

About ten persons from a neighbouring village came to inquire about that religion for which these men had suffered; at their own request a preacher has been sent to their village; a genuine work of grace seems to have commenced in some of them; and when Mr. Cowie went to preach to them, he was surrounded by an immense assemblage listening to the message of salvation. At Khiboey the crowds that attend the chapel have become so large as to require the opening of a room at Kio-lai to draw off a portion of the worshippers, and a chapel is shortly to be opened at Changpoo, for which the Khiboey Christians have subscribed fifty dollars. The same state of things exists in and around Bay-pay, where 129 usually sit down together at the Lord's-table. It is a significant fact, indeed, as indicating a change coming over the whole district in its relation to Christianity, that the rather smaller number of receptions this year is due to the increasing number of inquirers, calling for a greater amount of caution on the part of the missionaries in admitting them. In the district of Swatow, there had been an addition of between 60 and 70 members. Formosa was the scene of the troubles which so stirred the House of Lords. The mission was making marked progress. The authorities hated foreigners, while the common people welcomed the Missionaries. Last year a mob led by the authorities destroyed the Mission premises and almost killed the inmates. About the same time Cheng-hong, one of the most remarkable of the converts, was brutally murdered, being stoned to death and literally torn to pieces, his heart being eaten by the most savage of his murderers, while no redress whatever could be obtained from the authorities. After much violence, the British Consul kindly interfered and "put a pressure" on the authorities which induced them promptly to be quiet and to make amends. The pressure used by the Consul was a "gun-boat" and a few marines. The Home Government did not approve of his interference, and he has been recalled. These are briefly the facts that furnished the Duke of Somerset and a few other "lordlings" with a text for their bitter anti-missionary discourse in the House of Lords.

There is a Presbytery at Amoy. Native elders are elected in all the organized churches. There are nine natives studying for the ministry.

Presbyterian Church, South

The sad schism caused by the war and by slavery is not yet healed. The Southern Presbyterians have an Assembly of their own, which met this year at Mobile.

In answer to a memorial, a Committee was appointed to complete the work of revising the Form of Government and Book of Discipline, in order to adapt it to a large body of churches scattered over a wide and diversified territory, the revision having been delayed owing to the wish of the Presbyteries to have "their brethren in Kentucky have a voice in the case." A special committee also reported a plan of operations among colored people, which suggests that the freedmen be "allowed a formative organization, a sort of gradually maturing process, to be arrested at a certain point, until under proper training it is prepared to pass on towards completion."

What this means we are at a loss to decide, unless it contemplates the keeping of the colored churches and ministry in their former condition of tutelage and subjection to their white brethren. We infer as much as this from the report of the minority, who advised that the matter be left in its present state, and that whenever a case requiring action occurred, it should be decided in accordance with the principles of the Presbyterian Church. Their objection to the plan proposed by the Committee was that it violated the rights of church members, since it left the Presbytery to say to the minister or elder of a colored church, who has been elected to represent his church in Presbytery or Synod, "we will not admit you to a seat, and if you insist on your right, we will set you adrift." The majority report was adopted, but we think its authors must have but little expectation that it can secure the favor of their colored brethren.

Presbyterian Board of Publication.

Rev. Dr. SCHENCK made a statement of the operations of the Board, before the Assembly at New York, from which we condense the following:

Certain it is that during no previous year have we had more delightful evidence of the usefulness of our books and tracts than during the last. These humble instrumentalities have been used for the conversion of souls, and the building up of Sabbath schools in many destitute portions of our land. We have issued over 98,000 copies of new publications, and nearly 550,000 copies of reprints. We would call your special attention to the fact that our Sabbath school books have been greatly improved in quality. We feel that the necessities of the times call loudly upon us to diffuse sound Christian knowledge and doctrine, and to discard the light, trashy reading which has been so prevalent, and we studiously endeavor to have our publications meet these necessities.