

an instant I was lost in astonishment ; it never having occurred to my mind that it was possible it could be the will of God to divide our Union. But I immediately answered, " O my loving Father, I desire above everything, Union or no Union, that Thy will may be done." Then God answered me that His will would be done, and that even this war would result in bringing about His glory ; that men could do only what He permitted ; that I must rest quietly in Him and not be troubled, no matter what took place, or what turnings or overturnings there would be, ever remembering that God was at the helm. Oh, how my soul then rejoiced, so deeply that I realised that all would be well, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.—*God's Furnace.*

Missionary Department.

RESULTS OF MISSION WORK IN CHINA.

GAIL HAMILTON, in her recent article headed "Per Contra," calls for information in answer to a number of interesting and important questions. Leaving those concerning the Sandwich Islands to others, I propose to answer, briefly, some of those which refer to China ; and without repeating her questions in exact form, I will do what I can to give the information she desires.

I. What has been accomplished ?

Answer.—Although the first Protestant missionary to the Chinese landed at Canton in 1807, and about sixty missionaries were sent from Europe and America between 1813 and 1842 to China and to the Chinese settlements in Java, Siam, and the Straits, the real era of the commencement of Protestant missionary labor in China is the year 1842, in which the treaty with Great Britain was signed, which opened the "five ports" to the commerce of the world. Our missionaries were then permitted to enter at all the open ports with the Word of Life. A long period of preparatory work was then entered upon—breaking down the prejudices of a people for centuries secluded from the rest of the world, overcoming the superstitions of the masses, and undermining their faith in idolatry. While this work was going on—for 10 or 12 years—there were scarcely any converts so that nearly all the converts have been received within the last sixteen years, and by far the larger part of them within the last seven years. The following table will show the ratio of increase during the last eighteen years :