

## Work in the Regions Beyond, and nearer Home.



SILENT PARTNERS have no place in the Christian church, since the Lord himself desires that the love he puts into a forgiven sinner's heart shall be ever testifying to other souls. —It is reported that openings for preaching the Gospel in Spain are presenting themselves in all directions. The inhabitants of towns and villages visited by colporteurs manifest a strong desire for the Word of God, and for evangelists to settle among them. But, unfortunately, the laborers are few, and cannot overtake the work which awaits them. Christians, should and must help. Help by prayer, help by considerate thoughtfulness, help by sending helpers, and help by the money power. Dare we hush our prayers! or relax our efforts? No! No! Because "Sin, misery, ignorance, have not failed to hold men in their dire grip. The heart of Christ has not failed to beat with holy compassion. His love has eyes as keen and clear as when they gave hope to the despairing long ago. His throne is tremorless. His purpose is unchanged. His command, 'Go; preach to every creature,' remains uncancelled." Our God is no respecter of persons.—(1) A terrible saying for all the ungodly among the great of the earth; (2) a soothing saying for all the devout among the lowly.

The Saviour taught nothing more pointedly than that men should prove by their doing the correctness of their believing. A close study of the New Testament will bring out for any one its constant and urgent instruction, that men are to be known by their fruits.

The four great Bible societies of this country and Great Britain issued, last year 4,980,240 copies of the Scriptures.

How much owest thou unto my Lord? Do you ever sing, "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my heart, my life, my all," and forget to pay your missionary contribution?

Six years ago, it was estimated that 2,000 missionaries were in the field, which is the world. The amount contributed to foreign missions \$6,000,000. To-day there are, 2,829 missionaries a gain of 829; and the foreign contribution \$8,967,500 a gain of nearly \$3,000,000.

Dr. Ashmore reports hatred to foreigners and unsettlement in mission work in consequence of recent war rumours.

It is resolved to increase the staff of the Congo mission to thirteen, and so strengthen. This shows great faith and zeal, for already death has claimed several workers as if jealous of their pushing into the heart of dark Africa.

Miss Ella Kyle in the United Presbyterian reports a revival in Egypt, amidst all the uneasiness of these troublous times.

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY, LONDON has entered the eighty-fifth year of its existence. The income for 1882 was £ 215,000. Nearly £ 52,000 was expended for missionary purposes. Towards which £ 26,000 was paid from the profits of the business department.

As the Committee expressed it; "The messengers of truth sent forth by the Institution find their way to

many places which are altogether inaccessible to any agency. They have passed the wall of China, and have entered the palace of the "celestial emperor."

They have instructed the princes of Burmah, and opened the self-sealed lips of the devotee in India. The sons of Africa have received them in their bondage, and have learned the liberty of the Gospel. They have preached Christ crucified to the Jew, and also to the Greek; and they have made known to savage, as well as to civilized nations, the peaceful truths of the Gospel. During 1882, 809 new publications were issued, including 262 tracts. Its literature amongst the purest and best of the nineteenth century, is published, in 160 languages. Circulated during the year, (Tracts, Periodicals, Cards as well as books) 79,379,350, of which over 33,000,000 were tracts. The issues from foreign depots were over 14,000,000: making a total circulation of over 93,000,000. The circulation since the formation of the Society amounts to 2,192,589,870.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY was instituted in Halifax 1867. Since the formation of the Society, there has been received in Voluntary Contributions the sum of \$55,652. Of this amount 11,285, was received for capital, and is now invested in stock of books to carry on the work for which the Society is constituted, both by sale from the Depository, and also by Colportage. The remaining \$44,367, together with the profits arising from the sale of the books, has been applied to Colportage. Thus supported, our Colporteurs have performed labor equal to that of one man for one hundred and sixty two years.

The total sum paid for services and actual Expenses in Colportage alone has been \$72,789. Colportage is the great work of the Society. During the past sixteen years there have been 167 Colporteurs employed the aggregate time of their services being about 162 years. They travelled about 263,431 miles, and made 419,406 family visits, including 29,261 visits to Roman Catholic families. They found 1794 families destitute of the Scriptures and supplied them. They had personal religious conversation, reading of the Scriptures or prayer at 176,000 of the family visits made by them, and held or took part in 9194 prayer and other religious meetings. The sales from the Depository have been—of Periodicals, \$43,570, of Bibles and Religious books, 144,583, by Colportage, \$61,147, total sales, 405,959, gratuitous circulation by Colporteurs and from the Depository, upwards of \$18,300.

If this traffic is soul-ruining, how great and extensive is this ruin. Taking the statistics of the business in the United States, and comparing them with soul-saving instrumentalities, we find there is one minister for six rum-sellers; for one dollar given for the spread of the Gospel and Christian charities, there is more than thirteen spent for intoxicating drinks. There are six millions in the United States who regularly visit the soul-ruining drinking-shops, while there are not quite six millions of adult church-members. Sixty thousand drunkards die every year in the United States, and the ranks of the six hundred thousand drunkards are full as ever, while in an aggregate of 12,000 congregations, there was reported lately as the net increase for one year only a few over 7,000, not nearly one convert to each congregation.