

year the Japanese converts gave for church and missionary purposes a sum equivalent to \$600,000 from 25,000 Christians in the United States, "a standard that no denomination has yet reached."

—The Japanese government has removed the tax from Christian churches thus placing them on the same basis of Shinto and Buddhist temples. The barriers are breaking down.

—A significant contrast. The mission of Col. Olcott, the noted theosophist, to Japan was a failure, while the visit of Secretary Wishard, representing the Y. M. C. Associations of the United States, was a grand success.

—Though faith in the old religions is certainly declining in Japan, yet there are still over 250,000 Buddhist priests in the empire—over eight times as many priests as Christians—and the old superstitions have yet a very strong hold upon the masses.

—Japan is moving forward on the line of self-support. In 1882, 92 churches were wholly and 157 partly self-supporting.

—In certain Shintu poems and songs of Japan, the idea is brought out frequently, that beasts have kept their first estate. Man has fallen.

—The imperial University of Tokio has 138 professors and teachers, all but 16 being Japanese. This year's students number 788.

—While only one in 1,500 of the population of Japan is a Christian, one in 20 of the students in five of the leading Government schools has been converted.

Switzerland.—The Evangelical Society of Geneva has at present fifty students preparing for the ministry, whilst its large staff of earnest colporteurs is constantly at work with encouraging success. These agents sold last year over 27,000 Bibles and Testaments, and disposed of 600,000 tracts. This society labors in some of the most destitute parts of France, where no other work is carried on.

—There is an interesting work among the Jews at Basle, an outgrowth of the work under the care of Rev. Mr. Gotthiel in Stuttgart, a brother of a Jewish Rabbi in New York. His work has extended over a large section of country in West Germany. In East Germany the influence of Roman Catholicism is so strong that little work can be done by Protestants. The Jews care nothing for a religion which countenances idleness and sin in daily life. In West Germany they are brought in contact with a purer Christianity. Every year there are additions to the church in Stuttgart from their number.

Russia.—The Government of Russia has laid a tax on dissenting churches, hoping to hinder their progress.

Syria.—The population of Smyrna is estimated at over 200,000. About 100,000 are Greeks, perhaps 50,000 Turks; 30,000 Jews;

10,000 Armenians; 10,000 Franks and Levantines. This is only an approximate estimate, but probably not far from the truth.

United States.—A Missionary Training School was opened at the Baptist Tabernacle, Boston, Mass., Oct. 1, under the presidency of Rev. A. J. Gordon, D.D. The object is not to interfere with existing educational institutions, but to supply to those who are called to missionary labor but are unable to avail themselves of the usual advantages, the best possible training to fit them for the work which they feel God intends them to do. Evidences of piety, earnestness, and a reasonable degree of fitness for religious work will alone be required of those desiring to enter. Both ladies and gentlemen will be admitted, and boarding facilities are provided adjoining the Tabernacle. The course of study will be chiefly exegetical and practical. Rev. F. L. Chapel of Flemington, N. J., is to be the resident instructor; but, aside from his classes, the services of a number of teachers and lecturers have been secured, whose instructions will be of great value. Further information can be had by addressing Rev. R. M. Deming, Secretary, Baptist Tabernacle, Bowdoin Square, Boston, Mass.

—American Board. The total receipts for the last month were over \$106,000, making the receipts for the year from these two sources \$543,693.62, a gain of nearly \$8,000.

—The annual report of the Japan mission of the American Board gives the statistics of the year's work at the various stations down to April 30, 1889. One evidence that the Japan mission has advanced far beyond its incipient stages is furnished by the statement of the condition of a church like that at Okazama which has 542 members, and is the largest Congregationalist church in the country, and the third in size among Protestant churches. It supports, besides its pastor, four paid evangelists and thirteen out-stations, a Y. M. C. A., a woman's temperance society, a monthly magazine, a small dispensary, and neighborhood meetings. The Sunday-school has a regular attendance of over 1,000. Evidently our enterprising city churches are not so far in advance of this Japanese sister.

—The African Methodist Episcopal Church which has not a white man among its members reports a membership of 460,000. It has 125 places of worship, numbers 10,000 ministers, has 15,000 Sabbath-schools, supports its own denominational papers, has missions in West Indies, Mexico and Africa, and its reported contributions foot up more than \$2,000,000 annually for the support of church work.

—The Baptist Missionary Magazine for October reports 29 baptisms.

—Two checks went through the New York Clearing House recently for \$3,163.40. They did not cover a year's expenditure for missions; they paid for a single purchase.

—Beer!