

# BUDS AND BLOSSOMS,

AND

Friendly Greetings.

"Israel shall blossom and bud and fill the world with fruit."

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## The Regions Beyond, or Mission News and Notes.



**THOMAS CARLYLE** said: The older I grow—and I now stand upon the brink of eternity—the more comes back to me the sentence in the Catechism which I learned when a child, and the fuller and deeper its meaning becomes. "What is the chief end of man? To glorify God, and enjoy Him forever."

Dear reader, we repeat the question. How much owest thou my Lord? We read some time since that Russia paid \$10,000,000 for the coronation of her Czar. How much will Christians give for the crowning of their King, whose right it is to reign over all the earth? Our chief aim in writing these notes from month to month is to incline you to give of your notes to the great work of harvesting the fields long since ripe and whitening for the gathering in of many precious souls. **HOW MUCH DO YOU REGULARLY GIVE TO MISSIONS?**

The late Mr. Arthur Wells, of Nottingham, has bequeathed the sum of £15,000 to the London Missionary Society. This benevolence was said to have been awakened by reading works of travel quite independent of missionary work, but which bore such favorable testimony to the good resulting from the work of these devoted men.

Mark this! While there were last year some seven converts to each of our preachers in the United States, there were seventy converts to each of the missionaries in Asia!

During the present century 150,000,000 copies of the Bible have been printed in 226 different languages. We have now 5,765 mission stations in heathen lands, with 6,696 ordained missionaries. This is a tenfold increase in eighty years.

The native Christians of Bengal have increased, chiefly by conversion, at the rate of 64.07 per cent. since the census of 1872.

The mean annual increase of adult converts to the four Free Church Missions in Livingstonia, Africa, is 400, or more than an average congregation in this country.

The 17,000,000 Brahmins of India increase only six per cent. in ten years, while the 2,000,000 Christians increase eighty-five per cent.

In Denmark there are about 200 Sabbath-schools, with 500 teachers, and 21,000 scholars, whereas fifteen years ago there were none.

In 1882 the baptisms among the Telugus of India, where the labors of the Baptist missionaries have been so successful, averaged 200 a month. There are over 20,000 church members among them.

Mrs. Neilson, for twenty-five years a successful actress, is now preaching as a Methodist missionary in Norway.

Not one French woman is to be found among the wives of Utah.

A fire at Rangoon, India, raged two days and destroyed forty one houses, involving a loss of \$6,000,000.

Mandalay, the Burmese capital, has been partially destroyed by fire.—The body of the Chinese cook who perished with the victims of the *Jeannette* Arctic expedition, after being carried to America, a distance of fifteen thousand miles, will be taken thirteen thousand miles more to its last resting place in China. All the Chinese who die in America are shipped to their own country for burial.

Fifty years ago there was a boy in Africa who was taken prisoner in one of the fierce wars between the tribes, and was carried away from his home to be sold as a slave. First he was sold for a horse. Then his buyer thought him a bad exchange for the horse, and compelled his master to take him back. Then he was sold for so much rum. This was called another bad bargain by the man who had bought him, and again he was returned, to be sold for tobacco, with the same result. Nobody wanted the poor miserable slave boy, who was on the point of committing suicide, when he was bought by a Portuguese trader, and carried away in a slave-ship. How little that wretched boy knew what the future had in store for him as he lay chained in the hold of the crowded slave ship! But one of England's war ships that were clearing the high seas of the slavers bore down upon the Portuguese vessel, rescued the captives, and the African boy was placed under Christian influences, baptized and educated, and to-day he is Bishop Crowther, England's black bishop in Africa.—*The Gospel in All Lands.*

The Rev. H. H. Johnston, pastor of the colored church, in Halifax, N. S., has resigned, and entered into the work of general collector for the Baptist Foreign Missionary Society, which has selected Africa for its field. The intention is to send educated colored missionaries back to tell the story of a Saviour's love, amongst their own brethren, and it is expected this newly organized enterprise will meet with large and grand success. Their motto is, "Africa for Christ."