

two years later condemned Bible Societies as the pest of Christendom, could not restore them to their former flourishing state. The various missionary schools of the Roman Catholic Church, which train up and send out labourers into the Chinese field, are those at Macao, Lisbon, Naples and Paris, besides the Propaganda, at Rome. These send out Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and French missionaries. The latter, principally Jesuits, are most numerous, although the same may be said in regard to their efficiency as was said of the missionaries in 1714, by Ripa, one of themselves: "There is scarcely a single missionary who can boast of having made a single convert by his own preaching, for they merely baptize those who have already been converted by others. The diffusion of our holy religion in these parts has been almost entirely owing to the catechists, to other Christians, or to the distribution of books in the Chinese language." The Lazarists, or Priests of the Missions founded in 1627 by Vincent de Paul, who also established the Sisters of Mercy, contest the field with the Dominicans, Jesuits, and other monkish orders. In 1869 the Propaganda expended in China and Japan about \$250,000. In China alone, the Romish Church claims 800,000 adherents (which is a great exaggeration of the true number), and for these it provides 34 bishops, 348 foreign priests, 653 native priests, 18 colleges, 1000 day schools, and 40 orphanages. The converts to Romanism, however, in spite of such a staff, have been of late very few, the numbers that swell the reports of the Propaganda being principally infants surreptitiously baptized. The magnificent Cathedral of Canton, 250 feet in length, was begun in 1859, immediately after the treaty which gave great privileges to the French Roman Catholics. Our readers are doubtless familiar with the fact and circumstances of the massacre of 1870, at Tientsin, a city situated in the north-east of China, in the same province as Peking. During a time of much sickness in Tientsin, many children's coffins were carried out of the establishment of the French Sisters of Charity. The story was circulated that the Sisters were in the habit of kidnapping children for purposes of sorcery, and soon a mob was formed which killed the Sisters, (seven or eight in number,) together with the French Consul, three other French people, three Russians mistaken for Frenchmen, and twenty native Roman Catholics, destroying, at the same time, all the places of Christian worship in the city, although the Protestant missionaries and English-speaking foreigners were not injured. The Chinese Government was at once compelled to make compensation, and the work of the Romish missionaries goes on without hindrance, although not free from the suspicions of the people. The Romish Church has done much for the civilization of the Chinese, and for promoting intercourse with foreigners; there have also been in the ranks of her missionaries noble, self-denying men, some of whom, like St. Martin and Gleyo, joined genuine confession of Christ with much dross of superstition. To the fire that shall try all things their labours must be left. The day shall declare concerning them.
