

THE
Thirtieth Annual Report
OF THE
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MAY, 1867.

New York:
MISSION HOUSE, 23 CENTRE STREET
1867.

sowing rather than reaping. A boys' school was opened the first of the year. As no appropriation had been made by the Board for this agency, the scholars were required to pay for their instruction. This limited the number. The progress made by those who attended regularly was very encouraging. Though under the supervision of Mr. Wallace, the principal part of the teaching was done by one of the young men, who made a profession of faith two years ago. In this school the Bible has a place.

The British and Foreign Bible Society have withdrawn from this field, and it has been occupied by the American Bible Society, who have opened a depository at Bogota under the care of Mr. Wallace. To circulate God's word is part of his work, and he has therefore sought, as opportunity offered, to put it into the hands of the people. Services in English have been regularly maintained during the year. The average attendance on the Sabbath has been over thirty. For some months this service was held in the room of a London banking-house, afterwards in the house of the missionary. Since the change of place, Mr. Wallace has preached part of the time in his house, in Spanish, and the attendance was more than could be seated. A Bible-class on the Sabbath has been regularly taught. No suitable hall or place of worship has been obtained, owing principally to the lack of funds. A desirable property was for a time in the market, but having no authority to purchase, Mr. Wallace was compelled to see it pass into the hands of others, who have no special interest in his work. "We feel satisfied," says he, "that a better attendance could be secured had we a house for the special purpose of worship; and it is hoped when a suitable place may be had at a reasonable price, the Board will be able to say to us that we can purchase it."

Whilst there is much to discourage the labourer in this portion of the great world-field, from the blighting influence of Popery, from ignorance, indifference and infidelity, there is on the other hand much to cheer and inspire to renewed diligence and effort. "The prejudices of the people respecting Protestantism, are slowly but surely wearing away; as an evidence of this, one or two native ladies have attended our services, and several others have expressed a desire and determination to do so. We have had also, attending quite regularly of late, several young men of intelligence and some position. These are encouraging features in our work, and I think we may justly, as we do joyfully, accept them as indications of God's favor and approbation."

Mission in Brazil.

RIO DE JANEIRO: the capital of the country; population variously stated up to 400,000; occupied as a mission station in 1860; missionary labourers—Rev. Ashbel G. Simonton and Rev. Francis J. C. Schneider and his wife; one native colporteur.

SÃO PAULO: 280 miles W. S. W. of Rio de Janeiro; chief town in the province of the same name; population 22,000; occupied as a mission station in 1863; missionary labourers—Rev. Alexander L. Blackford and his wife, Rev. E. N. Pires, and Rev. José Manoel da Conceição.

Under the direction of the Mission—Three native colporteurs, supported by the American Bible Society and the British Bible Society.
In this country: Rev. George Chamberlain.

The Rev. Mr. Schneider and wife have been transferred from Rio Claro to Rio de Janeiro. The work among the German settlers has been given up, and Mr. Schneider will devote part of his time to the educational department of the mission at Rio Janeiro. Rev. George Chamberlain returned to this country to complete his theological studies, and expects to resume work in Brazil before the close of this year. Rev. E. N. Pires arrived in August last, and having an acquaintance with the Portuguese language was able to begin at once direct missionary labour.

Preaching, Church Statistics.

The preaching of the gospel has been steadily kept up at the capital and Sao Paulo, with marked tokens of the divine power. At Rio de Janeiro, preaching twice on the Sabbath; lecture on Thursday evening; monthly concert on the first Monday of the month, and prayer-meeting weekly at the house of one of the elders, have been maintained. In addition to similar services at Sao Paulo, there is also a Sabbath-school, frequented by 15 to 25 persons, mostly adults. Besides these, Sabbath and week-day services have been conducted in two suburbs of the city. The attendance on these occasions is good, and increasing. The third centre of light and influence is Brotas. This is the most distant station from the capital. Brotas is a small village, but has an extensive district around it, and is an important point in regard to the regions beyond. This young church has enjoyed no stated ministry, but has been visited during the year by Messrs. Blackford, Schneider, Chamberlain, Conceicao and Pires, and in the aggregate, several months' labour was performed. Upon the earnest and abundant efforts of his servants, God commanded his blessing. The anxiety to hear the gospel was great among all classes, and not a few have been received into the communion of the church. Of his late visit, says Mr. Pires, "The spread of the truth is rapid, and the movement acquires daily strength. The gospel has a strong hold on those who believe and accept it; their hearts and hands are in the work, and they are unwearied in their efforts to bring their neighbors and friends to a knowledge of the truth." A year ago, a church, consisting of 11 members, was organized in this village, this number has increased nearly five-fold—49 having been added to its roll. Many of these come from a school of ignorance and superstition, and need patient and wise training. If the additions have not been so numerous to the other two churches, the number is such as to call forth gratitude and praise. Sixteen have been received on profession of their faith to the church at Sao Paulo, and 14 to that of Rio Janeiro.

The subjoined table presents the statistics of the three churches for 1866:

CHURCHES.	ADDITIONS BY		TOTAL COMMUNICANTS.
	Exam.	Certif.	
Rio de Janeiro.....	14	1	60
Sao Paulo.....	16	1	22
Brotas.....	49	..	60
Total.....	79	2	142

Discipline had to be exercised in two of the churches, and generally with good effect. "Notwithstanding these cases of inconsistency, progress has been made, and the faith of those that are Christ's, has been strengthened." "They give good evidence of progress in knowledge and piety, and display zeal in seeking the salvation of those without."

One young man has pursued his studies with a view to direct missionary work. It is hoped that he will be useful as a teacher or evangelist.

Itinerant Labours.

The preaching of the gospel has not been confined to these centres. Señor Conceicao spent a large portion of the year in going from place to place, and declaring to the people the unsearchable riches of Christ. Of this new mode of reaching the various classes of that country, Mr. Simonton thus speaks: "In some twenty towns and villages, Brother Conceicao has preached the gospel in the course of the year. As he is universally known and highly esteemed, visitors of all classes call on him wherever he lodges, so that his itinerant service is a constant preaching of the gospel. It is to this agency that we ascribe, under Providence, the opening up of the province of S. Paulo." In all of these places the way is made plain for new and continued efforts; yea, the whole land is open, and earnest requests reach the brethren for help, to which they cannot respond. Mr. Blackford made preaching tours into distant regions, where he was well received and listened to with interest; and Mr. Pires, while at Brotas, preached the gospel in neighborhoods not before visited, and into which the influence of the truth is extending.

The Press and Colportage.

The *Imprensa Evangelica*, a religious semi-monthly paper, has been regularly issued during the year. "Were it possible to have figures and facts, this agency would be found second to no other that we employ. Many read this paper who do not, and for the present will not come to our worship." This class is reached by this means, as well as others who have become interested in divine things, by hearing the missionaries in their tours through some of the provinces.

Many Bibles have been distributed among the people. The colporteurs of the American Bible and British and Foreign Bible Societies have penetrated into different provinces with the Word of Life. In Sao Paulo and the adjacent parts of Minas, near a thousand copies of the Scriptures have been put in circulation. Where these are read, there is soon a call for the living preacher.

Wants.

Next to the felt presence and power of the Holy Ghost, the brethren desire funds for the erection of a chapel at Rio Janeiro. The church still meets in a hired room. This hall is not only frequently crowded, but many cannot gain admission. Many have a prejudice against going to such a place for religious worship. A chapel that would seat 600 would soon be filled, and thus the same sermon would reach four times as many as it now does. The influence of such a building would be felt all through the empire, and a new impulse would be given to the cause among all classes. In their deep poverty they appeal for aid to the Church at home.

A second want is the means to educate three more young men who give promise of usefulness, and who ought to be trained for the gospel ministry. A third need is men, to occupy the waste places; and a fourth, a Christian literature. To meet these, will require greater outlays on the part of the Church, and a closer sympathy on her part with the work and the workers.

“The year has been one full of fruits; fuller still of promises for the future. Our work has expanded beyond our expectations, and we feel that it has grown beyond our means of supplying labour and labourers.”

MISSIONS IN WESTERN AFRICA.

Liberia Mission.

MONROVIA: Rev. Thomas H. Amos; Rev. Amos Herring, Colporteur; Mr. B. V. R. James, Teacher.

KENTUCKY: Rev. H. W. Erskine; Mr. D. C. Ferguson, Teacher.

HARRISBURGH: Mr. Simon Harris, Colporteur.

NEAR HARRISBURGH: *Alexander High School*—Mr. Edward Boëken, Licentiate Preacher, Superintendent; Mr. F. A. Melville, Teacher.

CAREYSBURGH: ———

SINOU: Rev. James M. Priest; Mrs. M. Parsons, Teacher.

MARSHALL: Mr. Thomas E. Dillon, Licentiate Preacher.

SETTRA KRU: Mr. Washington McDonough.

The usual reports from these stations have not been received, but from the letters of the missionaries the general condition of the work may be described as substantially the same as in the preceding year.