

THE

Twenty-Sixth Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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ence at all in a Roman Catholic country, is a token for good; a few years ago, Protestant ministers would not have been tolerated at Bogota. To some extent the power of Rome is under restraint, as shown not only by this toleration of missionaries, but still more clearly by the exile of the Jesuits, the transfer of large landed property from the "dead hand" of the church to the use of the state, and the withdrawal of government favour to a considerable extent from the priests and nuns. The toleration of free discussion, at least in some degree, the progress of enlightened public opinion, and the recent termination of the civil war—leaving the door still open for missionary labours, are things to be considered as favourable to the introduction of the gospel. To these may be added the many prayers offered by the churches in behalf of this particular mission, and above all the promises of the word of God concerning the spread of the gospel in the world. The Committee, therefore, express their conviction that this mission ought to be maintained, and prosecuted in the faith and hope of success.

#### MISSION IN BRAZIL.

RIO DE JANEIRO.—Rev. Alexander L. Blackford and his wife. In this country, Rev. Ashbel G. Simonton and his wife.

SAN PAULO.—Rev. Francis J. C. Schneider.

Mr. Simonton arrived in this country on a visit in May, and expects to embark on his return with Mrs. Simonton in two or three weeks. Messrs. Blackford and Schneider were occupied with labours of the same kind as were described in the report of last year. These labours they were able to fulfil without any hinderance, and with marked evidence of usefulness.

The English service at Rio was discontinued, as imposing too heavy a burden on the missionary. It was the means of doing good, and it probably will be resumed, though not under the direct charge of the mission. The Portuguese service has been kept up, and the attendance considerably increased. Earnest heed is given to the word preached. In the report of the mission it is stated, that "at each communion season, applications have been made for church privileges, and of these applicants several have given such clear evidence of a change of heart that they have been joyfully admitted to membership in the Church of Christ." The number thus admitted was eight. The example of these communicants has been happy in extending the influence of the mission amongst their own people. A colporteur supported by the British and Foreign Bible Society, under the direction of the missionaries, and another during part of the year, supported by the Board, were usefully employed. They found many opportunities of circulating the sacred scriptures, and of pointing their countrymen to the Saviour of sinners.

Mr. Schneider's work is in the province of Sao Paulo. His station, most of the year, was at Sao Joao de Rio Claro, a convenient point from which to visit several settlements of Germans. These settle-

ments contain from ten to a hundred families each, the larger part of whom are nominally Protestants. They have been sadly neglected heretofore, "living without church or educational privileges," and "ignorance, immorality, indifference, and infidelity have proved in most cases effectual hindrances to their conversion." In most respects they differ little from their Catholic countrymen, and both classes stand in much need of missionary labours. Mr. Schneider has indeed met with discouragements, as was to have been expected, and yet he has been permitted to preach the gospel to many of the Germans, and by example as well as by precept to point their minds to the things that are of supreme importance. It should be considered that these German settlers form a permanent part of the population of Brazil, and one which will exert an increasing influence in that country. Mr. Schneider has also given some attention to the study of the Portuguese language, in order to be able to preach the gospel amongst the native Brazilians, as opportunity may serve.

During his visit in this country Mr. Simonton superintended the printing of a revised edition of the Shorter Catechism in Portuguese, at the expense of the Board. He has in preparation a course of expository lectures or commentary on one of the gospels, which he hopes to publish at an early day. There is nothing of this kind in the Portuguese language. Indeed, the field of effort through the press is almost boundless. An evangelical literature in this language is yet to be created.

In a general view, the missionary work in Brazil encounters obstacles from human nature, as everywhere else, from ignorance, immorality, and worldliness, and from Romanism, which, however, has there less than its usual hold of the public mind. On the other hand, the liberal policy of the Government in a good degree opens the door for evangelizing labours. Perhaps in no other Roman Catholic country are the people less prejudiced against the gospel. And in no other have more encouraging "first fruits" of the harvest been so early gathered. These are weighty reasons for the vigorous and hopeful prosecution of the work which is set before the Church of Christ in Brazil.

## Missions in Western Africa.

### LIBERIA MISSION.

MONROVIA.—Rev. Amos Herring; Mr. B. V. R. James, teacher of the English school; Mr. M. M. Witherspoon, principal of Alexander High School.

KENTUCKY.—Rev. H. W. Erskine; Mr. J. Deputie, teacher.

HARRISBURG.—Rev. James R. Amos; Simon Harrison, licentiate preacher; Mr. F. A. Melville, teacher of the native school.

MOUNT COFFEE.—Rev. Armistead Miller.

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

SETTRA KRU.—Mr. Washington McDonogh, teacher.

NIFFAU.—Rev. Thomas H. Amos.