

## Contributions to Missionary and Bible Societies for Fifty Years.

In view of the Missionary Conference, it may not be unseasonable to present to your readers the results of a careful examination of the home contributions to the five great religious institutions named below during the first fifty years of the present reign. I have divided that examination into decenniums, bringing out the average amounts contributed in each, with the relative increase or decrease upon the preceding period. With these it is unnecessary to occupy your columns.

It may be interesting, however, to notice that—whatever it may be owing to—the decennium 1848-1857 differs from all the rest in the lower rate of increase, while in the case of two of the societies there is a positive decrease of two per cent. and eleven per cent. respectively.

The increase of the average annual amount of home contributions, including legacies but excluding dividends, in the last decennium, 1878-'87, over the first, 1838-'47, was, in the case of the Baptist Miss. Society... £84,953 or 157 per cent.  
 Wesleyan Miss. Society... 34,114 " 45 "  
 Church Miss. Society... 102,717 " 113 "  
 London Miss. Society... 23,707 " 33 "  
 British and Foreign Bible Society... 62,101 " 181 "  
 Aggregate increase (five Societies)... 257,592 " 86 "

The annual average amounts of the five societies for the last decennium was £556,631, and the total amount for the *fifty years* £20,798,160, being about the amount spent on drink in this country in *sixty days* at the rate of last year's consumption.

It ought to be stated that these amounts include both ordinary and special contributions, excepting in the case of the Church Missionary Society, where the figures of the special contributions for the whole period could not be so easily ascertained. The annual average of these, in that society, for the last *five years* was £19,115. Probably this was a high average. One feature brought out in this examination is worthy of note. When a large contribution has been raised for a special object, it does *not* seem to tell adversely on the succeeding years; rather the contrary. So at least it seems to be in the case of the British and Foreign Bible Society. In 1854 that society raised special contributions of almost exactly £100,000 for the Jubilee and Chinese New Testament Funds, with the result that the aggregate ordinary contributions (exclusive of legacies) for the three *following years exceeded* those of the three previous years by almost £80,000, or twenty-three per cent.; and that notwithstanding that in one of the last three years a further special contribution of £10,000 was raised for these objects. But when the special contribution is raised not for any definite object, but merely to make up a deficiency in previous years, I apprehend the result is very different.—*David McLaren, in Jewish Weekly.*

—Statistics show that there are in Burmah at the present moment 502 Baptist churches, with 28,559 communicants and about 70,000 adherents. In 404 schools there are 12,000 pupils, and during the year there have been 2,134 baptisms upon a profession of faith. The report reminds the Christian public that it is just seventy-five years since Adoniram Judson, driven out of Calcutta by the officials of the East India Company, arrived in Rangoon and established the first Baptist mission at Burmah.—*Christian Weekly.*

—The Methodist Episcopal Church have 2 missionaries in Italy, 25 native preachers, 883 church members, 16 Sunday-schools and 392 scholars. In Mexico they have 9 missionaries, 33 native preachers, 995 church members, 740 probationers, 30 Sunday-schools and 1,202 schools.

**Jews.**—Between the years 1880 and 1885 the Jewish population of Prussia has increased only 2,763. The proportion of the Jews (366,543) to the entire population shows a falling off of .04 per cent. The diminution has been chiefly in the provinces of Posen and Silesia. There were only three towns in the entire kingdom with a Jewish population exceeding 15,000, viz., Berlin, 65,355; Breslau, 17,655; and Frankfurt, 15,551.—*Jewish Chronicle.*

—The various Protestant missionary organizations at work in India have 249 missionaries, 517 native preachers, and 83,819 native communicants. This is an increase of 67 missionaries, 76 native preachers, and 23,748 native communicants since 1881.

—The Lutheran Missions among the Tamils of South India amount to 14,000 adherents, 22 European missionaries, 12 ordained natives, 6 candidates, 56 catechists, 241 teachers, 149 schools, and 3,653 scholars.

—The General Missionary Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church has appropriated for the coming year \$1,200,000 for home and foreign missions, of which \$100,000 is to meet outstanding drafts and interest. The receipts from the churches were \$2,900 larger than ever before, but the treasury was \$78,340.33 in debt at the end of the year. The appropriations for mission work are about fifteen per cent. less than last year. The foreign missions receive \$511,639.01, divided as follows: India, \$109,300; China, \$108,019.01; Japan, \$60,166; Korea, \$16,104; Malaysia, \$6,500; Africa, \$4,800; South America, \$52,960; Italy, \$47,000; Germany, \$30,300; Sweden, \$25,088; Bulgaria, \$19,220; Norway, \$14,000; Switzerland, \$9,840; Denmark, \$8,362. The new Malaysia Mission was regularly constituted. Dr. Thoburn is missionary bishop of India and Malaysia. In all the foreign missions there are 720 native preachers and 41,338 church members.