

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
FOREIGN MISSIONS,
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE
UNITED STATES,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING APRIL 1, 1877.

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1877.

portant accessions to the churches, and at some of them those accessions have been considerable. In this same connection it should be mentioned, that our Christian people, notwithstanding the unprecedented hardness of the times, have responded to the calls of this great cause with commendable liberality, and especially are thanks due the Christian women of the Church, many of whom have not only practiced self-denial, but have wrought vigorously with their own hands to raise funds for the promotion of this great enterprise. The children of the Sabbath Schools too have been active and have contributed materially to the missionary fund.— There is reason also to believe that the great body of our Christian people are acquiring more knowledge in relation to the progress of this great work, and are more ready to admit their obligation to do all that they can for its promotion. Is there not ground for encouragement in these varied tokens of the Divine favor? May we not feel assured that the great Head of the Church intends to use our beloved Church as an effective instrument in building up His kingdom?

CHANGES IN THE MISSIONARY FORCE.

Most of these have already been referred to, as the removal by death of Rev. Wm. LeConte, the return of Mrs. Pratt and family and Mr. Jno. W. Dabney for the recovery of health, and the withdrawal of Mr. Houston from the work an account of continued ill health. Miss Nannie Henderson, who returned from Campinas to this country two years ago in utterly prostrate health, has gradually regained good health and hopes to return to her chosen field of labor in the early summer. Rev. J. H. Colton, who had had charge of Spencer Academy for a number of years, and who had conducted it with efficiency, was compelled last fall, on account of the feeble health of his family, to ask to be released from the charge, which was granted with regret for the cause which made it necessary. Rev. J. J. Reid, for a number of years the efficient pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas, was appointed to take charge of this institution, which he did in the early part of January, and with very encouraging prospects of success. Rev. L. W. Currie of North Carolina, and Dr. H. R. Johnson of Texas, have been appointed permanent teachers in this institution and are now actively engaged in the discharge of their duties as such. Miss Mattie C. Parks, of the Synod of Missouri, was appointed teacher in the Muskogee Institute. She reached the Indian Country in December, and continued to teach there until the Committee closed its connection with that school.

FINANCE.

The receipts from all sources for the year ending April 1st, were \$55,121.15. Of this amount \$38,697.31 were contributed by churches, and

individuals, \$9,625.78 by Ladies' Missionary Associations, and \$6,798.06 by Sabbath Schools. This shows a falling off in the contributions from churches, individuals and miscellaneous, as compared with last year, of \$8,152.60; an increase from those of Ladies' Missionary Associations of \$1,807.93; and an increase from Sabbath Schools of \$192.55. In the aggregate there has been a falling off in the receipts, as compared with last year of \$6,152.12. The expenditures, in consequence of the most rigid economy, have been reduced to \$50,098.75. This leaves the general debt reduced to \$4,826.27, which can now, in the general acceptance of the term, scarcely be regarded as a debt, as this amount is liable to be found on one or the other side of the account at the close of every year. The home expense, including salaries, clerk hire and traveling expenses, postage, printing Annual Report and circulars, expense of the *Missionary*, over and above receipts, amount to \$4,936.11. The traveling expenses amounting to \$372.40, are greater than usual, owing to the fact, that in addition to visiting Synods, the Senior Secretary had to make a visit to one of the Indian missions during the year.

The number of churches that have contributed is 1053, which is less by 66 than contributed last year, and which shows that there are 766 churches, a good deal more than one-third of the whole, that have contributed nothing at all to this great work during the year.

The number of Ladies' Missionary Associations that have contributed is 172, being an increase of 64 over those that contributed last year.— Their aggregate contributions exceed those of last year by \$1,807.93.— Great credit is due to these Associations for their earnest and hearty cooperation in this time of great need. It has been, as we have reason to know, by much earnest effort, great self-denial and no little industry that they have procured the means of contributing to this cause. The number of Sabbath Schools that have contributed is 262, being 8 less than gave last year, though the aggregate contributions of these exceed those of last year by nearly \$200. The receipts from these schools might be greatly augmented if they could generally be interested in the work.

THE DEBT ON CAMPINAS INSTITUTE.

In the last Annual Report, the statement was made that the Committee had under advisement the propriety of the removal of this debt from Campinas to this country, with the view of relieving the brethren there of its burden and of arranging it at a less rate of interest than could be secured in Brazil. Immediately after the adjournment of the General Assembly, it was found that this was not only desirable but pressingly necessary.— The debt on October 1st, including accrued interest, consisted of two parts: The first of \$7043 gold was due to Mr. William Krug, the builder

of the Institute, and the second (when reduced to currency) of \$3,958.78 was due to sundry parties in Brazil. To meet this debt, the Committee authorized the issue of \$12,000 of "certificates of indebtedness" (if so much should be needed) each for \$100, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum and to run ten years, unless sooner withdrawn by the payment of the principal sum with accrued interest. Before the larger part of these certificates was issued, the Committee received a proposition from Mr. Krug to hold the amount due him for six years from October 1st, 1876, at an interest rate of 6% per annum. This proposition was accepted and the certificate of the Committee given for the amount. While this debt has six years to run, the Committee has the option of paying it at any time they may be able and think best to do so. In order to meet the balance of the debt, the Committee issued 39 of the \$100 certificates, all of which were readily taken by friends in Baltimore, and it is believed that the rest of the 120 originally authorized could easily have been disposed of, had not Mr. Krug wished the Committee to hold his part of the debt. On the face of these certificates, the Committee pledges itself besides paying the interest semi-annually, to lay aside for their redemption at least \$1,200 annually out of the receipts of Foreign Missions. Thus the whole debt will gradually be retired, and probably at a more rapid rate than the Committee felt authorized to obligate itself to adopt. It is confidently believed that the General Assembly will approve the plan by which our brethren at Campinas have been relieved from an intolerable pressure, and the missionary work saved from a burden which it would have been hard to bear, if the whole amount of this debt had fallen upon its treasury at one time. The Committee apprehends no difficulty in redeeming its pledges in regard to the amount to be used annually in the redemption of the certificates, and will indeed be much disappointed if they are not able to liquidate this obligation much more rapidly.

THE NEED OF REINFORCING THE MISSIONS.

The fact that for two years, no new missionaries have been sent out from this country and the further fact that during this time withdrawals on account of sickness and death have been numerous, at once indicate the necessity of putting more laborers into the field at the earliest practicable day. This is essential if the work is to be brought to the point of advancement which it had attained two years ago, to say nothing of the widening and ever-increasing claims of a world lying under sin and now open for the reception of the Gospel, upon the enlarged sympathy of Christ's people. From Mexico, Brazil and China urgent calls come for more laborers, and there are none of our stations in any part of the world, except perhaps in the United States of Colombia where reinforcements are

that the attendance is not large, but there will probably be improvement in this respect when he is able to speak the language with greater fluency. The schools taught by Mrs. Hall and by Mr. Erwin have both been very much reduced in consequence of the war. With the return of peace the schools will no doubt regain their former prosperity.

BRAZILIAN MISSIONS.

Campinas.—Rev. G. Nash Morton and Mrs. Morton, Rev. Edward Lane and Mrs. Lane, Rev. John Boyle and Mrs. Boyle, and Miss M. V. Kirk, Miss Nannie Henderson (in this country.) Four native helpers.

Pernambuco.—Rev. J. Rockwell Smith. One native colporteur.

Mention has already been made in this Report of the removal by death of Rev. Wm. LeConte, at his mother's residence, in the city of Washington, D. C., on the 4th of November. This was a severe and unexpected affliction keenly felt by his friends and relatives in this country, by his associate in the missionary work and by all who love the cause of missions. By this visitation Mr. Smith, with a single co-laborer in the person of a native colporteur, has sustained the whole responsibility of the work at Pernambuco. Thus far he has been sustained by a kind providence, enjoying good health and spirits, and being enabled to prosecute his work with undiminished energy. His monthly magazine is continued, a large number of tracts and religious books are circulated by the colporteur and many Bibles are sold in the city. He preaches twice on the Sabbath to growing audiences, many of whom are deeply interested in the truths of the Gospel; and, if present indications are not deceptive, a rich spiritual harvest is to be gathered here at no very distant day. Let all those who feel an interest in the cause of missions remember in their prayers this brother in his lonely and trying position.

The annual report of the Campinas mission, published in the April number of the "Missionary," gives a full and satisfactory account of the condition and prospects of this mission. For the first time in its history, the mission family was visited with severe sickness the last summer, principally in the form of intermittent and typhoid fevers, from which, however, all have recovered and good health has been restored. Mr. John Dabney, partly on account of the failure of his health and partly with the view of finishing his theological studies, returned to this country last summer and is now engaged in his studies. The work at this mission has been arranged under three distinct departments. First, the college under Mr. Morton's general superintendence; second, the school for girls under the direction of Mr. Boyle, in which he is assisted by Miss Kirk; third, the Evangelistic work under the care of Mr. Lane, in which he is assisted by the colporteur and other native helpers.

The college has been carried on as in former years, except that some interruption has been occasioned by the sickness above referred to. The number of pupils, previous to the interruption, was 120, and it will probably continue to range about this number. The condition of the grounds and premises have been greatly improved, especially in the supply of an abundance of good water, drawn from a deep well through the agency of a windmill. The girls' school contains twenty-five pupils, a part of whom are the daughters of Americans who have recently settled in Campinas. Stated preaching is maintained by Messrs. Morton and Boyle in the college chapel, in the Church in Campinas, and occasionally in other places in the vicinity.

Mr. Lane has spent a large part of the year in missionary tours in the surrounding country and with many encouraging tokens of success. There are now five separate church organizations in connection with this mission, at Campinas, at Penha, Agua Branca, Mogy-Morim, and at Santa Barbara. Three persons have been received to the church at Campinas on a profession of their faith, and five children have been baptized. The total membership is thirty-seven. Forty children are instructed in the Sabbath Schools. The church has contributed \$224 to meet its own expenses, and \$81.71 have been raised by the ladies of the church towards putting up a church edifice. At Penha three persons have been received to the communion of the church on a profession of faith and five children have been baptized; the total membership is thirty-seven.

This church, during the latter part of 1875 and the present year, have raised \$355 in gold for the purchase and enclosure of a cemetery, its members being denied burial in the Romish cemetery. They also maintain a good day-school at their own expense. At the Agua Branca church five persons have been received on a profession of their faith and five children baptized, the total number being twenty-seven. The church at Mogy-Morim has recently been organized. The number of its members is seven, each one of whom contributed \$1.00 monthly to meet the expenses of their worship. The church at Santa Babara is made up almost wholly of United States citizens, who settled there soon after the war. Rev. James Baird, formerly of South Carolina, has the pastoral charge of this church, but the missionaries at Campinas preach there once a month, in the morning to the English speaking congregation, and in the evening to the Brazilian people. The whole number of members here is twenty-five.

ITALIAN MISSION.

Milan.—Miss Christina Ronzone.

Miss Ronzone has continued her labors here for another year without