

Sandwich Islands.

About 800 members were added to the Churches during the past year. In two years, nearly \$10,000 have been contributed for missionary purposes. The natives are rapidly advancing in knowledge and civilization.

China.

Twenty-one missionaries proceeded to China last year, and four more, who had been absent from ill-health, returned. Nineteen of them are Americans.

The London Tract Society have now one colporteur at Canton, one at Hong-Kong, and another at Shanghai, the last of which is supported by the Rev. John Angell James, of Birmingham, as "his representative in China." The Rev. Dr. Medhurst, writes, from Shanghai:—

"We have employed a native tract distributor, named *Hcong-thaw-yit*, a member of the Church, under the pastoral oversight of the London Society's missionaries, at a salary of ten dollars a month, including his expenses; who has already been to Hanchow, on the south, and Nanking on the north; while he is now absent, distributing tracts at Hoochow, on the west. On these journeys he enters into temples and monasteries, tea-gardens, and places of public resort, where he finds abundant opportunities for distributing tracts, though he is very cautious not to give them away indiscriminately, but only to those persons who are likely to make good use of them, while he accompanies the gift with a word of exhortation, and occasionally enters into discussions on the subjects at issue between Chinese idolaters and ourselves.

"The American Baptist Missionary Society, a few months since, had ten Chinese colporteurs successfully distributing Christian books among their countrymen, partly at the expense of the American Tract Society."

United States.

In reference to the increase of the Roman Catholic Church in the States, a writer in the *New York Journal of Commerce* says:—

The main source of increase to the Roman Catholic Church in this country is *immigration*. Nor is this so great as is commonly supposed. In consequence of the vast influx of foreigners, our whole population has been doubled in less than twenty-five years, and the number of Catholics has been doubled in ten years. But who does not see that the rate of immigration must be immeasurably increased to keep up the same rate of increase in our population in future years? If, ten years ago, the Roman Catholics numbered

one million, and they now number two millions, ten years hence they must number four millions, to have doubled again, and ten years after, eight millions. But since increase is by birth and immigration only, and not by proselytes, immigration must increase in nearly the same ratio. Is this credible? Will not European emigration at length reach its maximum? But much of that emigration is Protestant. The Welsh, the Norwegian, the Hollanders, and many of the Germans who are peopling the West and the Northwest, are Protestants. Now, notwithstanding the very rapid increase of Roman Catholics for a few years past, "the increase of Protestants by birth and immigration is to the increase of Romanists by birth and immigration, as five to one."—*New England*, vol. ii. pp. 244.

A Missionary in Georgia writes as follows:—

Two men died some time ago. One of them was a great drunkard and swearer. He fell off the Railroad bridge into the river, and by this means came to his end. The other died a victim to a life of lasciviousness. Some weeks after this occurred, a Popish priest was brought from a considerable distance, to celebrate mass for the souls of the dead men. On his arrival, he made strict inquiry in relation to the character of the men, and the circumstances of their death. He then stated to the friends of the deceased, that \$5 would be sufficient to clear out of purgatory the soul of the drunkard who fell from the bridge, but it would require \$20 to prepare the soul of the other man for heaven. The money was all made up before he would say one prayer. Most of it happened to be in good, current bank notes, but he would not touch the notes. He said he must have it all in gold and silver. The specie was obtained, and the prayers said; an illustration of the religion that Rome gives her votaries.

A "Society for the promotion of Evangelical Knowledge" has been recently formed by certain members of the Episcopal Church. It is designed for the publication of Tracts and Books, free from the leaven of Puseyism.

THE VIRGIN MARY.—The *Freeman's Journal* says:—"The Provincial Council of Baltimore having elected the Most Blessed *Virgin Mary* as Patron of this country, and having, at its last sitting, solicited, and obtained the permission of using the title *Sine Lule originali Concepta* in the Office and Mass, it is certainly not unreasonable to anticipate a great increase of fervour and devotion towards the Holy Mother of God amongst good Catholics of our country, and especially on the Festival of the Immaculate Concep-