

Christian bodies, speaks of the Congregationalists as having the advantage of strong educational foundations, the Presbyterians as successful in winning converts, the Methodists as noticeable for forming strong centres and schools, the Roman Catholics for possessing 30,000 adherents, and the Greek Church (the largest body) for its trained native clergy.

—Count Inoue, Minister of Home Affairs, has given \$800 to the Christian university (Doshisha), has erected at Yamaguchi a building for a mission, and has aided several mission schools for girls. Count Ito, the Prime Minister, is also a friend and supporter of Christian schools.

—Japan also has its Great Northern Railroad extending some 500 miles from Tokyo to Aomori, a seaport at the northern end of the great island Nippon.

AFRICA.

—Bishop Ferguson, of Cape Palmas, calls especial attention to the fact that the Cape Palmas tribe of Greboes had raised a sum of money to purchase a Bible to take the place of their fetiches, and remarks: "Such a thing as a heathen tribe's giving up its greeces and taking instead the Bible as a token of its acceptance of the Christian religion, to be henceforth its rule and guide, has never taken place in this land before, and it speaks loudly in favor of our work." Comparing 1899 with 1892 he finds that the baptisms have increased from 470 to 702, the confirmations from 235 to 281, and the communicants from 645 to 836.

—General Dodds, who led the French forces in Dahomey, is of Irish parentage, but a native of the French province of Senegal, where he has passed the greater part of his life. His first service was in the marine infantry, until in 1890, when he was put in command of all the forces at St. Louis, and organized the Dahomey expedition of last year. He has great knowledge of the

people, and is characterized by a taciturn self-reliance which makes him invaluable in such enterprises.

ISLANDS OF THE SEA.

—A few years ago Mrs. Allan, of Glasgow, Scotland, a member of the family which owns the Allan Line of steamers, visited Japan, and on her return to Scotland offered £750 to Rev. R. A. Thomson, a Baptist missionary at Kobe, to begin a mission on the Loochoo Islands. Her offer was accepted and the mission begun by sending two Japanese evangelists to Naha, the principal port of Okinawa, the largest of the Loochoo Islands. Mrs. Allan died last spring, and on the very day of her death the first Loochoo convert was baptized at Naha.

—It is 20 years since Dr. Mackay, missionary of the Canadian Presbyterian Church, began to labor in North Formosa. The result is in that part of the island at this day 2605 baptized Christians, 50 native preachers, 2 ordained pastors, and many other workers.

This same Dr. Mackay writes that "North Formosa has a neat chapel in memory of China's great evangelist, William C. Burns, and she will soon have one dedicated to the memory of India's heroic defender, Alexander Duff. In June last I received £102 from an aged Christian lady in Canada. The donor heartily acquiesced in the suggestion that the latter memorial church should be erected, and as she has no desire for publicity her name will not appear."

—Seven Presbyterian churches—Canada, Free Church, churches of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania—combine to send 18 missionaries to the New Hebrides. All these are united in a synod which meets to receive reports, discuss matters of business, vote grants, etc. A meeting was not long since held on Aneityum, at which 41 were present, wives and children included.