

home with the full assurance that the American churches may rely with the utmost confidence upon the character, the ability, and the final success of their representatives in the mission fields of the East."

**Miscellaneous**—Lively Hermannsburg, the model Lutheran Missionary (Congregational) Society of the world, had an income of nearly \$70,000 last year. Over 9,000 copies of its missionary journal were circulated in the same time.

—The first Malagasy who ever learned the alphabet died January, 1883, at the age of 72. He had lived to see 50,000 of his countrymen taught to read, and over 20,000 profess their faith in Christ.

—Narayan Sheshadri, who visited the United States some years ago, has been, it is said, the means of bringing one thousand heathen into the Christian fold.

—The following interesting communication respecting the circulation of the Bible was made to some foreign delegates who recently visited the Bible Printing Establishment of Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode. That at the time of the establishment of the firm 125 years ago there were only 4,000,000 copies of the Bible extant, but now there are upwards of 200,000,000 copies in circulation throughout the world.

—**Conquests of Missions.** A writer on foreign missions says: "First came India, the land of the Vedas, now consolidated under the British rule, and numbering, with its dependencies, 240,000,000 people. Then followed China, whose goings forth in ancient times were from the land of Shinar itself, with its 400,000,000. And next Japan, youngest and sprightliest of them all, with 35,000,000. And finally Congo. Livingstone went in to explore, and he invested his life for a regenerated Africa. When he was gone, God, who had girded Cyrus of old, raised up another to complete his work. Into the heart of the dark continent plunged Stanley 'Africanus.' When he came out it was to declare the fact that 40,000,000 more were to confront the Christian Church. And now what do missions propose to do? Nothing less than the conquest of all these great people for Christ. The aim of the work is to dethrone the powerful systems of heathenism, and exalt Christianity instead; to put an end to the supremacy of Confucianism and Buddhism and Brahminism and Shintoism and Tautism, so that Christ alone shall be exalted in that day."

—It is one of the saddest facts, that the four nations most closely identified with Protestant missions are the ones most closely identified also with the liquor traffic in lands which they are attempting to evangelize. America, Great Britain, Germany, Holland, have done much to spread the Bible in Asia, Africa and the Pacific. But they have also done more than any others to spread the curse of intemperance. At the

Congo Conference in Berlin, the United States and England sought to exclude the liquor traffic, but Germany and Holland protested in the interest of "free trade," and there is no evidence that either of the other countries manifested great reluctance at being permitted to continue their exports of rum and gin.

From every pulpit in the land there should go forth an appeal that America's skirts at least may be clean of the stain of the blood of these innocent ones in far-off lands. In gaining that we shall gain the same for ourselves. Without that we may rub and rub, and the accursed spot will but grow deeper and deeper in its dye.—*Homiletic Review.*

—A suggestive and important paper appears in *The Evangelical Magazine* on "The Perils to Evangelical Religion from the Spirit of the Age," by Dr. Alexander Thomson of Manchester. There is, says the writer, a present mode of thought which approaches every question of the divine administration from a human standpoint. God's purposes and aims are measured by the ideas and sentiments of man. In discoursing on the Bible, it is the human element to which attention is drawn. Moral consciousness is made the judge of doctrines. Scripture representations of conversion, of the evil of sin, of the rights of the Supreme Ruler, of the principle of substitution, and of dependence on supernatural grace, are vanishing out of sermons, because man becomes the measure of the divine.

—George Muller, the man who prevails by prayer, is still at eighty years of age traveling and preaching the gospel. When heard from last he was at Darjeeling, on the Himalayan Mountains. From this point he has sent forth the fiftieth report of his orphanage at Bristol, England, which tells the same tale that was told in past years. Summing up the sums by which the work has been sustained, he reports that the total receipts since March, 1883, have been very nearly \$6,000,000. Nearly 8,000 orphans have been cared for, and five large houses have been built in Ashley Downs, Bristol, at an expense of \$575,000, which can accommodate 2,850 orphans at a time. During the year 1888 one legacy has been received of \$25,000, another of \$10,000, and later another of \$25,000. The old principles on which the institution was founded still prevail. The managers make no debts; they buy nothing on credit; they ask God for the supply for every need. The institution, unless some great deception has been practiced by Mr. Muller and his associates, is a marvel of faith—a standing demonstration of the mighty power of prayer in the midst of a skeptical and scoffing generation.

—No greater mistake could be made by missionaries, says the *Indian Witness*, than that of yielding to the present popular demand for "results" in the shape of conversions and baptisms. Any missionary knows that he could baptize very many more than he does; he could bring in flaming reports every year; but it would be fatal to the native church of the future if there is any letting down of the high standard of the gospel in order to secure converts. Sacrifice of quality will wreck missionary effort. Better have 20 truly converted and fully consecrated souls in your native church than 2,000 whose daily lives bring reproach on the cross of Christ.