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fully on the usual kinds of missionary work. In the meantime, Mr. McLaren has conducted public worship in English, which has been attended with encouraging results. An example of conversion at the eleventh hour was of remarkable interest. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered in November last, when a church was constituted consisting of six members; it was expected that some others would be received at the next communion.

The future course of this mission seems at present likely to be much influenced by the success or the defeat of the Liberal party in the state; not much encouragement could be expected, even if toleration were granted, under the government if controlled by Jesuit counsels. The danger now apparently most imminent is that the ignorant masses of the people, at the instigation of bigotted priests, may be excited to a fanatical opposition to the Liberal government. If this should not be the case, it would still seem doubtful whether a settled state of public affairs will soon be witnessed; but there are men of enlightened views in the country, who understand its evils, and who understand also, in some degree, their remedy. Commercial interests, moreover, will always advocate the restoration of order and peace. But whatever may be the issue of the existing troubles, the Church of Christ must be ready to enter such doors as are open, and to make the gospel known to many or to few, as opportunity may permit. The leaven of gospel truth may be implanted in very limited measure, indeed the kingdom of God does not often come with observation, and in most missionary fields the missionaries must be content to pursue their great work amongst small congregations, in the face of opposition; but they pursue it in the exercise of faith—knowing that in the end success is sure.

MISSION IN BRAZIL.

RIO DE JANEIRO.—Rev. Ashbel G. Simonton, Rev. Alexander L. Blackford and his wife.—SAN PAULO.—Rev. Francis J. C. Schneider.

This mission has been marked with tokens of the favour of God during the last year. The brethren have enjoyed good health, and have been engaged in their work without interruption. Their number has been increased by the arrival of Mr. Schneider on the 7th of December. His station at San Paulo, or at some place in that vicinity, was chosen with reference to the settlements of German immigrants in the southern part of the empire. He will be able at once to seek the salvation of these neglected people, many of whom are Protestants; but he will learn the Portuguese language with a

view to missionary labours amongst the Brazilians as his main sphere of duty. His work among the Germans will be essentially missionary, as they are mostly very poor. It is considered a matter of much moment that they should be brought under the power of the gospel; their habits of industry, thrift, and energy will give them great influence eventually over the less enterprising natives of the country.

Mr. Blackford has not yet had time to learn the language of the country thoroughly, but he is already able to engage in missionary work. "With the double purpose," it is stated in the report of the mission, "of making more rapid progress in the Portuguese language, and of furthering the dissemination of the Bible and Tracts, he took a journey into the province of Minas, leaving Rio early in November last, and remaining absent a couple of months. He met personally with kindness on the part of the people, and was able to put into circulation a number of Tracts and a few copies of the Sacred Scriptures. Perhaps Minas is the most important province in the empire, partly on account of its extent and natural advantages of various kinds, but principally because of the industry and energy of its population. Mr. Blackford saw, however, many proofs of the slavish subjection of the people to their priests, and of the hostility of this class to the gospel of the grace of Christ." These men are described as feared, rather than respected or loved. An example is mentioned of their successful opposition a few years ago to an agent of the Bible Society, and of the burning of Bibles "which dared to say blasphemously that Jesus Christ was the Primogenito instead of the Unigenito of Mary."

In the early part of the year Mr. Simonton completed the tour in the southern part of the country, which was referred to in the last Annual Report, and of which an interesting account was published in the *Record*. He was able on this journey to distribute some copies of the Scriptures and to make arrangements for their further circulation, as well as to acquire valuable information for the use of the mission. After his return to the capital, Mr. Simonton resumed his work of religious instruction among the natives as opportunity permitted, and English preaching was kept up by the brethren. The number of persons in attendance at any of these services was never large. The day has not yet come when large congregations can be collected to hear the preaching of the gospel, but some doors are nevertheless open for declaring the truth as it is in Jesus, and some hearts have also been opened to receive the love of the truth that they might be saved. The brethren say in their report:

“On the 12th of January, the Sabbath occurring at the close of the Concert for Prayer, we organized a mission church, receiving to our communion two persons on profession of their faith. One of these is an American merchant, whose conversion is a pleasing token of God’s favour upon our English service; and the other is a young man, a native of Portugal, but long a resident of Brazil, who gives good promise of usefulness in bringing others of his countrymen to the faith of the gospel. . . . One or two others would probably have made an open profession of their faith, had they not been hindered by opposing circumstances.”

The missionaries have under their direction a colporteur, who is supported by the British and Foreign Bible Society, whose labours have been useful. They speak of “a wide and inviting field of usefulness open to them in the free Press of this country,” through which access may be gained to the public mind; and “there is great need of printing and circulating suitable religious Tracts, and of creating a religious literature in the Portuguese language.” With a better knowledge of the language, and a larger supply of funds, they will be able to do their part in this province of Christian duty.

This brief statement of the work in progress and in contemplation, will serve to show that there is in Brazil an important field of missionary labour. This is the opinion of the brethren on the ground. They say, “We feel authorized to speak encouragingly of our work. The experience of the past year may be said to have solved, in a satisfactory manner, all reasonable doubts respecting the possibility or the expediency of missionary labour in Brazil. It has been proved, greatly to our joy, that the liberal Constitution of the empire will receive a liberal interpretation, and in addition, a practical enforcement to an extent that augurs well for the future. Not only in the capital, but also in one of the northern provinces, where a most estimable missionary [of another church] is labouring, the people are being familiarized to a system of religious toleration uncommonly simple and broad in its provisions. When the extent of the empire and the stability of its government are recollected, so satisfactory a solution of the question of religious freedom is of encouragement.”

There are difficulties, and these may become greater than they are now, in the presence of numerous ecclesiastics of a fallen church, and their power over ignorant people, such as constitute the greater part of the population; and perhaps still more in the general prevalence of indifference to all matters of spiritual and eternal concern. The god of this world will not surrender his place and power without a con-

test. But mightier is He who has sent forth these few missionaries than all the powers of the Evil One, and his kingdom shall yet be established over all this vast empire.

Missions in Western Africa.

LIBERIA MISSION.

MONROVIA.—Rev. Amos Herring; Mr. B. V. R. James, teacher of the English school; Rev. Edward Blyden, Principal of the Alexander High School; Rev. Edwin T. Williams, in this country.

KENTUCKY.—Rev. H. W. Erskine; Mr. James Evans.

HARRISBURG.—Simon Harrison, licentiate preacher; F. A. Melville, teacher in native boarding-school.

MOUNT COFFEE.—Rev. Armistead Miller.

SINOUE.—Rev. James M. Priest; Mrs. Mary Parsons, teacher.

SETTRA KRU.—Washington McDonogh, teacher.

NIFFAU.—Rev. Thomas H. Amos, Rev. James R. Amos.

MONROVIA.—Mr. Williams' health has not permitted his return to Liberia, though it has somewhat improved. Although his connection with the Board is still continued, he is at no expense to it. His former labors in Africa were greatly blessed, and his anxious desire is to return and resume them.

The church reports no addition for the last year—the number of members still continuing at fifty-four. The sabbath-school has forty scholars, a part of whom are the re-captured Africans.

The English school, taught by Mr. James, contains sixty pupils, and is reported as in good operation, and the scholars making respectable progress.

The Alexander High School has been conducted with the usual efficiency. As mentioned in the last annual report, Mr. Blyden was allowed a few months' vacation, during which he visited England, Scotland, and the United States. The school, in the meantime, was under the care of M. M. Witherspoon, a former pupil of the school—a good classical scholar, with a fair knowledge of the different branches of mathematics. The various studies have been pursued with the usual success—the number of scholars varying from twelve to fifteen. No young men in any institution of learning, perhaps, can be more diligent in their studies and in their desire to obtain a thorough education. The difficulty of obtaining scholarships induces those who are so privileged to make the best use of their advantages.

The Rev. Edward W. Blyden, after several years' service as principal of the Alexander High School, resigned his connec-