

the West Indies, and one in Europe. There were also in connection with the Society about 1,242 catechists and lay teachers, mostly natives in heathen countries, and about 250 students in colleges abroad, training for the work of the ministry in the lands which gave them birth.

THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY, next in the order of time, had its beginning at Kettering, in Northamptonshire, (Eng.), in October, 1792, when a few Baptist ministers united to institute a Society, "for the diffusion of the Knowledge of the religion of Jesus Christ throughout the whole world, beyond the British Isles, by the preaching of the Gospel, the translation and publication of the Holy Scriptures, and the establishment of schools." The difficulties attending its inception were not few. First, and chiefly, was the difficulty of inducing the people of that time to give ear to the claims of Foreign Missions at all, while, as was alleged, "so much required to be done at home." Secondly, the few who favoured the project of converting the heathen, gravely doubted the propriety of any single denomination making such an attempt; and, thirdly, the Baptists were by many accounted the least likely of any of the denominations to succeed. The beginning of this Society was humble enough. Its founder and first missionary was a shoemaker, who, while diligently plying his lowly avocation, had his mind meanwhile occupied with the grand idea of proclaiming the Gospel to heathen nations. Endowed with good natural abilities, WILLIAM CAREY employed his spare moments in preparing himself for future action, and by successive steps qualified himself for the office of the ministry. In the month of May, 1792, shortly after his appointment to a church in Leicester, he was called to preach before the Baptist association, when he delivered a thrilling discourse, from Isaiah 54 : 1-3, emphasizing the twofold division of his subject,—"*Expect great things from God; and, attempt great things for God.*" So irresistible was his argument and so powerful his appeal, the association then and there resolved upon instituting a Missionary Society, which was formally done in October following. Accompanied by Dr. Thomas, an enthusiastic medical man, in November, 1793, he sailed for India, where the remaining fifty-nine years of his life were spent in preparing the way for those who should follow him, by translating the Scriptures into the many tongues of that country, and by laying the foundation of a Christian literature, while as yet, owing to the tyranny of the East India Company, he was denied the privilege of preaching the Gospel. A mission to Jamaica was begun in 1814, which has since extended to other parts of the West Indies. Besides India and Ceylon, the Society has vigorous missions in Africa, China, Japan, and also in Norway and Italy. The

total number of missionaries and assistant-missionaries wholly supported by the Society is *ninety-five*. Eighteen are supported in part. There are sixty-one pastors of self-supporting churches, and 258 evangelists. The number of communicants reported for 1880 is 38,397, of whom 26,712 are in Jamaica. The total receipts for the year were \$257,295. All Christian persons concurring in the objects of the Society, who are donors of ten pounds or upwards, or subscribers of ten shillings and sixpence annually to its funds, are entitled to membership. The number of life-members is upwards of one thousand.

THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY was established in 1795 (see *Record* for Nov. '81, p. 282), upon an undenominational basis, appealing to Christians of all denominations to unite in sending "the glorious Gospel of the blessed Saviour to the heathen, leaving it to the minds of the persons whom God may call into the fellowship of his Son from among them to assume such form of Church government as to them shall appear most agreeable to the Word of God." It commenced under favourable auspices, and immediately began its operations with an enthusiasm that never afterwards flagged. We have already shewn that it selected the South Sea Islands as its first field, in 1796, when no less than twenty-nine missionaries embarked in the "*Duff*" for Tahiti, and other groups in Polynesia. In 1798 it sent its first missionary to India,—the Revd. N. Forsyth. The same year it sent four missionaries to South Africa,—Vanderkemp, Edwards, Edmonds, and Kicherer. Under the auspices of this Society, Dr. Morrison had the honour of being the first Protestant missionary in China, in 1807; Robert Moffat entered upon his splendid career in South Africa in 1816; and his still more illustrious son-in-law, David Livingstone, began those researches in the centre of the Dark Continent which imparted imperishable lustre to his name. But the results of its mission to Madagascar is perhaps the grandest achievement of this or indeed of any other Missionary Society. The annual Report of the Society for 1881 contains a review of the progress made in its missions during the ten years preceding, and to this exceedingly interesting document we refer the reader for details of the work at present carried on in the countries mentioned, and also in the West Indies. The number of English missionaries employed is 139—a decrease of twenty-two, very satisfactorily accounted for by the fact, that a large number of its mission stations have become self-supporting congregations. It employs no less than 5,044 native ministers and preachers, of whom upwards of 4,000 are in Madagascar alone! It claims to have 92,474 communicants in its mission churches, 34,3708 native adherents, and 77,956 scholars in its schools. The membership of