

it. When they met with such disasters in the Afghan and China wars, the Whig party went out of power, and Sir Robert Peel called the Parliament together, and made a proposition that would have involved the expenditure of some hundred millions of pounds, which was seconded by his old antagonist, Lord John Russell. He wished that we had a little more of this patriotism in this land, and less of that miserable party spirit which allows some men to do nothing but find fault with those in power.

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CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1862.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

An intelligent survey of the Mission-field at the present time is full of interest to the Christian. In Europe, for the present, the reaction in favor of despotism and its natural ally the papacy wears an inauspicious appearance, but nothing is more certain than that the extraordinary solicitude of these despotic governments is occasioned by the conviction which has in a variety of ways been created among masses of people in favor of popular rights and constitutional governments, and we think it not too much to add, of investigating for themselves religious truth, and of reading the Bible. The partial supply of that astonishing demand for the Bible, which seemed to take the Churches so much by surprise a few years since, has wrought upon the mind of Europe what all the superficial restraints and penalties of despots can never efface.— This system of restraint will soon be overdone, as is always the case in such circumstances; nor would any one be surprised, on the arrival of any mail from Europe, to learn that a general convulsion had taken place, and that those who assume that they were "born to command" were hurled with violence from the thrones which they dishonor. The judgment decreed by Him who sitteth in the heavens, and who will laugh at their impotency, evidently points to so abrupt a termination of their power: "He shall dash them in pieces as a potter's vessel."

The great source of success with the Papacy is their diplomacy and craft. A few years since their collections of money for propagating their sentiments and extending their influence abroad, were very great, and benefactions for Protestant missions were limited.— This is now reversed, and though vast amounts of wealth are absorbed by priests and by the church wherever popery prevails, the collections of money by their great organizations for missionary purposes cannot compare with those of Protestant Societies for these objects. The impression, so far as it prevails, that they are greater, is erroneous. The association "De Propaganda Fide," which extends its branches over the world, receiving its contributions and disbursing its funds in every part of it, was only able to raise and appropriate about £140,000 sterling in 1850. £20,000 of this was expended in Europe, £31,000 in America, £12,000 in Asia, £11,000 in Africa, and £16,000 in Oceania. More than half of this whole amount was contributed in France, viz: £76,316. Something may be judged of the regard and esteem in which their religion is held by the people, and of their zeal for its propagation by the amount of voluntary contributions given, and which amounted as follows in quarters where, if really disposed, immense contributions might be afforded, at least, by the aristocracy. In Spain only £335 were given; in Great Britain only £5,662; in the States of the Church £1,692; the whole amount from all North America, including the United States and British America, is £2,776. These statistics are from a Tabular Statement of the resources and expenditures of the "Association for the Propagation of the Faith" as given in eminent Roman Catholic Journals. In contrast with these amounts we have only to say that the contributions of Protestants in Great Britain alone, for Foreign Missions, including the Bible and Tract Societies amount nearly, or

quite, to £600,000 annually. With so liberal contributions, with so general and strong an interest as this indicates, with the zeal, and faith, and prayers of hundreds of thousands of godly persons, with the Bible and its Giver on the one side who can doubt the issue in competition even with the subtlety and craft of Jesuits and the tyranny of Despots? In converting men to truth and to godliness a work is done which in its very nature is abiding; whereas deluding them by the show and haubles of superstition is but a temporary thralldom, for the overthrow of which we only need the access of truth and the Lord's blessing.

Turning to the foreign field, to Asia, Africa, and Oceania, the accelerated rate at which converts and churches increase is delightful and astonishing. Three-score years have not yet completed their round since Carey committed himself to the work in India, and now not less than 600 mission churches relieve the gloom of those vast fields. In connection with these churches are now employed all the ordinary means for influencing the minds and hearts of all classes, old and young, so that the attempt to report results in anything like a complete form, is absolutely out of the question. For instance in connection with 260 stations in India and Ceylon, under the supervision of 403 missionaries are 1345 day schools, in which 83,700 boys are instructed through the medium of their own vernacular language, and 128 day schools where 14,000 boys and students are receiving a sound scriptural education, through the medium of the English language, besides 73 boarding schools, containing 1992 boys, chiefly Christian, who reside upon the missionaries' premises, and are trained up under their eye. Besides these efforts for boys, there are 354 day schools with 11,500 girls, and 91 boarding schools with 2,450 girls, taught almost exclusively in the vernacular languages. Who wonders now at the already tottering condition of Paganism among the 140,000,000 of India? Who can gauge the influence exerted in these formative processes upon the rising generation? One missionary press in Bombay, during the last year, to supply the demand thus created for reading, printed over 146,000 Tracts and Books in five different languages: more than thirty thousand copies of which were sold to natives—such a sale of Christian books to heathen as was probably never before witnessed, and now through their zealous superintendent, Rev. R. W. Hume, are petitioning for aid to establish an extensive system of Colportage by native Christians, to push the circulation far and wide among all the people. So alarmed have the Mahomedan and Pagan priests and teachers become at the rapidly increasing influence and spread of the Christian religion that they have commenced a system of competition in the publication of books and tracts, and they too, have their heathen and mahomedan colporteurs because the slumber of this nation has been broken and the people will read.

Before the enquiring gaze of the millions of benighted souls to whom Missionary influence has extended, is now spread out in part at least the word of God, translated for the most part by missionaries, in about 160 different languages and dialects, 130 of which versions were never before printed.

The following table from the Missionary Herald of February was presented to a Missionary Conference in Calcutta a few years ago, to show the accelerated rate of conversions in Hindostan. There were accessions to the Christian Church from—

1793 to 1802	of	27	persons.
1803 to 1812	of	161	"
1813 to 1822	of	403	"
1823 to 1832	of	675	"
1833 to 1842	of	1075	"
1843 to 1844	of	485	"
only one year.			

The number of baptisms by the Missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union for one year, as given in their last annual Report was 1,563, making the present membership of their Mission Churches 12,700. The number of pages printed within the year at four out of five of their printing establishments were 6,287,300.

Two thirds of all the Missions in Hindostan have been established within twenty years, and this is the promising aspect which Foreign Missions now wear over the whole Foreign field.

China which was closed to all approach for Missionary purposes till within ten years past, shutting out the knowledge of salvation from 360,000,000 of souls, now has the Missionaries

of no less than fifteen different Missionary Societies of Europe and America, with half as many Missionaries employed as there are in India; and by the various improvements which have been introduced in the cutting of types and in printing in Chinese, a neat pocket edition of the New Testament may be produced, and sold for about four pence. The Missionaries there are now engaged in an undertaking which if successful, will have a most important bearing on the future propagation of the Gospel in China, that is, to write the spoken language in Roman characters. That this is practicable appears from the fact, that the Chinese, whom they have taught so to write, are able to correspond with each other in that character. How vain even with the present ratio of improvement and increase, to predict the results of the next ten years Missionary labor in China.

Whatever opinion any one may entertain of the causes and occasions which lead to the result, no one can contemplate the use to which a gracious Providence turns the extension of British authority in Asia and Africa, and indeed the world around without profound satisfaction. Disastrous as the conflict has been in South Africa, when the matter shall be settled, and the climate and commercial position, both so advantageous and inviting to Europeans, shall have drawn an enterprising and christian people to occupy it in quiet possession, their influence together with that of a kindred people along the western coast, will doubtless be exerted for the speedy and effectual evangelization of the vast interior, nor could the christian world cherish the expectation of its accomplishment by any other means.

Such being now, so generally known to be the turn of events, those who might otherwise look with distrust and aversion upon the extension of British authority, regard with great complacency the signs which now betoken the addition of the remaining two-thirds of the ancient Birmah, which would bring her Eastern bounds to the wall of China. Coming under the Scythe of Britain, not only would the barriers, which have for years past prevented the approach of missionaries, be removed, but their persons would henceforth be secure, and every facility be afforded for the prosecution of their labors.

From this time forward it is presumed, from the death of the bloody woman, who has ruled Madagascar the past 20 years, this beautiful Island will be open to missionary labor. The refugees to the mountains of the interior and to the Mauritius will now be able, in the midst of old friends and in their old homes, to welcome whomsoever may come among them in the name of the Lord, for the love of whom they were willing to give up their all.

The present cost of these Missionaries operations, covering fields to which we have made no special allusions, and yet where they have been followed by unprecedented success, as among the blacks in the West Indies, and amongst the Sandwich Islanders and other parts of Oceania is about £600,000 from Great Britain and Europe, and £140,000 from the United States, making a total of £740,000 annually. This is the amount to which it has now attained, and which is double and treble what it was but a few years ago. Perhaps to some it appears a very great sum, not surely when set beside what is effected by it, but viewed simply as voluntary offerings for foreign religious objects.

Contrasted with some other expenses we may judge better whether it is above or below what might be considered a just expenditure. The cost of erecting the Crystal Palace and maintaining it for the exhibition, was just one-fifth this sum. According to the U. S. Treasury Report, there was imported into the United States the past year Cigars to the amount of £1,104,000, not including those manufactured in the country. The Custom House returns shows an importation into this little Province of £100,000 of spirituous liquors last year. In the 1500 public grogeries of Boston it is estimated that liquor is sold and drunk annually to the amount of £280,320, making each shop to retail but one gallon by the glass, per day.

The New York Herald, a short time since gave a statement of the average attendance at the various Theatres and other places of amusement nightly in that city, and the cost of tickets, or the receipts of the several places which were set down at \$10,125 nightly.

"Thus" the Herald remarks, "it would seem that over \$10,000 are nightly spent by the good citizens of New York in the mental

pleasures which music and the drama afford to all possessed of mind and soul."

The New York Courier and Enquirer furthermore states,— "We," (that is New York City), spend annually more than five million dollars for public amusements." A quarter part more than all the religious contributions of the Protestant world for Foreign Missions, and four times as much as all the Roman Catholic contributions of the world for the same object.

Great then as the sum total appears to be when isolated as the cost of missions, it is a stinted amount, relatively considered, whether we regard the number of professing christians to make it up, the glorious results accomplished by it, the cost of indulging depraved tastes for drinking or of following the ways of gay and fashionable society in their amusements.

We wish our readers impressed with this fact, because the present scale of expenditure for Foreign Missions is by no means adequate to present exigency and such a scale will become less so daily.

The wide doors opened in the providence of God, the inviting fields ready to the harvest, need a large addition to the staff of missionaries, teachers, printers and colporteurs. Converter's numbered a half century since, as we have already shown, by tens are now numbered by thousands in the same time. Who shall feed these sheep and lambs?

Now christian readers if your patience has allowed you to follow us so far in this lengthy article, pray ponder these things! Ask yourself, if all christians, according to their ability, had thought just as much as you have, in times past, on this subject, had prayed just as much and had contributed just as much, would the same blessed results have been accomplished? would as many missionaries have been sent out? would as many bibles have been printed and circulated? would there have been as many souls rejoicing among the redeemed in glory?

Say, ministers, and pastors, how much of the past has been the result of your fervent appeals to the churches, your intelligent and faithful representations of the condition and necessities of the poor dying heathen, perishing for lack of knowledge? how many churches more, as the result of your example and teaching, now observe the monthly concerts of prayer for missions and make their regular contributions for that object?

Remember who enquired, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Surely those who are leaving the poor heathen to perish in their blindness, without endeavoring to rouse the churches, are not honouring the commission of their Sovereign nor treading in his steps.

Brethren in the Ministry in these Provinces what will you do in this matter? what steps will you take to give this subject the prominence due to it, and to bring the churches, hanging upon your lips for council, to feel and act like loyal subjects of the King of Zion? None expect the church and people to outrun their Pastor in this matter, their concern and zeal will follow his: If he neglects, they too will be indifferent. If he learns the merits of the case and feels its vital importance, and faithfully represents it, some kindred spirit will catch the flame and a response will be made to the pressing calls for aid to evangelize the perishing world for Christ.

We learn from Saint George, that brother G. F. Miles, who has accepted the call of the 1st Baptist Church in that place, has removed his family thither, and commenced his public labors on Sabbath last.

We sincerely congratulate the Churches at St. George and St. Martins, in having secured the services of two of the most acceptable Pastors in the Province, and we wish them abundant prosperity.

Rev. S. Elder has been in this city during the past week for the purpose of taking the Admiral, being about to spend some time in the States, in hope of recruiting his strength. We felt, with many others, deeply affected to see how much his health was impaired. The very high esteem in which our dear brother is held both for his ability and piety, and the sincere attachment of his Church to which he has so untiringly devoted himself, will cause his absence to be deeply regretted. We pray sincerely for his speedy restoration to health, and for his return to the Province.

We would hereby acknowledge the receipt of 5s. from Mr. Allen West, of Harvey, for the French Mission; also 2s. 6d. from a friend, both per Rev. E. F. Fosbury.