

Paul Cheong Quong has been labouring among the Chinese during the year with acceptance, and not without tokens of success. Cheong Cheok Hong, who is in attendance on the Theological Hall, has been addressing meetings with much propriety and efficiency. Chinamen, who have themselves embraced the gospel, are coming forward voluntarily to make known the way of life to others. The Rev. F. A. Hagenauer continues his energetic labours among the aborigines at Ramah-Yuck settlement with gratifying evidences of the Divine blessing. Education is valued; the influence of civilisation are strikingly marked; social comforts abound; the worship of God in public and private is faithfully observed; and the reality of Christian life is evidenced. The reports from the New Hebrides Missions are most satisfactory. At Aniwa, under the labours of the Rev. Mr. Paton, may be seen an entire people, who have changed their gods, and who exhibit in their lives the ennobling power of a living Christianity. At Havannah Harbour, the Rev. Mr. Macdonald prosecutes his work with much enthusiasm and is steadily gaining on the esteem and confidence of the natives. Now that Fiji has become a colony under the British flag, it is proposed that the General Assemblies of Victoria and New South Wales should take joint action, with the view of putting down the infamous labour traffic that still disgraces some of the so-called civilisation that has settled down in these regions.

### MEDICAL MISSIONS.

Dr. Valentine, one of the missionaries of the United Presbyterian Church in Northern India, has met with remarkable success. He strongly recommends the general adoption of Medical Missions among the heathen. He submitted a plan for training such missionaries in India which met the approval of the whole Missionary Conference held at Allahabad. Dr. Valentine thus explains the present position of women among the Mahomedans of India:

Among the Mahomedans the present position of woman is not the result of accident, or the corrupt customs of a later age, but of the direct teaching of the Koran itself, which, in many instances, is so revolting, as not to admit of its being quoted here. I may only refer to the stories of Ribana, and the Egyptian slave, Mary, as well as to the Suru Maarif of the Koran. In Suru-i-Aisa the following is taught:—  
'Men are superior to women on account of

the qualities with which God has gifted one above the other, and on account of the way they make of their substance for themselves. Virtuous women are obedient, careful during their husbands' absence, because God has of them been careful. But did those (wives) for whose refractiveness you have cause to fear, remove them into separate beds apart, and scourge them.'

Then in Suru Swad of the Koran the following story is told:—

Job, in the midst of his afflictions, called upon God, who commanded him to strike the earth with his foot; he did so, and a fountain of water sprang up; when it was said to him, This is cool water for thee wash with and to drink. He washed and drank, and was cured of all his diseases. Then God commanded him to take a bundle of twigs, and beat his wife with them, and he did so, when the Koran bursts into exclamation of delight with, 'Verily I found him a patient person. How excellent a servant was he!' One tradition has it, that the cause of her being beaten was that, tempted by the devil, she had advised Job to curse God. In righteous indignation, he vowed that if he recovered, would give her a hundred lashes. When he recovered, he had a hundred twigs in a bundle, and struck her with this blow! Another tradition has it, that she had stayed away too long from him day.

### Bible Classes.

Many of our ministers we know are greatly cheered by well attended Bible Classes, but others are discouraged by small numbers, and the absence of persons of influence, whose presence would greatly aid and strengthen their hands.

Only the smallest number are attended as they might be. We have just heard that Rev. J. K. Smith, among other expressions of welcome at Galt, found himself greeted with a Bible Class of 300, raised to about 500. How inspiring such a class prove, how stimulating and encouraging! And why should not advance in this line be made over the whole in the Lower Provinces?

Having written so far, we turned to the statistics for 1873-4, and found that for Galt, in Westville, which it seemed out 500 to study the Scriptures with Mr. Lees, their Pastor.