

schools. Many souls given to dear Jesus will be their prize.

*Rome, March 23.*

#### SYRIA.

A jubilee anniversary was held about two months since (says the *New York Independent* of February 5,) at Beyrout, to commemorate the formation of the first Protestant church in Syria, by William Goodell and Isaac Bird, of the American Mission, fifty years ago. The exercises consisted in a public meeting, during the afternoon of the day, at the Anglo-American Church, when historical addresses were made by the elder members of the mission—Rev. Mr. Calhoun, Rev. Dr. Thomson, and Rev. Dr. Bliss, as well as others; on the character of the present mission work, by younger members, Rev. Dr. Post and Professor Porter; and in a social festival during the evening, at the house of the pastor of the congregation, Rev. Mr. Robertson, of the Scotch Mission to the Jews.

The movement to re-evangelize the lands of the early successes of the Gospel began with the American Board, in the year 1819, by the embarkation of two young men at Boston, for the eastern shores of the Mediterranean. In the original aim to reach sects not nominally Christian, little success, indeed, has been achieved. Mohammedan fanaticism has proved stronger than any sort of heathenism in other parts of the world. Throughout the half century it has been death for a Moslem to forsake Islam and accept Christianity; and to-day the fetters of bigotry, as well as the laws of the empire, are as strong as ever. Within the Mohammedan ranks, however, there has been great decay in the matter of faith in the Prophet and religious zeal. What could be more significant of this than the recent reply of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, at Constantinople, to certain ambassadors, in effect that conversion to Christianity could not be entertained, simply because

aversion to military duty is so great among all classes of Mohammedan subjects of the Porte, that conversions would occur soon without number, to avoid the execution of the law of conscription. Surely the religious convictions of the Moslems must be at their lowest ebb.

Efforts soon turned in other directions. Early operations for the benefit of the Jews at Jerusalem were broken up, chiefly by the wars of the time. The Druses, on Mount Lebanon, at first gave promise of a general turning to Protestantism; but their motives proved to be those of political advantages, rather than of sincere repentance or love of truth. Among the common people of the land the mission has at length found its home, and made very satisfactory progress. To-day the missionary stations, chiefly of the Presbyterian Board, extend from one end of the Syrian coast to the other, at all the towns from Gaza to Tarsus; while in the interior, a network of missionary centres and out-stations covers the land from Jerusalem, over Lebanon and Damascus, to Aleppo. Indeed, the mission territory may be said to extend even to Orfa and Mardin, of the Masian Mountains, between the Euphrates and the Tigris, the last of the Arabic-speaking nations. A list even of all the agencies which, since our pioneers entered the field, have joined them in their great enterprise of recovering Syria to the love of Christ, would be wearisome. No other ground of so limited extent in all the world could count the representatives of so many societies.

#### SIX MILLIONS OF TRACTS FOR ITALY.

Mr. Fappengouth is at present engaged on what he considers the sacred mission of scattering six millions of tracts on the continent of Europe. He has laboured at this work for the last two months, in the markets and leading streets of Florence, assisted by a young American minister, and he has now