

only, when in an early period of last century, they began to send forth Missionaries, and in the short space of eight or nine years, they had sent Missionaries to Greenland, St. Thomas, St. Croix, Surinam, Barbier, different parts of North America, Lapland, Tartary, Guinea, the Cape of Good Hope, and Ceylon.

What great things for God would not our Canadian Presbyterian Church accomplish if our office-bearers and members were animated with the same spirit! And who may not see that the Millennial age would be already begun if all Protestants cherished and put forth the same zeal for the Redeemer's kingdom? We give the following particulars of the United Brethren at the present time:—

"The United Brethren, or Moravians, in Great Britain, have only about 2,000 communicants; one in every twenty-five of their active and talented members being sent out as missionaries. They have 42 missionaries in the three Danish West India Islands, having under their instruction 9,570 negroes; in Jamaica they have 35 missionaries, instructing 13,782 negroes; in Antigua, 27 missionaries, and under their care 10,022 negroes; in St. Kitts, 10 missionaries, and 2,911 negroes; in Tobago, 6 missionaries, and 1,243 negroes; among the Greenlanders, 24 missionaries, instructing 1,878 persons; in Labrador, 30 missionaries, among 1,167 Esquimaux; North America, 10 missionaries among the Delaware and Cherokee Indians; in Surinam, South America, 41 missionaries laboring among 11,442 negroes; in South Africa, 47 missionaries, laboring among the Hottentots and Tambookies and Fingoes. They are about to establish missions also in the Caffre country, South Africa, among the Indians on the Mosquito shore, and to New Holland. Total number of missionaries, 722; converts, 64,360."

AMERICAN BOARD OF MISSIONS.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions is one of the principal organizations in New England—if we may not say in the United States—for Christian Missions. It is, we believe, incorporated by statute, something like the Societies in England and Scotland for propagating Christian knowledge, while in all other respects it has the character of a purely voluntary Association. It has done worthily in the vast field of Missions during the past 48 years of its history, as every one acquainted with the progress the Gospel in the world, during that period, must know. We are told that it originated in a movement amongst a few students of Andover. These students addressed themselves to the General Association of the Churches of Massachusetts, and the result was the formation of the Board for Foreign Missions. Would that the movement amongst our students in Knox's College, for a Missionary to the French Canadians, may have some such blessed issue.

The Board has just had its *thirty-ninth* annual meeting. This commenced in the Tremont Temple, Boston, on the 12th September, and was continued by adjournment for four successive days.—The interest awakened amongst Christians in the States, by this great meeting, is indicated by the following remark of the *New York Observer*:—

"The arrangements for the meeting of the American Board of Foreign Missions, were as judicious and liberal as could be desired; and perhaps

no other city in the Union would have so readily provided entertainment for so many guests. Probably about fourteen hundred were received into the houses of private citizens, while the hotels and boarding-houses were full of strangers."

Of the constituent members of the Board there were in attendance 92 corporate and 590 honorary members—a Missionary convention, it is remarked, such as had never before been assembled in the United States.

The following statement gives a summary of receipts and expenditure:—

"The whole amount received into the treasury of the Board the last year, is \$254,056 46, exceeding that of the year before by \$42,653 70, being an advance of more than 20 per cent. The expenditure for all purposes, during the same period, amounted to \$239,330 38, being \$17,586 55 more than those of the last year, and \$23,273 92 more than was received into the treasury; and, of course, increasing the indebtedness of the Board by that amount. The excess in the outlay was owing to some unexpected expenditures in distant missions. The debt, which, at the last annual meeting was \$31,616 86, was on the 31st of July last, \$59,890 78."

The extent, and some of the more palpable results of their undertakings, may be ascertained from the following summary:—

Missions.....	25
Stations.....	36
Ordained Missionaries, (nine being physicians).....	152
Licentiates.....	5
Physicians not ordained.....	4
Other Male Assistants.....	29
Female Assistants.....	204

Labourers sent from this country.....	394
Native Preachers.....	21
Other Native Helpers.....	139
Native Assistants.....	163
Labourers connected with the Mission.....	557
Printing establishments.....	11
Type Foundries.....	7
Pages printed last year.....	46,163,345
Pages printed from the beginning.....	635,010,844
Churches.....	75
Communicants.....	25,929
Added during the year.....	1,938
Seminaries.....	12
Other Boarding Schools.....	18
Free Schools.....	302
Pupils in the Seminaries.....	586
Pupils in the Boarding Schools.....	511
Pupils in the Free Schools.....	10,718
Pupils in all the Schools.....	11,845

The Editor just referred to, thus expresses himself respecting the meeting:—

"The meeting of the Board was one of power and interest, if not as impressive and interesting as several that I have attended. The pressure of the debt of \$60,000 concentrated much of the feeling upon this point, and all of the business of the Board that had real emotion in it, had reference to the debt, and the means of paying it. To see and hear men coming forward and offering their thousands on the altar of this noble charity was a blessed privilege: it made one love his fellow-men, and think there is a good time coming."

The splendid sum of \$20,000 was subscribed in the course of the meeting.

The proceedings of the great Missionary Convention, appears to have been characterised by a spirit of elevated devotion and liberality. The huge debt of \$60,000 which the labours of the Society, during the past year, had accumulated, was by the offerings made in the course of a few hours, by an assembly brought near as it were to heaven by prayer, and the vivid views of living

truth, which successive speakers presented, reduced one-third of its dimensions—the noble sum of \$20,000 having been contributed. One distributing element was found in this assembly, and what should have disturbed such an assembly but sin? The sin is SLAVERY! as it exists in some of the Churches which have been planted by the Missionaries of the Board. We take an account of this subject as it is found in the *Montreal Witness*, of the 2nd October. The amount was furnished by the Rev. A. Wilkes, who attended the meeting of the Board.

"One of the Secretaries was deputed, during the year, to visit the missionaries among the Choctaw and Cherokee Indians, in which tribes the institution of domestic slavery exists. His report, which was of masterly ability, and admirable spirit, traced the history of slavery among the people back to its introduction by white men 100 years ago, and exhibited the spirit of their local legislation on the subject, which is similar to that of other nations where-in this monster iniquity has place. It is made criminal to teach them to read the Bible. In respect of the churches gathered from among the people, there were in most of them from two to seven slaveholders, and a larger number of slaves; an accurate statistical table was read. The missionaries had, most of them, gone into the field many years ago; long before this great question had come up prominently before the churches at home. They had so interpreted the New Testament, as to guide them to a course which left alone this social evil as a civil arrangement with which they could not meddle.

"The Statements of the society now before the missionaries, and to which answers are expected, contain an emphatic condemnation of slavery in all its parts and aspects. It is premised—1. That this society exercises no authority over the churches. 2. That the missionaries are not required to exert any other influence than that of their ministry. 3. That the society would not infringe upon their rights as ministers. It is declared that the society considers, with horror, the wickedness of the system, and that although there may be acts of slaveholding which are truly kind and generous, being for the purpose of benefit and emancipation, yet selfish slaveholding—the holding of property in one's fellow-men, for the purpose of gain—was utterly bad. The committee disputes the interpretation of the New Testament, which supposes the Apostles to have winked at, or tolerated slavery; they declare that the gospel was so preached by the Apostles, as ultimately to root out the most extensive and terrible system of slavery the world has ever seen—that of the Roman Empire. It urges that the preacher should declare the whole council of God; and that whatever might be said in regard to prudence at the commencement of a mission, a time must arrive when such an enormous wrong as this ought to be the subject of instruction and reproof. It is further urged that in the instruction of new converts, right view on the subject ought to be emphatically inculcated. 1. On the admission of slaveholders to church-fellowship, it is observed that it had been laid down—1. That a credible evidence of regeneration should entitle to church-membership and its privileges. 2. That the missionaries and the churches were to be the sole judges on this point. But the committee considers, that a candidate for church-fellowship ought to show himself free from the sin of the system of slavery, in order to evidence of sound conversion. It may be that he is a selfish slaveholder—this should be held as fatal to the validity of his profession. The committee further urge, that the discipline of the church is called for in cases of members who are guilty of sinful slaveholding, with its concomitant outrage and wrong. They object also to the employment of slave labour by the missionaries; for, although this is usually at the desire of the slaves, and promotes their personal welfare by kind treatment and enlightened