

stains some of earth's fairest portions, myriads are still in error, and much remains to be done before ancient systems of religion wholly decay. Those, however, who read and take an interest in the cause of missions and the cause of Christ, cannot but feel and safely assert that the power of superstition is not what it once was. Look at Japan. Not long since the government forbade any Christian from setting foot upon their soil under pain of death; and a native who left his home and went abroad to a Christian land, and returned again, suffered the same penalty. Free communication, however, can now be held with that people. Look again at the Hindoo, who ever has an ardent love for his idols, and see how many of them are now losing their reverence for them, and Missionaries are witnessing whole families of Christian converts from Hindooism worshipping the true God without the fear of molestation. Glance again at Damascus, and what a wonderful movement has of late taken place among the Mahomedans there. Only at the risk of his life could the Mahomedan become a follower of Christ, and yet in Damascus we find of late no less than 3000 desire to become Christians, having regular prayer meetings, and praying to our Saviour to lead them out of darkness into light. To execute the old law on 3000 would be impossible, and the number of converts is increasing every day. And when we look at Romanism, is it not the case that it has less hold upon the common people than formerly? The time once was, if an anathema issued from the Vatican, not only would men but also kings and queens would tremble. Now an anathema gives but little alarm, and but little heed is paid to it. And why is this? just because faith in the Pope is less and constantly diminishing. And when we observe this decay in systems of error, is it not most remarkable and is it not a holy ordering of the God of Providence? And what is still further remarkable is, that these changes are going on among different people at the same time. Have we not then in this favourable symptom noticed a manifest appearance of the great things

the Lord of the Harvest is going to do. Truly, when we see what wondrous changes are being effected, should not our contributions be drawn forth, and have we not ample encouragement to prosecute the Missionary enterprise with redoubled energy and vigour?

STATISTICS.

Presbyteries are reminded that it is now time to collect the Statistics for 1870 and to send them to Professor McKnight to be tabulated and published in the *Record*. Presbyteries were too late last year. We hope that no time will be lost, and that the blanks of last year will be filled this year. The order of Synod is that the Statistics must be printed in the *June Record*; but as Rev. Mr. Houston well observes they might be published in March as well as in June. The Synod would no doubt be delighted if Professor McKnight could report that all the Presbyteries promptly responded to this call and that the Table was complete before the end of April.

Says Mr. Houston, in the *Advocate* :

The Statistics to be of real value ought to be as accurate as possible. Averages or supposition should be avoided where a very little trouble would procure the exact thing. There is of course no wish to deceive, at least we will assume that there is none, and yet there is deception. For example, in setting down the numbers in attendance on public worship or at the prayer meetings we fear that strict accuracy is not always observed. It is very easy to be exact here, it is not easy, it is all but impossible, to be exact in giving spiritual results. It is worth while being conscientious in the little things, if they be little, as well as in those that appear to be of more importance.

Acadia Mission:

We have received from the Convener of the Committee having superintendence of this Mission the report of Messrs. Paradis and Pelletiers of their summer's work in the Lower Provinces, which we shall have pleasure in inserting in our next number.