

MISSION FIELD.

Missionary Review of the World.

The March number of this *Review*, notes with heavy lines the death of Rev. A. J. Gordon, D.D., and promises a fuller notice in the April number. The *Review* has suffered in the loss of Dr. Gordon a staggering blow, and the whole Church of Christ has been bereaved of one of her most beloved and influential children. Well may all who love Zion, and especially the cause of the perishing heathen, pray that a competent successor may be provided.

The first article in this number is an estimate of the late Chas. Haddon Spurgeon, by Dr. Pierson. Spurgeons' loss, the writer says, appears greater as the days pass, "like one of the giant redwoods of California, which are seen to best advantage after they have fallen and lie in colossal grandeur upon the ground." Spurgeon's merits appear: 1. *As a preacher of the Gospel.* For forty years he preached more sermons than any other man, and in every one is found the message of life. His mission seems to have been the sifting of the pure teaching of the Word of God from the mass of human invention that has been accumulating in the ages. Spurgeon was a *herald and witness* rather than expositor and instructor. He had a lofty conception of his mission as an Ambassador, and had a genius for expression, both as to dictum and illustration. He was so serenely calm in his convictions, that his utterances were a *testimony* to what he in experience knew to be true. The whole man was a living epistle of the power of God to save from sin through faith in a crucified and risen Christ. 2. *He bore world wide testimony as to the power of simplicity in worship.* He wanted to prove that the Gospel has power in itself to attract men, without any of the accessories of ritualism and secularism. The tendency has always been to multiply forms as the spirit and life of worship departed. In the Metropolitan Tabernacle the most rigid simplicity prevailed—no organ or choir no responsive readings, nor architectural display—nothing to attract the eye and distract the attention. 3. *He fulfilled a world-wide mission by the products of his pen.* It is estimated that he reached with his voice twenty millions of hearers, but with his pen ten times that number. In thirty different languages and dialects his sermons are printed from the sunrise to sunset. His chief literary work is "The Treasury of David," a commentary on the Psalms that will remain an instructor of many generations. Many other books of real value issued from his fertile pen. 4. *His mission is seen in the benevolent institutions he founded and fostered.* The *Stockwell Orphanage*, has in it 500 boys and girls, in training for Christian service, and thousands have been sent out equipped for useful lives. This was one of Spurgeon's favorite institutions, and we are glad to know that it continues, secured as it is in the affections of the people. The *Pastors College* has sent out one thousand students charged with the simple Gospel as Spurgeon taught it, and the nine hundred of them still in the flesh are actively engaged in Christian work.

The American Missionary Association.—This society has for half a century been engaged in educational work amongst the negroes and poor whites of the South and Indians and Chinese of the west. About sixty per cent. of the negro population in the South are illiterate, and amongst them this association has 42 common schools and 36 graded and normal schools. There are 225,000 Indians in the United States (exclusive of Alaska) and much work has been done amongst them. Amongst the Chinese on the Pacific coast there are 21 schools, 84 teachers, 1,201 Chinese pupils, leading 197 to turn from idols, and 173 to profess faith in Christ.

An interesting paper is contributed by Robert E. Speer, on the growth of the leading American Societies, with a tabulated statement of results at home and abroad, so far as they could be collected. Of course such tales cannot show the successes or failures of missions—it is not possible to put in figures the influences on character, yet they are valuable helps in arriving at conclusions as to policy. Some comparative figures are interesting. In 1892, in the Congregational Church, one member in 1,183 was a foreign missionary, in the Presbyterian, one in 1,314; in the Reformed Church, one in 1,426; in the United Presbyterian, one in 1,843; in the Baptist, one in 2,190; in the Methodist (North), one in 4,614; in the Protestant Episcopal, one in 8,970; in the Methodist (South), one in 13,477. One minister out of 22 was

in 1892 a foreign missionary in the Dutch Reformed Church; one out of 26½ in the United Presbyterian; one out of 27 in the Congregational; one out of 28 in the Presbyterian; one out of 55 in the Baptist (North); one out of 71 in the Methodist (North); one out of 176 in the Protestant Episcopal; one out of 242 in the Methodist (South). It was in the consideration of such a state of affairs that in 1866 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church made the startling commentary:—"The General Assembly believes that no good reason can be shown for so unequal a division of the ministerial forces as exist at present, 2,484 ministers remaining here among a population of only five or six millions, nearly all of whom already know what they should do to be saved, while we get 83 ministers, 17 of whom are natives, to the many hundreds of millions who have never yet heard of Jesus and His salvation. The Assembly therefore recommends to all its young ministers, as well as candidates for the ministry to give a new hearing to the calls which are coming in for labourers for this wide spread harvest field."

The average gift per member of each Church was as follows: Congregationalist, \$1.27; Dutch Reformed, \$1.19; Presbyterian, \$1.18; Baptist, \$0.67; Protestant Episcopal, \$0.50; Methodist (North) \$0.28; Methodist (South) \$0.23.

Rev. W. J. Mornan, of Jamaica, contributes an article on Missions in the West Indies. Cuba, the largest island, has a population of 2,000,000; Haiti, 1,500,000 and Jamaica, 600,000. Besides these there are many other islands with a total population of about 6,000,000. The original inhabitants were the Carib Indians, who were exterminated by the bloodthirsty Spaniards. This led to the slave trade with the west coast of Africa. Happily in 1838, the slave trade was abolished in all the dominions of the English crown, but existed in the Spanish colonies until about twenty years ago. The first mission work done in the West Indies was by the Moravians, in the Danish Islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix, in 1732. In 1754 Jamaica was reached. Notwithstanding the slave owners they did good work. Dr. Coke, of the Wesleyan Church, began in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1792. The Baptists and Presbyterians followed, in other islands, where much success has attended their efforts. These missionaries were the principal agents in fighting the battles of liberty, which after a long struggle resulted in the emancipation of the slave. In Cuba, Haiti and Puerto Rica the Catholic religion prevails, and sin can be atoned for by money and hope of heaven purchased for a gold coin. The people have "no hope" and are "without God in the world." In Cuba and Haiti the frequent occurrence of bloody wars is a great hindrance to the work. The people have been taught to believe in the necessity for a consecrated building in order to have acceptable worship, and accordingly it is difficult to get any to attend in a private room, which is a serious difficulty. In Cuba all the cemeteries are in the hands of the Catholic Church, and no heretic can be buried there. The Catholic Church is powerful and crafty and uses all possible means to defeat the work, and the great majority are satisfied with Romanism. They go to mass on Sunday morning and to the cock-pit or bull-ring in the afternoon and theatre at night.

There is an interesting and encouraging article in the London Missionary Society's work which has now reached its centenary. The Baptist Missionary Society, organized in 1792, that sent out Cary was too exclusive, it was thought, and accordingly the L.M.S. was organized in 1795, in which all evangelical bodies could co-operate, and ever since they have maintained their name and undenominational character. Their first mission was at Tabiti, in the South Seas. They have since that time continuously extended their operations and now have stations in China, Siberia, Mongolia, North and South India, Central Africa, New Guinea, Madagascar, and several groups in Polynesia. Probably the Madagascar mission is the most remarkable success, as well as the most thrilling history. The work which began in 1818, and was continued for ten years, was suspended for about twenty years, on account of the violence of the persecutions. Yet during these years the few Christians had multiplied to thousands. There are now 1,200 Christian Congregations, with 346,000 converts, ministered to by native ordained ministers. This Society has been honored by such distinguished missionaries as Williams, Moffatt, Livingstone, Phillips, Morrison, Ellis, Mullens, etc., men who will be remembered as leaders in the great movement. The Society