

## SAILING OF MISSIONARIES.

Rev. G. Nash Morton, Rev. Edward Lane and Mrs. Morton, sailed from Baltimore in the ship Winifred, on the 23d of June, and reached Rio Janeiro on the 14th of August, having been fifty-six days on the voyage. After a few days' sojourn in Rio, they proceeded to Campina, a large interior city in the province of Sao Paulo, which they have made their missionary headquarters, and where they have been mainly engaged in studying the Portuguese language. Thos. E. Converse and Mrs. Converse left Louisville, Ky., by the overland route to San Francisco, on the 20th of September, and reached Shanghai on the 7th of November. Their journey both by land and sea was pleasant and prosperous. They were met at the last mentioned place by two of the missionary brethren, who accompanied them to Hanchou, where they remain engaged in the study of the language. Rev. James H. Colton, of the Presbytery of Fayetteville, to whom reference was made in the last annual report, left for the Choctaw country in January, and, after a journey of something more than three weeks, reached Wheelock, the station formerly occupied by Mr. Copeland, and the present residence of Mrs. Copeland and family. Since that time he has been engaged in visiting the churches, attending the meetings of Presbytery, and conferring with his missionary brethren in relation to his permanent location.

## THE WHOLE NUMBER OF MISSIONARY LABORERS.

The whole missionary force in the field at the present time consists of fifteen ordained missionaries, of whom four are natives, one native licentiate, six female missionary assistants, and eight native helpers, making thirty missionary laborers in all, and all depending upon the churches for the means of their support.

## THE MISSIONARY WORK IN GENERAL.

It should be borne in mind that, with the exception of the Indian country, where the gospel has been preached for a considerable number of years, we are but in the incipient stages of the work. The missionary brethren who went out from among us did not feel disposed to build on other men's foundations. They commenced their labors in the midst of communities that had never heard the gospel, and their work thus far has necessarily been one of preparation. They have had to superintend the erection of buildings for their own accommodation; have had to organize and superintend schools; to study the character, habits and disposition of the people; make themselves acquainted with the geography of the surrounding country, and especially study the language of the people around them, without which it would be utterly impossible for them even to fulfil the great end of their mission. In view of all these things, it will be at once that we cannot reasonably expect to witness any very great results, especially so far as the conversion of souls is concerned, for the present, and perhaps for some time to come. Still, our brethren, as will be seen in the progress of the report, have not been left without tokens of the Divine presence and favor from the very beginning of their labors.

## INDIAN MISSIONS.

God's afflictive hand has again fallen heavily upon the Choctaw Mission; first, in the removal by death of Mrs. Kingsbury on the 18th September, leaving her aged and sorely afflicted husband without kindred or relative to take care of him in his declining years in that far-off land; and second, by the removal by death of Rev. C. C. Copeland, one of the four veteran missionaries that had toiled in that field for a whole generation. Hotchin, Byington and Copeland have followed each other for successive years to the better world, leaving the venerable Dr. Kingsbury the oldest of them all, to toil on a while longer. The world has seldom known such men. Scores and hundreds of Choctaws, some already in heaven, and others on their way thither, will, through all the ages of eternity, ascribe their salvation to the instrumentality of these holy men. Let no friend of missions among us forget that surviving father, now eighty-three years of age, who still labors, according to the measure of strength granted him, to advance the Redeemer's kingdom.

## BRAZIL MISSION.

Campinas, the selected site of the mission, is in the central part of the province of Sao Paulo, and two hundred miles, or thereabouts, west of Rio Janeiro. It connects by railroad with Sao Paulo, a large seaport to the south of Rio. It has a population of 20,000, and is one of the most flourishing cities of the interior. The climate is pleasant and healthful, and the people, it is thought, are favorably disposed to listen to the preaching of the pure gospel. Rev. Messrs. Morton and Lane arrived there in September, and immediately addressed themselves to the task of mastering the Portuguese language. Their skill and aptitude for acquiring language may be inferred from the fact that they are already preaching the everlasting gospel in it.

## CHINA MISSION.

This is the largest of all our missions. It occupies two principal stations; one in Hanchou, a city of a million inhabitants, and situated about one hundred and fifty miles due west from Shanghai; and the other at Gu-tsiu, the capital of the province, containing about 200,000 inhabitants, and situated about one hundred and fifty miles west of Hanchou. Rev. Messrs. Inslee, Houston, and Converse, with Mrs. Inslee and Converse, occupy the station at Hanchou, whilst Rev. Messrs. Stuart and Helm, both of them of the Synod of Kentucky, occupy that at Gu-tsiu. The mission and family at Hanchou suffered a good deal last summer from the unhealthiness arising from the flooded condition of the part of the city in which they lived, resulting in the death of an infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Inslee and one of the children of the boarding school. The brethren there, after a good deal of trouble and expense, secured a suitable lot in a healthy and eligible part of the city, and it is expected that they will have comfortable dwellings erected before the return of another unhealthy season. Two boarding schools, one for boys and the other for girls, have been got into successful operation. The one for girls is under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Inslee, whilst Mr. Houston has charge of the one for boys. The girls' school is taught by a Chinese Christian woman of excellent character. The boys are taught by a Chinaman, who, though not a professing Christian, is nevertheless a very worthy and promising man. A church was organised here during the year, which embraces, beside the mission family, two Chinese converts and several children by baptism. For a fuller account of the condition and prospects of this very interesting mission, the Committee would refer the Assembly to the report of the mission itself, to be published in the June number of the *Missionary*; and they would close their own report by quoting the last paragraph of the report from the mission. Says the report: "It only remains to close this summary of the operations of the mission by noticing the accession which the mission received in the month of November, by the arrival of Mr and Mrs. Converse. They were met by two members of the mission in Shanghai, and brought on their way to Hanchou, where they are now residing, Mr. Converse being engaged in the study of the local dialect of the city.

"In closing then, this report, we are bound to give thanks to Him, in accordance with whose command this mission was undertaken. By his great power he has made the vine, recently planted in this land, to strike its roots deeper within the past year, and to spread forth its branches. The girls' school has been nearly doubled in numbers. A boys' school has been opened under circumstances that encourage hope of a native ministry being raised up among us. The new mission station—perhaps the furthest inland of any Protestant mission station in the empire—has caused the light to be set up far back in the darkness of heathendom. Another missionary has been added to our number. Nor must we fail to reckon among his mercies that, by means of the trials through which the missionaries have been called to pass, the bonds of sympathy and affection have been strengthened among them. These things have been brought to pass, notwithstanding the deep imperfections and great shortcomings of those who are the immediate instruments in the work. May due praise be rendered to him, who is now working in our Church toward the far-off Gentiles."