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THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN BRAZIL.

The attention of the world has been suddenly called to Brazil. For ages it has been like a mountain on which flocks pastured, and around which villages clustered, the very image of deep repose and enduring stability, but which suddenly begins to shake and give forth volcanic fires. It is not, however, our part to speak of political revolution, but to take note of what bears on the advancement of Christ's work in that great land. Soon after its discovery it was colonized by the Portuguese, who carried their religion with them, and for nearly three centuries it was given up wholly to the spiritual dominion of Rome. In 1553 the Huguenots of France, at the suggestion of Admiral Coligny, and with the approval of Calvin, attempted to form a settlement within its borders, with a view to the propagation of the Gospel among its people; and more than 300 of their number, among whom were several gifted ministers proceeded to its coast; but treachery on the part of their leader, Villegagnon, led to the defeat of the plan, and to the death of many of those who had gone thither. From that time till 1808 Protestant worship was prohibited in the land, and Popery, having undisturbed possession of the field, became what it usually becomes where there is no better faith to keep it in check. After 1808 foreign Protestants were permitted to build churches for their own use, provided they were outwardly just like ordinary houses, and occupied inconspicuous situations, but they were not allowed to make proselytes from among the Brazilians. Early in the reign of the late emperor these restrictions fell into abeyance, but they have never been abrogated. Last year a Bill was introduced into their Parliament for the purpose of enacting full religious liberty, instead of the mere toleration of dissenters. It passed the Senate, but was shelved in the Lower House at the bidding of the Imperial Princess, who, but for the recent revolution, would have succeeded to the throne on the death of her father. She, again, was moved to this step by the priesthood. Among the people religion is a matter of external observance that leaves the life unregulated and unpurified. Shrines with their images and their candles are, in the towns, before almost every house; the festivals are celebrated with much pomp; and though religious processions are not what they once were, yet at certain seasons they are to be seen on the streets almost every day. On the great days of the Christian year, worship is celebrated amid much firing of cannons, much racket of all kinds, and with much burning of candles, so that a few years ago it was estimated that yearly in the city of Rio de Janeiro alone upwards of \$15,000 were spent in wax and powder for church purposes. The people are regular in their attendance on mass. They are hospitable, kindly, gentle in their bearing; but dishonesty abounds, lying is so common that people doubt if such a thing as truth exists, and impurity prevails on every hand. The clergy, if they are not more corrupt than their people, seem to be satisfied with things as they are, and to seek no improvement.

Fully thirty years ago a desire was felt in the United States to do something for the good of the Brazilians, and the Presbyterian Church in 1859 sent their first missionary thither. God's set time for the land had come. His abundant blessing accompanied the labours of Simonton, his colleagues and successors; and in the thirty years that have gone by since the commencement of the work, three Presbyteries have been formed, comprising thirty-two ordained ministers, sixty-three churches, and nearly 3,000 communicants. These stations are scattered along a coast that stretches 3,000 miles from the mouth of the Amazon to that of the La Plata, among a people that numbers more than 11,000,000. They are but few among so many, and have only touched, as it were, the border of the field; but ministers who have recently visited Brazil as deputies from the Assemblies in the United States have testified that there is a great desire for the Gospel on the part of many, and that the work could be greatly extended if they had the men necessary for doing so. At present about two-thirds of the ministers are from North America, and the rest are children of the soil. The Presbyterian Mission there was divided at the time of the great civil war, but a union

has recently been effected, repairing that breach; and the missionaries have issued an address to the Presbyterian Churches of the United States and Canada informing them of the union, and that, at the suggestion of the parent Churches, they have formed a separate Church, called "the Presbyterian Church in Brazil." They appeal earnestly for help. They say: "What God has wrought for us and by us in the past years is but the beginning. A great door and effectual is open to us on every hand. We are utterly unable to respond to the calls that come to us from every side. Our Synod request you to send at once not less than twenty six ordained ministers. We need, in fact, a much larger number, for whom work and places are waiting. And we need urgently the means to man and maintain a school for the instruction of candidates for the ministry of the Word." At present there is at San Paulo, about 200 miles west of Rio, a high school attended by 342 pupils, with a Normal class for teachers and a theological class for students for the ministry, from which some have come forth who are ministers now, but they wish something better than that. One might think that the soil is not a very favourable one for the growth of genuine religion; but after what has taken place in Cuba, we see that there is hope even for such a land as Brazil. The Presbyterians are the chief workers there, but they are not the only ones. The Methodists of the United States have seven ordained ministers, twenty stations and about 350 members. The Baptists have five churches, 241 members and fifteen preachers, of whom three are natives. Bishop Taylor, of the United States, has four labourers in three principal cities; and the congregations formed by the late Dr. Kalley from our own country, which originally consisted of refugees from Madeira, are three in number, and have a membership of about 250. Mrs. Kalley has recently prepared a hymn and tune book for the use of the Protestants, which has been adopted by them all. These facts and figures show that while it is only the day of small things with missions in Brazil, yet they are far from being a failure. Incidents are ever occurring in the work both interesting and instructive, showing that the good seed brings forth the good fruit the Great Sower anticipated, and which it has produced elsewhere. Thus Dr. G. W. Chamberlain, the foremost missionary in Brazil, tells us: "A few years since I stopped my horse as the sun was going down at the gate of a plantation house, and asked lodgings for the night. After supper, I turned the conversation to the Bible. Mine host, a wealthy coffee planter, said frankly, 'To tell the truth, I have no religion. That in which I was brought up never satisfied my reason. This of which you speak I know nothing of, for I have never had a Bible. But if you want to be satisfied, go up on the mountains sixteen miles from here, and you will find an old man after your heart. I am chief magistrate in this district. The quarter where that old man lives used to be one of the worst for brails. Scarce a week passed that I was not called to adjudge some quarrel or judge of some crime which had taken place on the previous Sabbath, when they met to drink and fight. For two years I have not had a case, and I never understood it until I went up and spent a night at that old man's house, and saw the Book out of which he reads to his family every day and to his neighbours on Sundays. Now, although I never read it, I wish you would spread it more and more, for if there was a man like that in every quarter my office would be a sinecure.'" Another of the missionaries says, "Twenty-five years ago I gave a New Testament to a lad of sixteen in Porto Alegre, the capital of the most southern province of Brazil. After giving it I forgot all about it. A year ago, in re-visiting the place, I found that 'bread cast on the waters' in the form of a school in which nearly a hundred boys and girls daily listened to the reading of the New Testament from the lips of the same lad, now a married man, and had the pleasure of listening to the story of his conversion, and his resolution to impart what he had received to his hungering fellow-countrymen."—Rev. James Parlane.

HAWAII.

The last report of the Hawaiian Board of Health shows that there were, March 31, 1888, 749 lepers in the district of Molokai set apart for them. These are provided for religiously