

SEPTEMBER, 1879.

A GLANCE ALL ROUND.

We are now in possession of all the missionary reports for the past year. The great Assemblies and Anniversaries are over, and it is fitting that we should take a brief glance all around. When brave and true men are engaged in battling against a gigantic foe it is encouraging for them to learn that successes and even "glorious victories" are reported from many portions of the far-extending field. Looking at the efforts of the Christian people in raising funds and sending forth missionaries, we note that some churches and societies have to report a falling off in receipts, while at the same time there are increasing offers of personal service. The financial decrease is not large, and is owing to the almost universal commercial depression. We find slight deficits reported by the Boards and Committees of Churches in England, Scotland, Ireland, America, Germany, Holland and Switzerland. Even the Roman Catholic Church's funds have suffered severely from the same causes. But, while there are deficits, the sum total of contributions for missions was never larger in any one year in the history of the Christian Church than it was last year. The gold and silver are the Lord's; the hearts of His children also are in His hands; and He is making His power felt in a way that encourages our hopes and dispels our fears. Our own Missions have been somewhat hampered for lack of funds; but is it not certain that in answer to our prayers God will grant the grace of liberality?—Scarcely a week passes in which we do not hear of large donations or bequests for missionary purposes in Great Britain and the United States. This beneficent "epidemic" will surely extend to the bounds of our own Church!

In Presbyterian Churches, there has been no falling back during the year. The Churches in the United States still send forth scores of men and women with the Gospel message to heathen lands, and to aid or relieve the hundreds who

have borne the burden of work for years in foreign fields. There has been no closing of stations, no recalling of agents, no cancelling of appointments. On the contrary, there has been growth, in some instances very marked and rapid growth. To this effect are recent tidings from India, Siam, China, and Japan. The Scottish, English and Irish Churches are doing even more than their wont. There is a deficiency in the receipts of the U. P. Church of about £5000; but this is owing to the English congregations sending their contributions to their own Church since the Union, and also to a decrease in donations. The Synod, however, has determined on an effort for the permanent increase of its Mission income. The English Presbyterian Church is holding its ground nobly in China. Africa, in the very heart of it, rejoices in the new missions of the Free and Established Churches. In 1843, there were in China but *six* converts to Protestant Christianity. There are now 250 missionaries, holding over 600 stations, with 325 native churches, and a Christian community of over 50,000. The famine in North China is over now, but the sympathy shewn by Christian missionaries is still bearing precious fruit. In Southern India some sixty thousand have submitted themselves to Christian teaching, and are being rapidly gathered into churches. In Burmah, in Siam, and in Persia, the good work is going on. And it is remarkable that the desolating wars which swept over the Turkish Empire, have not seriously interfered with the prosperity of Protestant missions there. The people are poorer, but they are faithful, self-sacrificing, enterprising in the work of extending the knowledge of the Redeemer. There are ninety churches, with 5000 church members connected with the American Mission; and one half of these churches are self-supporting. 500 young men are being trained in Protestant colleges in Turkey; and there are fifteen seminaries for the training of young women.