

new interest to my work, and each month leaves me contented and happy in my African home. I love the people. I love my children [she has charge of the girls' school at one of the stations.] I love to feel myself at home. What I need besides, is more love for my Saviour, more devotion for the cause in which he spent a life-time, less thought for earthly things and more for heavenly. It is easy to write thus; not so easy to feel it."

SOUTH AMERICA.—We have received letters from Bogota, dated October 15th, and from Rio de Janeiro, dated to October 1st. At Rio a growing interest is manifested in Mr. Simonton's services, and one person is spoken of by Mr. Blackford as giving "every evidence of being an humble and earnest believer in Jesus, and I think would like soon to unite with us by a profession of his faith. At least one other of similar character, I think, would take the same step." Mr. Simonton and Mr. Blackford both refer to the valuable services of a colporteur, in various ways, and they mention particulars which we do not publish, but which show that they have good reason to be encouraged in their work. Nearly the same remark may be made concerning Mr. McLaren's work in Bogota. He mentions the hopeful conversion of a man during his last illness, whose life had been a singular history. His being rescued "from the lowest depths of degradation" at the eleventh hour, was a signal encouragement to Mr. McLaren in his ministry. Of the political prospects of the country, and of the door open for missionary labor, this letter gives still favourable accounts.

Sailing of Missionaries.

The Rev. J. S. Roberts and his wife, Rev. Samuel C. George and his wife, Rev. Levi Janvier, D. D., and his wife, and Miss Catharine L. Beatty, sailed from New York on the 26th of October, in the steamer *Po Yang*. Mr. Roberts is a member of the Presbytery of New York, and will proceed in the steamer to Shanghai, and thence to Ningpo, China. Mr. George is a member of the Presbytery of Alleghany City, and his field of labour

is Siam. He will leave the steamer at Singapore, and go on from that place to Bangkok in a sailing vessel. The other three members of this company will also leave the steamer at Singapore, and sail thence to Calcutta, on their way to the Lodian Mission, to which Miss Beatty has been appointed as a teacher, and Mr. and Mrs. Janvier are returning, with health much improved by their visit to this country.—On the 30th of October, the Rev. Francis J. C. Schneider, of the Presbytery of Ohio, sailed from New York in the barque *P. C. Warwick*, for Rio de Janeiro. His station, it is expected, will be in the southern part of Brazil, where he can at once engage in missionary work among the German settlers, and complete his preparation for preaching in Portuguese among the natives of the country. We ask for these missionary friends an interest in the prayers of our readers.

Gifts and Prayer

IN BEHALF OF MISSIONS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WE wish to recall to the notice of our clerical readers the action of the last General Assembly, in asking the churches to make pecuniary offerings in aid of foreign missions, and to observe a season of special prayer for this object from the 5th to the 11th of January next. This recommendation of a season of special prayer needs no remark here; all understand the subject, and we trust appreciate its importance. The Sessions of churches are left without suggestions from the Assembly as to the manner of observing it, but timely consideration will readily show what is advisable in each congregation.

As to the recommendation by the Assembly of pecuniary gifts, two practical points of great moment are specified: 1. That *all the churches* should make con-