

"Reader! wilt thou go and do likewise? Dispense with collectors as *far as you are concerned*. For every object immediately connected with the House of the Lord 'bring an offering,' and beg the blessing he has promised.

"We collect and pay taxes. We gather by collectors when we have no common place to which to bring money. What is given to God ought to be presented as an act of worship in His House. God may use what is given in another way for His glory; the times of our ignorance he may wink at; but it will not bring the blessing it otherwise would to the donor. We believe He now *commandeth* all His people everywhere, and every one of them, on the first day of the week, to lay by him in store as God has prospered him, that there may be no 'collectings' such as have been described."

THE MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE.

THE EXTENT OF THE FIELD.—The population of the world is now estimated at 1,263,574,860, viz: Asia, 872,456,200; Africa, 51,875,000; Europe, 274,697,660; America, 60,556,000; Oceanica, 3,990,000.

As to the religious state of the world, the following summary is given, Asia.—Christians, 6,700,000; Jews, 1,500,000; Mohammedans, 76,000,600; Heathens, 788,256,200. Africa.—Christians 3,101,000; Jews, 1,250,000; Mohammedans, 25,000,000; Heathens, 22,524,000. Europe.—Christians, 266,427,960; Jews, 3,431,700; Mohammedans, 4,688,000. America.—Christians, 57,544,000; Jews, 30,000; Heathens, 3,000,000. Oceanica.—Christians, 1,000,000; Jews, 5,000; Heathens, 2,985,000. The totals are, Christians, 334,754,000; Jews, 6,216,700; Mohammedans, 105,688,000; Heathens, 816,915,200, the number of *nominal* Christians being scarcely more than one-fourth of the whole.

THE LABOURERS AT WORK.—At the close of the year 1863, there were *sixty-two* Protestant Missionary Societies engaged in the great work of the world's evangelization. Of these there were English Societies 16, Scotch 7, Irish 1, French 1, German and Swiss 11, Dutch 2, Norwegian and Swedish 3, Danish 1, American 17, British North American 2, and West Indian 2. These societies had altogether 1516 Mission Stations, and maintained 1591 places of worship. The number of Missionaries employed in preaching the gospel was 7372, of which number 3868 were ordained ministers, the rest being Catechists, Teachers, and other Lay Agents.

THE RESULTS OF THEIR LABOURS.—It must be borne in mind that modern missions have been little more than half a century in operation, many of them a much shorter time. There were at first many difficulties to be encountered, chiefly from the fact that many of the languages and dialects of the heathen had to be learned and reduced to system, and the Scriptures translated into them. This work has now been largely accomplished. In addition to this it is estimated that at the end of the year 1863 there were connected with the Missionary societies above referred to, 468,345 church members, 541,072 persons hearing the gospel preached with more or less regularity; 4,346 schools attended by 232,353 scholars. During the last ten years, the progress has been much more rapid than in previous years. As a specimen we may refer to India. In the year 1852 the proportion receiving Christian instruction was one in every 1,567 of the entire population; while in 1862 the proportion was one in every 666.

There is no ground for boasting or exultation. The results might have been greater, had the faith and energy and self-denial of the Church of Christ been greater. But there is cause of thanksgiving to God for the