

tant functionaries of government, as well as other folk, are released from bowing to the Host at great national celebrations.

Western Asia.

The Ameer of Afghanistan is fast becoming the embodiment of cowardly ferocity, and is said to have no less than 1500 political and military prisoners in his dungeons.

The old Philistine city Gaza, with a population of 20,000 people, has had no missionary until within three years. The Church of England now has a dispensary there, where the poor receive medicines and advice free of charge. Each applicant is required to hear a portion of Scriptures read and to carry away a Christian tract in Arabic. Four schools have been opened for Greek and Moslem boys and girls.

A new medical mission, consisting however of but a single missionary, has been opened in the Lebanon. In this section of Syria, which contains seven hundred and fifty towns and villages and about three hundred thousand people, the need for the medical missionary is very great. The mission now opened is the third that has been established in the Lebanon.

India.

A single copy of the "Peep of Day," was the means of the conversion of a whole Brahmin family.

In Calcutta, there are 199 Hindoo temples, 117 Mahomedan mosques, 31 Christian churches, and 2 Jewish synagogues.

The Rev. J. W. Waugh, D. D., for over a score of years a Methodist missionary in India, stated at the Chicago Preachers' Meeting that he estimated the successes in mission work in Northern India to be 500 per cent. greater than that of home work, and that the money spent on missions in India produced a five times greater percentage, in a business point of view, than the same amount did invested in the work of the home churches.

China.

The Catholic French Foreign Missionary Society has an important training

college in Penang, in which there are now 100 students in preparation for missionary service. They come from India, Ceylon, Burmah, Siam, Anam, China, Corea and Japan.

From Catholic sources the statistics of Roman Catholic missions in China are reported to be: Bishops, 41; European priests, 664; native priests, 559; colleges, 34; convents, 34; Catholics, 1,092,818, including, in this last number, many who are merely nominally Catholics. Their missions were established in the Chinese empire nearly 300 years ago.

A chief aim of Roman Catholic missions is to counteract Protestant missions. Their stations are sure to confront ours at every available point. This is avowed in a recent issue of "Les Missions Catholiques," organ of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, as quoted by the "Missionary Herald":—"If our contributions increase, we shall be able to open a Catholic school at the side of each Protestant one. *This must be our policy in every Christian settlement.*"

Japan.

It is reported in Japan that the Government is about to re-establish Shintoism as the religion of the State, and to combat, by all possible means, Buddhism and the progress made by Christianity.

There has never been anything like it (the Mission work in Japan) in the history of modern missions. No meetings are so largely attended and so full of interest as those where the new religion is discussed. In the matter of self-support and aggressive work on their own part, among students and churches, the Japanese lead all others. Of ninety young men in the Kioto Training School, eighty-one are meeting their own expenses, a thing quite without precedent in the Missions of the Board.—*Rev. Dr. Clark's Report to the American Board.*

The Buddhist priests have shown of late an unusual activity. Perhaps they begin to think that the inertia of huge-guess does not furnish a sufficient safeguard against the active and untiring attacks of Christian missionaries. If so, they are not much mistaken. Their lazy existence, their perfunctory incantations and half-hearted homilies, furnish an unmistakably marked contrast to the never-flagging industry and self-denying zeal of the Western missionaries. Long and tolerably intimate intercourse with