

Advocates. Mr. K. Thiruvattakarasu, Advocate has joined the local bar. Messrs H. A. P. Sandrasegaram and Isaac Tambiah, both of whom are Jaffna Tamil, are among the five who passed the Advocates' final in the last examination. These will be enrolled as Advocates after a period of six months.

ஸ்பானிய மந்திரிமார்.—Spanish Ministry—சுமாரை சீர்திருத்தவலை வகைப் படுகையாகச் செய்து கொள்ளப்படுமா என்பதைக் கூறுதல் உட்கிரைத் தோற்றம் போக வந்திருக்கின்ற மனிதர் தோற்றத்தைக் கவனமாய் கவனிப்பார்.

ஊழிப்பதற்குப் படுக்கையெழுந்தாயிற்று.—Forty Years Ago.—சீவகாட்சியைப் படிக்கவந்த மூன்றாம் மூலம் மூலம் சீவகாட்சியைக் கவனிப்பார். சீவகாட்சியைப் படிக்கவந்த மூன்றாம் மூலம் மூலம் சீவகாட்சியைக் கவனிப்பார். சீவகாட்சியைப் படிக்கவந்த மூன்றாம் மூலம் மூலம் சீவகாட்சியைக் கவனிப்பார்.

PESTILENCE, FAMINE, WAR.

This is a reversal of the usual order, but one which is apparently being followed in India. It was in August or September of last year that the plague broke out in Bombay, and about the same time owing to the partial failure of the South west monsoon, fears were entertained of a famine in central and northern India, which a few months later were realized. And now within a few weeks has come the outbreak of hostilities in the north-west, and the murmurings of political unrest throughout central and northern India. Troubles have fallen thick and fast during the past twelve months and, as might have been expected, they have been attributed to various ridiculous causes. One of the silliest reasons given, one born of ignorance and superstition, is that the Queen-Empress angered by the ill-treatment of her statue in Bombay demanded that the people be punished, and appointed the plague commissioners to carry out her wishes. That the plague had already commenced, and that the gaunt figure of famine had already begun to stalk through the land before this incident took place does not seem to have made the slightest difference to those who believe that Her Majesty is responsible for all the evils that have fallen upon her subjects in India. The recurrence of the plague at this time, while not wholly unexpected, adds to India's woes and gives rise to grave fears for the future. Abundant rains have fallen, so that the crops for another year are practically assured, but the want and distress of the past few months will, it is feared, result in further outbreaks of pestilence. Cholera is reported in several localities in southern India, and if it goes northward will find easy victims. On the other hand, the war with the hill tribes is sure to be brought to a speedy and satisfactory close, though the quelling of different forms of sedition throughout the land will not be soon or easily accomplished.

We may well ask the question, what lessons are there for us in all these visitations. One, is the old lesson, *et cetera* brought to our notice, that if we would have health we must pay attention to the laws of sanitation. Greater care must be taken in keeping the larger towns under the rule of sanitary laws. Thousands of rupees spent in purifying a town is no loss. Jaffna is said to be far ahead of most towns in having clean streets, but it will not do to be indifferent or careless even in Jaffna. There are foul spots that need attention. A stricter supervision of the houses and yards would not be amiss. We read that Bombay is to spend an immense amount of money in sanitary measures. How many lives and how much property would have been saved, in all human probability, had this been done two years ago. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

There is a lesson here also for the ruling classes. All the dissatisfaction that prevails is not due simply to prejudice and ill-temper. Where there is so much smoke there must be fire, and testimony is not wanting to prove that there has been a great lack of fair and kind treatment of those under them, on the part of the rulers. The times are changing. Education and civilization are making the Hindu a man with all the rights of a man. The time is past when he should be treated as an inferior person, to be looked down upon and contemned. His aspirations for self-government should be recognized and encouraged, but guided into the right channels. A little of the conciliatory spirit would go a long way towards restoring confidence and good-will.

There is still another lesson, and it is the most important of them all. India has yet to learn that no nation will become truly great which leaves out God from its counsels. The repeated rejection of Jehovah as their God and King will call down the punishment of heaven upon the nation. The nation that is not governed by truth and righteousness is hastening to its own destruction. We need a Jeremiah to go through the length and breadth of the land proclaiming the awful judgments of an insulted God. Pestilence, famine, war, He alone can avert. If India persists in refusing to obey His voice, if India slight His warnings, its doom is sealed. The nation fearing God is the one He will exalt; the one despising Him and trampling upon His infinite love, will never become great.

THE ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

As we go to press the annual convocation of the churches in the American mission field, is being held in the church at Ulvelil. The sub-

jects and speakers are as follows:—"Special features of the work of the American Board in the past year," by Rev. S. Abraham; "The open doors for Christian work as a result of the famine and plague in India," by Proctor Carpenter; "The completion of the first 50 years of labor of the Native Evangelical Society and the outlook for the future," by Mr. P. L. Christian; "The educational work of the A. B. C. F. M. and the relation of Higher education to missionary work," by Rev. Wm. Joseph; and "Our duty to the non-Christians in our midst and at our door," by Rev. T. S. Smith. Directly after this session will come the Lord's Supper, Dr. Scott and Rev. S. Veerakutty officiating. The above subjects are all important ones, and are sure to be presented in an interesting and profitable manner.

As many of our readers are aware, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions is holding its 88th annual meeting this week. The first session was to be opened at 3 p. m. on Tuesday the 12th inst., and the closing meeting will be tomorrow (Friday) at noon. This year the meeting is being held at New Haven the seat of Yale University where Mr. Frank Sanders for sometime a professor in Jaffna College, is holding an important chair on its staff of instructors. It is expected that the meetings will be largely attended, and that a number of missionaries will be present. No doubt plans will be discussed as to the best way of meeting the financial difficulties. It is feared that the year has closed with some debt, though how much we have not yet heard, and it would be no more than natural that the financial question should occupy much of the thought and time of the principal supporters of the Board. But with reviving trade and increasing prosperity in America, there seems no valid reason why there should not be a full treasury in the coming year.

It has been said that the greatly beloved President of the Board will resign from the position that he has so long and so acceptably filled. It is to be hoped that this is not true, for it would be exceedingly difficult to find a successor who would command the confidence of all the churches, such as Dr. Storrs has enjoyed.

It is stated also that Mr. Mott who with Mr. Wilder held the Y. M. C. A. convention at Batticotta two years ago, is to be one of the principal speakers at the public meetings. Others in whom we of Jaffna are specially interested will also be present and take part. That the meetings may be productive in arousing greater interest in the foreign mission work, is our earnest prayer.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

We give below some additional extracts from the article in the "Record" headed "The expansion during the Queen's reign." In our last issue we took up expansion measured by circulation and income. In this reference is made to the improvement and multiplication of versions. This is the month when the General Committee of the Auxiliary Bible Society meets and hears reports of the year's work and when also the public meeting is held in town, and we feel sure that many will appreciate the articles that have appeared in these two issues of the *Star* concerning the growth of the parent Society during the Victorian period.

EXPANSION AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE IMPROVEMENT AND MULTIPLICATION OF VERSIONS OF THE SCRIPTURES, 1837-1864.

The expansion of the Society's work, as measured by its efforts in the translation and revision of versions of the Word of God, offers a yet more striking proof of the progress in the last sixty years. There are other Bible Societies in Great Britain and in America. It is not in forgetfulness of these that this Society, in their name and in its own, calls attention to what has in these days been done to provide men with the Scriptures, and primarily to the share which itself has taken in this work. Much had been done before 1837. In India, as we have seen, great efforts had been made. At home and on the Continent, busy and wise hands were seeking to press on to men as intelligible and authoritative message from God. But elsewhere it was not so. China was closely shut up in itself; so, too, was Japan. The Corea, with its millions, was hardly spoken of. The veil was but recently lifted that concealed the islands of the Pacific; it was not lifted from the interior of Africa at all. Even in Europe not only were there countries in which the Bible might not be circulated, but there were still countries that practically had no Bible. It has been the high privilege of this Society, and it has been the distinctive feature of these sixty years, to provide for East and West alike, for North and South, for the nations whose reckoning is by hundreds of millions, as well as for the scanty groups without a future (except in the world to come), the words of Eternal Life and to find itself blessed in its deed. The sum total of this work is but insufficiently stated when the claim is made that in sixty years it has produced 200 translations of the Scriptures, some of which some larger or smaller part of the Sacred Canon. These would yet remain to be recorded, if human

industry could accomplish it, the efforts, some of them repeated twice, some three times, and others even more, to improve the earlier versions by the latest light, to provide advancing native Churches with better renderings of the Word of God. These are the tests by which its work will eventually be tried; this is its chief claim, upon the Christian Church its claim for the help of scholars, its claims for the larger contributions of the thoughtfulness, for the self-denying offerings of the faithful poor.

Now, as we turn over the Society's records to watch the progress by which these hopes were realized, we are struck, as so often afterwards, by the patience of their hope. Versions come slowly to the birth, and even then some do not grow. First comes, in 1837, the *Handbook*, the first fruits of the Negro group of West African languages. It has had no career. As it stood in the Report for 1839, so it stands to-day. Five hundred copies of St. Matthew were printed in 1838. Robert McBair, a Wesleyan missionary, was the translator. Yet it deserves mention; it is the first of the two hundred. Seven years later the next African language comes into the list, it is the *Accra* or *Ga*. It was begun by one man and finished by another. We hear of it first in 1844; we find the complete Bible ready in 1866. In 1837 also, a version of the Bible in a South American language, Quichua, comes into the list, in broad and free imagination the *Sovereign's* field. It carries back the mind to the times of Peru. For three or four years this name appeared in the Report. It then disappeared, but found its way back, after forty years, in 1880. As early as 1825 the translation existed in manuscript. Herein is patience.

In 1842 Fiji comes into the Society's list. A single Gospel, the herald of the Sacred Volume, was printed in Fiji in 1840. Then, in 1847, the New Testament. An edition printed in England was sent out in 1854, and the whole Bible in 1865.

Two years pass, and no new version appears. Then, in 1847, Transcaucasian Tatar and Dyak bear witness to missionary enterprise. Then follow two more silent years, and then expansion begins in earnest.

In 1850, Yoruba appears—the language of a people who have provided a fruitful missionary field, and have in this year of Jubilee come more largely under British rule. Now also appears the Suto, for a field as fruitful in the South of Africa as the Yoruba country in the West.

Strong's *Panorama*, 1854-1863. Then, in 1854, appears St. John in Cree language, reviving the memory of the work of Eliot for the Mohawks, and Brainerd for the Delaware; recalling the fact, too, that the Society's first effort in a new language was for an Indian tribe, the Mohawks, in 1881.

Half a century had now passed, and the work amongst the Indians was taken up again, never to be quite dropped until all the Indian nations to the very verge of the eternal West should have the Word of God in their hands. Then, in 1847, without observation, the important Hausa, the commercial language of a large part of Western Africa, comes into the catalogue, and five years later, in 1852, in civil science, the Swahili, the *lingua franca* of Eastern Africa, creeps into the list in which before very long it was destined to take so important and influential a place; uniting the names of Rehnman and of Steere.

Then, in the East Indies, the list, stationary for some years, begins to lengthen again, on the East and on the West. Sindhi (1860), marking the mending of an old thread, and Santali (1868) the spinning of a new one. This last version brings into view the aboriginal people of the hills. Two Chinese "colloquial" versions, in 1867, point to advancing knowledge of the popular speech in Southern China, and to a nearer approach to the Chinese people; and earlier in time, viz. in 1861 and 1865 respectively, Savage Island (Nine) and Bromanga speak, each in its place, of the power of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to dispel the terror that in the first case, threatened the life of the great navigator, Captain Cook, and in the second, sacrificed the life of the great missionary, John Williams. Thus in the second division of the sixty years of Bible Society work, more clearly, more extensively, and in a great variety of countries than before, do the boundaries of the great vineyard enlarge. The note of the second period even more than that of the first is the note of expansion. But there were in store greater things even than these.

THIRD PERIOD, 1869-1897.

It is in this third and last period that the Bible Society's work has chiefly stretched to its present expansion, till on all sides it meets with reluctant or enthusiastic recognition. In the Report for 1870 the list of versions stands at 103. The true reckoning was 191, for two Gallia dialects not sufficiently distinct to claim a separate existence were included in the reckoning that one year. Starting then, with 191, in 1870, the list reaches 200 in the following year. For the next five years the average increase is two versions a year, and then follows a series of years in which, with one apparent exception, the number is augmented yearly by new versions never fewer than five, and occasionally by as many as eight or even ten. During the past ten years, in which it has happened twice that only a single new translation has been added, the average addition of new translations has amounted to six for every year.

FOREIGN NEWS.

INDIA. The rains have been heavy and serious damage done to the South Indian Railway. Over a hundred lives were lost in the R. R. accident mentioned in our last issue. Affairs are still very much unsettled in the North west, and one or two quite serious engagements have taken place. The plague has broken out again at Kurrumch, and is increasing in Poona and vicinity. A Brahmin has been arrested and confessed to the murder of Mr. Rand and Mr. Ayerst, and with the aid of accomplices also to the tarring of the Queen's statue at Bombay as well as other crimes.

GREECE. The crisis at Athens continues. The Government was defeated in a vote of confidence, and the Premier has resigned. M. Zaimis has been summoned to form a new ministry. The new Cabinet has produced an excellent impression.

ENGLAND. Typhoid fever is raging in the county of Kent. Twelve hundred cases have occurred within a fortnight.

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