

and the fruit that our missionaries waited so long to see is beginning to appear. Converts have been gathered in of late years in a rapidly increasing ratio, till, at the close of 1880, they numbered more than three hundred. There are nine schools and about three hundred children under the instruction of missionaries. The whole Bible has been translated into Siamese, and some of it into Laos. — *Woman's Work (Presbyterian).*

The Rev. Dr. J. A. Wylie says of the American Presbyterian Mission in Syria: — "The Americans are doing a great work here. Their College at Beirut, sends forth yearly a large body of educated Moslems, Syrians, &c. — ministers, doctors, teachers. They have been operating here for a half century; the first laborers sleep in the quiet churchyard beside their church; but others, equal in zeal and ability, have come after them, and their work has now developed into large proportions and is telling powerfully on Syria. It is creating a new country."

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC. — The *Friend of China* says "it is reported on what seems good authority, that the Indian Government have accepted the "principle" proposed by the Chinese Envoy, that the opium trade shall be gradually extinguished by mutual consent during a fixed period of years, at the expiration of which time it shall wholly cease to exist." The *Indian Witness* says "the pressure which shall compel action must come from Great Britain." Shall we not pray that the more potent force of Divine power may so work as to bring about quickly the desired end, the total extinction of the opium traffic.

People will hardly believe me when I tell them about our Chinese Christians (writes the Rev. John Butler). "I suppose they are rather slippery," one says. I answer No; they are fully equal in Christian character to church members, in this country. They keep the Sabbath better. I could take members into the church if I would let them work on the Sabbath. But I tell them No. It is necessary to be very strict with our church members. When we get the Gospel into a Chinaman, he is sure to be a noble Christian. Our Chinese preachers take their Bibles as literally true and authoritative. They believe what they read, and obey it. Hence, they give a tenth of all they earn to the Lord. The pastor's salary is \$100 a year, and he gives a tenth of it.

Africa.

Reflex Help. From the native congregation in Old Calabar, West Africa, nearly 1000. was last year sent home as a contribution to the Foreign Mission Fund of the United Presbyterian Church. The congregation of Trinity Church, Grahamstown, South Africa, sent 587. 8s. 3d. for the same purpose.

In Madagascar it is estimated that there are in connexion with the American Baptist Missionary Society and the Friends Foreign Mission Association 862 elementary schools with 43, 904 scholars. There are also 26,000 adults able to read, and 25,600 children who can read the New Testament, making in all more than 50,000 people who have learnt to read within the life-time of the first man who ever accomplished that undertaking in the island. This man died during the past year.

Cheering news comes from nearly all the Central African Missions. The *Church Missionaries* in Uganda report the baptism of the first five converts there. Salim Charles Wilson, recently baptized at Nottingham, is the first fruits to Christ among the Dinkas on the White Nile. Dr. Laws of the *Livingstonia Mission* some few months since baptized James Brown, the second convert to Christ in connexion with the work on Lake Nyassa, and many will have heard with pleasure of the public profession of Christ made by the two Conge lads in connexion with the *Livingstone Inland Mission*.

North Africa.

The population of Africa, is estimated at about 250,000,000. Of these about 160,000,000 may be considered as absolute heathen; 80,000,000 are Mohammedans; 5,000,000 belong to Coptic, Abyssinia and other Oriental Churches; 360,000 are Jews, and about 500,000 are connected as adherents with the colonial Christian churches and Mission-stations.

About sixty-four various societies are labouring for the evangelization of these myriads, comprising nearly 2200 Missionaries, ministers and teachers. But what are these amid the millions of precious souls amongst whom they labor? hardly one to every hundred thousand of the population.

The principal Missionaries in the Barbary States are connected with the London Society, for promoting Christianity