

# THE GLEANER.

“Let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.”—Ruth 2; 7.

Thos. Somerville, Editor.

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## THE OUTLOOK FOR 1895.

We stand upon the threshold of the last five years of the century and we take a rapid bird's eye view of the world and the prospects of its evangelization.

While there is much that is dark, and strange and sad, yet there is also much which should make us thank God and take courage. An army of 280 societies, with 9,000 foreign missionaries from Christian lands, is girdling the globe with salvation, while an auxiliary force of 55,000 native preachers and teachers is spreading the Gospel in these various mission fields.

The sum of \$14,000,000 annually is spent for this greatest work of the Church of God. 15,000 distinct points are occupied and about 3,000,000 of human beings in heathen countries are under the direct influence of the Gospel, either as communicants in the mission churches or adherents of the missions.

The Bible Societies have translated the Scriptures into 220 languages, spoken by nine-tenths of the human race, and 160,000,000 copies of the Bible have been circulated during the century, enough to give one Bible to almost every family of the heathen world.

Every year five new versions of the Scriptures are printed, and, while there are still very many dialects in which the Bible is not yet given to the world, yet they are spoken by smaller tribes and communities.

Almost all these results have taken place within the present century, and God Himself has been working faster than His Church, and is opening doors in all parts of the world more widely than we have as yet been able to enter them.

Palestine and the Jews must claim our first attention. The year that has passed has been significant in the history of God's ancient people.

Palestine is rapidly opening for the return of Israel and Israel is rapidly returning.—The national movement has made great progress during the past year.

The great Society known as the “Lovers of Zion” has held important conventions throughout Europe, and increasing numbers are uniting in this patriotic movement. The Turkish government has still further removed restrictions. Railways are multiplying, public works are projected, and at the present rate of increase there will soon be a million Jews in Palestine.

The circulation of the Hebrew New Testament has been extraordinary and the gathering in of the remnant of Israel has been emphasized during the year by the conversion of a few remarkable cases of prominent and influential Jews.

It has been a year of steady progress in India. In the North India Mission there is a steady increase of about 15,000 a year.—Among the higher classes there have been a few remarkable conversions, one very influential Brahmin having publicly embraced Christianity and given his testimony to his countrymen.

Africa has been the scene of God's working in His providence and grace. The great work of colonization and consolidation is extending from South Africa throughout the entire continent under British direction and protection.

The Matabele war has opened that entire country for Christianity.

The aggressive South African Missionary Society is carrying the Gospel into all the new fields of South Africa. The Bible has been distributed in large quantities among the people, and many of the chiefs have come out under the influence of Christianity.

Already 40 missionary societies, 700 foreign missionaries, and 7,000 native preachers are laboring for the evangelization of Africa, and about 1,000,000 of her children are under the influence of the Gospel.

Madagascar is threatened with an unjust French war and missionary operations may be greatly hindered by it.

It has been an eventful year in the history of China. The hostility of the natives to foreigners and missionaries has broken out several times during the past year to exceed violence and even bloodshed. God has interposed with his mighty arm, and events are taking place whose issues are even more important than can be foreseen. While the immediate effect of the war is the interruption of missionary work, the results will doubtless be a wider opening of China to the Gospel.

The year 1894 will always be memorable in the history of Japan. In six short months this Island Empire has sprung into the very front of Oriental nations, and its extraordinary victories over China by sea and land have given it an ascendancy which cannot well be measured.