

many other subjects—works which but for missions would never have existed, but without which the world would be much the poorer. In this direction alone the world has had a manifold return for Christian missions.

We should remember also that missions accomplish much more than can be shown in tabulated results. The American Board is really many societies unified. Besides carrying on a vast evangelizing work through missionaries and native helpers in twenty-two missions, it is a great educational society, having fifty theological seminaries and higher schools, instructing two thousand young men, many of whom are fitting for the ministry; forty girls' schools, having seventeen hundred pupils; and more than eight hundred common schools, with over thirty-one thousand scholars, it is also a comprehensive Sabbath-school society and a publication society, preparing, printing, and putting into circulation tracts and newspapers in many languages. It is likewise a society for assisting in erecting buildings for churches and schools, aiding feeble churches and home missionary societies in foreign countries. It is also a medical missionary society, having missionary physicians in the care of dispensaries and hospitals in many lands. It is a charitable organization which ministers to the poor, the sick, and the oppressed, as opportunity offers.

Even in the line of direct evangelistic work, much of the results of labor cannot be exhibited in statistics. In every heathen land, as in Christian countries, there is a large body of those who do not unite with any Church, but who are greatly influenced by Christianity. In India, Turkey, Japan, China, and elsewhere, such persons are to be counted by thousands and tens of thousands. They are termed "adherents," and although statistics generally take no account of them, they should be considered when the question is raised whether missions "pay."

But let us look a little more closely into the success of missions. At the last National Council of the Congregational Churches, it appeared that the average addition to all the Congregational churches in the United States was three persons to each church. Think of the expenditure involved in the work of each one of these churches! Does the expenditure "pay?"

The General Association of California reported for the year 1885: 339 net additions to the 106 Congregational churches of that State, twenty-eight less than the average for the preceding five years. *One-third* of the additions to all the churches were received by a single church in Oakland, and only twelve churches received ten or more to membership. Fifty churches out of 106 report no addition upon profession of faith. Does Congregationalism in California "pay?"

In the Presbyterian churches of the United States in the year 1884-85 the number added on confession was six and one-half per cent. of the whole membership. The gain of their foreign missions, as a whole, for the same period was nearly eleven per cent., while individual missions doubled this average.

The Congregational churches of the United States reported, in the year 1885, a total membership of 418,564, with additions on confession during the previous

year of 21,729. This is a growth of five per cent., or five and three-tenths additions to each ordained minister. In the mission churches under the care of the American Board, numbering 23,210 members, there were reported during the same year 3,008 additions, an increase of eleven per cent., or nineteen and three-tenths converts to each ordained missionary.

It thus appears that, aside from the indirect benefits of Christian missions in extending trade and adding to the world's stock of knowledge, and altogether apart from the priceless reflex influence of this missionary work upon the churches at home, missions not only "pay," but that no evangelistic labor in Christian lands yields so good returns.

Reader, there are 856 millions of pagans still sitting in heathen darkness. What are *you* doing toward sending them the gospel? Will you not give more, and pray more, that this gospel, which has done so much for you, may speedily be preached throughout all the world to every creature?

PERSEVERANCE.

YEARs ago a German boy read of the Siege of Troy and made up his mind to find the ruins of that ancient city. Troy had perished three thousand years ago—if, indeed, it ever existed at all. "But," said the little German, "I will find it, though." Though a poor lad, slaving at work until bed-time, he procured books, and taught himself six or seven languages. He pushed on and prospered, until, as a merchant, he had made a fortune. Every step of this study and money-making was taken with the aim of fulfilling the vow of his boyhood. In due time he started eastward with a company of laborers, and for long, long years pursued his search. At last he found Troy. His discovery was a sensation through all Europe. A short time ago the treasures of gold, silver, and bronze dug out of the palace of the Trojan king were exhibited at South Kensington. For three thousand years the buried ruins of that city had lain covered with sand, and by many it was regarded only as the fabled creation of poetry; but Dr. Schliemann, at his own unstinted expense, and by his own amazing enterprise, proved the discovery to the world. Think of it. A poor lad, learning languages, making money, spending seven years or more in far-away deserts, sustained through a life-time by one fixed resolution. He vowed in boyhood that he would find Troy, and he did find it. This German lad said, "Put down my name;" and when life was far spent he succeeded in hacking his way into the Temple of Fame.

Now, if we can find truth and God; if we can find "Glory, honor, immortality, and eternal life," is it not worth while, for the sake of these imperishable possessions, to summon up our uttermost resolution, and to pursue our aim with diligence through the swift years of mortal pilgrimage? "They do it for a corruptible crown, but we for an incorruptible." Do it with thy might.

"Write on thy heart this holy principle;
Nobly resolve, and die as thou resolvest;
Thou shalt not die till victory crown thy brows."

—*Christian Advocate.*