

the claims of personal and national righteousness, and that these labours are being graciously blessed. The Epistles received from our sister Yearly Meetings in America, supplemented by the personal testimony of beloved brethren from that land who have been with us, speak of similar efforts put forth amongst them. From our foreign mission fields we learn that the year has been marked by an increased number of conversions to Christ. In Madagascar, the missions of our own and other Protestant societies have passed through a time of severe proving, but we are assured that the native Churches have come out of these trials purified and strengthened, although with lessened numbers. In India, the famine of last year has left under the care of our missionaries a large number of orphan children to be trained for Christ. The growing work in these and other heathen lands claims from the Church at home constant prayer and increased liberality, that the extension of the Lord's kingdom be not hindered.

We have had brought before us the urgent needs of the scattered communities and individuals connected with our religious Society in the Australasian colonies; and our prayerful sympathy has been aroused on their behalf.

We have set apart a deputation of Friends to visit our meetings at home, with the object of promoting the cause of temperance. We are thankful to know that the practice of total abstinence has been already adopted by a very large majority of our members, in the persuasion that they cannot rightly partake of that which is a snare and a curse to so many. But we fear that some who have known but little in their own immediate circles of the havoc wrought by strong drink, fail to realize the importance of active efforts to spread the principles and practice of total abstinence around them.

We rejoice at the increased attention which is being given amongst us to the careful and thoughtful study of Holy Scripture. The Book and its story must ever be a profoundly interesting theme, even in respect of the literary form and historical development of that Divinely inspired library which we call the Bible. We accept with reverent thankfulness every fresh light thrown by modern investigation and discovery upon the sacred pages which record how "men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Ghost." We would lovingly remind all who have entered upon this research that, valuable as is the intellectual study of Scripture, the truths which it contains will only be fruitful, as regards the heart and life of the student, in so far as he yields himself to