

Home, Foreign, Jewish, Continental, and Oriental mission schemes sprang up, and have since been prosecuted with increasing zeal. In the foreign mission work of the church alone, no less than \$55,000 has been expended during the past year. But it is to the home field and to home wants that the church's attention is chiefly, and, we should say, wisely, turned.

Besides the Home Mission scheme proper, the Orphan Society, the Sabbath School Society, and the Bible and Colportage Society, attest the zeal and energy with which the Church is labouring for the amelioration of Ireland.

The Orphan Society aims at providing for the support and education of all destitute orphans throughout the whole church. At present, the number provided for is 2,116, and the revenue of the Society for the last year was \$65,000.

The Sabbath School Society has 962 schools, 8,694 teachers, and 69,780 scholars on the rolls. Its receipts from all sources during the past year were about \$13,000, and its disbursements about \$100 less.

The Bible and Colportage Society employs about 50 colporteurs, and during the past year put into circulation 1,033,776 publications, including copies of the Scriptures, and other books of a religious and healthful character. The receipts during the past year were amply sufficient to meet the expenditure, and left a balance of about \$2,000 to the credit of the Society.

On the 24th of March last, the statue of the late illustrious Dr. Cooke was placed on the pedestal in College Square, Belfast, where we trust it will stand for many a long year to remind succeeding generations of "the old man eloquent," who did so much for his church and his country.

#### MISSIONARY ITEMS.

**JAPAN.**—A few months since the Empress of Japan opened a normal school for girls, in Japan, with an appropriate address. The position of women in that Empire is rapidly changing, through the influence of Western ideas. Not the least effective agencies in working the change are the schools for girls opened at Yokohama and Kobe.

There are now upwards of one hundred missionaries in this country, of whom 44 are ordained ministers, 4 medical men, and 52 female missionaries.

**CHINA.**—The object of the China Inland Mission, which is evangelical and unsectarian in its character, embracing members of all the leading denominations of Christians, is, by the help of God, to carry into the whole of the interior of China the glad tid-

ings of his love in giving his only begotten Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Its present staff consists of one hundred and twenty labourers, namely, missionaries and their wives, forty-four; seventy male native assistants, and six native Bible-women.

In addition to these the number of missionaries belonging to other societies in China is stated to be 436, of whom fully one half are females.

**NOBLE FIJIANS.**—Under the Rev. George Brown, missionary in the Friendly Islands, the English Wesleyan Missionary Society have commenced a new mission to the Duke of York's Island, New Britain, etc., east of New Guinea, to be carried on mainly by natives from the missions in Tonga and Fiji. Mr. Brown had selected his agents, six married men and three single men, from a number of volunteers, when officials of the new English Government in Fiji thought it proper to interfere.

Mr. Layard addressed the teachers, telling them that they were British subjects, that no one had any right to compel them to go anywhere against their will, that they were free to go or stay, but that he was not responsible for their safety. He explained to them fully the dangers they were going to incur, said that the people were cannibals, the climate very unhealthy, food scarce, etc., and that they would often be left for months together without European help or protection.

Ameriro, one of the teachers, then stood up, and with deep feeling said that they knew all these things, the missionaries having explained the matter to them. 'We have fully considered this matter in our hearts,' he added; 'no one has pressed us in any way; we have given ourselves up to do this work: if we die—we die; if we live—we live.' Mr. Layard then read accounts to them from the Sydney "Morning Herald" of the suffering endured by the London Missionary Societies' teachers, of the death of some of them and their wives. But this also failed to move them. They then signed a paper which distinctly set forth all the perils of the undertaking, and stated that they engaged in it of their own free will and hearty desire, 'to spread the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ among the heathen inhabitants of those islands.' Mr. Layard said afterwards, to a gentleman in Fiji, that it was really grand to hear those men talk.

The mission is fairly commenced, and, so far, everything is hopeful.

**NEW GUINEA.**—Upwards of two years ago Miss Baxter, of Dundee, Scotland, presented to the London Missionary Society funds for