

space at the head of the valley. This famous tree, now called Abraham's Oak, is a magnificent terebinth, thirty-three feet in circumference with four great wide-spreading branches at about twenty feet from the ground. Tradition says that it was a comparatively youthful-looking tree at the time of our Saviour. It is now a very old-looking tree, and one of its great branches has recently fallen to the ground. We lunched beneath its sombre shade, and talked of all the memorable incidents in Abraham's life which transpired in its vicinity, as related in Genesis. The valley of Eshcol, which we traversed, is as fertile to day as it was when "the spies" took the rich cluster of grapes from it as a specimen of the fruit-bearing capacity of the Promised Land. We saw growing in it, and on the neighbouring hill-sides, the strong, healthy grape vines which have caused Hebron, in all the historic ages to be regarded as pre-eminently the grape-city of Palestine. Except for the uncleanness of its streets and lanes Hebron has an air of stability and prosperity about it which you would not expect to see while passing through the uncultivated solitudes between it and El-Burak. It is strongly built on the Eastern slope of a lofty eminence which rises up six hundred feet higher than Jerusalem. It is one of the most ancient cities now existing on the surface of our globe. At one time a city of refuge, then the capital of King David for seven and a half years, the Arabs now love to call it El-Khulil—the Friend—in honour of Abraham the friend of God. It has at present a population of about twelve thousand, nearly all of whom are Mohammedans of a fierce, fanatical type. The six hundred Jewish residents of the place are easily distinguished by their glossy ringlets and pale, sad faces. A glass manufactory and a water-bottle manufactory, next to the grape culture, are the two principal industries of Hebron. A short distance south of the town there are two long pools, or reservoirs, which now, as in the olden time, supply the people with water for domestic purposes. Over one of them David's young men, at his command, hanged the assassins of Ishbo-sheth, as we read in the fourth chapter of the Second Book of Samuel.

The Cave of Machpelah is, of course, the special object of interest in Hebron. It is,

undoubtedly the sepulchre of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of Sarah, Rebekah, and Leah. The Mohammedans guard it with jealous care, and have built a mosque over it. As a great favour we were permitted to walk around the sacred enclosure, and saw all that travellers are permitted to see of it. And certainly it did seem to me to be, next to Calvary, and Gethsemane, and Olivet, one of the most sacred spots on the face of the earth. I can never forget the emotions which I experienced as I stood by the earthly resting-place of the patriarchs, and mothers in Israel, who held high converse with God in the days of old. As through a rift in the clouds, Machpelah gave me a glimpse of the great hereafter when we will sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of God.

French Evangelization.

HEREWITH we give a few of the more salient points of the annual report presented to the General Assembly, reserving for future issues some very interesting details of the work in particular fields:—

The missionary operations of the Board, consisting of colportage, mission schools, preaching stations, and regularly organized churches, are chiefly in the Province of Quebec, but extend also to portions of the Maritime Provinces and Ontario, besides the well-known field of Ste. Anne, Kankakee Co., Illinois. A glance at the map of the Dominion will shew the 93 stations in which the Gospel is regularly preached. In the Province of Quebec there are in all 62 counties, and our missionaries occupy 70 stations in 30 of these counties. The measure of success we are able to report may be deemed sufficient to encourage and stimulate the Church to go forward to overtake the whole land.

COLPORTAGE.—This department of work has been carried on as in the past. The Colporteurs of the Board, having given districts assigned them, work from a centre. They are practically itinerant evangelists. Not only do they distribute the word of God and religious literature, but gather the neighbours together for cottage prayer meetings, as well as to read the Scriptures and pray with the families in their own homes. Every minister and missionary of the Board does more or less of this sort of work. One minister, last year, distributed over 200 copies of the word of God, and, in several instances, had evidence that it was