

THERE is an extraordinary awakening at Hamadan, a station of the Presbyterian Board in Persia. About forty Jewish families have become Christians. Near the supposed tomb of Mordecai and Esther a company of the children of Israel are meeting regularly twice a week, to examine the law and the prophets, and to inquire concerning the Christian faith.

TARDY justice has at length been granted to Protestants in China. Heretofore they have been taxed for the support of idolatry, and have had no protection from persecution, while Roman Catholics enjoyed privileges in both these respects. Eighteen years ago strenuous efforts were made to have this unjust distinction abolished, and now the United States Minister, Hon. J. B. Angell, has succeeded in getting the edict reversed.

A WRITER in the London *Missionary Herald* says: "I have nowhere in Christian lands found men and women of a higher type than I meet in North China—of a finer spiritual experience, of a higher spiritual tone, or of a nobler spiritual life. I came away with the conviction that there are in the native churches in China not only the elements of stability, but of that steadfast and irresistible resolution that will carry over the whole empire to the new faith."

AFTER a week of prayer, a mass meeting, in the interest of Christianity, was held about three months ago at Kioto, Japan, when, it is said, 3,500 persons were present. A meeting of the same nature was held at Osaka, on June 11th, when the attendance rose to 7,000 persons. The Shinto priests were alarmed, and brought charges against the Governor of Osaka before the courts for permitting such assemblies. The court refused to entertain the accusation. Religious liberty seems to be legally established in Japan.

South Sea Islands.

THE Sandwich Island *Friend* states that on the first Sabbath in October forty-seven were added to the Fort Street church, in Honolulu, twenty-six to the Bethel Union church, and seventeen to the Chinese.

THE *Monthly Record* of the Free Church of Scotland says of the progress of the gospel in the New Hebrides during the last decade:—"Ten years ago Aneityum was the only Christian island in the

group, now about one-third of the group has been occupied, and all the islands are open for the gospel."

THE Christians on the Hawaiian Islands seem to be alert in their efforts to reach the 14,000 Chinese who have come among them. On all the islands evangelical agencies are said to be at work, with promising results. Mr. Sit Moon, the pastor of the Chinese Church at Honolulu, reports that two hundred and forty-eight of his countrymen at the islands are Christians.

A GREAT change is going on in the character of the population of the Sandwich Islands. The Chinese adult men outnumber the Hawaiians; Portuguese Romanists are coming in large numbers from the Madeira Islands; thirty French priests are busy in the interests of the Papacy; Bishop Willis would make all Anglicans; Mormon agents do not miss their opportunity, while the incoming heathenism, with low and debasing customs, tends to drag everything down to its own level.

FOR nine months and five days a volcano at Hilo, Hawaii, Sandwich Islands, continued to send forth liquid lava. Millions of tons have been sent forth, sufficient to form an island of no inconsiderable size, and its eruptions ceased on the 10th Aug., 1881. An ex-governess of one of the islands offered sacrifices to the fire goddess Pele, giving silk handkerchiefs and brandy and calling on the spirit of the late King Tunalilo to drink and be at peace with Hilo. The pagans that came with her from Honolulu say that she quenched the fire. A day of humiliation and prayer was observed by the Christians of Hilo and God has heard their prayers.

Africa.

THE Rev. Dr. Hannington has left England to reinforce the mission station at Livingstonia, Lake Nyassa. D. Lawa, who is in charge of the mission, has sent home news of the founding of a new station at Bandawe.

THE Scotch Free Church missionaries at Livingstonia, Central Africa, have baptized their first convert, and have others under preparation for baptism. At Rubaga, in Uganda, where the English Church missionaries have to deal with the capricious and wilful King Mtesa, three Waganda youths have been "bound up for cleaving to Christianity."