

ing, quickening power, have flowed over the spiritual field, and no one who turned to the Lord for salvation and renewal was left unrelieved. The remembrance of the Lord's mercies to us is associated with the conviction of our great guilt in the sight of a loving, but, even in His love, holy God. Inasmuch as this guilt is common, let us in the presence of Him who is not only our righteous Judge, but also our gracious Father, heartily confess our sins, humble ourselves in the dust before his incomparable Majesty, and supplicate that forgiveness which is certainly to be found for each and for all in the perfect atonement of Jesus Christ. No one can earnestly seek this grace without obtaining it; and when it is received, it proves to be the heaven-born seed, securing peace, freedom, and safety to individuals, families, and the nation. Grace in Christ is the well-spring of all blessings; it nerves for and urges to all needful labours, self-denial, and conflicts; it nourishes genuine, disinterested patriotism, and promotes in the most excellent way all the developments of life in every praiseworthy direction. It supplies a people who stand on the threshold of a new course for their citizen life with courage, trust, and especially a vital confidence in the Almighty Guide who is in heaven. Up, therefore, ye descendants of a people who have often experienced the special care and wonderful guidance of the Eternal God; up to approach the Merciful One! At the throne of grace let us unitedly seek and obtain the treasures which are needed by us. 'O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.'—Ps. xcvi. 6. 'Come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.'—Is. ii. 5.

ASIA—Armenian Church.—The American Protestant Mission to the Armenians in Turkey, divided into three active branches, occupies 23 stations, of which the chief are Constantinople, Smyrna, Antioch, and Erzeroum. It has been the instrument of much good. For some time past a party in the Armenian Church, influenced by the American missionaries, has been labouring for a thorough reformation. In the light of the Scriptures which the Americans have introduced into almost every village, many have come to see the errors of much that their Church has hitherto taught and practised. Schism and secession from the Church have wisely and patiently been forborne, but thousands are combining to compel the Church to renounce its errors and go back to the simple teachings of the Bible. They propose to retain the episcopal form of church government as better adapted to Turkey than any other. Their Central Committee is in constant communication with Protestant pastors and missionaries, and is drawing up a creed as a basis for their party to act upon. An Armenian lately declared that all the young men among them were joining this new movement, and

prophesies that it would succeed. We are not quite so sure about immediate success, for the corrupt ecclesiastical hierarchy has unlimited power for evil; but the movement is a striking evidence of the success of the American missionaries in bringing this people back to the Bible as their only sure guide.

AMERICA—The Mormons.—One of the most stirring and painful facts of the present age is the rapid growth of Mormonism, which finds its converts chiefly among professing Christians. In 'New America,' by Mr. W. Hepworth Dixon, we read:—

"Thirty-six years ago there were six Mormons in America; none in England; none in the rest of Europe; and to-day (1866) they have twenty thousand Saints (i. e. Mormons) in the Salt Lake city; four thousand each in Ogden, Provo, and Logan; in the whole of their stations in these valleys (106 settlements properly organised by them, and ruled by the Bishops and Elders), 150,000 souls; in other parts of the United States, about 8,000 or 10,000; in England and its dependencies, about 15,000; in the rest of Europe, 10,000; in Asia and the South Sea Islands, about 20,000,—in all, not less, perhaps, than 200,000 followers of Joseph Smith. All these converts have been gathered in thirty years."

One cause of such rapid increase is doubtless to be found in their missionary zeal, which leads them literally to compass sea and land. Thus, in another part of Mr Dixon's work, we read:—

"The way in which an elder may be called to missionary work has, in this age of dollars, an air of primitive romance. Brigham Young (say) is walking down Main Street; he sees a young fellow driving a team, galloping a horse, riding in a cart; and, calling that young elder to his side, he tells him that the Lord has chosen him to go forth and preach, mentioning, perhaps, the period and the place. The time may be for one year, for three years, for ten years; the Locality may be in Liverpool, in Damascus, in Delhi, in Pekin. Asking only a few hours' time to put his house in order, to take leave of his friends, to kiss his wives and children, that young elder, chosen from the street, will start on his errand. I have talked with a dozen of such missionaries; young men who have been called from the ranch, from the saw-mill, from the peach-garden, at a moment's notice, to depart unto the ends of the earth. Elder Stenhouse had been sent to labour in France and Switzerland, Elder Ritter in Austria, Elder Naisbit in England, Elder Davey in India and Ceylon. Their method was the same. Without money and without food the missionary starts on his journey; hiring himself as a driver, a guard, a carpenter, to some train of merchandise, going either towards the river or towards the sea. If his sphere is Europe, the young elder works as a labour-