

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
FOREIGN MISSIONS,  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES,  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING APRIL 1, 1879.

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1879.

Miss Safford's labors have been very much as in past years, except so far as they have been interrupted by sickness. She has the charge of two day schools, numbering between them forty-five pupils. Of her Sabbath Schools she writes: "My Sabbath class has sometimes been very full, and there are women and children who listen with strict attention. Several women have presented themselves as inquirers, but none gave such evidence of sincerity as to warrant me in positive hope as to the result." The attendance upon the religious services at her house have usually been very good.

#### BRAZIL MISSIONS.

*Campinas.*—Rev. G. Nash Morton and Mrs. Morton, Rev. Edward Lane and Mrs. Lane, Rev. John Boyle and Mrs. Boyle, Rev. John W. Dabney and Mrs. Dabney, Miss Nannie Henderson, and Mr. Wingerter, Colporteur. Four male teachers and four female teachers connected with the Campinas Institute.

Intelligence has been received from Mr. Dabney as late as the 6th of March, mentioning the safe arrival of himself and wife at Rio de Janeiro, and their expectation of leaving for Campinas on the 7th of the same. Miss Kirk, whose name was mentioned in the last Annual Report, had gone to the city of Sao Paulo, where she expected to open a school for girls at her own charges. This is an important enterprise, and will no doubt be productive of important results, but as the school will be carried on in the immediate vicinity of a Mission of the Northern Presbyterian Church, it would be a violation of missionary courtesy to be conducted under the control of our church. Mr. Boyle, who had been engaged in conducting the female department of the Campinas Institute, withdrew from the charge some months since, with the view of entering upon the evangelistic work, and will, for the time to come, be associated with Mr. Lane, in that important department of labor. Mr. Dabney, on his arrival, will be associated with Mr. Morton, in the management and instruction of the Institute. With these exceptions, the various members of the Mission occupy the same positions that they did in former years.

The number of pupils in the Institute, in both departments, during 1878, was 188—135 boys and young men, and 52 girls. The studies have been the same as in former years. Bible and Catechetical instruction is also freely imparted, the results of which will manifest themselves in the course of time. It is expected that Miss Henderson will have the principal oversight of the girls' school for the time to come.

The church in Campinas is represented as being in a promising condition. A good church edifice has been secured during the year, and the

attendance in consequence has probably been doubled. Weekly collections have been taken up in the congregation, which have amounted to \$450. A Woman's Sewing Society, connected with the church, has raised as much more. Both of these sums, amounting to \$900, have been devoted to completing the church edifice.

The church at Penha has received four persons to its membership, and a number of children have been received by baptism. The members of this church have contributed as much as \$150 for the support of a parochial school in their midst. One member has purchased a lot for the erection of a church building, and has presented it to the congregation.

The church at Mogy Morim is still feeble. An elder conducts a weekly service and two services on the Sabbath. One person has been united to its communion, and \$50 have been contributed towards defraying general expenses.

The church at Santa Barbara, since Mr. Baird left for the United States, has fallen to the care of the Mission. Three persons have been admitted to membership upon a profession of faith, and \$42 have been contributed to the benevolent work of the church.

In relation to the church at Agua Branca Mr. Lane writes: "The Elder of this church reports two persons ready to make a profession of faith as soon as a minister comes. Some children were baptized at the last communion, and it is contemplated the coming year, to purchase a small tract of land, with a house on it, which will answer for a church and school house, and also furnish ground enough for a burying place. The cost of the whole will not exceed \$200. The Elder devotes his time as a Bible reader and tract distributor over a large district of country."

Mr. Wingerter is the colporteur for this whole region, and his labors are vastly important in connection with the evangelization of the country. He has disposed of a large number of Bibles, and has distributed tracts to a very great extent. Our missionary brethren express themselves as under great obligations, both to the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society, for their hearty and liberal co-operation in the great work.

*Pernambuco.*—Rev. J. Rockwell Smith and two Brazilian helpers.

Pernambuco is the largest and most important city in Northern Brazil. Its population is variously estimated from 150,000 to 200,000. It is situated immediately on the sea coast, about two hundred miles west of Cape St. Roque, and about midway between Para, on the Amazon, and Rio de Janeiro, the metropolis of the empire. The inhabitants are intelligent, enterprising, and more liberal and tolerant in their views than most Papal communities. The missionary field, of which Pernambuco is

the centre, embraces a thrifty agricultural country interiorward, and a number of populous towns and villages along the sea-board, both to the east and west. Two of these towns, Macieo to the west, and Maranhau to the east, have a population each of about 20,000, who seem to be specially prepared by the Spirit and Providence of God, to receive a pure Gospel. The mission in Pernambuco was founded by Rev. J. Rockwell Smith, in the winter of 1873. It is, therefore, of six years continuance. Mr. Smith was reinforced by Rev. John Boyle and Mrs. Boyle in the spring following. They were transferred to the Campinas Mission, at their own request and from considerations of health, after something more than one year's residence at Pernambuco. At the same time Rev. Wm. LeConte, who had formerly been connected with the Campinas Mission, was transferred to Pernambuco, where he labored until the spring of 1876, when he was compelled to return to this country from that severe attack of sickness which terminated his life in November following. Mr. Smith has occupied the field for six years, and during the last three years he has been the only occupant. His time has been devoted to the study of the language, to preaching the Gospel, to publishing a small monthly religious magazine, and to superintending colporteurs in the circulation of the Scriptures and religious tracts. It cannot be determined as yet as to what will be the results of circulating religious intelligence among the people, but there are already some very favorable indications—sufficient to encourage renewed and persistent efforts in this particular direction. Upon the preaching of the Gospel, God has been pleased to bestow His richest blessing, especially during the last year. A church was organized during the autumn, under circumstances of great promise. At the first communion there were thirteen converts formally organized into a church. Since then, six more have been added on a profession of faith, making the whole membership nineteen. The persons forming this little church have not only been gathered from the most respectable classes of society, but all of them were thoroughly instructed in the principles of evangelical religion before they were admitted to church membership. It is a great achievement, and one for which sincere thanks ought to be rendered to Almighty God, that this little company of believers have been gathered into the fold of Christ, and which is, no doubt, only an earnest of richer ingathering to follow. The great want of this Mission is a reinforcement of laborers. God grant that the means and agents for this may be speedily supplied.

J. LEIGHTON WILSON, }  
 RICHARD McILWAIN. } *Secretaries.*