

VIII.—PROGRESS OF MISSIONS: MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Africa.—The Niger Mission. Rev. W. Allan, of West Africa, thus summarizes the vast changes that have taken place since the Gospel was first preached at Bonny, in Africa:

"The worship of the iguana is overthrown, the priest is a regular attendant at the house of God, and the iguana itself converted into an article of food. The Juju temple, which a few years ago was decorated with twenty thousand skulls of murdered victims, I found rotting away in ruin and decay. I passed through the grove which was formerly the receptacle of so many murdered infants, and I found it had become the regular highway from the town to the church, and that the priest was now a baptized Christian. I went ashore and addressed 885 worshippers, including the king, the three former heathen priests, chiefs, and a multitude of slaves, and was thankful to ascertain that the work of conversion was still going on; for, in addition to 648 persons already baptized, of whom 265 are communicants, there are over 700 at Bonny alone who are now under instruction."—*Missionary Herald*.

—In Northern Africa has lately been discovered a river that has worn a bed through the rock 300 feet deep, and then makes a perpendicular leap 500 feet, while all around are deep, yawning chasms and gigantic peaks.

—The pupils of the Huguenot Seminary at Wellington, South Africa, have formed the Huguenot Missionary Society, which sends out from its ranks missionaries to labor among the heathen in Africa. The lady principal, Miss Ferguson, and the other teachers, are all earnest Christians, and seek to lead all the pupils to Christ.

—The Moravians have projected a mission on the Victoria Nyanza, but have been unable to establish it by the lack of funds. Just before the opening of their General Synod this year news was brought that a legacy of between \$25,000 and 30,000 had fallen to the Church, and it is probable that the work will speedily be carried forward, as the men are ready.

Beymah.—A Mission School is to be established by Rev. E. W. Kelly, of Mandalay, on the very spot where Dr. Adoniram Judson, the first missionary from America, suffered the cruel imprisonment at Oungpenla.

China.—Rev. J. W. Stevenson writes from Shanghai. "I am happy to report 27 baptisms this week, viz., 12 at Gan-ren, 7 at Nan-k'ang, by Mr. McCarthy; 3 at Chau-kia-k'co, by Mr. Coulthart; and 5 at Ning-hai-chau, by Mr. Judd. Mr. McCarthy baptized in all during his tour in Kiang-si 66 persons, and he reports quite a number of inquirers. At Chau-kia-k'co a great fire has devastated the place, and 3,000 families are said to be burnt out of house and home."

—A general conference of Chinese missionaries will meet at Shanghai May 7, 1890, and continue for ten days. Rev. J. R. Goddard, of Ningpo, is the secretary.

—The totals of missions in China are: 39 societies, 526 male missionaries and 597 women; total, 1,123 missionaries; 163 native ordained helpers, 1,278 unordained, 34,553 communicants in the churches, and 14,817 pupils in schools; \$44,173 were contributed by the churches the past year, and the net increase in membership was 2,295.

France.—The Statistics of France for 1888 contain some sad facts respecting family life. Compared with 1887 the decrease in marriages was 212, while there were 6,360 less than in 1886. There were 1,702 more divorces than in 1887, and 1,738 more than in 1886; the total number was 4,708. The decrease in the number of births since 1887 was 16,794. Since 1884 there has been an annual decrease in births. In 1884 there were 937,758 births; in 1888, the number was 882,637. In illegitimate births there is, however, an increase. In 1881 they were 7.5 per cent.; in 1888, 8.5. In the Seine department 25 per cent. of the births were illegitimate. The official report states that if it were not for the illegitimate births there would actually be a decrease in the population of France.

—Miss Grant Brown, who with two other ladies lately made a mission tour in Corsica, reports that wherever they traveled they held daily meetings which were thronged by people eager to learn the truth. The work met with much opposition from the priests; but the civil authorities were generally friendly, and in several villages the mayors offered the use of rooms. In one village three men volunteered to stand every Sunday in the market place, and read the Gospel to their countrymen. There is no Protestant church on the island.

Germany.—According to the Statistical Year Book of Germany for 1889, the latest data on the religious status of the country are these: 29,369,847 Evangelicals, 16,785,734 Catholics, 125,673 other Christians, 563,172 Jews, 11,278 confessors of other religions or professing no religion at all. The Evangelicals include Lutherans, Reformed and the United Church, i. e., the union formed in 1817 in Prussia and some other States between the two Protestant confessions, the Catholics include Roman Catholics, Greek Catholics and old Catholics; the other Christians represented are United Brethren, Baptists, Mennonites, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, Quakers, Irvingites, German Catholics, Free Religionists and Dissenters. In 1871 the proportions were these. 25,581,685 Evangelicals, 14,869,292 Catholics, 82,158 other Christians, 512,153 Jews, 17,156 of other or no religion.