they looked for much and it came so little, and even that little when brought home, God blew upon it—and why? Because His cause was neglected. But when the Jews considered their ways, and arose to do His work, from