

affixed to the corners of streets, and was read by many.

#### THE NORTH OF EUROPE.

The work of revival advances in Sweden. Several tract societies have been formed. In many places the clergy come boldly forward as the promoters of these movements. It is also a hopeful sign that in several places where there were unworthy clergymen, the people have come forward to demand spiritually-minded pastors in their stead.

In Russia the "Holy Synod" has sanctioned the printing of the gospel in Russ at St. Petersburg. There have been already 150,000 copies, other portions of the Bible are to follow.

INDIA.—From India there are several pleasing items of intelligence. One is that teachers in government schools are to be allowed to give Bible instruction to such of their scholars as choose to attend after school hours. This must be done, however, elsewhere than in the school premises. This is but a small concession, but it shows the turning of the tide.

In Tinavelly the work of revival goes on in a very remarkable manner. One missionary writes.

"I find that almost every member of the congregation in Melapatti has been awakened. Twelve heathen people have joined; thirty Pallars of the little village of Vadakhapatti have also come over, and are now under Christian instruction."

Two of the native agents, Moses and David Perinbam have joined him. We have the following touching incidents of their visit to one of the villages:—

"After Moses and David had supped together, the people came in for evening prayer. They first sang a Tamil hymn, Moses' wife leading. Then they proposed to sing another, and then another. So the time went on, and it was very late before poor David, wearied with his long journey all day, was able to get rest. At half-past three o'clock in the morning, he was roused up again. The people had come for prayers, and he was enabled at that early hour to address them from the words—'Those that seek me early shall find me.' Those poor people are obliged to go out before dawn to their work, and for this reason it is their habit, ever since the blessed change came on, to meet together at that hour in Moses' house to hear the Word of God and join in prayer."

CHINA.—There is intelligence of a spiritual awakening at Nungpo in the Boys' boarding school. It is traced to a daily prayer meeting commenced by the native Christians at the close of the week of prayer in 1860, and continued ever since. There has also been a similar work of grace in the girl's school. Of these four have been baptised and many are in a deeply anxious state of mind. At the same mission station quite a number of adults have lately been added to the church.

AFRICA.—From Africa there are various details of interest. A commencement has been made in the Abyssinian mission by the Pilgrim Association. From Corisco (West Africa) an American missionary writes hopefully. Speaking of a recent communion, he says:—"The Lord was present in the congregation of His people. All felt that it was truly a feast of fat things.

Eight from among the heathen were graciously inclined to come out and join themselves to the Lord." Among the Bechnanas and Kaffirs the Spirit of God is working. One missionary (Mr. Ross) writes that he has just received 26 adults into the fellowship of the church.

JAMAICA.—The *British Messenger* says: Communications pour in from Jamaica testifying to the extent and power of the wonderful work of grace there. It is stated that upwards of 20,000 persons have come under religious impressions. Various interesting details are given by the Rev. Mr. Hogg, United Presbyterian Missionary. For these, however, we have not space.

THE UNITED STATES.—The *Philadelphia Presbyterian* says:—We continue to receive information of revivals in different parts of the country." Details are given of revivals in various parts of the country. In connection with the recent eventful inauguration of the new President, there were solemn prayer meetings in Boston and many other large cities.

RED RIVER.—In a letter just received, the Rev. John Black states that a series of prayer meetings had been held during the first week of January. He says, "We have commenced a new series to be held fortnightly at each of the churches in town. The second will be here to-morrow evening. The weight of the work will fall upon Archdeacon Hunter, Rev. Mr. Chapman and myself, with occasional help from Mr. Cowley and from Mr. Smith, a young deacon lately from England. We do not yet see much fruit, but we are not without hope." Mr. Black also states that the Temperance cause has made good progress during the winter. In this cause the co-operation of Archdeacon Hunter is valuable.

We thus see that there are glad tidings from many lands regarding the good work of God. *But what of Canada?* We trust the Gospel is not preached altogether in vain. But truly we have need to pray for increasing energy and fervour for the outpouring of the spirit of God.

#### THE RESULTS OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

We occasionally find the objection brought against Christian Missions that they have not succeeded, and that they are not likely to succeed. Such an objection will be found in general to proceed from those who have no very enlarged acquaintance with the Word of God, or with the spirit of true christianity. But met even on its own grounds, and without reference to those who bring it forward, the objection is without foundation. The truth is, it is absurd to object that christian missions have not succeeded. The very existence of christianity, its extensive prevalence in the world, and the influence which it wields, may be pointed to as evidences that christian missions have succeeded. The rise of christianity was, humanly speaking, small. The seed from which has sprung the mighty tree under whose shadow so many of the families of the earth have

found shelter, was once small, the smallest of all seeds. Those who were at first the agents in laying the foundations of the christian church were, with very few exceptions, such as were accounted weak and insignificant. How then did christianity increase and extend? Not by the wisdom or worldly influence of the rulers of the earth, for they were often opposed to christianity. Infidels may like Gibbon, assign this and that reason for the spread of christianity. But in point of fact, christianity has advanced simply because it is of God, and because His blessing has accompanied the efforts, the prayers, the influence and example of His people. Thus we may regard the prevalence of christianity as a proof that the cause of missions has prospered, for it has just been the inherent life of the truth of God, the living diffusive principle of christianity which has, through the blessing of the great Head of the Church, preserved and extended the church from the first day until now.

Since modern missions began to be carried on with earnestness, that is, from about the beginning of the present century, the results have not been inconsiderable, even when compared with the means employed. We apprehend that even the friends of missions have sometimes at least tacitly admitted that the work has been to some extent a failure, or has not succeeded according to the means employed. But without boasting, we believe it may be asserted that while much more might have been achieved had the faith of the church been stronger, and the efforts put forth been more energetic, still the success has been large and abundant, for which we should thank the Father of lights. One well acquainted with the missionary work made the following statement at the late Missionary Conference in England:—

"He found that the Bible had been translated, during the last sixty years into upwards of one hundred languages. There were 100,000 professing Christians in New Zealand; 100,000 in Burmah and Pegu; 112,000 Protestant Christians in India; 5,000 or 6,000 in Mesopotamia; 250,000 in Africa; 40,000 in America; and 250,000 in the islands of the Pacific. There were Christians in China, Madagascar, Mauritius, and many other parts of the world. There were 200,000 or 300,000 Negroes under the care of Christian pastors in the West Indies. There are more than a million and a quarter of living Christians who, but for the labors of the missionaries, would all have remained idolaters. We are apt to compare the missionary successes of the present time, in disparaging terms, with the successes which attended apostolic labor. He had inquired, however, from the most competent authorities, as to how many individuals, in their opinion, were gathered out of heathendom by the labors of the inspired apostles, during the first sixty years