

intellectual change which is coming upon China is the rise of the newspaper. The Peking court calendar, called *The Peking Gazette*, still at the end of nearly a millennium of years of issue holds on its feeble and newsless course. But a new force has come in. The foreign daily newspapers have been published at Shanghai. They are controlled by foreign gentlemen, but edited by native gentlemen. They have created a new demand. One of them issues an edition of 15,000. They go to each of the 1,700 official cities of the Empire. They have begun to discuss

imperial interests in a large way. They have interested the officials and the gentry. Another such paper is published in Tientsin. Its control is in the hands of a foreign gentleman. It is freer in tone than its Shanghai contemporary. It has a subsidy from the Viceroy. It is eagerly sought for by the officials. It has already done substantial work in explaining foreign ideas and the needs of China. It has well performed the beginning of its developing work. Two other such papers have begun at the South, and are no doubt fulfilling a like mission.

IV.—THE MONTHLY CONCERT OF MISSIONS.

BY ARTHUR T. PIERSON, D.D.

THE subjects for December are Syria, Greenland, the Missions among Jews and Educational Work.

We shall especially call attention to Syria and the missions among the Jews. The inhabitants of Palestine are under Turkish rule, and mostly adherents of Islam. There are many nominal Christian sects, however, principally Armenians and Nestorians. But our chief interest centers in Israel. The Jews of to-day, far more than most people imagine, control the finances, politics and literature of the world. The Rothschilds are bankers for all Europe. They were applied to for money that made England chief controller of the Suez Canal, that highway to the Orient, etc., etc.

SYRIA.

EVERY Christian feels special interest in Syria and Palestine. Several prosperous Protestant missions are found in this land of the Saviour. Rev. Levi Parsons of the American Board, who began work at Jerusalem in 1821, was the modern pioneer. In 1823 Rev. Pliny Fisk and Rev. Jonas King followed, and Rev. William Goodell went to Beirut. The American Board transferred its missions in Syria to the Presbyterian Church Board, North, in 1870, and in 1888

this mission reported 34 American missionaries, 171 Syrian agents, 19 churches, about 1,500 communicants and 66 Sunday-schools with nearly 4,000 pupils. These native churches contributed over \$8,000 for church extension. The Mission Press, notwithstanding the restrictive censorship of the Mohammedan Government, in 1887 printed 57,000 volumes, with over 20,000,000 pages, more than one-half being the Sacred Scriptures. This mission has also one well-equipped college, one medical school, one theological seminary, three boarding-schools, three seminaries for young women, 19 high schools, and 91 primary schools, with an aggregate attendance of 5,400 pupils.

Smaller missions in Syria are conducted by the Church Missionary Society of England, the London Society for the Jews, the Irish Presbyterian, the American United Presbyterian, the Free Church of Scotland, the Edinburgh Medical Mission, the Friends' Mission and several German societies. Success has rewarded all faithful toil, but missionaries have serious obstacles to contend against in Mohammedan lands.

Nevertheless, we see progress in Syria. The opening of the Suez Canal not only broke the sleep of ages in