

Mission Field.

MISSIONARY FACTS AND INCIDENTS.

There are now 16,250 communicants connected with the various missions in Mexico, and about 50,000 adherents. There have been fifty-eight martyrs within twenty-one years, the victims of Roman Catholic intolerance and rage.

The Rev. Alexander Roberts, of Venice, writes: "In this land of Italy, where, as late as 1851, Italians, and English visitors too, were imprisoned for reading the Bible, the annual circulation of the Bible now exceeds that of any other book, and it is taking its rightful place in the literature of the country as the Book of books."

The *Gleaner*, in referring to the number of baptisms in the missions of the English Church Missionary Society, says: "The baptisms for the last few years have averaged annually 3,500 of adult converts, and about 7,000 of the children of Christian parents, which is equivalent to an average of ten adults and twenty children every day in the year. So far as is yet known these figures have been more than maintained in the past year. Among the adult baptisms there have been 596 in Tinnevely, 621 in Travancore, about 500 in the rest of India, 438 in Uganda, 79 in other parts of East Africa, 158 in Ceylon. 545 in China, and 459 in Japan.

THE REJECTED STONE.

I have heard a story of one of the stones cut out for Solomon's Temple, that being of a curious and peculiar shape, it seemed to have no place in the building. They tried it one place and another, but it did not fit, and finally they threw it one side. During the years the temple was building, it became covered with moss and rubbish, and was the laughing-stock of the workmen as they passed by. But when the Temple was almost completed, and the multitudes were assembled to witness the dedication, inquiry was made for the top-stone, the crowning beauty of the whole. They found it in this despised and neglected stone; they lifted it to its place amid shouts of joy, and it became the crown and glory of the Temple. So it was with Christ. So it will be with the doctrines and principles of Christ. So, too, the greatest heroes will be found, not on historic fields, but on the silent battle-fields of the heart. The truest martyrs are often those crucified on unseen crosses.—*S. S. Magazine*.

It is sometimes easier to resist a great temptation than a little one. We do not realize the lowering effect of a succession of trifling transgressions, and so we make no effort to say no to them as they confront us one by one. But we do realize the probable consequences of yielding to that which stands before us in the guise of a great power, and we the

more resolutely withstand it. The Christian who could not be induced to entertain a proposal to indulge in a gross immorality for once when he is at home in the winter season, will go away in the summer and, inch by inch, give way to the trifles that may lower him more in the end than if he had yielded to the seemingly worse temptation which he found himself able to cope with. In some respects he is morally worse off because the succession has degraded him below the moral level of the acts themselves, by forming in him a habit—and a habit is a more serious evil than an act. Persons sometimes wonder how great a temptation they could resist; but it might be a good moral exercise to try how small a one they can withstand.—*Sunday School Times*.

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An Exchange says: "Among the forces making for unbelief and irreligion is that faith falsely so called, which makes that to be sin which God has not made sin."



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