

make him feel that there is something in the religion of Jesus that is not to be found elsewhere. Even the prisons are not to be neglected. Christ said "I was sick and ye visited Me, in prison and ye came unto Me." When the poor degraded criminal is shut away from intercourse with his fellowmen, he scarcely expects anyone to come and see him, but even here work may be done for the Master. Shut away with time to think over his past life, a message may be brought to him by some faithful worker which the Spirit of God may bless to the salvation of his soul. Yes even the poor prisoner may let the Saviour in and his soul will be a bright jewel in some faithful worker's crown. There is still another thought for us in this passage: the work that is here laid out for us is at hand. We do not need to go to college to fit ourselves for it, neither have we to go long journeys to Foreign lands to find it. We are surrounded by opportunities to give little attentions to those who need them; not a day passes that we might not cheer up some one who is losing heart in the battle of life by a word of encouragement. And then one does not need to be rich in order to help. We are so apt to think that it is only the rich that can give. On the contrary the poor often give what the rich withhold that is sympathy. They have a fellow feeling that makes them find a way to the heart that is unknown by those who have every wish gratified. Our Saviour was a striking example of what a poor man can do for the down-cast, the suffering, the needy. If we could follow His footsteps in entering into the troubles of those around us with a tender loving sympathy, our lives would be indeed worth living, and we would go through the world with a sunnier face and a happier heart.

MISSION FIELD.

THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD.

As to the famine in India, we find in our reliable exchanges the following:—

"The whole civilized world will stand aghast at the horrors which the next nine months are certain to bring in India. According to the statement made by Rev. Dr. James L. Barton, secretary of the A.B.C.F.M., this famine is due to the failure of the wheat crop, which has trebled the price of wheat, and the people have not the money to buy it. Unlike the famine of 1877, the present one is general. Then rich and poor suffered, as the means of communication had not been opened up. Now, however, railways have been built with the result, as stated, that "the rich will not starve, but the millions of the poor must." It is not a question of the scarcity of grain—which can be had from abroad—but of the want of money wherewith to buy it. The government has appropriated \$125,000,000 to be spent on public works as a means of relief to the starving people, and the missionaries are co-operating with the authorities. Nevertheless there are 287,000,000 of people to be supported in a country barren of crops, and 'millions will die from starvation, and within a few months the world will hear of such suffering and wholesale deaths as it has never heard of before, unless relief is extended.' The missionaries of the various denominations are scattered all through the afflicted territory and they will do all they can. But most of the native missionaries get but \$3.75 per month, and it is quite as much as they can do to support themselves. Touching this matter, Rev. A. B. Leonard, corresponding secretary of the Methodist Board, also says:

"Letters received at this office give an appalling account of the famine prevailing in parts of India, particularly in the north and northwest. Hundreds of children are to be seen in the bazaars, picking up grain or anything that can be used as food. Some of them stagger as they walk. The cries of hungry people for food in the darkness at railroad stations is often heartrending. Parents take their children to the missionaries, offering to give them away for food."

"Rev. James Smith, of Ahmednager, writes, that 'in the district of India, over which famine is now impending, there are 80,000,000 of people who in good times have only one meal a day, and that 40,000,000 always go to bed hungry. To these millions the present dearth means death, as the increased price of grain has raised the price of maintenance per capita from one to three cents per day, and the Viceroy of India has telegraphed to London that 72,000,000 must succumb to famine unless assisted.'"

At a great missionary meeting recently held in Glasgow, Principal Whitten, of Nagpore, India, said: "This century has taught this at least—that it is the duty of the Christian Church to go to work among the heathen unto the ends of the earth. He thought, with regard to missions, that the proper view to take was that the Christian Church had been going through an apprenticeship to the work of converting the heathen. First of all, they tried the evangelistic method alone, but they soon found that there were very many whom they were not reaching by that

method. Then they introduced the educational method, which was producing a revolution in the Indian religious thought of to-day. Then they introduced the medical method, so it would be seen that they were looking in this direction and in that direction, using this tool and that tool to see which would work best. He was not quite certain that the apprenticeship was ended. Probably they had a great deal to learn, but there were four years yet to come, and if they hurried up perhaps their apprenticeship would be finished by the end of the century. Then, when they had learned what tools to use, and how to use them, let the next century give the results for which they have been so long working and praying."

The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, has during twenty-two years received and investigated 102,501 complaints, involving more than 307,503 children; obtaining 86,081 convictions, and rescued 50,160 children from vice, from suffering, and from destitution. Its reception rooms during the past fifteen years of their establishment have sheltered, clothed, and fed 24,932 children, and furnished 233,370 substantial meals. Day and night, in summer and in winter, its doors are never closed. No child has ever been turned away without temporary shelter. Two hundred and fifteen similar societies with the like object have been organized throughout the United States, and 81 others in foreign lands.

In a publication of the English Church Missionary Society it is stated that \$60,000 was raised last year by the "juvenile boxes" which are in such common use in Great Britain for collecting money. The same publication reports that there have been 988 "sales of work," the avails of which have amounted to about \$115,000.

During 1896 the Scottish United Presbyterian Church sent out 22 new missionaries, including wives, 14 going to Manchuria, 6 for Old Calabar, Africa, and 2 for India.

George Muller of Bristol, has passed his ninety-second birthday, in full vigor of mind and body. In a recent speech he said he had received \$7,000,000. He has had 9,700 children under his immediate care, of whom 4,000 had been converted. He has sent \$1,235,000 to missionaries, and has distributed 275,000 Bibles and 1,460,000 Testaments.

There are now 3 railways in Palestine, one from Jaffa to Jerusalem, 54 miles long, and 2 others centering at Damascus, 1 of those being just completed, and connecting Damascus with Beyrout. Two other railways are in contemplation, also to center at Damascus. When these are completed, 4 different railway lines will radiate from this the oldest city in the world, connecting her with the leading points of the East. Thus, as has been well said, "Damascus promises to again become one of the greatest centers of the world." As a proof of this, the Jews are said to be buying all the land they can secure about this ancient city.

Rev. H. H. Jessup in calling for special prayer in behalf of Syria, gives this fact among others: "Tens of thousands of Syrian men and women have emigrated from their native land to North and South America and Australia, in quest of earthly gain. They are exposed to great temptations. The people estimate that not less than 80,000 have emigrated, and that of this number one-third will remain in foreign lands, one-third return, and one-third die away from home. And of those who return, many are a curse to their native land from habits of drunkenness, gambling and other vices acquired abroad. Some maintain their integrity, and there are noble instances of men who have received a blessing and brought a blessing with them. A large number are studying in various schools in the United States, but the majority are common peddlers, wandering and homeless. A large percentage of the church members in Syria are now thousands of miles away from home."

The China Mission Hand-book, just published in Shanghai, gives these the latest figures from the Celestial Empire:

Number of societies reported.....	44
Stations.....	152
Out-stations.....	1,054
Foreign missionaries.....	1,324
Native agents (preachers, 1,400)....	4,149
Number of churches.....	706
Communicants.....	55,093
Total pupils.....	21,353
Medical missionaries (women 47)...	143
Number of hospitals.....	71
Number of patients.....	18,898
Number of dispensaries.....	111
Patients in dispensaries.....	228,162

Were the wives of the missionaries enumerated, the number of foreigners, male and female, would probably exceed 2,000.