

pupils present. Average during the year 99—22 over 1884. During the last quarter the average was 102. Some Europeans send their children to this school, and pay fees. There are three departments: Infant class, Intermediate, and Higher; the latter being specially under Miss C.'s instruction. Instruction in sacred music is given to the children for an hour every Friday evening. They use our Presbyterian Hymnal at the English service on Sunday, and in the Sabbath-School. On Christmas morning the children of all the schools gathered in the church to the number of 300. Before going to the church about 100 little suits were given to the pupils who were in special need of them. These suits had been sent by Ladies' Societies in Canada. The effect was admirable. Several of the older pupils were baptized during the year.

TACARIGUA SCHOOL: MISS SEMPLE'S REPORT 1885.—The following is a brief outline of Miss Semple's Report. She left Tunapuna to Miss Hilton, and commenced in the new field of Tacarigua, Jan. 13, 1885. Children registered, 180; average for the year, 60; Sabbath-School, 60. Some boys advanced during the year from words of one syllable to reading fluently in the Fourth Book. The Bible lesson is to the children the most interesting part of the day's work. Many of the boys know the whole Catechism well. The attendance of girls is increasing. Miss S. has a night school for working young men with an average attendance of 20. This class is reading the Gospel of Mark. Most of them attend the Sabbath School. From 80 to 90 children attend the Sabbath School. Miss S. visits the hospitals and is gladly welcomed by the coolie patients.

NEW CHURCH AT TUNAPUNA.—Rev. JOHN MORTON, on behalf of the Mission Council, writes intimating to the Board that \$1,550 have been subscribed for a church at Tunapuna; and that this amount will be increased to \$1,750 or \$1,800. The cost of the new church is set down at \$3,000. The Council do not ask the church at home for a lump sum of \$1,000 or \$1,200. Mr. Morton's estimate for ordinary work for 1886 is reduced by £40 stg., because the Tacarigua school-house is now finished. The Council, therefore, proposes to the Board to grant £30 stg. per annum as a sinking fund, in order to pay the debt of \$1,000 or \$1,200, to be incurred in completing the church. Any special subscriptions, or any surpluses from careful management will be used to lessen the debt. It is hoped the building will be completed in 1886.

Japan has already ninety-three Christian congregations, with ten thousand members, and one hundred and nine Sabbath-schools. Half a million copies of Scriptures are in circulation, besides more than two million books and tracts.

Erzroom, Turkey.

LETTER FROM REV. ROBERT CHAMBERS.

Jan. 22nd, 1886.

OUR work progresses, though the increasing poverty of the people and the unsettled political condition, are a great drawback. Regular Baptists, Campbellites, even Plymouth Brethren, have invaded our field, and the two former especially, have caused no little harm to our work. But the Lord will take care of His own cause. I only wish American and all Christians could understand the effects of divisions and denominational jealousies in mission lands. On the field of battle, under a galling fire from the foe who watches to take advantage of the slightest break or sign of weakness in our ranks, common prudence would suggest union, how much more the sentiment of loyalty to our Captain. The indirect results of our work, and the means used by Satan to counteract such results were shown to me during my late tour. In a village of 90 families there are 8 Protestant houses. Eleven years ago our work there commenced. At that time there was but one Bible in the village and not more than two persons who could read it. Now, every house has two or more Bibles or Testaments, and in every house there are some who can read. Pictures have been removed from the old church and the priest, at the command of the village authorities, reads the Bible in the vernacular every Sabbath. The inhabitants of this village pass for Protestants when travelling, so intelligent is their conversation on the topic of religion; and yet, during the last 18 months, our cause has met with the bitterest opposition there. One woman was dragged to the old church with a rope about her neck, others were beaten in the streets for attending our chapel. The mills were closed against the Protestants, and any one trading with or even speaking to a Protestant was denied the rites of the church. If you ask for the cause of this state of things I can assure you that the principal cause is *drink*. The principal men of the village are drinkers; their consciences trouble them, and the Protestants are stout witnesses against the evil. The drinkers argue, "we could silence our consciences if we could only get rid of these 'pesky' Protestants." But, glory to God! they can't get rid of the 'pesky' Protestants, much less of the "sharper than a two-edged sword" which has been unsheathed in their midst.

I notice that in the *Record* you credit this field with a rather startling population of *Americans*. The word I wrote was *Armenian*.

R. C.