

ferred to the American Baptist Missionary Union, came under the direct supervision of the Swedish Missionary Society, will soon be reinforced by seven new helpers from Sweden. They have already had some fruit from their labors; the congregations are increasing, and the children are coming to school.

**Syria.**—The Syrian Christians. Several months since we gave some information regarding the Syrian Christians in the Travancore region of southern India, and of the reformed party, headed by Bishop Mar Athanasius, which sought evangelical reformation within the old church. We referred then to a prolonged lawsuit to determine whether Bishop Athanasius was in the rightful possession of his office. This case, which has now been in the courts fifteen years, has been decided against the reformed party, it being held that Mar Dionysius, who had been consecrated by the patriarch of Antioch, was the legal head of the Syrian church in Malabar. It seems that the Court of Final Appeal, consisting of two Brahmans and a European barrister, presented two opinions in open court, the Hindus favoring the authority of the patriarch of Antioch, while the English judge gave his opinion that the Syrian church in Malabar was of right entirely independent. This decision was not unexpected, and the reformed party have been for some time preparing to act independently. *The Harvest Field*, in reporting this decision, well says: "A sad sight, truly, it is to see a Church which has stood through a long course of centuries as a conservator and witness of Christian truth, notwithstanding much deadness, in a very dark region of India, when once it begins to show signs of spiritual life and evangelical reform, crushed down again by the heel of a foreign ecclesiastical and his interested abettors in Travancore"—*Missionary Herald*.

**Thibet.**—A "Thibet Prayer Union" has been formed to plead for the opening of the door into Chinese Thibet, at which the Moravians have been waiting so long.

**United States.**—**Boston and African Liquor Traffic.** As the result of inquiries made at the Boston Custom House, we are glad to say that there has been a great decrease in the amount of ardent spirits sent to Africa from this port. The following table gives the exportation of rum and other spirits since July 1, 1883, down to the 1st of April of this year. In each case the year ends with July 1.

Year	Gallons Exported.
1883	737,236
1884	576,268
1885	803,437
1886	737,650
1887	616,205
1888	604,716
1889	297,008
To April 1, 1890 (9 months)	167,302

If the exportations for the remaining three months of 1890 should be at the rate of the

previous nine months, the amount exported would be 309,127 gallons. Now, this is 209,127 gallons too much, but it is pleasant to notice that it is nearly a third less in amount than the exports of the preceding year, and only one-third, and in some cases one-fourth, the amount of several preceding years. While we rejoice over the decrease that we can chronicle, there should be no slackening of effort to put a complete stop to this nefarious traffic.—*Missionary Herald*.

—**The American Board.** Since the 1st of November the Prudential Committee has appointed 52 persons to the various foreign fields. This is about as many as were appointed in the twelve months of last year; 21 of these are men, and 31 women. The list includes several children of missionaries, which shows that the influence of heredity tells. One of the latest appointments is that of Miss Susan H. Calhoun, whose father, the late Rev. Simeon H. Calhoun, was one of the noblest workers the board ever had in its Syrian field. Her grandfather, Andrew Calhoun, was one of the founders of Park Street Church. A son of Dr. Joseph K. Greene, of Constantinople, just through his studies at Andover, goes back to Turkey, and a daughter of Rev. J. T. Noyes, of India, returns to the Madura Mission after a course at Wellesley. Her brother, Rev. W. H. Noyes, it will be remembered, is working independently in Japan.

—**Southern Presbyterian Foreign Missions.** The report of Dr. Houston, Secretary of Foreign Missions, shows 14 missionaries sent out last year, being more than in any previous year. An important mission was started in the Congo Free State, Africa. Receipts from all sources, \$107,627, being \$11,000 more than in any other year. From legacies came nearly \$15,000. The committee asks for one-fourth of the church collections, instead of one-sixth as now.

—**Presbyterian Church, Northern.** Total receipts of the Board of Foreign Missions, \$794,066.44. From churches, \$291,791; from Sabbath-schools, \$36,062; from woman's boards, \$280,285; from legacies and from miscellaneous sources, \$73,120. There was a decrease of \$58,599 as compared with last year. Thirteen less churches contributed. There is at present a deficit of \$60,275. There were sent out during the year to Mexico 5 missionaries; to Columbia, 4; to Brazil, 8; to Syria, 6; to Persia, 13; to Laos, 3; to Korea, 5; to China, 26; to Japan, 15; to Guatemala, 2; to Africa, 3; and to India, 16.—Total, 106. Besides outstations there are in the Indian mission 6 stations, in the Mexican 5, in Guatemala 1, in the Brazilian 8, in the Colombian 3, in the Chilean 4, in the African 17, in India 19, in the Siamese 5, in the Chinese 13, in the Japanese 5, in the Korean 1, in the Persian 6, and in the Syrian 5—in all 98.

—**Reformed Church.** The receipts of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church for the year just closed were about \$117,000, an excess of nearly \$24,000 over the previous year. The debt of the board has been reduced from \$23,500 to \$16,500.