

sell where and to whom he will. God's hand is in this. Yet remember how feebly the work has been commenced. There are thirty-one churches among thirty-two millions of people. There must be more men, more means. Let parents consecrate their children to the work, &c. Then we can go forward confident that the time will soon arrive when God will bring all nations into subjection to him."

THE DEATH PENALTY IN TURKEY.

The Rev Mr Lansing, American Missionary at Damascus, now on a visit to this country, delivered an address a few days since, which we had the opportunity of hearing, in which he stated that the firman of the Sultan, granting the free exercise of religion in his dominions, was very incorrectly understood in this country: that in the East it is well known that it does *not* grant to the Moslem the right to renounce his religion and become Christian, but on the contrary it has respect to the existing sects of Christians, while the old despotic law to prevent apostasy, with its death-penalty, still hangs in *terrorem* over the heads of the Mahometans.

This view is taken of it by others who are confident that the wishes of American and English Christians have led them to anticipate more from this new firman, than the facts of the case will justify. But the missionaries at Constantinople have publicly expressed their opinion that the new legislation is as great an advance upon the past, as is safe and desirable at the present, and we may hope that the work of reform now inaugurated will be pressed forward with as much expedition as is consistent with the safety of the cause itself.

It is not probable that the penalty of death will be inflicted again for the crime of Moslem apostasy. In whatever part of the empire the offence is committed, capital punishment cannot be inflicted for this or any other offence, until the sentence has been reviewed and approved by the Sultan's government at the capitol. The Sultan has now become so identified with Western politics, and the integrity of his empire made so dependent on the sympathies of Western powers, he will be slow to inflict such another outrage on public sentiment, as he did so lately as in 1853

when he put a subject to death for confessing Christ to be a greater prophet than Mahomet.

The great merit of that firman, of imperial indulgence, is the protection it secures to the protestant missionaries and their disciples in the Turkish Empire. The mass of Moslem mind is as yet unaffected by the gospel, but there is a mighty work now going on around this inert and sunken people, which will eventually act upon them for their elevation and conversion, if their existence as a nation is preserved. We must not anticipate Providence. God is working wonderfully in the East, but thus far the way into the Moslem heart has not been found. It will be, and the gate will be opened.—*New York Observer.*

DEPARTURE OF THE MISSIONARY SHIP 'JOHN WILLIAMS.'

The 'John Williams' has again left London for the islands of the Pacific. This is her fourth voyage thither; and, as on former occasions, she is expected to be absent from this country four years. The young people connected with the Congregational churches have done nobly in again subscribing and collecting more than enough money required for her repairs and outfit. An interesting farewell meeting for prayer and exhortation was held in the boardroom of the Mission House. Among those present were the Rev John Barff, who for some years has laboured in the Tahitian group, and, after recruiting his health, and that of his wife, has again gone out; and the Rev Wilberforce Philip, (third son of the well-known African missionary,) who is just entering upon ministerial work, and who is to labor in Africa. The missionary ship, after calling at the Cape of Good Hope, will sail to Melbourne, will thence proceed to Hobart Town, and next to Sydney, and, on leaving Australia, will go to the Tahitian isles. Having visited the different islands of this group, the ship will proceed to Mangaia, Rarotonga, and Aitutaki, which are between 600 and 700 miles from Tahiti. The Rev W. Wyatt Gill will there embark and proceed from Mangaia to Rarotonga, to reinforce that station; and the six islands of the Hervey group will continue to have the labors of Mr Buzacott, who has already given thirty years' service; Mr George Gill, twelve years' service; and Mr Wyatt Gill, who has been there five years. The landing