

## MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

## AMERICAN BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.—

We extract from the *Missionary Herald* for March, the following condensed and deeply interesting summary: "The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation." The noiseless and unobtrusive efforts of Christian charity are unnoticed and unknown by multitudes, who would blush to be convicted of ignorance as to the policy of states, the progress of legislation, the collisions of party strife,—and there are not a few Christian philanthropists who may be beneficially reminded of such facts as are here presented to our view. Be it remembered that this summary embraces the proceedings of only one of those great societies, which divine mercy has called into existence,—one solitary chapter from the *Moral Statistics* of the world. How would Christian gratitude and zeal be quickened by the survey of the whole!

## EXTENT OF THE SYSTEM OF OPERATION.

The origin of the foreign missionary enterprise in this country should never be forgotten. It was like the little cloud seen from the top of Carmel. No fact in the religious history of the country is better authenticated, or more remarkable, than that, at the outset, neither the Board, nor the Prudential Committee, nor any of the leading minds in the American churches at that time, could see the way clear for raising funds enough to support the four young men, who were waiting to be sent forth to the heathen world. And when, after a fruitless effort to get the promise of pecuniary aid from England, in case it should be necessary, those men were sent forth, it was without being designated by the Committee to any specific field. There was not then the hundredth part of the knowledge of the heathen world in the American churches, that there is now, and the comparative claims of the different portions of it was a subject then but little understood. The first missionaries were left to decide what field to occupy upon their arrival in India. Their instructions were dated February 7th, 1812.

The number of missions now existing under the care of this Board is 26. These embrace 86 stations. The number of ordained missionaries now in the field is 143, and of lay helpers of different descriptions 45, and of female helpers enough to increase the number to 392. To these add about 150 native helpers, who have been trained on the ground by the missions and are supported by the funds of the Board, and the number of present laborers swells to 542.

The mission schools contain 24,500 youth, of whom somewhat more than 1,000 are boarding scholars, in schools where the leading object is to train up a native ministry. Five hundred are in seminaries designed exclusively for males, where the course of study is as extensive as it can be while the languages of the several countries where they exist no better furnished with works of sound literature and science.

Fifteen printing establishments are at work in as many missions, and in 31 languages, exclusive of the English, spoken by 450,000,000 of people.

The missions are in western and southern Africa, Greece, Constantinople, Asia Minor, Syria, Kooristan, Persia, western and southern India, Ceylon, Siam, China, the Indian Archipelago, the Sandwich Islands, Oregon, the Indian Territory, west and northwest of the United States, and among the remnants of the Six Nations on the shore of Lake Erie.

## PROGRESS MADE IN THE WORK.

All that was said to shew the extent of the field, is an indication of progress made in the work. But more should be said, to the praise of God's grace.

The whole number of laborers sent from this country during the past thirty years, is 771, or, including the native helpers now employed, it is 921. In general the text-books of the schools have been prepared by the missionaries, and a great progress, on the whole, has been made in this department; especially in translating the Scriptures, and in geography, arithmetic, geometry, sacred history, and the first principles of religion and morals.

Scarcely less than 300,000,000 of pages have been printed in the 31 languages; 13 of which were first reduced to writing by the missionaries of the Board. Not less than 80,000 persons have had portions of the Bible put into their hands, and been taught to read them by the missionaries. How far mind has been awakened from the profound listlessness of heathenism, called off from sensual and grovelling to intellectual enjoyments, and furnished with the treasures of science, thought, and refined christian sentiment, is known only to Him who knoweth all things; but the value of the results must be beyond conception great.

The amount of printing in our own country by the Board, in furtherance of its objects, during the twenty years past, is nearly or quite 200,000,000 of pages;—not including reports, addresses, and appeals published by auxiliary societies; nor upward of thirty volumes of biography, missionary history, travels, researches, etc.; or more than twice or thrice that number, if we include books for Sabbath schools; which have grown directly out of its operations.

Fifty-nine churches have been gathered among the heathen containing nearly 20,000 members. The spiritual fruits of the missions to the oriental churches, are of course not included in this number, such not having been gathered into distinct and separate churches; the effort having been hitherto to infuse the spirit of the gospel into those religious communities as they are.

Through the blessing of God on the cheerful and cordial concurrence of the community, there have also been effected extensive systematic organizations for diffusing intelligence and raising funds at home, and a credit has been gained for the institution in the commercial world, which is of inestimable value in facilitating the support of the missions in so many widely remote parts of the world.

Aside from the progress which the missionary spirit has made in the christian community connected with this Board, from not having courage and zeal enough to venture on the support of five mission families to be now actually supporting more than one hundred and eighty such families, with all the presses, seminaries, schools, and native helpers, by which their usefulness is extended and increased, there has been a progress also in other portions of this community. Including the missions from other denominations of christians in this country, there are now laboring among the unevangelized tribes and