

works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Example is unquestionably more powerful than precept, and leads some to give for the work of the church who cannot be influenced by higher motives. Without pronouncing upon the merits of either system, it may be supposed that a congregation usually adopts the plan which seems best adapted to its constituency. No system is perfect. This, however, should be regarded as vital, that the amount contributed for church purposes, whether great or small, should represent the free-will offerings of the whole body of the people—rich and poor alike giving according to their respective abilities. The ordinary expenses connected with the management of the congregations of our church range all the way from \$1,000 or less, to \$15,000 per annum. The contributions for the Assembly's "schemes" appear to be, on the average, less than one third the amount raised for strictly congregational purposes—the largest contribution being \$7,236 for a congregation that reports 980 communicants, and whose total expenditure is \$23,104.

N.B.—Though we have not room to notice these reports particularly in the RECORD, the editor is always very glad to receive copies of them.

Missionary Outlook.

THE SAMOAN ISLANDS, which are attracting attention at present in diplomatic circles, consist of a group of small islands formerly known as the Navigators', for the most part rocky and barren, and hence of little value commercially. Their chief importance is derived from their being in the direct line of steamship navigation and their adaptability as coaling stations, &c. Samoa has an independent government, with a native King, and is quite able to take care of itself if let alone. But Germany, it seems, in her desire to 'colonize,' has been endeavoring to acquire a controlling influence in the government of this little Kingdom, at the same time that England offers her 'protectorate.' The United States government, claiming to have, at least, an equal interest in Samoa with the others, takes the position of asserting the independence of Samoa, and protecting her from all

foreign interference, and has backed up her contention by sending some of her warships to the scene of disturbance, in order to "keep the peace." Samoa lies about 700 miles east from the New Hebrides and a little to the north of that group. Upwards of sixty years ago it was visited by John Williams, the "apostle of Polynesia." The people were found to be more open for the reception of the Gospel than any of the islands that had, up to that time, been visited. Williams' progress among them was like that of a great conqueror. In a short time, the whole population, numbering sixty thousand, were under religious instruction, "Christianity triumphed by its own inherent power, and the benevolent spirit in which it was presented. The degraded savages yielded to the benign influence of the Gospel of Peace." The tidings of Williams' death, in 1839, was the means of infusing new life into the missionary work in the South Seas. Especially was this the case in the Samoan Islands, where a great religious revival was awakened, and which spread to the neighbouring islands. Two years later, through the instrumentality of Dr. Turner and Dr. Nisbet, a Theological Institution was established at Upolo, and the Scriptures were translated into the native language. The population, which was at that time about 35,000, has since decreased to less than 30,000, but Christianity has transformed them into an intelligent, industrious and virtuous people. In fact, the Samoans are regarded as the finest race among the Polynesian islands. On Sundays, no work is permitted on shore, nor are the natives allowed to labour on board ships in port on that day. The sale of liquors is positively prohibited. The business with the outside world is chiefly in the hands of Americans, English, French and German, 150 in all, of whom one half are English.

EAST AFRICA.—The massacre of some German missionaries on the coast below Zanzibar has been followed by the massacre of an English missionary named Brooks, with sixteen of his followers in the same neighbourhood. German intrigue is said to have been the provoking cause of these outrages, but in regard to the details we are not informed. Missions have taken a strong hold in East Africa, and have chang-