

REV. MR. ONCKEN'S RETURN TO GERMANY.

Having labored more than a year in his visit to America, spreading before the churches what God is doing in the revival of evangelical religion in Germany, and raising funds, Mr. Oncken reached Hamburg at the close of August; and, October 5, wrote the American Tract Society.

"1st September," he says, "we had our triennial conference, when all our devoted colporteurs and missionaries, about 70 in number, were here. Our meetings were of the most edifying character, throughout marked by a spirit of union and real brotherly love. The great Master of assemblies was in the midst of us, presided over our deliberations, and shed forth his Spirit upon his poor, but happy and honored servants.

"Of the powerful support your excellent Society has given to our mission, for many years past, honorable mention was made in the conference, and the assembled brethren passed a unanimous vote of thanks to the American Tract Society.

"You will rejoice to learn that our Tract operations have extended greatly. Our issues this year amount already to upwards of 530,000 copies, and at least 200,000 copies more must be issued. But alas, not a cent is left in our treasury; or rather, I have already advanced \$600, and we are thus compelled to make an unusual appeal to our American brethren, certain they will help us if they can."

He proceeds to state, that out of 150,000 souls in Hamburg, not over 8,000 attend public worship on the Sabbath, while great multitudes devote the day to amusement and revelry; and that in the grand duchy of M——, a clergyman of high standing publicly stated, that in three districts, within one year, *two hundred and twenty-eight* cases had occurred, when the ministers had to leave their places of worship without officiating, because not a single hearer was present.

"Let me repeat," he says, "the appalling fact, that millions in these so-called Christian lands will pass into eternity without having ever had the way of life, through faith in a crucified Saviour, pointed out to them plainly and faithfully, if this is not done by good religious tracts.

"Last Lord's day I met, for the first time, our noble and devoted band of tract visitors, in our school-room. The facts which they related were intensely interesting and touching, both in reference to the fearful condition of the masses of our people, and the blessing with which the Lord accompanies these arduous and important labors.—*American Messenger*.

[It may be recollected that, in the beginning of this year, Mr. Oncken spent some time in Canada, and delivered very interesting addresses in Toronto and elsewhere. Besides dwelling on the indifference to religion which prevails in Hamburg and the adjacent countries, he stated that the Lutheran Church there, has relapsed into something little short of popery.]

CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE AMONGST HINDUS.

The Bishop of Victoria, describing his late tour in Southern India, says there is now a Brahmin in the Judge's Court, and educated in the Madras University, who gained the prize for the best essay on the evidences in favor of the Christian religion, and who yet remains a heathen.—*American Paper*.

[It is well known that great numbers of Hindus have an extensive and accurate knowledge of the Scriptures. Upwards of twenty years ago, a returned Missionary from India informed us that hundreds of young persons there, educated at schools with which he was connected, were as well acquainted with both the histories and doctrines of the Bible as the generality of Sabbath scholars in Scotland. He said also, that he had often observed that if at a school examination a question was put, about which a child was at a loss, its father would whisper to it a perfectly correct answer, both parent and child, however, continuing heathen. Just so the boys at our grammar schools learn the details of Greek and Roman mythology, while they well know it to be purely fabulous. The case affords a good illustration of the difference between simple knowledge and belief, or faith.—It is obvious that the diffusion of so much sound religious knowledge among the Hindus is something, and not a little, towards the dissemination of Christianity. It is quite conceivable that, in such circumstances, conversion might, on a very large scale, suddenly take place. Surely there is the strongest reason for believers in the necessity and the efficacy of divine grace, earnestly importuning God that the good seed of the word, which has been so plentifully