

that a brewer who did a large business at Mishima, Japan, has become a Christian and joined the church. He had a long and hard struggle to give up his profitable business, but at last the grace of God triumphed; he gave up brewing and gave his large and costly building to be used as a church.

—**Japanese Mission to Christendom.** A Japanese paper published at Kioto, called the *Byou of Asia*, has a report of a proposed mission for the conversion of Europe and America to a "purer faith." Its conductors say that they have noticed that Christianity is on the decline, and that, as religion is indispensable to man, this mission is projected. There is already a Buddhist mission in the United States, and something of a literature has been created. *The Watchman* says: "Whereabout the evidence of the 'decline' of Christianity has been 'noticed' we cannot conjecture, but it was probably in some of those pessimistic utterances now and then put forth by weak believers, or the still more insignificant boastings of unbelief."

Java.—Missionary work began 40 years ago. Seven societies of Holland are represented by 26 missionaries, having 25 mission stations, numbering 12,000 native Christians. The British and Foreign Bible Society has one agent in east Java, and will soon send another for the west. Not only Java, but the whole Dutch India, including Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes, has a strong claim not only on Europe, but on Christian America for the gospel. Twenty-seven millions of people and only 69 Christian missionaries to give them the glad tidings! In all Malaysia, with its 35,000,000 people, there is only one American missionary.

—In the central district of Java there are some 5,000 native Christians in connection with the Netherlands Reformed Missionary Society. For many years this field has been under the exclusive care of one missionary, who is stationed at Poerworedjo. Recently two other missionaries have been sent to Poerbolingo, one of whom is to be engaged in training native evangelists and preachers. Still more recently a young medical missionary has been sent out. He is to be supported by the Dutch Reformed Missionary Society in London. An attempt is being made to form the various churches or stations into a presbytery, presided over by a synod. Meanwhile Christianity is spreading also in the Djogjokarta district, and some 5,000 natives have accepted the truth.

Madagascar.—The growth of the elementary schools has been extraordinary. Twenty-five years ago they numbered seven, with 365 scholars; in 1886 they numbered 1,005, with 102,747 scholars. The several provinces are divided into districts, and each district has a meeting-house, used both as a church and school-house. Most of them are built of adobe, with thatched roof, and are very plain buildings, with mud floors. The school outfit consists of a few lesson sheets and text-books for the

teacher's use. The pupils provide themselves with a primer, a copy of the New Testament, the native Christian newspaper, a catechism, grammar, and geography. The teachers are supported in part by the natives. The object of these schools is to teach the children to read the Bible, and so these schools become the chief auxiliary to the direct preaching of the gospel.—*Chronicle of London Miss. Soc.*

—**At Tamatave**, the capital of Madagascar, Mrs. Mary Clement Leavitt, representing the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, recently addressed an audience of 1,500 natives, the lecture being translated by an interpreter. The Tamatave paper gives a full account of the occasion, and thanks God for the arrival of "that grand woman, Madame Mary Clement Leavitt of the United States."

Mexico.—The Presbyterian missionaries in the city of Mexico have recently located seven preaching stations in the outlying wards and districts. In this way they touch the people who could not be brought into anything known as a church edifice. Lay talent is utilized, one-half of these services being sustained by native elders.

Paraguay.—The South American Missionary Society has started a new mission under very favorable auspices.

Persia.—Dr. Bruce writes to the *Church Missionary Intelligencer*: "We have no opposition from Moslem priests or people worth mentioning; the latter, in nine cases out of ten, gladly receive our colporteurs and evangelists, and welcome their visits. The Moslem priests now have lost all their power for good or evil in Persia. The Persian Government is also liberal in its treatment of Christians and Jews, but through the intrigues of the Roman Catholic and (led by them) of the American ecclesiastics, it allows Protestant Christians to be opposed, and thereby gives us great trouble. During all my mission life among Mohammedans, every persecution and opposition to our work from which we have suffered has been set on foot, not by Moslems, but by nominal Christians."

—High Church missionaries from England are establishing schools and churches in utter indifference to the work done by American men and women in past years, thus fomenting schisms and divisions.

United States.—Indians of North America. The annual conference of the Dakota Indian churches and missions of the Presbyterian and Congregational denominations was held in September at Oakes, Dak. There were represented there all the missionaries to the Dakotas of the Presbyterian Foreign and Home Boards, and those of the Congregationalists under the charge of the American Missionary Association. There were present also 228 native delegates and visitors, besides those from the Cheyenne River Agency. The attendance ran from 500 to 600.

—The American Baptist Missionary Union calls for eighty men to fill vacancies and open new work on the various mission fields.