

—The Methodists in Peking appear to be appropriating heathen temples by the wholesale. Three have already passed into their hands, and their eager eyes are now fixed upon a fourth, which will be laid hold of the hour the cash is forthcoming from America.

—From the North China Mission of the American Board come glad tidings of an extensive and thorough revival which by the score and hundred is wondrously transforming the hearts and lives especially of the pupils in the schools.

—The statistics of the Irish Presbyterian Mission in Manchuria show that in addition to the 5 principal stations there are 11 out-stations occupied by native agents, and street chapels at two others. The number of baptized members at the beginning of the year was 522, and at the end of the year is 855, of whom 325 are communicants. There are also 130 applicants for baptism. Thirty-three native Christian agents are employed in addition to the native assistants who work under the medical missionaries. Fourteen of these are evangelists, 2 are teachers, and 9 are colporteurs.

—In 1842 the Amoy mission of the Reformed (Dutch) Church was founded; in 1848 a house of worship was built—the first one in China; in 1856 a church was organized; by 1862 the work had developed into a presbytery; and in 1894 into a synod consisting of 19 churches, with 2141 members. And certainly this is an excellent record for fifty years.

Japan.—Poverty is largely a matter of definition, and this is what it means in the Land of the Rising Sun, according to the statement of a philanthropic native who has been investigating: “He found many families within a small area who are about as near destitution as it is possible to get. Such persons count themselves fortunate if they can scrape together each a pittance of 1.3 *sen* (about 7 mills) to buy two meals

Two or three rainy days in succession leaves them wholly without food. These are not beggars, but belong to the working classes. As for clothing, their condition is equally terrible. Out of 520 families only 30 have a *futon* (wadded quilt used for a bed), thin, and made of rags patched together to cover the whole family of four or five members. Presumably the rest have nothing. What these people long for is a war, a fire, a pestilence, or a famine. A fire will give them work, or they may glean something from the ruins. A famine, cholera, and the like means large schemes of out-door relief, in which they may be included.”

—It is gratifying to note that the Japanese Christians are sending preachers to labor among their own people in the Sandwich Islands. The Japanese pastor of the Church in Honolulu has secured the services of 5 native ministers, who will be supported by their own countrymen. Rev. O. H. Gulick and wife are in the islands to aid in the good work of carrying the Gospel to the toilers on the sugar plantations.

#### AFRICA.

—The great work of partitioning out this vast land space still goes merrily on among the statesmen of Europe. The latest phase of the matter is found in the Anglo-Belgian treaty, whereby the party of the first part enlarges temporarily the limits of the Congo Free State on the east until they touch the Upper Nile; and in return for the favor, the party of the second part cedes to Britain a long strip of territory upon the west shore of Lake Tanganyika, all with the elegant result that now and from henceforth British lines of railroad and telegraph can run on British soil all the long way from the Cape to the Mediterranean!

—Some time since Cape Town was joined by the telegraph wire with Fort Salisbury, far up toward the Zambesi, and now 400 miles more are to be put