

Irish Presbyterian.

Last year was one of the most fruitful in the history of the Irish Presbyterian Mission in Gujerat and Kattiawar. Ninety-nine adults were baptized—6 in Ahmedabad, 20 in Surat, the rest in Borsud. The report says. "The hand of God has been specially manifested in the Borsud districts, in the quiet turning of the hearts of many from serving idols to the worship of the only living and true God. The spiritual character, the absence of excitement, and the permanence of the movement to Christianity among the Dhers of the above district have been most gratifying to us. All who have been admitted into the Church have remained in their own villages and at the usual occupations, except in a few instances in which the leaders in their villages have been set apart as evangelists. The friends of missions of missions will be glad to learn that this most interesting awakening still continues."

Missionary Intelligence.

Mission Incident at Papua.

The latest enterprise of the London Missionary Society has a decided flavor of romance about it. The island of Papua, or New Guinea, which is the scene of these new labors, is the least known of all the islands of the Pacific. Its coastline has not yet been fully explored, and the interior, from which snow-capped mountains look out over thick groves of tropical trees toward the sea, is entirely unknown.

Dutch missionaries have already been laboring on the northern shore since 1855, at four stations; but the work of the London Society, planned on a large scale and more widely reported among English readers, has for the first time brought this second largest island in the world into the circle of our missionary interest. The climate on the coast and on the small islands between Cape York and the New Guinean mainland is regarded too unhealthy for the residence of European missionaries. These have, therefore, been stationed at Cape York, to superintend the mission, while the work on the islands in Torres Straits and on the main land has been intrusted to Polynesian converts, 18 in number, who have received very kind treatment from the natives, Papuan and Malay. The worst that has yet happened to them was the flight of several of their number in consequence of the rough language of the chief on the Island Tanan. They have returned to their posts.

How much these people need the gospel of peace will appear from an extract out of the journal of Rev. Mr. Murray in regard to the raids which the inhabitants of one village are accustomed to make on those of another:

"They come stealthily upon the village selected as the object of attack during the night, and kill such as do not succeed in getting out of their way, and carry off the heads of their slain. To obtain these is said to be their sole object. The skulls are carefully prepared and traded with to other tribes or retained as precious treasures by the parties who obtain them. They take them with them on their fishing excursions and when they go to work on the plantations. It would seem as if they attributed to them some sort of talismanic influence."

On entering Redscar Bay, Mr. Murray met several of those New Guinean vessels which from their strange appearance excited the dread of earlier visitors. Seven canoes lashed together and held fast by means of transverse spars, form the basis on which the structure rests. At each end is a house, strong and well thatched, and these are united by a bamboo palisade, about six feet in height, with doorways close to the houses, and, outside of all is a rudely constructed platform, about three feet wide, forming a pathway all around. The whole structure is about 50 feet in length and 25 in breadth. There are two mast sails not more than three or four feet wide, tapering to a point, from which float gay streamers and other ornaments. Some forty or fifty painted savages moving round the outer deck and crowding the little doorways, complete the formidable appearance of these lumbering structures. There have as yet been no conversions, but the natives seem to be much interested in their teachers, and contribute liberally to their support.

The following extract is from the *Friend of India*:

"Ingalls, the American lady, who is, perhaps, the most active of all missionaries, has her headquarters at Thongzai, Burmah. She has under her superintendence eight preachers, three colporteurs, five teachers, and three schools, besides some women who go about laboring for the good of the people. The preachers bring her a monthly report of their labors, and a weekly meeting is held of all the workers in the vicinity for prayer and consultation. All the schools are Christian Schools. That at Thongzai, a specimen of all, is opened and closed with religious exercises, and every Thursday afternoon is devoted to the Sunday School lesson of