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American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

ANNUAL SURVEY OF THE MISSIONS OF THE BOARD.

As the *Missionary Herald* is about to enter upon a new year, a suitable opportunity is furnished for contemplating the results of the year which has just closed. The brief survey which follows, will suggest many profitable reflections. The attention of almost every one will be arrested by the frequent and important changes which have occurred, even within the short period now under review. One of the missions of the Board has been relinquished, and thus the fond hopes of many are subjected to a painful disappointment. Another mission,—announced as discontinued, one year ago, for want of adequate encouragement,—has since been resumed, and is now considered more prosperous than it has ever been. Important modifications have also occurred in the plans of our brethren in Western Asia; it has even been thought expedient that several missionaries should turn away from a numerous and interesting people, and enter upon fields which promise a more speedy and abundant harvest. From India and China on the other hand, requests for additional laborers are brought to us with increasing frequency and earnestness. Lebanon and Hermon appear at length to have caught the first beams of advancing day; while the hopes of a mission still farther to the east, hitherto regarded with deep interest by all, are suddenly involved in darkness and uncertainty.

Among the missionaries themselves there have been many changes. While some have gone forth for the first time to preach the acceptable year of the Lord, others have fallen in the midst of their days and their usefulness. While some have returned to their former posts of labor, invigorated in body and refreshed in spirit, others have been obliged, in the providence of God, to leave the stations hitherto assigned them, either temporarily or permanently, and revisit the home of their youth.

But these events, however mysterious they may seem to us, are so many

Africa, "A good man who came to my father's house to solicit aid for the missionary cause, remarked to me carelessly, as he was leaving, 'I shall not ask you to give anything, for I hope you will give yourself.'" He sailed from Boston for Cape Palmas, December 6, 1841; where he remained till the commencement of the new mission upon the Gaboon River.

Mr. Griswold made a tour to the borders of the Pangwe country, a short time anterior to his death, and necessarily encountered some fatigue and hardship. Before he had fully recovered from the effects of this journey, he was called upon to perform a surgical operation in the night. The fatigue and exposure connected with that occurrence appeared to be the immediate cause of the attack which issued in his death. The account of his sickness which has been received, renders it by no means certain that this melancholy event is to be ascribed to the nature of the climate.

In reference to Mr. Griswold's feelings in anticipation of his departure, Mr. Wilson says, "His mind, as is usually the case in diseases of the kind, was somewhat clouded; but in his more lucid moments he looked forward to death with composure and submission. When asked if he was resigned to an unfavorable termination of his sickness, a few hours before he died, he replied, 'I think I am.'"

He was buried at King Glass's town, "and the funeral exercises," says Mr. Wilson, "were attended by one of the largest and most serious assemblies I have ever known in the Gaboon."

LETTER FROM MR. WILSON, JULY 20,
1844.

Mr. Griswold's Tour—Help needed.

It will be remembered that Mr. Wilson, during an excursion which he made into the interior in 1842, became acquainted with some Pangwe people, and received from them a very interesting account of their country and nation. Since that time it has been the design of the mission to explore this unknown region as soon as it could be safely and profitably visited. Mr. Griswold, whose lamented death has already been announced, has been particularly anxious to ascertain the condition of a people, hitherto so completely shut out from all intercourse with the civilized world, but in whom the Christian public are feeling so deep an interest at the present time. The first step taken by him in fulfilment of his wish, is mentioned below.

Mr. Griswold had cherished an ardent desire, for more than a year, to explore the Pangwe country, with reference to

the establishment of a mission among that people. Just before his death he made a tour to the borders of that country, with reference to a more extended journey which he expected to commence about the end of the present month. He went far enough to ascertain that there were no serious obstacles; and, had his life been spared, he would probably have extended his tour several hundred miles. But those expectations have been disappointed, and we only know that the door is open into the interior, without having the ability to enter it. Mr. Griswold has left his notes of the tour in so incomplete a state that they will be of very little value to us, and none to the world, so far as general information is concerned.

Mr. Bushnell has the supervision of the station which Mr. Griswold formerly occupied.

I am not aware that we shall be obliged to contract any of our operations. We cannot, however, advance toward the interior without a reinforcement from America; and I hope that the deaths of Messrs. Griswold and Campbell will not prevent others from carrying out their plans in reference to the central regions of this continent. We know of no serious or insurmountable obstacles; but for the present we who are here, must confine our labors to the people immediately around us; and we have sufficient encouragement, at the present time, to persevere.

A letter from Mr. Walker, dated June 5, presents the same view of the field now occupied by the mission. "Our prospects," he says, "are as encouraging as ever, except so far as the French keep the people in a state of excitement; and I feel assured that the natives are more attached to us than they have ever been at any previous time. I do not think that they now distrust our friendship for them in the slightest degree." Mr. Walker also says, "Up the Rembe there is a vast field of labor, and, as far as I know, a promising one. I have been up to Kobangai's town, and I found him very anxious to have me remain. I consider that place entirely open to missionary operations. Of its healthiness I cannot speak. The land in that region is dry and fertile." It is earnestly to be hoped that young men will come forward, undeterred by the past experience of African missions, and follow in the path which God has so graciously opened for his people.

Health—The French—Encouragement.

The following suggestions of Mr. Wilson respecting the preservation of health, deserve the

most serious consideration. The attention of the Prudential Committee has already been given to the subject, and they find strong reasons for allowing missionaries to visit this country, after an absence of two or three years. Indeed it is a standing rule of one of the English societies, that their African missionaries shall return to Great Britain once in four years. This regulation has been adopted, after much experience, as promising the greatest economy of health, time, and money.

I am very decidedly of the opinion that you will be obliged to adopt some general rule in relation to your African missionaries, by which they will be allowed to return to the United States, after a residence of eighteen months, or two years, in this country. All who have done this, so far as my recollection extends, have derived thereby essential and lasting benefit. Mrs. Wilson has enjoyed more substantial health since her return, than she ever did in Africa. This measure may not be necessary in every case, but as a general thing it ought to be expected.

It is very much to be regretted that it was necessary for Messrs. Campbell and Bushnell to remain so long on the other coast. We are still of the opinion that the climate here will be more favorable to foreigners; and it will be better in future cases of reinforcement, if no direct conveyance can be obtained to the Gaboon, for our brethren to come by way of Bristol, England. Messrs. R. and W. King of that city are sending vessels monthly to the coast, and several of these come directly to this place. They have showed an interest in our operations, and I think would readily accommodate our missionaries with a passage.

Respecting the aggressive acts of the French at the Gaboon, Mr. Wilson's letter contains the following paragraph.

What course the French government will pursue in relation to the dispute between the local authorities here and King Glass, or what will be the result of the appeal of the latter to the English government, we cannot, of course, foresee. The intercourse between ourselves and the French has been characterized hitherto by courtesy and kindness. We have endeavored to be circumspect; but we do not know that this will save us from annoyance, or even expulsion, should they carry their point. We put our trust in God.

There have been no conversions as

yet among the Gaboon people. Preaching is well attended; many, we think, are beginning to feel the importance of religion, and several are inquiring what they must do to be saved. Our schools, six in all, are in regular operation, but none of them are large. We are printing some small books in the native language, and these will be introduced into our schools.

In a postscript to the foregoing communication, Mr. Wilson writes, "Since this letter was commenced, two of the young men, natives of the Gaboon, give pleasing evidence of a change of heart, and will probably be admitted to our church in a month or two."

Sandwich Islands.

THE SEMINARY AT LAHAINALUNA.

THE leading object of this Seminary is to prepare competent teachers for schools and a native ministry. Hitherto every reasonable anticipation has been realized; and it is perfectly obvious that such an institution, if properly managed, must exert a most salutary influence upon the educational and religious interests of the Islands.

The last annual report of the brethren who have charge of the seminary—Messrs. Dibble, Emerson and Alexander—has just been received. The summer term of 1843 commenced with one hundred and thirty-one pupils, in three classes. Early in August a theological class was formed, consisting of six members, two of whom were taken from the first class. Of the whole number of pupils, one died during the year, four were dismissed on account of ill health, and three were expelled for various misdemeanors. At the close of the year, therefore, there were one hundred and twenty-eight scholars in the institution, twenty-eight of whom then graduated, leaving one hundred to commence the succeeding year. Those who graduated gave a written promise to pay to the seminary twenty dollars for each year's instruction which they have received, unless they shall become teachers and continue in the business for such a period as the Faculty shall deem sufficient.

"The moral character of the school during the year," says the report, "has in general been good and the conduct of the pupils orderly. Some of the boys have manifested more than an ordinary degree of thoughtfulness and attention to serious things; yet we are not satisfied that any have experienced the regenerating influences of the Spirit. Two boys who have for some time given evidence of piety, were admitted to the church during the year; a few others, not members of