

JUNE, 1877.

The Missionary World.

WE are vividly reminded of what the Gospel has done for India, when we read of the *suttee* of the three favorite wives of the late Sir Jung Bahadoor, who reigned in a region not yet under British sway. Amid blazing sandal-wood and spicery, songs of triumph, and moans of distress, the wretched devotees passed away.

The cruelties of the most refined heathenism are horrible. Its most sacred rites are hideous and revolting. On the other hand, from widely distant sections of India proper, we receive tidings of increasing eagerness to hear, to read, and to understand the Word of Life. The University of Cambridge is greatly strengthening a hopeful Mission at Delhi, which is intended mainly to influence the more cultivated and better educated classes. In Madras, in spite of the appalling famine, (perhaps partly in consequence of it), there is wide-spreading spiritual interest. Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopalian, and other Missions, report progress at a much higher than the average rate. War and famine, and pestilence itself, are God's ministers, and are used by Him to open the way for the Gospel chariot.

From Japan, we hear of increasing Christian liberty and of rapid growth. Schools are multiplying. The printing-press is at work. Popular shrines are being deserted, and idols are fleeing away. Roman Catholic as well as Protestant Missionaries are meeting with much success. The Buddhists are alarmed, and are starting counter-Missions. We are glad to note that all Presbyterian Missionaries in Japan are co-operating with perfect cordiality. This is as it should be over the wide world.

The King of Siam, in a special message of recent date, to the United States Government, dwells with warm appreciation on the character and work of the Presbyterian Missionaries in that country. He declares that they are the best of all foreigners,—peaceable, laborious, unselfish, ever doing good to the people, and setting an example of law-abiding citizenship. This is wonderful testimony from a heathen king,—from the land of the white elephant!

From Persia, we hear of large accessions to the churches, brave endurance under persecution, and a noble spirit of self-sacrifice on the part of converts, and of native ministers. A spirit of enquiry is extending among the people. The rulers of the land are somewhat more liberal in their treatment of Evangelical Christians than they were wont to be. A government official was present at the late Conference or Synod of the Persian Mission. In his report to the Prime Minister, he expresses great satisfaction with what he had witnessed, and his surprise at seeing among the Shah's subjects so large a gathering of native preachers, forming a deliberative body, so orderly and dignified in its proceedings. This from a Mohammedan!

The Societies now so energetically engaged in evangelizing Central and Eastern Africa, have by their representatives met in London, and in a wise and loving spirit, have parcelled out the land so as to avoid unhappy collisions, heretofore so disastrous and so disgraceful. Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Wesleyans and Congregationalists have entered into this friendly arrangement. The spirit thus manifested is worthy of Christianity.

Presbyterian Missions have taken better hold of the people of Egypt than any others that have been attempted. Only one branch