

laxing. Stereotyped customs that have been more powerful than law are disappearing. A knowledge of the Bible is spreading, its precepts are becoming more influential, and the truth is working wonders among the aborigines, who never yielded to Hindoo or Mohammedan influence, but are now accepting joyfully the doctrines of the Cross. Christianity has obtained a firm footing; its ambassadors are alive to the importance of its dissemination, and are increasing in numbers and skill. Native churches have been planted all over the land, and these are becoming more potential for good.

The statistics of BURMAH have been given in the figures already presented. What a difference between that country half a century ago and at this time! The jungles have given to Christ thousands of precious souls. "A little one has become a thousand." It is literally true, that for every convert then, there are more than a thousand to-day.

#### CHINA.

In 1825, China was virtually locked against all approach by the missionary, as such, and at that time there was not a labourer on its soil. The ratio of conversions is now rapidly increasing. Thus the native Christians in 1853 numbered 351; in 1863, 1,974; in 1868, 5,743; and in 1875, nearly 12,000. A recent list of missionaries, published in China, gives thirty different organizations at work, and almost 200 ordained evangelists, 99 of whom are from the United States.

In the INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO and the Straits, in the islands of Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes, the Malaccas, &c., and in the Straits Settlement, the Dutch societies, the Rhenish, Gossner's and the Propagation Society, are principally engaged in Christian effort. It is difficult to find out the numbers connected with any of these organizations. In the Malaccas and Celebes, the Netherlands Missionary Society report 83,800 hearers, but give no list of communicants. In the other fields, 3,783 are reported, but the list is imperfect.

#### POLYNESIA.

Missions in Polynesia have been remarkably successful. With the exception of a few centres, or islands, like New Guinea, the Marquesas, and portions of Fiji, the people have been brought under the influence, if not the power, of the truth. More than 300 islands of Southern and Eastern Polynesia have thrown away idolatry, and this within less than fifty years. The languages of the islands have been reduced to writing. In these tongues, the Scriptures have been translated, dictionaries and grammars have been prepared and printed, besides other works for the enlightenment and education of the people. Already the Sandwich Islands stand out as a Christian nation. In them, and in many groups, as large a proportion of the inhabitants is connected with the Christian church as in our own or other lands. As far as we have been able to gather up statistics from reports, &c., the membership borders on 70,000, with fully 300,000 adherents.

#### AMERICA.

The great mission-field of Protestants on this continent is Mexico and South America, though much labour has been bestowed on some of the West India Islands. It is doubtful whether the churches are doing as much for the evangelization of the Indians as they did fifty years ago. The Government is, however, doing more for their civilization through its "Peace policy." The number of communicants is much greater than in 1825, reaching to fully 10,000.

Several Societies, British and Canadian, are at work among the Indians in the British possessions, and some of them, especially the English Episcopal Societies and the Wesleyans, have met with much encouragement. They are largely operating in the Hudson Bay Territory, in British Columbia, and Vancouver's Island. The reports give 4,220 in the list of communicants.