

SIAM.—Paganism is fast coming into disrepute in this land, and the country seems to be awaking and catching the first rays of dawning civilization. The people, from the Governor to the lowest subject, are losing their confidence in Buddhism, and it is to be hoped that the moral night of darkness may be speedily dispelled.

AFRICA.—Professor Blyde has for some time been engaged in exploring Central Africa. According to late intelligence received from him, he has discovered a Mohammedan University, with about a thousand persons connected with it. To his surprise he found that there were large numbers of girls among them studying Arabic. The teachers and learned men were glad to get the Arabic Bible published by the American Bible Society, and were not unwilling to admit it as a text book. This may be the key to christianizing interior Africa, now so largely under Mohammedan control.

SOUTHERN STATES.—According to the Pope's instructions, the work of converting to the Roman Catholic faith the Negroes of the Southern States has lately been undertaken. In November, 1871, the first detachment of priests consecrated to the work, set out and commenced operations in Maryland. There are about 550,000 freedmen in these States, and they are now beginning to feel Rome's deadly influence. Protestant christians are hastening to the rescue, determined to grapple with the foe. The zeal of our Roman Catholic friends is worthy of imitation.

BUFFALO HUNTERS.—In the Saskatchewan, buffalo hunting is pursued very extensively. Often, parties wander from home as many as 500, and are absent for months together. They always have with them, however, a preacher and teacher. Divine service is held every Sabbath, and the school seldom misses a daily-session.

GOLD COAST.—It is common among the Negro mountain tribes on the Gold Coast, Africa, to cast away every child after its birth, born with a wart on its little finger. The fetish priests, having great influence over the people, command them to kill such poor creatures, saying

that the curse of the fetish is upon family and child if it is not killed. At present nine such children, called six-fingered children, are in the house of the Basle Missionaries, having been saved by the Missionaries' wives.

ROME.—Oaths are now administered in the courts of Rome upon the Bible, instead of upon the crucifix. The same practice is followed in some of the courts of Tuscany.

CALCUTTA.—A children's hospital is about to be opened in Calcutta for all classes. Miss Brittain, Secretary of the American Zenana Mission, is associated with the scheme.

MIREGAPPORE, INDIA.—This city contains a population of from 60 to 80,000, who are chiefly engaged in trade and commerce. A christian church has lately been formed, and a suitable place of worship erected. Orphan schools have been established, and a theological class has been formed for the instruction of young men with a view to the ministry.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.—For some time the Wesleyans have had a mission to the Chinese who are attracted to the gold fields of Melbourne. On the 14th July a church was opened for the benefit of these laborers, and interesting services were held both in English and Chinese. The building cost £1,400.

AMERICA.—It is affirmed that every third person in the Southern States can neither read nor write. For this lamentable and large amount of ignorance, slavery is mainly responsible. Doubtless the better instructed North will soon take steps toward the educating of the freedmen.

BRIGHTON, ENGLAND.—A sad story is lately told of the death of a heathen mother in Brighton, England. A wealthy merchant from this locality had occasion frequently to visit Malabar. Here he fell in love with a native woman, a heathen, and married her. After a short period he took his young wife to Brighton. She clung persistently to her native customs, refusing to become a member of the Episcopal Church. Her fondness for idol worship increased, and she had a temple built on her husband's estate, where she went every day to offer up