

MISSION NOTES.

—The China Inland Mission conducted its operations the past year with an expenditure of \$50,000. The mission supports 60 missionaries, including women.

—The Secretary of the London Missionary Society announces that missionary Williams, who was stationed at Mirambo's capital, Urambo, on the road to Lake Tanganyika, Central Africa, has died of sun-stroke. Only three missionaries are now left in the mission, of whom one is an invalid.

—The annual report of the Methodist Episcopal mission in Japan shows a church membership of 507, besides 104 probationers, and nearly 600 pupils in the Sunday-schools. One American and six Japanese were ordained at the time of the annual meeting, and a collection taken for the Bible Society, the natives contributing ten dollars.

—Rev. A. A. Sturges, of the Micronesian mission, pictured a striking contrast in a single sentence at the St. Louis meeting. "When I went there," said he, "there were not three yards of cloth on the island, so you may judge of the social condition of the people. Ten years later I went to the same place to dedicate a stone church, and met an assembly of several hundred worshipping Christians."

—During the eighteen years that the Rev. George Constantine has laboured in Athens, Greece, he has never been in any way molested. He has carried forward a large school for Cretan refugees, and a Sunday-school, besides various other agencies for the spread of the gospel. He has published in modern Greek two volumes of Commentaries on the Gospels, a semi-monthly paper, and sold or distributed thousands of Bibles, Sunday-school books, and tracts.

—Rev. T. S. Burnell, missionary to South India, sends five dollars to the Kansas refugees of whom a report was given a few weeks ago in the *Congregationalist*. He writes: "God bless them! Let two dollars go to the widow of Yutesi, the great and noble-hearted man who gave his whole \$500 to help his fellows, and the other three dollars to help in general. We live entirely among coloured people. Our nearest missionary friends are sixteen and eighteen miles away. We were all together last week, thirteen missionary families, including Mrs. Capron and Mrs. Noyes, who are bereaved of their life partners, but still are representatives of station mission work, and keep up homes so they can entertain others. We were guests of Mrs. Capron for seven days, in which time for six days we had meetings in Madura and Pasumalai, with the mission helpers, including pastors, catechists, colporteurs and Bible women."

—The *Church of the Holy Trinity* gives a long account of the trials of the workers in Uganda, growing out of the fickleness of Mtesa, and the denial of favours from his court. He seems to understand Christianity well enough, but is bent only on the gratification of his own whims. He made the ridiculous condition that the missionaries should be permitted to teach if they would procure for him one of Victoria's children to be his wife, in which case he would abandon all his present wives. There are at present only two men left at the station, and they write of horrible cruelties. One woman had her ears and mouth cut off for some trifling act of disobedience, and when it was supposed, at one time, that Mtesa was near death, his nine sons were confined with the intention of killing all except the one who would succeed his father in the kingdom.

—The Church of Scotland, according to the October number of the *Record*, has nineteen European missionaries in India, all of whom are doing good successful work. In Calcutta there is an educational institution with 500 students, and

700 in the school department. The native church there has sixty communicants, with fifty-one adherents. In the Madras institution there are 600 students, and the native church has 100 communicants and seventy adherents. In Bombay the institution has 370 scholars, and the native church sixteen communicants. In the Punjab, at the different stations, as many as 1,190 boys and forty-two girls are under instruction, with a native church with thirty-eight members. The other stations are equally promising. In Africa there are two stations, viz., Blantyre and Zenba. In China there are three missionaries, all at Ichang. The interest in the work is spreading in the home church, and the contributions are consequently increasing.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS NOTES.

—Dr. Laws, of Livingstonia, East Africa, is making fine progress in translating the Bible into the Chinyanja and Chitonga tongues. Portions of the Scriptures are already printed in thirty-two of the African languages.

—The Judicial Conference which will consider Dr. Thomas's appeal met in Terre Haute, Ind., November 30th. Three other appeals take precedence of that of the Chicago divine. The names of the "triers of appeals" are not made known.

—A school for evangelists has just been opened in Paris. It will be open to all Christians of evangelical principles who may wish to devote themselves to pioneer work in France, either as evangelists, colporteurs, Scripture readers, or Sabbath-school teachers.

—In Liverpool, on a recent Sunday, a census was carefully taken of church attendance. At the Protestant churches, which have a total sitting-room for 72,033 persons there was an attendance of 22,610. At the Roman Catholic chapels, with sitting-room for 22,945, the attendance was 14,448.

—Biblical revision is not confined to the English Version. Luther's German Bible is being revised by a committee of scholars. The New Testament was completed about ten years ago, and the Old Testament is now receiving its final consideration at Halle. The Gaelic Bible, also, is to be revised by a company of Gaelic scholars.

—In Bristol the Church of England has 67 out of 209 churches and chapels. On a recent Sunday a census of the attendants at both services was taken, from which it appears that of the total of 116,148 worshippers only 47,140 were in the Church of England congregations. The population of Bristol is 206,000, so that considerably more than one-half appear to be churchgoers.

—It is reported that a great awakening has occurred in several Spanish villages near Villafraanca. In one the entire population, consisting of about 100 families, has become Protestant; in another, where the Romish Church had especially decorated the churches, the attendants were one old man, two old women and five boys. The Government school, having no pupils, was closed, while that of the Free Church of Scotland had 65 scholars.

—The American Chapel, Leipzig, has been in a flourishing condition this semester. The audiences have numbered about 100, and the Sunday-school, organized 16th Oct., has a membership of about sixty. Services are held every Sunday, with preaching by resident clergymen and students of theology. A weekly prayer-meeting is also sustained, and sociables will be held monthly during the winter. It is the purpose of the chapel to afford a Christian home, and a place of growth in Christian experience and service to young people studying there.

The Synod of the Waldensian Church was held this Fall in La Tour. Prof. Geymonat was chosen president. The state of each parish was reported upon and a report on evangelization was carefully considered. The number of new members admitted was 314; the losses of the year were 232. There are 41 settled congregations, 34 stations, 150 places visited by evangelists, 46 teachers, 7 colporteurs, 3,225 communicants, and 437 catechumens. The receipts of the year for schools and missions were \$10,500. The new liturgy was submitted to the parishes last year for consideration. The reports show that most of them condemn important features of it and demand a simpler service. The synod authorized the congregations to use it the coming year on trial. The announcement that the scheme of raising a fund of \$60,000 to augment the stipends of ministers had been completed was received with demonstrations of rejoicing. The Waldensians have also raised among themselves nearly \$18,000 for a similar purpose.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

—The theatres of New York receive annually seven millions of dollars, while less than three millions are expended in supporting the churches of the same city.

—A statue to the memory of the late Dr. Norman McLeod has been unveiled near the Barony Chapel in Glasgow. Dean Stanley was among the contributors.

—Mr. Darwin proves that earth-worms are the great producers of the tillable soil of the earth, and that they work not for their own good, but for the good of man. Was there no plan about that? This sort of Darwinism looks toward God.

—The battle of Trafalgar was fought seventy-six years ago; nevertheless, there are still alive five officers who took part in that engagement—namely, Admiral Sir George Rose Sartorius, now ninety-one years old; Admiral Robert Patton, of the same age; Commander William Vicary, aged ninety; Commander Francis Harris, also ninety; and Colonel James Fynmore, of the Marines, over ninety-two years.

—Professor Robertson Smith is to deliver a short course of lectures this winter in Edinburgh and Glasgow on the prophetic books of Scripture. His friends have raised him a fund which guarantees him a larger salary than he received in Aberdeen College. The money with which the books presented to Professor Smith were purchased was raised in a few days, and the Professor himself selected the books and manuscripts he wanted.

—An American writes to the *London Times*, suggesting that the Americans in London would gladly join, if permitted, in placing a slab of American granite in Westminster Abbey, with the words "In gratitude for the common sorrow of the English people with the Americans in the death of President Garfield." The correspondent suggests that President Arthur should make this permission his first act, and permit a stone from the Abbey with similar words to be brought to Washington.

—Ministers should be careful when they request the choir to omit a stanza of a hymn to see how the detached parts will fit together. A certain minister after saying, "Omit the second verse," was surprised to hear the hymn sung as follows:

When thou, my righteous Judge, shalt come
To take thy ransomed people home,
Shall I among them stand?
Shall such a worthless worm as I,
Who sometimes am afraid to live,
Be found at thy right hand?
O Lord, prevent it by thy grace, etc.

—At a young ladies' school near Bristol, England, it is customary for the pupils, on week days, to eat their noon lunch on the playground. The sparrows soon found out that crumbs were dropped on the ground, and they would gather in large numbers, just before twelve, wait till the girls had eaten their lunch and then scramble for their own feast. On Sundays, the pupils went to church and dined indoors, a fact which the sparrows quickly learned, and so they never came on that day. They seemed to have some way of giving this information to each other, and also of notifying when noon was drawing near.

—At the late Convention of Universalists, Massachusetts, a resolution discouraging the further employment of women in the ministry in that denomination was introduced by the Rev. Dr. Sawyer. He supported the same in an earnest speech, in which he expressed his clear conviction of the unwisdom of the innovation, and especially declared that the fact that "among all Christ's teachers and preachers there were no women," should be conclusive against it. Whereupon the *Hartford Times* rises dryly to remark that if our Universalist friends propose to make their doctrine and practice conform to the pattern thus indicated, "there will be some lively changes in several particulars."

—The *Churchman* sees one good thing in the recent Methodist conference in London: it was opened by the full service of the Church of England. Our contemporary adds:

"But it is said the American Methodists knew not what to make of it nor how to get through with it. It gave no chance for extra 'Amens' and completely shut off the shouts of 'Glory hallelujah,' which they were wont to practice in the wilds of Kentucky in the palmy days of Methodist pioneering."

It is true they hardly knew "how to get through with it," it was so very tiresome. But they will solemnly promise *The Churchman* never to use it at another oecumenical. It did shut off the "amens," because what the delegates wanted most to pray for was not mentioned in the cumbersome service. David is content to use his own armour.—*N. Y. Independent*.

—A writer in the *Journal of Science* has an article on the sanitary legislation of the Pentateuch, in which he examines the laws of health set forth by Moses, not from the position of the archaeologist, the Orientalist, or the divine, but simply from that of one interested in sanitary science. He finds that the Hebrew law-giver long ago anticipated the oracles of to-day. "So peculiar," he concludes, "is human progress, that it has taken three thousands of years to bring the civilized world to a point less advanced than that occupied by Moses. Less advanced, we say emphatically, because if we now admit the value of personal cleanliness, the importance of avoiding putrescent and loathsome matters, and of expelling them rapidly from our cities, and if we are theoretically aware of the disinfecting and deodorizing power of earth, we are far from embodying this, our knowledge, in the practice of actual life. As to the avoidance of blood, of the flesh of foul-feeding animals, and of such as are liable to introduce entozoa into our systems, we do not recognize even verbally the importance of the Mosaic teachings. We eat 'blood puddings,' we feed swine with blood and with foul-smelling offal, and then we eat the animals which have been gorged on this revolting diet. And we pay the price of this uncleanness in shortened lives and in waning vigour. We again call attention to the remarkable physiological insight displayed in the sanitary code of the ancient Israelites, and we repeat the question, Whence did it come?"