

advised to make in an English steamer, so as to enjoy medical care, would prove of great benefit to him. From Corisco, our advices are of but a few days' later date than the letters acknowledged last month. The Rev. W. H. Clark and his wife embarked at this port on the ship *Greyhound*, on the 16th inst., returning to Corisco. Their two young children accompany them. The prayers of our readers are requested for their safe voyage and continued usefulness in the work of missions.

SOUTH AMERICA.—We have received letters from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 8th, and from Bogota, New Granada, December 16th. Mr. Blackford mentions the admission to the church in Rio de Janeiro of six new members, all of them on profession of their faith—one American, three Brazilians, and one Portuguese, besides a gentleman of education and influence, to whom the missionaries will probably refer more particularly hereafter. Mr. Blackford is anxious to have an allowance of \$200 made in aid of a school at Sao Paulo, which he thinks will be an important means of doing good.

Financial.

THE receipts to the 1st of January are from Churches, \$55,843; from Miscellaneous, \$45,322;* from Legacies, \$27,695—making in all \$128,861. Last year, to the same date, the corresponding returns were \$34,625; \$24,887; \$17,026—in all, \$76,539. The increase, this year, is \$52,321. The collections now coming in for this month, January, also show thus far a good degree of increase. It is now evident, however, that the *extra* sum of about \$95,000, called for in the special appeal of the Executive Committee, to be contributed by the churches and miscellaneous donors, will not be obtained by the 1st of February. The plan of

* It should be stated, that of the \$45,322, above, the sum of \$11,500 was paid by a respected aged member of the church, which was intended to have been left as a bequest; this was not in response to the call for special funds.

making personal applications for special gifts to a selected number of persons in each congregation, which was suggested by the Committee, has been successful in every case in which it has been tried—so far as we have heard; but we have reason to believe that it has not been adopted in the great majority of the congregations. Many of our ministers and sessions have considered it to be a better method, to use measures for increasing the usual annual collections; and in a number of examples reported to the treasurer, this method has been attended with remarkable success. We may instance a church in the Synod of New Jersey, giving this year over \$1,200, instead of less than \$500 last year; another church in the same Synod, \$400, instead of \$100; a church in the Synod of Philadelphia, over \$1,000, instead of \$703; another church in the same Synod, over \$200, instead of \$73; and numerous others—these are cited as they happen to occur to us while penning these lines. We regret to add that in numerous cases, there is little or no increase; and in cases not a few, deplorable as it will be, no action will probably be taken.

We are glad to report on the whole such an encouraging advance. And we are glad to hope, and almost to believe, that the whole amount needed will be obtained before the mission year ends, on the 30th of April. But in order to this, all the members of our congregations should send in their gifts, as *the Lord has prospered them*. We plead for this in behalf of our Saviour's cause, and in the interest of multitudes perishing for lack of vision.

We are called on, indeed, to go forward in our missionary work, and not to rest content with supporting the missions as they now stand. And our prayer is that by God's blessing on the discipline

these children the advantages of our best farmers' families in regard to industry and social habits, and our advantages for doing this are very great.

The mission building, 100 by 40 feet, and three stories high, affords ample accommodation to pupils and teachers, while our large and fertile farm gives full scope for teaching the varied duties of the farm, the garden, the dairy and the kitchen. While the boys have been using the plow, the hoe, or the axe, their sisters have not been idle, but, under Miss Lilly's direction, have taken the entire care of their own rooms and clothing. They have assisted Miss Rubeti in ironing and mending the boys' clothing; or under Mrs. Robertson's guidance, cheerfully performed the various duties of the kitchen and dining-room.

But manual labour has not been permitted to interfere with mental culture, and under Miss Hamilton's faithful and efficient instruction, most of her pupils have made commendable progress in their studies. Two Sioux girls, from the plains, who spoke no English when admitted to the school a year ago, are now able to write intelligible English letters to their father.

But while efforts to confer upon these children the temporal blessings of civilized life have met with marked success, they have not been regarded as the great end and object of our labour. We have sought, by giving line upon line and precept upon precept, to train them up in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord," and we have met with much to encourage us. The children generally have been attentive to the exercises of family worship, the Sabbath-school and sanctuary. In January one of the small boys died after a brief illness. After the funeral one of the girls, Lizzie McCloskey, who for some time had given pleasing evidence of a change of heart, having expressed the wish to be baptized, the elder pupils gathered around the bedside of their dying companion to witness her public profession of faith. She lingered a few days, and then fell asleep in Jesus, almost her last words being, in reply to the question, "Do you know Jesus?" "Oh! yes, I know him, I know him." Her companions felt that her end was peace, and wished that their end might be like hers.

Since then there has been increased thoughtfulness among our children, and we trust that some are seeking the kingdom of heaven.

During our brief sojourn here the most trying duty devolved upon us by the Church, whose agents we are, has been refusing the many applicants for admission, and leaving them in heathenism, Romanism or infidelity. When will the Church be aroused to her responsibilities and privileges in regard to the Heathen world? What Christian but must wish to aid in diffusing the temporal blessings which always attend the progress of the Gospel, and in supplying that bread of life, of which, if a man eat, he shall live for ever in the paradise of God?

W. S. ROBERTSON.

Mission in Brazil, 1864.

ANNUAL REPORT: DATED AT RIO DE JANEIRO, FEB. 7TH, 1865.

OUR work in this great empire, whose area is little less than that of the United States and all their territories, is limited to three stations. One of these is Rio de Janeiro, the capital of the empire and of the province of the same name; and the other two are in the neighboring province of Sao Paulo—Rev. A. L. Blackford being located in the city of Sao Paulo, and Rev. F. J. C. Schneider in a town of the interior named Sao Joao de Rio Claro.

Rio Claro is within a few hours' ride of several German Colonies, in four of which Brother Schneider holds regular religious services in the German language. Fully one-half of these colonists are nominal Protestants, and have no one to care for them or their children except Mr. Schneider. An experience of more than two years proves that it is a difficult work to do them good. Besides the natural indifference and opposition of heart common to all who have not the truth, the great obstacle in Brother Schneider's way is his refusal to administer the sacraments without regard to the fitness of applicants. It was hoped the opposition and irritation produced by his quiet persistence in exacting a credible profession of faith as a condition to admission to these privileges, would be gradually overcome in the case of those who came under his personal influence.

Such hopes have not yet been realized in the case of any considerable number of these poor colonists. They cannot understand that a pastor has any other mission than to marry, baptize, administer the Lord's Supper; and one who marries, but will not administer the sacraments, is absolutely incomprehensible. Yet Brother Schneider is scattering the seed in many hearts, and great and good results of his patient labour may appear when we are least expecting them.

In the city of Sao Paulo regular services in the Portuguese language have been maintained, consisting of weekly meetings for the preaching of the Word and for prayer, and during part of the year, for Sunday-school instruction. The growth in the attendance upon all these services is quite encouraging, and Bro. Blackford reckons among his hearers four or five persons who evidence the converting work of God's Spirit. Here is a fresh demonstration that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation when lovingly preached. Brother Blackford has not limited himself to the city of Sao Paulo. Besides visiting at different times colonies near the city, he has made more extended trips into the interior of the province, putting in circulation copies of the Scriptures and of other religious books. The result of this work would furnish an interesting report if it were thought best to publish them. The experience gained in this way confirms opinions repeatedly expressed as to the hopefulness of this field of missionary labor.

In the review of what has transpired at this station during the past year, grief and gratitude are strangely mingled. God has made me to sit down and weep under the shadow of a great bereavement. In the death of my dear wife, which occurred June 27th, I was by one blow bereaved of the light of my heart and my home, and of my only helper at this station. He alone who has been afflicted, knows either the severity of the blow or the measure of grace and strength for the exercise of true submission under it.

In the conduct of the work here, and in the success achieved, there is ground for gratitude for the past and encouragement for the future. The services mentioned in former reports have suffered no

interruption. During nearly the whole year, three Sabbath services were held, and one weekly meeting. One of the Sabbath's was for the benefit of the English-speaking population; all the rest are conducted in the Portuguese language. On December 4th, this English service was discontinued in consequence of the press of other duties. It had been continued, with few interruptions, for more than four years, and with clear proofs of the Divine blessing. It was with mutual regret that this little band of English and Americans and our mission dissolved connection with each other.

Marked attention has been given to the preaching of the Word, and repeatedly the place of service was so crowded that all could not be accommodated with seats. Twelve persons have been received on profession of their faith, of whom all are converts from Romanism, except two, who are English. Six children have been baptized, and as many marriages celebrated. Upon the list of our native church there are now thirty-three names, and it is with gratitude that I can bear witness to the general consistency of their Christian life.

Among the new accessions, there is one whose case gives us the liveliest joy and hope. I refer to the priest, of whom mention has been already made as one whose talents and character make him a fit instrument for good to his countrymen. He had long been convinced that the Church of Rome was corrupt, and was striving as he could to preach evangelical truths, and on this account had made himself loved by the people, and with equal heartiness disliked by the authorities of the Church. When Brother Blackford was led to visit him, and to inform him of the beginning of an evangelical movement in Brazil, the door was open that he had long waited for.

In order to widen our influence, and reach many who do not attend the preaching of the Word, a bi-monthly religious journal was begun in November called *Imprensa Evangelica* or *Evangelical Press*. Its success is beyond expectations. If properly sustained and made a weekly, it will prove a powerful auxiliary.

More opposition has been developed, which is another proof that progress has been made. The signs are hopeful. Either the Gospel or Infidelity must win

the day. The Papacy and progress are more and more seen to be at war with each other. The great danger is that the nations be flattered and deceived by the false progress which is divorced from the virtue and morality and piety inculcated alone in God's Word, and produced alone by his regenerating Spirit.

Corisco Mission in 1863-4.

INTRODUCTORY MISSION REPORT.

THE year has been one of unusual care and labour, with a painful sense of responsibility, and somewhat of dark foreboding of the future.

We began with only four white labourers, viz. : Mr. and Mrs. Mackey, Mrs. McQueen and myself. The labour was great, because we attempted to keep all the stations and usual operations of the mission in order and progress as when our numbers were full. This we, with the excellent health with which all (except Mr. Mackey) were blest, succeeded in doing for a while. Even he, with an affliction of his eyes that sometimes blinded him for hours, or for days prevented reading or writing, and then left him weak, pressed on with the handfuls of work that fell to his lot. This apparent amaurotic affection was superseded by pleurisy which continued for months. By his state of health our fear was much excited; and our faith was tried by the very long delay in the coming of food and other supplies from America. These latter came finally on the 10th of February.

But at the same time the Spaniards began a station on this island near Evangasimba, and a priest followed and put up a framed house. These things have caused us many misgivings; but thus far there has been no direct interference with us, and all our intercourse with the Spanish has been amicable.

Mr. Mackey's disease deepening to pneumonia, we urged him to return to America. This, in our fewness, he could not do. Rev. George Paull arrived on the 6th of May, and taking Mr. Mackey's place, the latter felt that longer residence here would be fatal, and left for America on the 23d of May, 1864.

Again we were reduced to four; vain was the help of man. There was much in the work to depress. The flourishing mainland prospects were reduced by the declension of one native labourer and by the suspension of another. Many of the church members fell into sin, and left off coming to church. A mercenary spirit seemed to prevail. The influx of Spanish money drew away many people. A scarcity of native food made much difficulty in sustaining the schools. Our secular employees became restless and uneasy, desiring to go off into trade; and Andëki, just before the death of his father in the first week of July, abandoned Ugobi, leaving a scattered school and an almost ruined station, and remained in town for more than a month in the midst of funeral ceremonies that occasioned much fear for his consistency. Even Alongo station seemed to totter when, in the last of July, Ibia asked to send the pupils back to their homes that he might rest a foot that for months had been lame with ulcers. He continued, however, at his post, and the school was not disbanded, a native Christian young man being placed there to assist him.

Yet the Lord left us not without signs of his blessing, for there were added to the church during the year seven on the profession of their faith, and at all the stations and out-stations there were other inquirers. And just as we close the year our hearts are delighted by the arrival of a goodly missionary company on September 25th, viz. : Mrs. Clemens, after an absence of four years; Mr. and Mrs. De Heer, the former after an absence of two years, the latter arriving for the first time; and Mrs. Nassau, after an absence of one year. Thus strengthened, we look to another year with less anxious hearts, not doubting that God has a great work to be done in this region of coast, and feeling that he will soon make an open way into the interior, for by many strong indications of his providence he is directing our labour and residence to the mainland.

The special reports of labour at the several schools and preaching stations are presented by the brethren having had charge of them during the year.

R. HAMILI NASSAU.

CORISCO, W. A., Sept. 30, 1864.