

their contributions for self-support, home work, and foreign missions amount to £6,779,292. The general secretary of the Alliance estimates the number of Presbyterians in the world to be not less than 20,000,000.

Old ministers are not confined to Scotland. At St. Joseph, Mo., U. S. A. lives a retired Presbyterian minister aged 86, who on 18 Sept. celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination. In these years he received over 2000 members into the communion of the Presbyterian Church.

How to settle difficulties was well illustrated in the recent Synod of Nebraska. There were two Presbyterian Colleges in the State, Bellevue and Hastings. The General Assembly had recommended that but one college in a State should receive aid from the Board of Aid for colleges, and had asked this Synod to make choice. Both had many warm friends. The discussion was long and earnest, but kindly; and one morning, after half an hour of prayer, the vote was taken by ballot and resulted in a majority of twelve for Bellevue. Friends of Hastings moved to make it unanimous, and then they sang "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

In the Southern States the Synods are making arrangements for celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Shorter Catechism and the other standards of the Westminster Assembly. That Assembly met July 1st, 1643, and sent up to Parliament the Directory for Public Worship, November 21st and 27th, 1644; the Confession of Faith on December 4th, 1646, and April 29th, 1647; the Shorter Catechism, November 25th, 1647, and April 14th, 1648; the Larger Catechism, October 15th, 1647, and April 14th, 1648; and held its last meeting March 25th, 1652. This series of documents contains the most complete summary of Bible truth ever prepared, and of the series, the most widely known is the Shorter Catechism. Who can measure the influence of that little book on the world's intellectual and moral and spiritual character during the past two hundred and fifty years. And its influence is not growing less for The Shorter Catechism is more widely studied to-day than ever it was before.

The riot at L'ai Kang, that compelled Dr. Howard Taylor and other missionaries to leave, was caused by the rage of one woman. She had demanded the loan of 200 taels, but was refused, and in her rage she spread the report that on a certain day relief would be given by the foreigners to all who came for it. This, of course, caused the gathering of a mob, and but for the timely arrival of the magistrates, lives might have been lost. As it was the missionaries were driven out and the place looted.

The World Field.

The French Government has issued a decree abolishing slavery in Madagascar.

Ecuador and Bolivia, containing over 3,000,000 of people, have never had a Protestant missionary, and Venezuela has but one.—*Woman's Work for Woman*.

Korea has been re-divided into thirteen counties. First-class post-offices have been placed in eleven of the cities, and second-class in fourteen smaller towns.

In the past year, the most memorable thing in science was the discovery of the so-called X ray by Professor Roentgen, of Wurtzburg.

Moody and Sankey held a revival meeting in the prison at Sing Sing on the afternoon of Dec. 16th. About 900 of the 1,400 convicts attended the services.

The United States now pays about \$250,000,000 annually for military, navy and pensions. Well on to a million dollars per day for war purposes in times of peace.

It has been stated that, since the application of the anti-Jewish laws in 1892, more than 50,000 Jewish inhabitants of the two Russian capitals have embraced the orthodox Greek faith.

Mr. W. Howard, of the New York Armenian Relief Association, makes an accurate list of twenty-four separate massacres of Armenian Christians in the Turkish Empire, from September 30 to December 29, 1895.

According to Prof. Sayce, in the *London Academy*, three of the four names of kings mentioned in Genesis xiv. have now been discovered in cuneiform inscriptions: Chedor-Laomer, Tidal, and Arioch.

The ancient copper mines of Sinai have been re-explored. These were worked by the Egyptians, or their slaves, thousands of years ago, and are believed to have been abandoned about 3,000 years ago.

The Orthodox Church of Russia is enormously wealthy. It is said that it could easily pay the £200,000,000 which constitutes the national debt of Russia, and yet not altogether impoverish itself.

Dr. J. L. Humphrey, a missionary, writes: "I baptized our first convert in Bareilly, July 24, 1859: to-day we have an army marching heavenward of 105,000 strong." Are Missions not a success?

The London Missionary Society has used four successive ships in the South Seas bearing the name of John Williams. Her annual cruise covers not less than 20,000 miles.—*The Missionary*.