

and they think the peace principles of the Friends are preferable to the state of local and general belligerency which has for so long been a prominent feature of Mexican existence.—*Evangelical Christendom.*

**Russia.**—Watchful for opportunities for interference in African affairs, Russia, under the guise of a missionary movement, will probably soon send a large religious body into Abyssinia, the people of that country having expressed a desire for a closer connection with the Greek Church. This movement is ostensibly undertaken in compliance with the expressed wishes of the King of Abyssinia, and is to be aided by a grant of 3,000,000 rubles (about \$2,400,000), when rubles are counted at their par value. The chief of the expedition gained an unenviable reputation as a zealous proselyter during his long residence in Jerusalem, and will be accompanied by 40 priests and 60 monks. A second expedition, consisting of 2,000 young men, will soon follow the first. This dwarfs our missionary enterprises. But is it really a missionary enterprise? That remains to be seen.

**Samoa.**—The Samoans, regarding whom so much interest is now felt, are considered the finest race among the Polynesian Islands. They are graceful, pleasing, of good physique, and have a soft and musical language. They have been converted to Christianity and are very moral and honest. On Sunday no work is permitted on shore, nor are natives allowed, it is said, to work on board ships in port. The sale of liquors is absolutely prohibited. It is to be hoped that the faith of these people in Christian nations may not be wronged through violation of treaties.—*Illustrated Christian Weekly.*

**Scotland.**—At the Annual Meeting of the National Bible Society, held in Edinburgh last month, the income was reported as over £34,000, the largest ever attained. Amidst many proofs of the successful labors of the society, it was mentioned at the Annual Meeting that the native churches of Japan, for whose benefit the National Bible Society of Scotland has taken a share in translating the Scriptures, have resolved to institute a Bible Society of their own. The Religious Tract and Book Society of Scotland have just issued their Annual Report. The work of the colporteurs is referred to as a valuable agency in spreading wholesome religious literature to counteract the mischievous literature which circulates so largely to the prejudice of the morals of the people. It employs about 300 colporteurs, and there is ample evidence in the report that their work is meeting a real want in the religious life of the country, and has upon it the divine blessing.

—**Scotch Liberality.** The 336,000 members of the Free Church of Scotland must be giving at the rate of nearly \$10 per head.

**Turkey.**—The restrictions placed upon

the press by the Turkish Government are many and oppressive. The new censor of the press, appointed in November last, requires of the editors of the *Zornitza*, the Bulgarian religious paper published by our mission at Constantinople, that duplicate copies of all matter be placed in his hands two days before it is given to the public. He then mutilates the articles, not merely those having a political bearing, but those in the religious and educational departments, on the ground that there may be a political interpretation placed upon words innocent in themselves. Among the words which are uniformly stricken out are "union" and "freedom." In the sentence in the Sunday-school lesson, "Ruth's union with the family of Elimelech had freed her from idolatry," the words we have italicized were stricken out. Only after representations made by the American Legation was the paper permitted to speak of the United States of America. The absurdities of this censorship are innumerable. Our brethren connected with the press at Constantinople are entitled to our sympathies in the annoyances to which they are compelled to submit.—*Miss. Herald.*

**Syria.**—The annual meeting of the Syria Mission has just been held in Beirut. The statistics presented were able to give in our Statistical Department, through the courtesy of Miss Mary Pearson Eddy of Beirut. In a note accompanying them she says:

"Notwithstanding all the efforts made to thwart our work you will notice in every department encouraging progress is reported, and this while the laborers are few, and the stations feebly manned by foreign workers. Is not the press work, viewed in the light of the promise, 'My word shall not return unto me void,' full of hope and promise for a rich harvest in the future?"

**United States.**—**Woman's Mission Work.** We are in receipt of the nineteenth annual report of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, North, which makes a substantial book of 150 pages. The summary of home work shows a total of 5,449 organizations, with a membership of 127,178. The receipts for 1888 were \$206,508.63, and the appropriations for 1889 \$201,401.

—The twenty-two missionary societies in the United States managed by women, and whose support comes from women, support 751 missionaries, last year contributed \$1,038,453, and since their organization have contributed \$10,335,124. The forces of Great Britain, Continental Europe and the United States have an annual income of \$9,306,996; man and equip 2,550 stations; support 5,431 missionaries; have the assistance of 32,015 native helpers, and million churches that number 583,974 communicants and 1,875,655 adherents.