

able house of worship has been fitted up at the principal station, in which religious services of some kind or other are maintained every Sabbath. The number of church members is seventeen, though it is probable that additions have been made since the date of our last letter. Rev. Hamilton Balentine labors near Chetopa, in the northwest corner of the Territory, and about eighty miles from Tablequah. The population immediately around him consists of Cherokees, Shawnees, and whites, generally very poor, but orderly and industrious, and apparently desirous of being made acquainted with the truth. A church has been organized, and embraces nine members.

#### ITALIAN MISSION.

Nothing of a very marked character has taken place in the condition of this mission during the year. Miss Ronzone still labors in the school at Bordighera, but employs her pen at the same time to advance the cause of pure religion in her native land. She was permitted to receive two of her relatives into the school which she teaches, in relation to whose spiritual welfare she has encouraging hopes.

#### MISSION IN THE UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.

Mr. Pratt and family have enjoyed excellent health during the year, and have been treated with great kindness both by foreigners and natives. The attendance upon public preaching has been variable, as in former years; but the attendance upon the Sabbath-school has been good and steady, and it is hoped that it may become the instrument of great good. Mr. Pratt has made several preaching tours to the towns and villages to the south and southeast of Barranquilla, and has found a wide door opened for preaching wherever he has gone. He is thoroughly convinced that the time has come for the enlargement of the mission, and he desires that a minister and teacher should be sent out as speedily as possible. His journal of a tour into the interior will be published in the forthcoming number of the *Missionary*, and deserves to be carefully read by all friends of missions.

#### BRAZIL MISSION.

In no part of the Papal world are the prospects of missionary labor perhaps more encouraging than in Brazil. The prestige of Romanism seems to be gone; the people are anxious for instruction; the Government appears to entertain kindly feelings towards Protestant missionaries, and the gospel is preached without let or hindrance. At Campinas, the headquarters of our missionary operations, the attendance upon preaching is constantly increasing, the Sabbath-school for children and the night-school for adults are largely attended, and much of the good seed is being sown in the hearts of the people. An institution for learning, especially where boys and young men can be fitted for teaching and preaching the gospel, is greatly needed; and as a part of the object of Mr. Lane's visit to this country is to obtain means for the establishment of such an institution, it is earnestly hoped that his mission will be regarded with great favor by all who love the missionary cause and pray for the coming of Christ's kingdom.

#### CHINA MISSION.

This mission, as already mentioned, has been sorely afflicted during the year. First, in the reduction of their working force; second, in repeated attacks of sickness on the part of those who have remained in the field; and, third, in the unsettled condition of the country—threatening at times the interruption of all missionary work. Our missionary brethren, nevertheless, are quietly pursuing their work, feeling assured that all these untoward events will be overruled for good. They have been a good deal oppressed by the undue amount of labor that has been devolved upon them, but they have encouraging tokens of the divine presence from time to time. They need very much to be reinforced, and the Committee are happy to report that one missionary and one assistant female missionary are expected to embark for that mission by the first of September. In the meantime the mission is earnestly commended to the prayerful remembrance of all God's people.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS.

As a Church we have reached a most important, if not a critical, period in the history of our

missionary operations; and it would seem as if God intended to put our zeal and steadiness to a severe test. In relation to the great work of evangelising the world, we have put our hands to the plough, and it now remains to be seen, whether, in view of the difficulties and discouragements that have thrown themselves across our pathway, we shall go steadily forward or turn aside. If from indifference, opposition, or any other cause whatever, we shall be turned aside, it will not only paralyse our best energies, but will test the very life of the Church itself. On the other hand, if we can meet the demands of the emergency with cheerfulness and steadiness of purpose, notwithstanding all these outward discouragements and difficulties, it will not only inaugurate a new period of spiritual life in the history of the Church, but will give a new and powerful impulse to all its schemes of benevolence. We need at the present time, as may be inferred from the foregoing remarks, not only a very considerable number of missionary laborers, but a large increase in the contributions of the churches for the support of the work. There is not one of our missions that does not need to be reinforced, if we would gather all the rich fruits which the providence of God is bringing within our reach. Our missionary brethren, especially in China and South America, need better and more commodious habitations than we have heretofore been able to afford them, and they need at the same time to have suitable chapels and school rooms. Larger provision needs to be made for educating and training native teachers and preachers; and until this is done, our work is carried on to great disadvantage. Moreover, if new missionaries are sent out, their outfit will have to be provided, their passage paid, as well as other expenses that must necessarily be met. The Committee, after a careful consideration of the whole matter, have come to the conclusion that it will require at least \$45,000 to meet current expenses and pay the debt. This will require an increase of a little more than fifty per cent. on last year's contributions, or an average of a little more than fifty cents to each church member. Shall the Committee go forward on the presumption that this amount will be furnished? If not, where shall curtailment be made? Shall we say to our young brethren who have been prompted, as we have reason to believe they have been, by the Holy Ghost to engage in this work, We cannot send you? Shall we say to the brethren already in the field and borne down by the heat and burden of the day, You must toil on, we cannot send you help? What response shall be given to the dying injunctions of Kingsbury and Inslee to send men to occupy their vacated places? Are we willing to be classed with those of whom it shall be said, They began to build, but were not able to finish? How shall we answer to the great Head of the Church for having become wearied in a cause that is so dear to his heart? How shall we in the great day of account, answer to the millions of lost heathen who ought to have heard the glad tidings of salvation at our lips?

All of which is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions:

J. LEIGHTON WILSON,  
Secretary of Foreign Missions.

The above report was read to the General Assembly at Huntsville on the 19th ult. On the 22d, the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions presented the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to say that they have carefully examined the Report of the Executive Committee, that of the Treasurer, and the minutes of the regular meetings, and recommend their approval, as clearly evincing the great diligence, fidelity, and energy of the Committee in the discharge of all the duties intrusted to it.

They would also recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. That we gratefully acknowledge the goodness of God in the prosperity and success with which he has crowned the labors of our missionaries during the past year.
2. That the providence of God seems clearly to demand of us an effort to raise the sum of fifty thousand dollars to sustain and carry forward our Foreign Missionary operations during the ensuing year.