

FOREIGN MISSION WORK.

THE MELANESIAN MISSION.—Wadrokai and Carry the native teachers, whose names we often hear in connection with this Mission, report that they are getting on well at Yasabel, but that the people quarrel very much among themselves, and still build their houses like nests in the tallest trees, to be in safety from their enemies. Many of the islands have been visited by the measles, yet not to the same extent as in Fiji or some of the Polynesian Islands where it has proved a deadly scourge.—**Sandwich Islands.**—**Hawaiian Mission.**—The Bishop of Honolulu earnestly advocates the extension of Mission Schools in his diocese, as the surest method of disseminating Christianity. The chief work of the Missionary, he writes, must be for some time to come that of the village school-master. There is a strong desire on the part of the natives that their children should learn English.

AUSTRALIA.—The Bishop of Ballarat describing his diocese writes, "I find that my diocese contains a little over 215,000 souls scattered over 44,000 square miles. Of these only about 150,000 are included in districts supplied in any measure with the ministrations of the Church. In other words a third of our population is wholly outside its influence. Of these 150,000 souls, about 40,000 or a little over one-fourth may be regarded as avowing allegiance to our church, and of these we may suppose 12,000 to be adult members of it. Some 16,000 scattered church folk are entirely without its ministrations. Of churches we have seventy-one, of which two-thirds are of brick or stone, one-third of wood; but some of them are unused for want of men or means. The covered ground is divided into fifty-six full parishes, and three of these are without a clergyman; but ten districts besides, now served by lay-readers, need a clergyman's aid and supervision. Some of these parishes are of enormous area, one numbering 1,500 square miles and seven churches, and vast districts in the north of the colony are not yet even mapped out for the church work at all. The want of men of God to do His work amongst us is one great need."

JAPAN.—The Rev. H. B. Wright of Tokyo writes: "In response to an invitation from the interior I sent a young man named James Midzuno to preach there. He had many invitations from villages all around to preach, and people came from a long distance to hear. There are candidates for baptism there, and one man expounds the *Evidences of Christianity*—a translation—to his neighbors. He wishes to come up to Tokyo and study for a while so as to become a Catechist. The chief farmer of the whole neighbourhood who invited us in the first instance, with all his family, are now believers. But many more, I understand, are secretly believers though they have not the courage to come forward."

CHINA.—In the last month's number of the Spirit of Missions, the Rev. R. Nelson says, in a letter dated July 18th, 1876, from Shanghai: "Within the past month there has been opened between Shanghai and Kong-Wan, a railroad (the first in China,) to be extended to Woo-Sung, the old port of Shanghai, about nine or ten miles off. This you may imagine is a great event for this old conservative country. The Chinese of all grades are making holiday excursions in crowds on the new road to see and try it for themselves. This has been built with foreign capital, and of course by foreign engineers, and the main idea of it is to exhibit an actual sample of a railroad in

operation, with the hope that the prejudice and opposition of the officials which have hitherto prevailed might thus be overcome."

INDIA—Delhi.—There are two Anglican Churches in this town at opposite ends. St. James' Church which is commonly called the English Church, to distinguish it from the other called the Memorial or Mission Church. St. James' is rather a handsome church, the white dome of which might be mistaken for a Mosque, but for the cross on the cupola, on which the natives look with some awe, because when in the terrible days of the mutiny in 1857, shot and shell flew round it like hail, and greatly damaged the roof, it escaped all injury. The services in it are in English and are intended for the Europeans living at Delhi. Those in the Memorial Church are specially intended for native Christians.

"Let him that heareth say come." A native Catechist who was brought to Christ in one of the schools in Eastern Bengal, after his baptism set forth to preach the Gospel from village to village. He afterwards fell sick, but while lying in his bed in the hospital of Calcutta, spoke of the love of Christ to a poor Hindoo in an adjoining bed. After a while the message reached his heart and he declared his faith in Christ to a Missionary who came to see him. "I am dying!" he added, "Oh, do baptize me!" Very soon after he was baptized, the ransomed soul passed away.

AFRICA—St. Matthew's Mission, Grahams-town.—This Mission has for many years been under the charge of Rev. Charles Taberer. It is the centre of spiritual life and moral strength for a very large tract of country. Besides the ordinary Mission schools conducted by native teachers, there has been established here a boarding school for native girls—the only school we believe of the description which the Anglican Church has in the Colony. Carpenters' and tinsmiths' shops are also in full work. The land has been placed under irrigation, and yields beautiful crops, while other works of industry and civilization have been added by the Missionary to his religious efforts which they most usefully supplement and further; for the natives have not only been taught useful industries, they have also developed the intelligence and ability of the once rude and ignorant Kafir. The Catechists, the teachers, the matron of the girls' school, the carpenters and the tinsmiths are all natives. With the exception of Mr. and Mrs. Taberer, there is not a single European in this station. A brick church has lately been erected at this station having a nave, chancel, vestry and porch, and accommodation for a congregation of 350 persons. At the laying of the foundation stone in March last, there was a large and pleasant gathering of the Missionaries of the Diocese. The stone was laid by the Bishop who confirmed twenty converts just before the ceremony took place. There is a steady increase of the number of converts, and with the aid of his deacons and catechists, Mr. Taberer hopes to extend still further on all sides the influence for good and the knowledge of salvation.

WOLVES IN RUSSIA.

A most curious and interesting pamphlet has lately been published at St. Petersburg as an appendix to the government official paper. It consists of statistics of the damage done by wolves in Russia, with remarks on the habits of these destructive animals and on the means for destroying them. The amount of property destroyed by wolves, according to the data given, is something appalling.

In forty-five Russian governments, exclusive of the Baltic Provinces and Poland, 74,900 head of cattle were destroyed in one year, making a loss to the country of over 7,500,000 rubles, or more than a million sterling.

Russia is a thinly populated country, and perhaps the above loss appears even more striking when considered in reference to area. Putting aside eight out of the forty-five governments, the loss on the remaining thirty-eight amounts to three copecks on every dicitaine of 27 acres. The report assures us that the figures are for several reasons rather under than overstated. It contains much that is interesting as regards the natural history of the wolf, illustrated by anecdotes—as, for example, to show the strength of these beasts, it relates that one fell into a trap and lost its right fore-foot; on three legs it ran out of the wood and seized a sucking pig tied by hunters to the rear of the sledge, received a bullet through the left leg, and, nevertheless, ran 20 versts further, and was killed running. The amount wolves will eat is enormous. In two or three hours a pair will eat the half of a horse weighing 350 kilogrammes. A dangerous peculiarity is their trick of appearing to be dead. A peasant found a wolf apparently dead on the ground, beat him with a cudgel and took him home on his sledge for the sake of his skin. In the night he heard a noise and found the animal on the table. It jumped at his throat, and his wife, who rushed for help, found him dead on her return.

The report states that the number of wolves in the country cannot be less than 170,000, and that they eat of feathered game alone 200,000,000 head. In 1875 no less than two hundred people were destroyed by wolves, and many and various are the means suggested for suppressing these injurious animals, such as forming regular hunts, giving premiums for every one killed, poisoning them, etc. A comparison is instituted between the losses occasioned by cattle plagues and fires as against those caused by wolves, and extraordinary as it may seem, the proportion of damage done by wolves as compared with cattle plagues is as 200 to 240, and it must further be taken into consideration that while the epidemic may leave the peasant the skin of his cow, the wolf carries away the prey irreclaimably. And even in a contest with devouring element for the supremacy in destruction, the wolf is hardly left behind.—*London Times.*

THE CHINA MANIA.

From time to time among our occidental races has sprung up a fashion, almost a rage, for pottery and porcelain; and some fools have become more foolish than before in the pursuit. Still, among "the wise and the good" the subject has been one of great interest, and the collection, study, and illustration of pottery has resulted in as much satisfaction as can be got from any pursuit, even fox-hunting or money-getting.

To those who are ignorant of this, and who cannot comprehend why it is, a few words may not be out of place by way of explanation.

The making of pottery is one of the oldest industries of man, one of the most necessary, and it has been made one of the most delectable. It has from the commonest material—the dust under our feet—made some of the most delicate and beautiful things we know of. It uses the most plastic of all substances, which obeys fully, minutely, the wish or the sense of the potter; it may therefore be stamped with his individual perception of the useful