

MISSIONARY NEWS.

Latin America has many an open door for missionary work, but in many places it is still very difficult. In Guatemala, persecution against Protestants has not ceased. A lady school-teacher has just been imprisoned on a charge of visiting her neighbors and trying to convert them. Columbia has more open doors than can be taken advantage of. Several large towns, which have had only a colporteur, are asking for schools, chapels and ministers. In our own field of Bolivia, where religious liberty has been granted, the time of conditions much different, is not so far distant that it can yet be forgotten. 15 years ago an Archbishop suggested that the penalty of death be executed on a colporteur, who had been selling Bibles. Up to four years ago, the statute was in force that "Every one who directly or through any act, conspires to establish in Bolivia any other religion than that which the republic professes, namely, that of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Church, is a traitor, and shall suffer the penalty of death." Brighter days have dawned, however, and there seem to be hopes of a religious awakening.

One of the missionaries of Alaska is in the East trying to find four young ministers who will volunteer for service there with the prospects of sleeping outdoors at fifty below zero. There is much work to be done, and this missionary says that if they once go, he is sure they will not come away again.

We read much about the power and spread of Islam in the East, but it is somewhat alarming to hear that there are 800 Moslems in England, dispersed in London, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Manchester, Oxford and Cambridge. Many of these are Englishmen, who have gone over to that faith, and some wear the green turban as a sign that they have made a pilgrimage to Mecca. There is not at present any Mosque in Great Britain, but a proposal is now on foot to raise £100,000 to build a Mosque in Bayswater, a district of London, which shall be the headquarters of Islam in Britain.

The separation of Church and State in Portugal as provided by the present bill, provides for liberty of conscience and education. It purposes to give

liberty to all sects, and even to those of no faith. All religious instruction is to be prohibited in schools supported by the Government, on the ground that the Government does not wish to impose religious beliefs on any.

The Chinese calendar for 1910, just issued, has a remarkable innovation,—the Christian Sabbaths are marked for the first time along with the Confucian holy days, the proper days to select for weddings, etc. This is a calendar issued by the Government, and is in a measure a recognition of the Christian religion, and of the fact that many Chinese are joining the new religion.

The American Presbyterians have a mission at Sidon, Syria, which has many successful departments. The newest one is the opening of an agricultural college and mission farm. Agriculture will always be the chief industry of Syria, but the methods now used are centuries old, and it is expected this new work will strengthen the place of the mission very much.

Perhaps most of us realize that French Protestantism is struggling and weak—few realize that French Protestants have been persecuted and despised almost up to the present time. To maintain their own life has always been a struggle, and it is a surprise and a triumph to find that they have been, and are, carrying on a really magnificent missionary work. The Paris Missionary Society has model missionary work in Basutoland, and the Upper Zambesi, Africa. They are realizing that upon them rests the chief responsibility of giving the Gospel to the French Colonial Empire. To do this, means heroic endeavor and sacrifice, and this endeavor and this sacrifice is being made. Field after field in French colonies has been taken over, and lastly, Madagascar entered. This zeal of French Protestants in their weakness ought to prove a great incentive to those nations so favored in their own religious liberty, to attempt greater things.

Roman Catholicism is the all-powerful religion of Mexico. It is a paganized Roman Catholicism, adapted to the thought of a superstitious people. The first organized missionary work was done in 1846, and it has advanced