

## IV.—THE MONTHLY CONCERT OF MISSIONS.

[EDITORIAL.]

## Facts and Figures about the World-wide Field.

—Alaska's coast is the sepulchre of ships. Dr. Sheldon Jackson says that almost a hundred vessels have found a watery grave there within twenty years! In one storm, and at one place, thirty-three ships were ground between ice-fields, and 1,200 sailors cast, wrecked, on a barren shore.

—According to the census of 1890, the population of the United States is 62,480,540. It seems to us that this is an underestimate; we have supposed 66,000,000 nearer the actual truth.

—A Messianic pretender appears in an Indian tribe. He claims that the Indian power and prestige is to revive and the lost ground be recovered. If this notion gets hold of the mercurial red men no one can tell what may come of it: they may attempt to exterminate the whites. Already, for three months, the whole northwestern part of our country has been in a state of disturbance and serious alarm.

—Principal Magee, of Dublin, says the dogma of the infallibility of the Pope has repelled the bulk of Irishmen, and led to intellectual independence which is reducing the ranks of Romanism and filling up those of Protestantism. He thinks vaulting ambition has again "overleaped itself" and "fallen on tother side."

—These are old figures, but their lesson is always new:

In 1800, not over 50,000 converts in all heathendom; now, over 1,500,000, and five times as many adherents.

In 1800, not over 70 mission schools; now, about 14,000, with 600,000 scholars.

In 1800, 50 translations of the Bible; now, between 300 and 400, of the whole or parts, like the Gospel of Mark.

In 1800, not over 5,000,000 copies of the Bible; now, more than that issue from the press every year.

In 1800, the population of the globe about 700,000,000, of whom some

40,000,000 were called Protestant; now, the population is more than *double*, and the nominal Protestants more than quadrupled!

—The first convert among the natives of India was Krishna Chundra Pal in 1800. Henry Martyn said it was a miracle as great as the raising of the dead. Now, every ten years the converts increase over eighty per cent. The first convert in western Polynesia was King Pomare II.; now there are 850,000, and all western Polynesia is evangelized.

—Up to 1853, the Edict Board of Japan made it capital offence for a Christian to set foot on the island empire. Now, there are 30,000 professed converts and 17,000 children in Sunday-schools. *One in twenty-eight* of the elect members of the new parliament is a Christian church member. As the Christians of Japan number but 1 to 1,200 of the population, it will be seen that the proportion of Christian members of parliament is *forty-three times as great*. This impresses us as one of the most remarkable signs of the power of Protestant missions in Japan. The contributions of native converts were about \$50,000 last year, nearly \$2 a head!

—At Oroomiah, Persia, last year, fifty-one out of sixty-seven pupils in the seminary were Christians and members of the church.

—The McAll mission schools had last year 235,000 children under instruction.

—The Established Church of Scotland reports 2,034 converts and 2,405 pupils in the schools in the Punjab Mission, India, with 723 converts baptized in 1890.

—Dr. Robert N. Cust reckons 223 missionary societies in the world: 113 in Britain and colonies; 56 in the United States; 20 in Germany; 14 in Netherlands, and 20 in other lands.