

in room of Bishop Barclay, deceased. Bishop Helmuth was baptised by a clergyman who was also a converted Israelite. The Rev. Jacob Freshman, who with his whole family was baptised into the Christian faith some twenty years ago in Quebec, and who is now an ordained minister connected with the Methodist Conference of Canada, has been labouring hopefully and with some measure of success in New York for three years for the conversion of Israel. He is a man of faith and prayer. Without any stated remuneration, or guarantee of salary, he prosecutes his work under the auspices of an undenominational committee, of which Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby is the chairman. He officiates in two public halls in different parts of the city, with an attendance of from one hundred to two hundred Jews. He has baptized between twenty and thirty adults during these three years.

THE BIBLE.—The British and Foreign Bible Society has just published its eightieth annual report—a goodly volume of 560 pages, into which is condensed a vast amount of interesting information respecting the spread of the Holy Scriptures in all lands. The Society's income from all sources last year was upwards of \$1,000,000; \$110,000 more than that of the previous year. The whole of that large sum was expended in printing and circulating, through agents and colporteurs, Bibles and Testaments and portions of Scripture. The total issues for the year reached 3,118,304 copies, and since the commencement of the society's operations, 100,035,933 copies. In 1883 the largest circulation was, in England and Wales, 525,855; Germany, 385,512; Russia, 355,961; India and Ceylon, 302,948; China, 233,911; France, 176,854; Austria, 141,181; Denmark, Norway and Sweden, 118,984; Switzerland, 102,428; Italy, 63,549; Holland and Belgium, 53,267; Spain and Portugal, 51,903; Turkey, 47,361; Madagascar, 22,650; Africa and Egypt, 16,750. The largest relative increase of issues was in Persia. 7,177 copies against 1,719 copies the previous year. The United States, Australia and Canada, having independent societies of their own, are not included in these returns. Steps, in the form of assistance to Zenana Societies, have been taken to promote the circulation of the Scriptures among the women and girls in the East, who through Hindoo caste or Mohammedan custom, are rendered inaccessible to Christian agency, except such as can be carried on by female workers. The Society has decided to publish, in good type and form, an edition of the New Testament to be sold for one penny.

The National Bible Society of Scotland received last year \$143,000, and for the first time in its history its issues exceeded half a million, of which 9,000 were in Gaelic. The *Hibernian Bible Society* reports 65,663 copies issued during last year, raising the total since its beginning to 4,584,145. The *American Bible Society* issued 1,808,215 copies last year, and in the sixty-eight years of its existence, 43,892,031 copies. Its total receipts for 1883 were \$644,469.

THE MARCH OF CHRISTIANITY.—Dr. Hepburn, of the Presbyterian mission in Japan, is translating the Old Testament, and has built up, during the ten years of his residence there a native Church, which has just elected a pastor of its own, relieving him from the work of preaching. He says: "Fifteen or twenty years hence I doubt whether a foreign missionary will be needed in this country. We have already a synod, three presbyteries, twenty-nine ardent native ministers, one hundred and seventeen young men in our colleges, and a thousand Church members and Sabbath-school scholars. And I have lived to see all this! Japan is merging rapidly from heathenism; it can never go back. If all the foreign missionaries were expelled to-morrow the work would be carried on by natives." Rev. Dr. Meacham, a missionary of the Methodist Church of Canada, writes under date of August 13th: "The Christian work in our country is every day becoming more encouraging. 'If God be for us, who can be against us?' The shadow of darkness is fleeing before us with an accelerated rapidity. The Buddhists are in a state of panic. The *Tokyo Times* (*Jiji Shimpo*) has lately changed its spirit towards Christianity entirely. As you know, it has been apparently against Christianity from its beginning, and said many evils of it; but now it is decidedly for Christianity, and has issued two or three friendly editorials for her already. Other Japanese papers are doing the same. The Government itself is also in favour of Christianity now, and desires its spread."—*Christian Guardian*.

ACCORDING TO HOYLE, the following are the average amounts spent per annum in Great Britain for the purposes named during the ten years ending with 1882:—

For Intoxicating Liquors	\$680,000,000
" Bread	350,000,000
" Milk	150,000,000
" Sugar	125,000,000
" Tea and Coffee	100,000,000
" Rent of Houses	350,000,000
" Rent of Farms	300,000,000
" Woolen Goods	230,000,000
" Cotton Goods	70,000,000
" Educational Purposes	55,000,000
" Linen Goods ..	40,000,000
FOR CHRISTIAN MISSIONS	5,250,000

This looks as though the social fabric were resting on an inverted pyramid, and a re-adjustment of the figures were called for.

A Year's Work.

THE Annual "Blue-Book," containing the Acts and Proceedings of the tenth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada—a large volume of 334 pages—has been sent out as usual, some months ago, to all the kirk-sessions, and it