

PALESTINE.—A lady missionary in Palestine reports the baptism of six converts during the last year in the district in which there had been no baptisms for the previous twenty years.

EASTERN AND WESTER EQUATORIAL AFRICA.—Bishop Tucker completed his visitations of the Coast Missions in February and started for Uganda on March 25th.

On Feb. 13th at Onitsha in W. Equatorial Africa Bishop Tugwell admitted a native catechist to the diaconate in Immanuel Church which was crowded, and there were one hundred communicants. "Three years ago when Bishop Tugwell opened the church, the uproar was so great that he could at times hardly proceed, but on this occasion perfect order was maintained for two hours and a half. In the afternoon the Bishop examined twelve men, candidates for Confirmation, who three years ago were heathen, but now can read fluently, and have a good grasp of the truth. Altogether the work at Onitsha is most encouraging."

INDIA.—The following account of baptisms at Basharatpur is given in the North India *Gleaner*: "Sunday, January 2nd, may be regarded as a red-letter day in the Mission. At the morning service Gorakhpur there were twenty-nine baptisms of orphans, some of whom were able to answer for themselves; and in the afternoon at Basharatpur there were no fewer than 100 baptisms, many of them being adults, both men and women, who first were inclined to Christianity through the kindness they had received at the hands of the Christians during the famine. There were also some children of the inquirers and also some orphans. These with one girl baptized at Gorakhpur on the following day make 130 baptisms—certainly the largest number we have ever had at one time.

"The service was a very solemn one; the candidates occupied the front seats in church, and the rest were crowded with Christians. On the verandahs, and looking in through the open west door, were many of their heathen friends, some of whom had up to the last minute tried to dissuade their friends from taking this irrefragable step. The service was orderly and reverent, though the church was very crowded, and the vows were made with an earnestness that could not be mistaken.

"The adults were baptized first; the women being baptized with their children in their arms. One could not but call to mind what we read in the Acts how that the Apostles used to baptize individuals 'with all their house.'"

THE Rev. W. McLean has now completed six years in Agra and over seven in India.

Within the six years he has had privilege of admitting into the Church by baptism about 140 Hindus and Mohammedans, many of whom are standing faithful and true, living monuments of what the grace of God can do. "But this," he says, "sinks into insignificance when compared with the enormous work which has been left undone, and which might be largely accomplished if we had another missionary for evangelistic work." During 1897 Mr. McLean baptized fifty-two. He attributes this large number of new converts, not to the famine, but to the special mission of 1896, when many of the Native preachers and teachers got a distinct blessing, and have since been working in a different spirit.

Two tablets, in memory of the late Miss Tucker, known to the world by her writings as "A.L.O.E.," have been placed, one in Lahore Cathedral and the other in the Church of the Epiphany at Batala, where, it will be remembered, Miss Tucker made her home for many years. The brass in the cathedral is near a tablet to the memory of the late Bishop French with whom she had so much in common, and whose warm friendship and esteem she so fully reciprocated. The inscription in the church at Batala is in English and Urdu, and sets forth that she was the first English missionary in Batala and the foundress of the Mission-school which now bears her name. A number of the old boys of the Baring High School, who had met at Batala by the invitation of the Principal, the Rev. E. Corfield, for their annual re-union, went over to the church for a short service dedicatory of the tablet, when the Rev. F. H. Baring, founder and first Principal of the school, spoke a few words about the life and influence of the lady who had accompanied him when, in 1878, he established that school with which she was for years completely identified. The Rev. Dr. Weitbrecht, himself a former Principal, closed the service with prayer."

SOUTH INDIA.—The following account of the conversion, steadfastness through persecution, and baptism of over a hundred converts is related by the Rev. A. E. Goodman, of Masulipatam, in a letter dated January 4th:

About June, 1896, the residents of two hamlets, Yeatipoggaru and Chinna Gollapollem, in the Kuthiventisummuti zemindary, at the mouth of the river Upataru, invited us to their homes to teach them the truths of Christianity. Their invitation was not responded to immediately, owing to a lack of agents and other circumstances which seemed to prevent the work being taken up. However, they were persistent in their invitations and came again and again to us. Occasional visits were paid by