

and whose experience and counsel were of the greatest value. Gavazzi is doing a good work in Rome. Recently a public disputation was held, in Rome between leading priests and evangelicals. The priests had obtained the permission of the Pope to engage in the discussion. The question in dispute was whether Peter had ever been in Rome. Gavazzi carried all before him. The effects of the discussion may be inferred from the fact that the Pope has forbidden the priests to engage in any more contests of this description. It is surely something to be thankful for, that there are in Rome some half dozen Protestant congregations, numerous free secular schools, and a Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Foreign Missions present no peculiarities requiring note. Dangers that threatened in China appear to have passed away for the present. Japan is becoming more accessible, although there are still some thousands of native Christians pining in prisons. In India education is making immense progress, and Christianity is its most important element.

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### THANKS TO THE CHILDREN.

A few months ago you were asked to provide not only \$1000 towards the ordinary expenses of the *Dayspring*, but another thousand for the renewal of her sails, cordage, masts and deck. As these repairs were necessary for the usefulness and safety of the *Dayspring*, the Board of Foreign Missions were persuaded that you would do all that was expected from you, and directed the whole money to be remitted before it was all in hand.

This was done, and the Board wish you to be informed that the \$2000 sent on to Melbourne have all been raised, and a good balance beside; and they further desire their thanks expressed to you that you have done this good work so cheerfully and quickly. You have exceeded their expectations.

You will also be glad to hear that the *Dayspring* has completed her 8th year of service, and has returned once more safely

to Melbourne, bringing thither Dr. Geddie and his daughter Mrs. Neilson, Mr. and Mrs. Inglis, Captain Fraser, with Mrs. Fraser and family. When you think of the flag of the *Southern Cross* hanging half mast high, and the dead body of Bishop Patteson beneath it wrapped in native mats crimsoned with his blood, you will feel grieved at this great affliction, and doubly thankful for the news which this *Record* conveys of the safety of the *Dayspring* and of all whom she carries. It was reported six months ago that she was lost, but now we are assured that she arrived safe in port a few days after the New Year. Praise the Lord for His goodness.

You will be sorry to learn that Captain Fraser who has hitherto navigated her with so much skill and care, lays down his command of her, and leaves her at Melbourne; but many of you may have an opportunity of seeing and hearing the Captain when he returns to see his friends, and we trust that another suitable man may be found in Melbourne for the important charge.

We wish you also to know that during the past year another has been added to the little mission fleet of the church of Christ. The sloop or cutter *Elfe* has been provided by the Presbyterian Church of the United States for the use of their missionaries at the island of Corisco and on the Monda, Gaboon and Bonite rivers on the West Coast of Africa, and south of Old Calabar where our own United Presbyterian missionaries have been labouring for a quarter of a century.

The following extract from "the Foreign Missionary" will shew why she was provided, and for what purposes:

"Heretofore, the missionaries in their journeyings have been exposed to the rays of a tropical sun, to tornadoes accompanied by violent rain, so prevalent on this western coast, and to the malarious night air in open boats, and sometimes when the circumstances were peculiarly trying, we were reminded of the forests of masts in New York Harbor, and wondered if there was not one "small ship" to wait upon the Saviour in Africa. Then, too, when we have traversed a hundred miles of ocean, and reached a tribe never before visited, young men have crowded our boat begging to be taken with us to enter our school, and