

Arabia.—The Keith-Falconer Mission. We have before referred to the interesting company of captives taken from slave-ships on the Red Sea, and committed by the government to this mission for education. These children now number fifty-one. It was at first supposed that they were Abyssinians, and hence nominally Christians, but it now appears that they are Gallas and that none of them had ever heard the name of Christ. These boys and girls are developing rapidly, and show an earnestness and spirit which promise well. Teachers have been sent from the United Presbyterian Mission in Egypt, who will help in the education of these youth, and it is hoped that they will return to their native land to preach the gospel.

China.—It is reported that in the China Inland Mission Hospital and Dispensary at Chefoo, 5,539 out-patients have been relieved, 217 surgical operations performed, 96 in-patients treated and brought under spiritual influences, not a few of whom are believed to have accepted Christ as their Saviour; and all this work is done at the small cost of 143*l*. One of the most encouraging signs in the missionary work in China is the hold the gospel is gaining on the hearts of the women. One lady has from forty to fifty present at a women's meeting each Sunday. Miss Guinness, of the C. I. M., tells of the eagerness of the women to hear the truth. Mrs. Cassels gives the same testimony.

Ceylon.—Mr. Murdock, of Ceylon, while in government employ, founded the vernacular Religious Tract Society thirty years ago, which, during the past year, published 8,000,000 pages of reading matter. Of the salary received he was not satisfied to give a tenth to the Master's work, but devoted eight-tenths to that purpose. He set up printing presses, composed and printed his own gospel tracts, and packing them in a bullock cart, spent his vacations in distributing them over the country.

England.—Wesleyan Missionary Society. This society, with headquarters in London, has missions in Europe, India, China, West Africa, the Transvaal, British Honduras and the Bahamas. It reports 336 central stations or circuits and 1,338 chapels and preaching-places. It has a staff of 333 missionaries and assistant missionaries, with 2,000 other paid agents, such as catechists, interpreters, etc. It enumerates 3,859 unpaid agents, such as local preachers and Sabbath-school teachers, and a church membership of 32,325, with 4,674 persons on trial for admission to the church. The method pursued by the society is to send to the field English missionaries for the purpose of organization and supervision, or to give instruction in training institutions. All subordinate positions are occupied by a trained native agency, while it is understood that every convert, according to his ability, should be a voluntary worker for Christ. The total income for the past year was nearly £132,000. The report for the year expresses great discouragement because of a debt of almost

£17,000 which has been accumulating for the past three years. In addition to the above is the work done by the Ladies' Auxiliary connected with the society, and reporting an income for the year of almost £8,000.

—A New Missionary Scheme. The Baptist Missionary Society have decided to make a fresh experiment in India. Rev. W. R. James, one of their ablest and most experienced missionaries, and a notable bazaar preacher, is to be entrusted with it. He is a single man himself, and half a dozen earnest young men, who are prepared to devote themselves to the work in which he has been so long engaged, are to be found and go back to India with him. They are all to live together in the native quarter of some great city, probably Calcutta, and there to commend the gospel in life and deed, as well as by word. Mr. James estimates that they can live in comfort and good health at a cost of about £50 a year each.—*The Christian*.

—The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland have had tabled at their session these statistics: Congregations, 2,770; members, 299,498; Sabbath-school teachers, 45,977; scholars attending Sabbath-school, 452,167; local preachers, 3,938; pastors in charge, 1,865. It was computed that in the denomination there had been gained during the past year about 20,000 members and 23,000 Sabbath scholars. Some churches had not reported, and of course the Union had no means of enforcing a request for statistics.

—The total receipts of the British and Foreign Bible Society are 34,986*l*. less than last year. There is a diminution in all the items of receipts except two, but the most serious reduction is in legacies, which last year were extraordinarily high. The return from distribution of Scriptures also shows a decrease, but this is accounted for by the cessation of sale of the Jubilee Bible and Testament, and by the lessened demand for the penny Testament.

Fiji.—Once the synonym of the utmost depravity, the Fiji Islands to-day are a monument to the value and power of Christian missions. A gentleman who has labored there for 14 years recently testified publicly in London that Quasa Victoria had nowhere 120,000 subjects more loyal than the residents of these islands. The gospel was brought there by Christianized natives of the Friendly Islands, and in turn the Fijians themselves have become imbued with the missionary spirit, no fewer than 50 Christian Fijians having gone to proclaim the gospel in New Guinea.

Germany.—The Missionary Conference recently held in Frankfort-on-the-Oder took the initiative of a very courageous petition to the Emperor with a view to obtain, if possible, some more stringent control over the manufacture and exportation of rum. According to a report made to the conference, 69 per cent. of the freight destined for the negroes, and shipped from Hamburg, consisted of rum. And how, what rum! The sailors never touch it, for they