

MISSIONS OF ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—The last number of the *English Presbyterian Messenger* contains letters from the Rev. Messrs. Burns, Douglas, Smith, and Grant, missionaries in China. The mission work is, by God's blessing, advancing. Mr. Burns is employed in translating hymns into the colloquial language of the people. Mr. Grant mentions the baptism of three Chinese, and Mr. Douglas states that he had baptized four persons, and Mr. Swanson one, a young man almost totally blind, but having more spiritual light than many with greater privileges. Mr. Smith writing from Tathampo states, that the regular attendance on Sabbath is from 12 to 20. He says that, although none have been as yet baptized, there is every reason to believe that the truth has found access to some of their hearts.

MISSIONS OF IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—From Surat, Dr. Glasgow writes that the schools are in a flourishing state, although they have been somewhat affected by the large number of Hindu and Mohammedan holidays. In one way these holidays are turned to good account. During the holidays fairs are held, and there are large assemblages of the people. The opportunity has been taken to circulate largely religious tracts. Many of the school boys are engaged in this work. It is to be hoped that in many cases the seed will spring up and bring forth fruit.

MADAGASCAR.—Much interest is at present felt in the state of Madagascar. The death of Queen Ranavola, who persecuted the christians with the greatest cruelty, and the accession of her son, who professes christianity, are events of great importance. The new sovereign has recalled the persecuting edicts of his mother, thrown the country open to foreigners, and recalled the missionaries. There was at one time fear that he may be rather too much under French and Roman Catholic influence. But it is matter of gratitude to God that the large island of Madagascar, one of the largest islands in the world, and with a population estimated at about six millions, is now open to missionary effort.

STATE OF THE MISSIONARY WORK IN INDIA.—The following is from the *Freeman*, quoted in the *British Messenger*:—

"The prospect brightens over the broad fields of India. The work at Delhi has since the mutiny been resumed with faith and energy, and what was latterly the scene of deadly warfare has become the scene of new and spiritual triumphs. In the city and districts adjoining inquirers multiply, and conversions are frequent; new churches are being organized, and native teachers are coming forward to share in the responsibility thus arising. When the Baptist missionaries recommenced operations it seemed almost as if the labour of forty years had been expended in vain; four only remained of the little flock which had been gathered in Delhi. But, at the close of last year, so great had been their success, that as many as 150 professed followers of Christ assembled there to commemorate the dying love of their Lord. It must not, however, be supposed that all the numerous converts exhibit the same degree of earnestness, with many there is no very deep conviction of sin, no very clear conception of the value and importance of true religion. 'There is,' we are told, 'one peculiarity visible in these large accessions to Christianity. Many of them are from sects which have only slight affinities with rabid Hindooism, especially those from the sect called Kabir Panthees. This sect hates idolatry. Thus, when stirred by the message of the Gospel, there is a comparative absence of prejudice, and the force of idolatry over the minds of the Hindoos is in their case almost wanting. There is, also, no doubt, a good deal of family influence at work. In some cases the head of a family seems to bring with him a whole circle of relations, in accordance with the patriarchal sentiment, which still has so strong a hold on the minds of the people of the north-west province.' 'I look,' says Mr. Gregson, 'upon all that is now being done as valuable chiefly in laying a magnificent foundation for Christian instruction.' At Meerut and Agra, also, an encouraging work is in progress. On one occasion not fewer than seventy-three heads of families united in an invitation to the missionaries to visit their district, and expressed their desire to embrace Christianity. It is noticeable how many natives there are now who ask what provision will be made for them if they become Christians. The question shows that a change has taken place in their manner of regarding the new religion; for at the commencement of missionary operations in India the pride and bigotry of superstition were stronger than considerations of temporal gain. The numerous