

THE WORK ABROAD.

The Foreign Christian Missionary Society gave an account of its stewardship to the churches at the late convention in Chattanooga, Tenn. The report is cheering, and will bring joy to those who assisted in sending the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.

It shows that \$130,925.70 were raised for the work during the year—a gain of \$24,703.60 over last year. The watchword last year was, “\$100,000 for foreign missions by collections only.” The receipts, not including annuities and bequests, amounted to \$97,363.10. The churches as churches gave \$46,650.20—a gain of \$6,081.92. The Sunday-schools gave \$34,334.97—a gain of \$4,307.73. The Endeavor Societies gave \$2,127.76. From annuities and bequests \$33,565.60 were received.

The work in India has made marked advances. The number of baptisms is much larger than in any previous year. In several cases the membership of churches has been doubled. At Hurda and stations round about 42 were added. At Charwa 24 were baptized. There was an increase of 24 at Bilaspur. During the year 13 were baptized at Damoh. Sunday-schools are well maintained; that at Hurda has an enrolment of 360, and that at Mungeli (where the church membership has doubled) 175. Thousands of sick have been treated by the medical missionaries. Many more have been fed and cared for.

In Japan there are 9 organized churches, and 41 places at which meetings are held. During the year 129 members were added to the churches. The Sunday-school enrolment was 702. Six young men are studying for the ministry, and sixteen others are making a special study of the Bible. At the annual convention twenty-six young men came forward and expressed their desire to learn more about Christianity. Dr. Nina Stevens treated 1,715 patients. She reports a Sunday-school with an average attendance of 70. Miss Rioch reports a steady growth in most departments of her work. The Sunday services, prayer meetings and women's meetings show a gradual increase in attendance and interest.

The increase of membership in China for the year was 46 per cent. Preaching has been carried on in homes and market places, in chapels and hospitals, in villages and cities. Dr. Macklin reports an average of about 50 patients at the dispensaries daily. He preaches to these daily, and also to the in-patients, of whom there were 760. The patients in the hospitals have received 6,000 portions of scripture. James Ware has spent part of his time in helping to translate the Bible into the Shanghai dialect. Other missionaries have been busy preaching, baptizing and teaching the people. Some new churches have been organized.

In Turkey work is carried on in fourteen places. These report an aggregate membership of 586. G. M. Shismanian and Dr.

Kevorkian are the American-trained missionaries. There are also four unordained men preaching the gospel, besides two male teachers and three females.

The present membership in Norway is 886. There are twenty-six preaching stations. Work is also carried on in Sweden and in Denmark. The churches in England—some of them—have received support from the Society.

Since the last convention a number of missionaries have died. After five years faithful labor in India Hattie A. Judson entered into rest. A. F. H. Saw was called from China to the land where there is no more death. And Dr. H. N. Biddle, who sailed from Boston on March 6th, 1897, for the dark continent, has closed his labors in behalf of the benighted of Africa, before they were well begun. His companion, E. E. Faris, is now there alone. But that must not long continue.

Within the year twelve new missionaries were appointed, as follows: three for China, three for India, three for Japan and two for Turkey. Some of these have not yet started for their fields. W. D. Cunningham (who spent several years with the church in St. Thomas, Ont.), and his wife, have been prevented by sickness from starting to Japan. David Rioch (of Hamilton, Ont.), and his wife, Dr. Minnie Rioch, go to India to open up a new station.

With this increase of our missionary forces, we will hope for a still better report next year.

H. W. S.

AMERICAN MISSIONS.

At Chattanooga, Tenn., the American Christian Missionary Society submitted its report. This is the society of which Alexander Campbell was once president, and Benjamin Franklin, secretary. It was organized in Cincinnati in 1849, and is to celebrate its jubilee in the same city next year. In these years it has assisted in the organization of 2,185 churches, and its missionaries have baptized 87,547 believers. Through this society the churches have been doing a blessed work. As the result of co-operation they have been able to enter new fields and plant churches; they have also given timely support to weak congregations.

During the year just closed the receipts amounted to \$41,345.67—a gain of \$3,446.40 over last year. The number of preachers aided by the society was 71. The places they visited and labored numbered 377. They organized 58 churches during the year, and planned and assisted in building 28 places of worship. They preached 11,181 sermons, and as a result of their labors there were 6,247 accessions to the churches,—3,386 by baptism and 2,861 by letter and otherwise. Next year the churches will be invited to contribute \$100,000 to this work, that still greater good may be done.

The society is working all over the United States, and is also assisting in home mission

work in Canada—evidently not regarding us as foreigners. In the Maritime Provinces, it has given timely aid to Halifax and Pictou. Concerning the former, the report says: “T. H. Blonus resigned the work at Halifax May 1, 1898. He has been succeeded by E. O. Ford, a man whose praise is in all the churches. The Halifax church suffers much from the constant emigration of its members to the United States, but it is hoped that it will soon be able to assume self-support.” It says of Pictou: “R. E. Stevens has done faithful work here. He reports a church of nineteen members and a better feeling toward our people. The church in Pictou is the only church that stands for scriptural ordinances, given on the pages of the New Testament, for a region covering many miles. It is a light shining in darkness, and asks the Board to keep the light shining brightly. Bro. Stevens has resigned, and they ask that another minister be sent to them.”

H. A. Northcutt was a general evangelist working under appointment of the general board. He says: “My work this year has not been as fruitful in results as in previous years, owing, perhaps, to the war excitement. I have labored in six states and added 524 to the church—440 of these by confession and baptism. Raised for self-support, travelling expenses, etc., \$1,734. The outlook is good. I find the opposition to missions dying. We are growing—debating on religion less and living it more. I am pleading for more Christian living. To magnify the beauty of holiness is a constant aim in my work.”

The general report says: “An increase of our income to \$100,000 would enable us to quadruple our activities, with little increase of expenditure. God has honored this society and the brotherhood, whose servant it is, in using it for the advancement of his kingdom, and in the effort to make this goodly land more and more Immanuel's land. Many newly organized churches need to be encouraged and supported; many ripe fields need to be harvested. We should have a thousand missionaries under the direction of our Board.”

The first Lord's day in May is the time when the churches are asked to have this great home mission work weighing heavily on their hearts, that they may on that day give liberally and willingly toward its extension. The Sunday-schools have not been treated fairly in the matter. They have had no general invitation to share in the work. It is now proposed that there be a Children's Day for Home Missions, and that the third Lord's day in November be the date. This will bring the importance of the work at home to the attention of the children and will increase the funds for carrying it on.

H. W. S.

Last month we asked those of our readers who are in arrears to remit the amount due, and thus save us the labor of sending them financial statements. If you did not do so, you will probably find a reminder in this paper; and we ask you to kindly send, *at once*, the amount called for.