

—The progress of Japan in civilization may be illustrated by the following recently published statistics: In 1870 there was not a mile of railway; to-day there are 1750 miles in operation, and 850 miles more about to be constructed. These railways carried, in 1894, 30,000,000 passengers. There was no post-office in 1870, but in 1893 the Japanese post handled 277,000,000 letters and newspapers. In 1890 there were no Japanese steamships; to-day there are 700. The ultimate secret of this progress is to be found in the work of 470 evangelical missionaries, backed by 111,000 native Christians and the schools they support.

—According to intelligence from Formosa, the capitulation of Tai-wan-fu, the capital of the island, and the peaceful entry of the Japanese, which brought the long campaign to a conclusion, were due to the gallant conduct of two Scotch missionaries, Messrs. Ferguson and Barclay, who at the critical moment, when the excited population were expecting the worst, approached the Japanese and led them in peace into the city.

—If these statements are true, there is trouble ahead: "Watches which cost \$20 to manufacture here are made in Japan for \$3; 10 boxes of excellent parlor matches sold here for 5 cents can be bought there for 1; a piece of silk tapestry for which French artists demanded \$10,000 has been duplicated in Japan at a cost of only \$700, etc. An American firm has recently purchased 9 carloads of buttons made in Japan. Business men on the Pacific Coast are becoming seriously alarmed at this menace to almost every line of productive industry."

AFRICA.

—In a recent paper on the Dark Continent Fred Perry Noble brought down the number of Mohammedans to 40,000,000. He made the native Protestant communicants 255,000 and the native Roman Catholic 250,000. The force of

Christianity in the total he placed at 5,550,000.

—Tropical Africa has its flying frog, whose legs terminate in a sort of fan, and with these the little reptile paddles the air like a locust, or like a partially fledged bird testing its pinions for the first time. Altho somewhat awkward in its flock, the winged frog can dart through the air at a speed of about 10 yards per second, and can keep itself going forward at that rate for from 10 to 15 seconds. The average distance covered by these spurts of grasshopper-like flight is from 75 to 125 yards; but Bishoff mentions instances where the flying frog cleared sandy stretches 200 yards in width. And then, as if this were not enough for one continent, a flying mouse is to be found in the Cameroons, which is a link between the bat and the true mouse, has a tail like a mouse and heavy gray fur, while its wings are not so well developed as those of the bat.

—When Bishop Taylor first went to Liberia the only small currency in use in portions of the Kroo Coast was leaf tobacco. Two Methodist missions used it in the purchase of rice for absolute needs and for the landing of supplies sent from New York. The bishop introduced laundry soap as small currency, and his son, Ross Taylor, has sent from a firm in New York from 3 to 5 tons at a single shipment, fair quality and full weight, 8 and 16 ounces to the bar, to serve the purpose of currency. No tobacco has been used in trade since the stations were opened.

—Speaking of Lutheran (General Synod) Muhlenberg Mission, West Africa, Dr. Scholl states that "as a result of Christian learning and training, the native boys have built a steamboat of their own, and 35 years ago those people had never seen an ax. They have sent to America 25,000 pounds of coffee."

—A French missionary journal gives an account of the progress of mission-