

## A-MOTHER'S INFLUENCE.

Trace the mightiest river to its source and that source is a tiny rivulet taking color and character from the soil or rock that gives it birth.

Trace to their source the mightiest of human agencies that flow through our world to-day, bless many lands in their flow, and that source is generally some small beginning, made by some man, he in turn taking color of character from his mother.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions now one of the largest missionary societies in the world may be traced back to a mother in a country parsonage in Connecticut, where from 1790 to 1800 a "boy Samuel" (Samuel J. Mills) used to listen while his mother talked to him of the perishing heathen. On one occasion she remarked to a friend "I have consecrated this child to the service of God as a missionary.

Mill's entered William's College in 1806, and sought to awaken among the students an interest in the heathen world. He found there kindred spirits. During that first year a memorable missionary prayer meeting was held by the students under shelter of a hay-stack to which they were driven by rain and the impressions of that hour were so deep and led to such results that the spot where that meeting was held has been called the birth-place of American Missions.

In the spring of 1810 Rev. Samuel Worcester of Salem, Mass., Samuel Milla, Samuel Newell, Samuel Nott, (four Samuels) with Admiram Judson, laid the matter before the General Association (Congregational) asking for the formation of a missionary society. The Association approved and the American Board was organized "for the purpose of devising ways and means, and adopting and prosecuting measures for promoting the spread of the gospel in heathen lands."

This was the first purely Foreign Missionary Society in America.

They applied to the legislature of Mass. for a charter but more than once the petition was rejected and it was not until two years later that it was obtained.

The receipts of the first year lacked 49 cents of one thousand dollars. Ten years later, 1800 the annual income was nearly forty thousand dollars.

In 20 years, 1830, the yearly receipts had increased to more than eighty thousand dollars (\$83,019.37). In 1840, 30 years from its origin, its income for the year was over two hundred and forty thousand, (\$41,862.28) while for the year just closed they were no less than \$657,090.86.

The first annual meeting was held in Farmington, Connecticut, Sept. 5th, 1810. There were present five of the nine commissioners, and an audience of one person. The last annual meeting was held in Boston a few weeks ago. Thousands were present. No building was large enough to hold the vast audience. Two, three and four meetings were in progress at once. Tremont Temple and Music Hall the two largest audience rooms in the city were packed day after day, and large overflow meetings were held in the neighboring churches.

The Society has now 22 missions carrying on work in more than nine hundred populous centres, in Africa, India, China, Japan, Ceylon, Micronesia, Turkey, Austria, and Spain.

It has 422 laborers from America in Foreign Lands, of these 156 are ordained missionaries, 101 unmarried women, several male and female physicians, and 147 wives of missionaries, while the number of native pastors, preachers, catechists, teachers, and helpers employed is 2183.

In connection with its missions, there are in the Turkish Empire over 8000 communicants, in India 4500, in Japan nearly 3000.

One of the most marvellous successes of this society was in the Sandwich Islands. A great revival occurred there