

helping to supply it with an educated christian ministry?

4. It may be added that the missionary who is to have charge of the Theological Academy is a native of Great Britain, and a licentiate of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

In the name of the members of the American Egyptian Mission.

JOHN HOGG,

Missionary from Osiout, Upper Egypt.

Conversions by Steam.

The *Record* of the Presbyterian Church (O. S.) calls attention to the wonderful results flowing from the introduction of steam into India:—

Steam works wonders in Christian countries. But in heathen countries it is doing even more. Multitudes are being converted from heathenism by steam.

The first engines in India were regarded with unaffected terror. It was thought that their stupendous powers in propelling large vessels or railroad trains was caused by the vigorous kicking of a demon, charmed into the iron boiler by white men's magic, and struggling to escape from the hot fire kindled underneath. This truly oriental idea has been dissipated, and now great numbers of merchants, of pilgrims, of people of every caste, eagerly mount the swift and comfortable conveyance.

What is the effect? Caste is broken down effectually by the necessary contact with others whose polluting touch they can no longer avoid; and with them they must eat, since they cannot cook by the roadside in their own sacred vessels. Their superstitions as to lucky days and hours are dispelled by the steam-whistle. It is not comfortable to roll oneself along like a bag of rice, or creep on all-fours, or hop on one leg, or carry one's arm straight up like a broomstick, for hundreds of miles, to a celebrated shrine, while a man's neighbour is luxuriously whirling past in a cushioned car, and with a few rupees can square the account as to sanctity.

Steam breaks up hereditary mechanical employments; steam disperses families from their old shrines and attachments; steam runs a deep plough through the thick underbrush and matted roots of customs and social order which choked the good seed of the Word; steam helps mightily to cut down giant errors which threw for ages their cold poisonous shade over plants that were eager for the sun, and would have been wholesome fruit. Thus, if it be not an evangelist, it powerfully "prepares the way of the Lord."

Many are beginning to travel to foreign

countries by steam vessels, and to find that the world is indeed round.

We received a few days ago an advertisement, printed in the form of a large handbill, in Chinese characters, with a picture of a steamship at the top; which was designed to be circulated in China, for the sake of informing the people of the arrangements by which a steamer is to run monthly between San Francisco and their native ports. In this bill the company promise them speedy transit and good accommodations. About five thousand persons come, and one or two thousand less ago, across the Pacific each year. Already some of the Chinese understand thoroughly the construction and management of the steam engines. Can they ever be heathens again?

But *how far* can steam convert a heathen? Unto salvation? No! The demonstrations of physical science are but a part of "the law" which teaches "the knowledge of sin." "Grace and truth are by Jesus Christ."

The foundations of heathenism are thus being overturned by the advancement of modern science. But another power is needed in order to build up a new and holy temple unto the Lord. The preacher of the gospel must hasten to tell those inquiring souls of Jesus, and of pardon through his blood.

Liberia.

From the *African Repository* we learn that Liberia holds a sea coast line 600 miles in length, and extends into the interior, on an average, about fifty miles. The entire population of the republic, including the aboriginal inhabitants of the country, is about five hundred thousand. Of these, twelve thousand are Americo-Liberians, i.e. the families of those who have emigrated from the United States, and those who have become connected with them through marriage. To these may be added thousands of natives, who have become civilized and enlightened through their influence—making a community of not less than 25,000, enjoying the blessings of civilized life under a government of their own, with the English bible in their hands, and all speaking the English language.

There are in the republic proper about forty churches, embracing five denominations, namely: Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterians, Episcopalian, and Congregational. In most or all of these churches there are regular Sabbath-schools and bible-classes, that contribute more or less every week for missionary purposes. With the exception of a few individual missionaries, both the ministry and membership of the churches are coloured persons. So the church of Christ is, we trust, firmly and permanently