

but was meantime so cut and gashed by their sharp Japanese swords that he fell dead at the feet of his wife, who had also been wounded in the struggle. Earnest sympathy has been universally expressed with the widow by all the organs of the press, and universal indignation is felt against the cowardly criminals, who, if they can be captured, will be severely punished.—*Missionary Herald*.

—The native churches under the care of the American Board's missionaries in Japan, says the *Congregationalist*, organized half a dozen years ago a home missionary society. It has flourished so well that the demands of the work now justify the appointment of a paid president, who will devote all his time to establishing new churches and strengthening those already existing.

Korea.—In regard to the progress in missionary work, Dr. Underwood, of the Presbyterian Mission, writes to the *Occident*: "In the Presbyterian Church at the end of the first year our first convert had not been seen. We had come to sow seed, and had hardly dared expect to see fruits so soon. Japan had to wait six or seven years for the first results. In July of the second year, however, the Lord permitted us to see the first convert baptized. At the end of the third year our numbers were about twenty. Steadily they increased, their interest grew, the members were zealous, and at the close of the next year there was a revival, and before the year ended the little band was almost sixty. Another year of steady progress was granted to us, and to-day the company numbers over a hundred baptized Christians, besides over half as many more who have applied for baptism and profess themselves Christians, but have been urged to acquaint themselves more fully with God's Word."

Palestine.—Bishop Blythe of Jerusalem says there are now in Palestine double the number of Jews that returned from the Babylonish captivity, and that the "latter rains" which had been withheld since the times of the exile, had been granted again during the last two years.

Russia.—Persecution of the Jews.—London, July 30.—The *Times* says: "The Russian Government has ordered the application of the edicts of 1832 against the Jews. These edicts have hitherto been held in abeyance. According to these, Jews must henceforth reside in certain towns only. None will be permitted to own land or hire it for agricultural purposes. The order includes within its scope towns and hundreds of villages that have large Jewish populations. No Jew will be allowed to hold shares in or work mines. The law limiting the residence of Jews to sixteen provinces will be enforced. No Hebrew will be allowed to enter the army, to practice medicine or law, to be an engineer, or to enter any of the other professions. They will also be debarred

from posts under the Government. The enforcement of the edicts will result in the expulsion of over one million Jews from the country."

Sweden.—The Annual Convention of the Swedish Fatherland Mission Society was recently held in the Blasieholm Church, Stockholm; 245 clerical and 216 lay delegates were present. The branch societies have, during the year, increased from 107 to 116; 18 traveling missionaries and 137 colporteurs are employed. 762,000 copies of the Bible and other devotional books were printed, and somewhat more than that number sold and distributed. Since its organization the society has published 22,700,380 copies of various religious books. The net profits of the publishing house for the year are 11,890 crowns. 35 missionaries are laboring in Eastern Africa, and 35 in India. The expenditures for foreign missions were 193,525 crowns. The balance remaining in the foreign mission treasury is 105,232 crowns. The home mission fund shows a balance of 36,666 crowns.

Miscellaneous.—A special committee of the English Wesleyan Missionary Society has investigated and reported upon certain charges published in the *Methodist Times* respecting the alleged extravagance of Wesleyan missionaries in India. The substance of the report of the committee is that the Wesleyan missionaries in India do not live in luxury, that their stipends are not excessive compared with those that are given to Wesleyan ministers in England, and that the attendance of the missionaries at the levees of the Viceroy does not involve pecuniary expense nor hinder their work among the native population. The committee find that the charges—that the missionaries live in such a manner and in such places as to alienate them from the natives—are not sustained. The result is a complete exoneration of the missionaries.

—Up to July 15 the number of appointments for missionary service in connection with the American Board, since the last annual meeting, was just sixty, 22 of them men and 38 women.

—The statistics of the Christian Endeavor Societies, as presented at the International Convention at St. Louis, shows clearly the great advance this society has made. These societies exist in every English-speaking land in the world, the total number being 11,013, with a membership of 660,000—a gain of 3,341 societies and 185,000 members in eleven months.

—Arabic tracts for Mohammedan readers. At the request of General Haig the Committee of the Religious Tract Society (London) have published a series of Arabic tracts, setting forth, in progressive order, the main doctrines of scripture, and leading up to that of the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ.