

it with evident pleasure when another sister came in soon after.

In one house two Mohammedan women read, and one of them repeated Psalm after Psalm, Proverb after Proverb, besides many verses from the New Testament, singing several Christian lyrics. A young man came in, listened a short time, saying, "So this is what all you women are about while your husbands are away. We will see what will be done." The women were so frightened lest there be trouble, that I left them and visited several Hindu houses. While I was hearing the lessons in these houses the Bible woman went to three Mohammedan houses, to see if they were ready to receive me. In each house the husband having heard through that young man that I was around visiting their wives, had left their bazaars and gone home. As soon as the Bible woman entered they greeted her with, "Where is the white lady? Is she coming here with you?" Although the Bible woman replied, "No," and told where I was, they would not believe that I was not waiting at the door until they went to see. It was certainly providential that the Bible woman had gone ahead to see if the way was clear, for the men were very angry, and might have done violence to their wives, if not to me. —Mrs. H. C. Hazen, in *Life and Light*.

### MISSIONARY PROGRESS.

BY DR. R. H. GRAVES.

Much misapprehension exists in regard to the progress of the Lord's work among the heathen. Not long ago a leading member and office-bearer in one of our churches said to me: "I would feel more like giving for foreign missions were it not for the fact that missionaries are doing so little, they seem to make no progress." It is true that such impressions are based on ignorance of the real state of the case, and yet it is perhaps for this very reason they are so common. Our people do not take the pains to inform themselves. In election times men show the keenest interest in the returns, and in times of war feel the most intense anxiety to learn the result of a battle, while they will take but little pains to keep up with the news regarding the great conflict that is going on between Christ and Satan, between light and darkness, between truth and error.

Let us notice some facts concerning the progress of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ among the heathen—the triumphs of the Gospel in the world.

#### I.—SOME STATISTICS.

The *Missionary Review* gives the following statistics for American (U. S. and Canada) missionary societies for 1893-4.

Societies, 43; Contributions at home, \$5,173,749. Contributions on field, \$425,615; Missionaries ordained, 1,336; Missionary laymen, 323; Missionaries' wives, 1,306; Missionaries unmarried women, 1,028; Native helpers ordained, 1,331; Native helpers others, 11,809; total missionary force, 15,064. Stations, 4,648; Communicants, 301,942; Added last year \$22,810; adherents, 725,415; schools, 6,134; pupils, 204,555.

The same review gave for 1893, for both *European and American societies*—Contributions, \$14,713,627; Contributions on mission field, \$1,500,000; Mission force (including natives) 58,148. Stations, 16,092; Communicants, 1,081,708; Added 1893, 57,555; adherents, 2,741,955.

As most of this work has been accomplished within a century it will be seen that neither have Christian churches in the home lands been indifferent to the Lord's work among the heathen, nor has our Master withheld His blessing upon their efforts. A million converts, and more than twice as many who are not idolaters, (as children of Christian families and attendants at public worship) are no small numbers.

Dr. J. S. Dennis, in his "Century of Missions," gives some comparisons which are significant as showing that Missions have made a marked progress during the past hundred years.

In 1712 there was one Missionary Society with income of \$195.

In 1842 (50 years later), twenty-seven Missionary Societies with an income of \$3,000,000.

In 1867 (25 years later), fifty-eight Missionary Societies with income of \$5,190,000.

In 1892 (25 years later), two hundred and eighty Missionary Societies with income of \$14,588,354.

In 1804 the British and Foreign Bible Society was organized.

In 1816 the American Bible Society was organized.

In 1892 there were 80 Bible Societies circulating the Bible in 90 and the New Testament in 230 versions, 320 versions in all. 350 millions of copies have been put into circulation.

In 1889 there were 9 Medical Missionary Societies.

In 1894 there were 359 Medical Missionary Societies.

In 1881 there was 1 Woman's Missionary Society.

In 1893 there were 72 Woman's Missionary Societies. 33 of these were in the United States, 9 in Canada and 30 in Europe.

This surely is progress, and yet 9-10 of the money contributed was from 1-10 of the membership of the churches. Fully one-half the members in Protestant churches give nothing at all for preaching Christ to the heathen. Notwithstanding this apathy the Lord's work has gone on.

#### II.—UNTABULATED RESULTS.

God's truth is an unseen force in the moral world, like gravitation or electricity in the physical world. We can not reckon the force of electricity on the earth by counting up the number of trees or of houses struck by lightning; just as little can we calculate the effect of the preaching of the Gospel by voting the number of converts baptized. The apostles left no statistics, and yet the truth they preached undermined the idolatry of the Roman Empire. So now Christianity is undermining the offset pagan system of the east. There is power in a new idea, when this idea is a divine truth fresh from heaven it has a mighty dynamic force. The new truths of an atoning sacrifice, a suffering Saviour, the new birth, the Divine Spirit to help and cheer us, set men to thinking, if we can once break the crust of worldliness and prejudice in which their minds are encased. The circulation of thousands of copies of the Scriptures and of a rapidly increasing Christian literature, with the daily public preaching of the word of God is making an impression on the minds and hearts of the heathen.

There are many intelligent men in China, some of them having high positions, who are intellectually convinced that Christianity is true, but like Nicodemus they have not the courage to confess their convictions, others are favorably inclined towards the truths, but through fear of losing their positions or of persecution are slow to acknowledge their interest. It takes a long time to remove the prejudices and suspicions of a jealous and conservative