

ligious associations. It is a gain for the State, and accents the wisdom of M. Waldeck-Rousseau, under whose inspiration the measure was passed.

Federation in Italy. A conference of the representatives of the different Italian Protestant churches was held in Rome recently, in which the Waldensians, Baptists, Methodists, and others participated. A full agreement was reached in what for Italian Protestantism is its chief object, the work of evangelization among the Catholic population, and a *modus vivendi* was established, the whole propaganda to be controlled and guided by a committee, consisting of representatives of the various denominations engaged in Gospel work in that country. The members of this "*Comitato interdenominazionale*" will have their headquarters in Rome. The special work of this body is to consist in the following: 1. Division of work among the different denominations, consisting in the establishment of new stations, but also restriction and concentration where different churches have been interfering with each other. 2. Publication of hand-books in the interest of missions, such as catechisms, hymn-books, etc. 3. Maintaining a publishing concern for the publication of religious journals and of a general daily. 4. Direction of the individuals engaged in the mission work. 5. Management of the social work, such as aid and charitable societies.

Italian Evangelical Church. Statistics published in July show that the Italian Evangelical Church consists of 35 congregations, with 5 others in process of formation. The communicants number 1,815 and the catechumens 502, with 20 pastors, 10 evangelists, 1 Bible-

woman, 3 workers on trial, 35 elders, 75 deacons, and 25 teachers. In the 24 Sunday-schools 1,302 boys and girls are under the instruction of 63 teachers. A special effort is made to secure the placing of the Scriptures in the hands of the people, and in twelve months 868 Bibles and 2,588 New Testaments were sold or given away.

ASIA.

A Missionary Held for Ransom in Turkey. Perils from robbers still threaten missionaries traveling in Turkey. On September 3d Miss Helen M. Stone, a missionary of the American Board, was captured by brigands while journeying from Bansko, Macedonia, to Djumiak, Salonica, with an Albanian preacher and a party of students. The party was surrounded and Miss Stone was separated from the others, and is held for a \$110,000 ransom. Letters from her say that she is in good health and well treated. It is believed in Constantinople that the Bulgarian-Macedonian Committee are actively responsible for this outrageous abduction. The American Board have asked the government to take steps to secure the release of Miss Stone, but is also seeking to raise the money to pay the ransom. Miss Stone was stationed at Salonica, and is highly esteemed and greatly beloved by missionaries and natives.

A Quarter Centennial in Turkey. The annual meeting of the Central Turkey Mission was held in Aintab from June 23d to July 1st. The twenty-fifth anniversary of Central Turkey College and the plans for a summer school, to be held at the close of the meeting of the conference, drew a larger attendance of college graduates and delegates and visitors from neighboring cities than usual,

and gave special importance to the educational interests of the mission. Considerable time was given to the discussion of the establishment of a home missionary society, the fact being that over one-third of all the churches in this field are already wholly self-supporting, and that many of these stronger churches have been for a considerable time carrying on small and independent missions in various places. The closing exercises of the girls' college were held on June 14th, when 6 girls took diplomas, all of whom expect to teach as have the 6 who graduated last year.

A Polyglot Institution. It seems that even yet Western Asia is the seat of Babel, for no less than 5 tongues, English, Armenian, Russian, Turkish, and Persian, are taught in the boys' school at Tabriz, Persia. So no wonder that at least one of the missionaries sometimes sighs "for a one-language field," and recalls the cry of a young Englishwoman in delirium, "Oh, let's go home, where everybody talks English!"

The Bible in Arabia. At the Bahrein station a population of 300,000 is within reach of the Gospel, and there are located Rev. S. M. Zwemer, Mrs. Zwemer, Dr. S. J. Thoms, and Mrs. Thoms, who is also a physician, and Rev. James E. Moerdyk, with their native colporteurs. The distribution of Bibles, Testaments, and other religious books, with personal conversation, is the way as yet in which most good can be done, while the medical work is a large and ever-growing factor in reaching the soul as well as the body by the power to bless given to His servants by the Great Physician. Of Bibles, Testaments, and portions of Scripture, 932 were sold during the past year at Bahrein, 86 per cent. being to Moslems. Mr.

Zwemer remarks in his report: "Looking over all the work at this station, the past year offers much encouragement. Where 7 years ago there was only 1 missionary, and fanaticism forbade him a dwelling, we now count 2 missionary families and 3 native helpers, besides the church in our house. The medical work is full of promise. The colporteurs know how large is the field of their sowing and are eager to go to places which once they feared to do."

Irrigation for India. It is reported that the great Chenab Canal, in the northern provinces, which was recently built by the government for the purpose of irrigating a region specially liable to suffer from drought, has proved a great success, and last year 1,353,000 acres were irrigated, giving excellent crops throughout the district. There are already 429 miles of the main canal, besides a vast number of channels for distribution. The expenditure in construction was 25,000,000 rupees, or over \$8,000,000, but the crops of last year from these lands are valued at twice that amount.

The Rain and the Famine. The recent rains throughout India generally has been fully up to average, and above it in Northeast India, where the fall during the previous fortnight had been deficient. The total amount, however, which has fallen since the beginning of June is still heavily behind in Gujarat, Baluchistan, Northwest India, and parts of the East Coast. There has been a decrease of 13,000 in the number of persons in receipt of famine relief in the Bombay Presidency, and of nearly 3,000 in the Madras, but in the native States there has been a total increase of 3,000. There are now no persons on relief in Madras,

but the numbers in Bombay and in the Central Provinces still amount to 442,000.

Afraid of the Census Man. The census in the Chin Hills was carried out under somewhat difficult conditions. It was wisely decided to perform the work under armed force, as there were indications that the people suspected the census-taking was the forerunner of increased taxation, and the Chins have always been used to resist such demands. The prevailing idea was that each household would be taxed in proportion to the number of inhabitants found in it, so it can not be said that the total number of inhabitants arrived at—namely, 87,101 (of which 85,063 are Chins), is absolutely correct. It is believed, however, not to be very far out, as in many cases the people whose curiosity to compare the number of inhabitants of their villages with those of others overcame their suspicions rendered active aid in the census-taking.

The Basel Mission. According to the *Bombay Guardian*: "Among the successful missions in India in regard to spiritual results, and particularly in regard to the industrial training of their converts, this one must be counted. The missionaries number 79 and the wives 58. The number of single women is surprisingly small, only 4 in the list. The mission has 24 stations in the districts of South Canara, Coorg, Southern Mahratta, Malabar, and the Nilgiris; there are also 112 out-stations. The native church has a membership of 14,696. There were 170 adults baptized during last year, also 291 children; the births among the converts were 536, and the re-admissions 28. The contributions of the church members toward their

church expenses and for the poor are comparatively good, Rs. 11,563 having been received."

Gossner Mission Among the Khols.

The past year has been greatly blessed in the Gossner Mission to the Khols. About 4,000 heathen have been baptized, and the number of candidates for baptism has increased to 17,087. Three new stations—Kumarkela, Karimatti, and Tamor—are engaged in building. The contributions of friends at home have, fortunately, increased largely. They now amount to £19,586, but there is still a deficit. To follow up the Christian Khols who settle in the tea plantations of Assam, a new chief station has been founded. A missionary and 2 native pastors have been sent there. A third center of work in Assam is in contemplation.

The Burma Rail- Locomotive as a Missionary. The Burma Railways Co., Ltd., builds railways in Burma that it may make money for its shareholders, of course, but it actually does something better—it helps the missionary to do more work, do it faster and easier. Hsipaw, in the Shan States, has been at least two weeks' journey from the Rangoon, and all supplies have had to be taken thither by bullock-cart and pack-train from Mandalay; but the opening of the railway to Hsipaw on June 1 has changed all that. Hsipaw is now only 48 hours from Rangoon, and our Dr. Leeds is greatly rejoiced thereat.

Bassein and Henzada have each been from 24 to 36 hours away from Rangoon by river steamers, and the journeys expensive. The engine of a construction train now "toots" in Bassein, and ere long the trip from Rangoon to Bassein will be an inexpensive one, done all

in daylight, and Henzada will be taken in on the way.—*Indian Witness*.

How they Bury in Burma. A Burmese paper of Mandalay contains a long account of the preparations that are being made for the funeral of a much-revered Buddhist bishop who died, or, as the Burmese express it, "returned," some time ago. It is well known that in such a case the body is kept in the monastery for weeks, months even, until all the funds necessary have been collected, and the preparations for the cremation brought to a close. In Dalla, some time ago, an old hpoongyi was thus kept several months, gilt all over, just like a statue. For the present instance, the elders and other influential persons in Mandalay decided at a recent meeting to have a coffin made, the cost of which is to be above Rs. 3,000. It is to be covered with pure gold and ornamented with silver designs. It will be placed on the representation of a white elephant, made according to the ideal type described in the Buddhist scriptures. There is probably no other nation in the world so lavish of their money on things useless as are the Burmese, and if they could be induced to spend it for humanitarian purposes, Burma would certainly be one of the richest of countries in useful public institutions.—*Idem*.

The Deluge in China. After the devastations of Boxers and foreigners, China has now to suffer from a flood of appalling severity. The Yangtse River has overflowed its banks and laid waste the valley. Ten million persons are reported to be without homes and without provisions for the coming winter, and the floods have not yet subsided. Immediately on hearing of the floods, 2 Chinese

banks advanced a sum of 20,000 taels, and a special delegate was sent up the river to distribute relief. Foreign houses of commerce also contributed. The floods have proved destructive beyond all expectation. It is certain that there will be intense suffering during the coming winter, and it is feared that the distress will lead to civil disorder. A committee of foreigners has been formed to receive subscriptions and conduct relief work in conjunction with a native committee.

How We Seem to Chinamen. According to Rev. W. S. Ament, the Chinese are not wholly destitute of a sense of the fitness of things, or even of a sly humor, for he says: "In China little is made of denominations. The native Christians have denominational names of their own. They call the Methodists the 'hand-shakers'; the Presbyterians the 'won't-let-women-speak-in-meeting society'; the Baptists, 'the bathing society,' and the Congregationalists, the 'one-man-as-good-as-another society.'"

Change in Methods Demanded. Rev. Timothy Richard, of Shanghai, the veteran missionary who is so influential with the Chinese government, writing in the *Examiner*, London, on "Some New Conditions of Pacified Work in China," asserts that mission work must henceforth be carried on "in the face of the ignorance and suspicion of the Chinese, in opposition to the wishes of some of the powers, and in spite of the neutrality and indifference of the British and American governments." But in planning for the new campaign, Dr. Richard has in mind something more than the old village Gospel preaching method. He says that 60 years' experience has convinced the mis-