

taken for a right interpretation of Scripture whereon to build a system of faith and practice, the next five classes are chiefly devotional, illustrating the beautiful Liturgy of our Church, pointing to its inspired original, and deducing therefrom the nature, and the importance, the benefit and the obligation of her Creed, her Offices, her Ordinances, and her Sacraments. As a right understanding of the word and attributes of God leads naturally to a proper form of devotion--the necessary effect of a sound faith and pure worship is to superinduce a corresponding practice. The seventh and largest division of Tracts more particularly enforces the leading duties of Christianity; and as men are too apt to rest contented with general notions of religious obligation; and too often neglect to apply the precepts to every particular of their own conduct, the following class comprehends the particular duties, addressing all sorts and conditions of men, and applying to the various sins which most easily beset our fallen race. The Treatises in the ninth class shew the evils of those Corruptions of the word of God from which we happily escaped at the Reformation. The tenth is directed against that Enthusiasm, which professing to be most opposed to the tenets of Popery, is too nearly allied to it in the pride of its pretensions, in its ensnaring spirit of Proselytism, and in its deleterious influence on the reason, on the moral feelings, and (if it be not religion to impute partiality to God, if it be not religion to address our Maker in the language of human passion) on the religious principles of mankind. The two remaining classes relate to Education. The eleventh containing Elementary books of Instruction which are used in all the National Schools throughout the kingdom; and the twelfth, such real, or fictitious narratives as are calculated to blend amusement with instruction, and to make the Reader, while commenting on the conduct of others, unconsciously his own tutor in the sacred and social duties of life.

If it be admitted, and surely it must be admitted, that the Bible needs exposition: that the Parochial Clergy, however zealous in the discharge of their duties, cannot be at all places ministering the required instruction; that therefore printed Commentaries on the Doctrines of Religion, and printed persuasives to the observance of its Precepts, are the best means of assisting the labours of the Clergy, by qualifying the unlearned to comprehend more clearly, and to follow up with more edification the truths they may hear from their Spiritual Teacher: if, too, it be acknowledged that the most frightful heresies, and the most pernicious errors may be, and indeed are, in this way, and particularly in this age of general Education, impressed as with the sanction of authority upon the unsuspecting minds of the young and of the ignorant, it must be consoling to all the friends of sound morality and true religion to know, that No Tract is allowed to be sent out under the Sanction of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, without the surest human guarantee for its orthodoxy and beneficial tendency. Although among the Authors of the various Treatises are read the honoured names of Barrow and of Tillotson, of Sherlock and of Secker, of Leslie and of Lyttelton, of Porteus and of Horne, of Horsley and of Parley, yet even their publications were not admitted into the Society's Catalogue till they had been recommended to the Society by three Subscribing Members who had read the same, and reported them to be proper and requisite to promote the designs of the Society; nor until, even after this recommendation, they had been referred to four other Members to report their opinion thereof to the General Board; nor until after all these precautions it had been determined by ballot whether they should be admitted or not.

To understand the value of these cautionary measures, it is further necessary to consider what description of persons has been from its commencement the watchful stewards of the sacred trust reposed by the public in this Society; but to enumerate them would be to give an extended list of the brightest characters in Church and State for the last century. In addition, therefore, to those who have been already mentioned, suffice it to name only a few others who have enriched the stores of the Society with their

* General Rules of the Society respecting Books.

labours, or have pleaded its cause at the Anniversary Meetings--such as Stillingfleet and Gibson, Wake and Fowler, Gastrell and Wilson, Stanhope and Tucker, Waterland and Randolph, among many high Dignitaries of the Church, who are all gone to receive the reward of their unwearied exertions in the promotion of Christian Knowledge. Of those who now, with guardian care, watch over the important interests entrusted to this Society, it is impossible to enumerate all, and it might appear invidious to make a selection.--Let the Reader only call to mind all those whose Christian virtues shed a pure lustre over the high situations they have been called to fill in the government of the affairs of the National Church, and he will find them all countenancing the Society by their subscriptions, and most of them taking an active and zealous interest in the furtherance of its benevolent designs. He will see those Prelates more especially, whose elevated stations require their general residence in the neighbourhood of the Society, and who therefore enjoy the most enlarged opportunities of witnessing the effects of its proceedings, mixing with their high functions in the Senate, and their pastoral superintendance of their Province and Dioceses, a paternal solicitude for the welfare of this Society, a zealous vindication of its extensive and well-directed powers, an earnest recommendation to their Clergy to assist its beneficent exertions, and a constant participation in its humble but most important labours.

And, while recounting other instances of watchful care of the Society exhibited in the conduct of the highest Guardians of our Church, it would be ingratitude in this Committee not to take the earliest opportunity to notice the encouragement they have afforded to the publication of a work, which was almost the only thing wanting to complete the beneficial designs of the Society. We allude to the printing of a Family Bible in cheap numbers, for the accommodation of the poor, with Notes, explanatory and practical, selected from the most eminent Writers of the Established Church, by the Domestic Chaplains of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury; to which the Society contributes gratuitously Maps, Plans, and other appropriate Engravings. Of this Work, which has been some time before the public, and extensively circulated, it would be superfluous to say more at present, than that the great expectations originally formed from the high character of its Patrons, from the extensive erudition of its Editors, and from the known principles of the Society, have (and it has now nearly reached its conclusion) in no one instance been disappointed; and that it will be the particular care of the Committee to facilitate, by all the means in its power, the distribution of the new edition, which is to be immediately undertaken.

What region of the dominions happily comprehended under the protection of our Constitutional Monarchy has not profited by the diffusive charity of this venerable Society? Before it had been established ten years, it instituted "Lending Libraries" in each of the Dioceses of Wales, and circulated the Common Prayer Book and the Bible, together with some of its most valuable devotional and practical Tracts, all translated into the language of the Principality; distributing in the course of six impressions, no less a number than eighty-seven thousand copies of the Bible alone, besides sundry editions of the New Testament and Common Prayer Book. In Ireland, in Scotland, and in the Isle of Man, the same union of piety and charity was successively exhibited in translating the Bible, Liturgy, &c. into the respective languages of those countries for general gratuitous distribution. And ever before this period the Society had furnished our countrymen in distant lands with ample supplies of books, fixed Parochial Libraries, and assisted in the erection of Churches, in our numerous and extensive Settlements and Plantations in both Hemispheres.

(The remainder in our next.)

EAST INDIES.

The following are extracts from the Madras Papers of April 3:--
No accounts have yet been received of the fall of Assegbur, an event we daily expect to hear of. The 17th was fixed on for commencing operations; but some negotiations having in mean time been entered into,

it was postponed to the 18th, when decisive measures will no doubt be adopted.

The expeditions fitted out at Penang, under Sir Stamford Raffles, with a view, we imagine to counteract the designs of the Netherlands Government, has attracted a good deal of notice, and naturally excited much anxiety to learn its result and object. We have much pleasure in stating, that Captain Anderson, of the ship Mary Anne, from Manila, about the middle of February passed close to the island of Sincapore, in the eastern extremity of the Straits of Malacca, where he observed a good many wooden houses erected, a number of tents pitched, and the British flag flying close to a battery of eight pieces of ordnance. There is no doubt whatever, but that this establishment was formed by Sir Stamford Raffles; and indeed the most cursory glance at the chart of those seas must convince us, that no other spot could have been selected so well calculated for securing the important object in view, as the island of Sincapore. While the possession of Penang and Sincapore secure to our flag the undisputed possession of the Straits of Malacca, the latter gives us a free and uninterrupted communication with China. In short, Sincapore, as a commercial station is chosen with consummate judgment, and cannot fail, in a few years, to become one of the most flourishing and interesting settlements ever formed by Europeans among the Eastern Islands.

Captain Anderson afterwards touched at Malacca, where he was informed that Sincapore was actually taken possession of by Sir Stamford Raffles, in consequence of an arrangement with the Rajah of Johore, who was to receive an equivalent of four thousand dollars annually, and that the Rajah's sons, with a number of Malays, was at Sincapore. Captain Anderson understood that Sincapore was to be a free port for ten years; and that the Dutch felt much annoyed at our taking possession of it, and considered it would prove extremely prejudicial to their interests. Capt. A. also learnt that Stamford Raffles had returned to Penang, having left this new and interesting settlement of Sincapore under charge of Major Farquhar, of this establishment.

Since the above was written, we received the Calcutta Government Gazette, which informs us, that by the Hope, capt. Buxton, from China and Penang, accounts had been received at Calcutta, announcing that Sir Stamford Raffles "had hoisted the British flag on the Island of Sincapore on the 31st of January."

The last advices from the Cape of Good Hope were dated in the middle of May; but we have now letters bringing down the intelligence to as late a date as the 10th June. In the interval, it appears that the Caffres have been again collecting their scattered forces. The Governor had received dispatches from the Corn Districts, giving the unfavourable information. The chief force of the savages was concentrated on the bank of the river, which is opposite to Graham's Town, and both in numbers and boldness they were extremely formidable. It fortunately happened that 500 troops shortly before these details arrived, had been landed at Cape Town, and they were immediately sent off to reinforce the military in the interior. This renewed incursion was wholly unexpected, but it had been ascertained that the Caffres had been instigated to further hostilities by a number of deserters from the British forces, who had directed their operations against Graham's Town. Hence, the able manner in which they were carried is in some degree accounted for. The principal deserter, who had been of most assistance to the enemy, was named Patrick Moore, who seems to be in high authority among the Caffres.

SEPT. 11.
It is with great regret that we communicate to our readers the death of the distinguished Philosopher J. Watt, Esq. on Wednesday, the 25th instant, in the 84th year of his age.

NEW-YORK, OCTOBER 21.

Awful effects of a late Hurricane in the West Indies, anticipated by the Editors of the New-York Gazette, through the attention of Mr. TOBLIFF, their vigilant Boston correspondent:--

BOSTON, OCT. 18, 1819, noon.
Messrs. Lang, Turner, & Co.
The brig James & Isabella, Bourne, from

Martinique, has arrived at Kennebec. Capt. B. writes me as follows:--

"WELLS, OCT. 17.--I arrived at Kennebec yesterday, from Moran Bay, Martinique, from which I sailed on the 23d September. On the 26th I touched at St. Bartholomews, where I obtained a list of American vessels that went on shore during the hurricane of the 20th Sept. but unfortunately I left it on board; however, I can remember the names of all the northern vessels, viz. sch's Harmony (late Moulton, who died, 26th September.) of Portland; Oscar, Barnes, of Castine; Teazer, Francis, Newburyport; brig Mason's Daughter, Moran, Providence--the remainder belonged to Baltimore, North Carolina, Alexandria, Philadelphia, and Norfolk. At Moran the gale was not severe: but as I passed St. Pierres, I saw four or five vessels on shore. At St. Barts, it must have been dreadful beyond the conception of any person who never saw the place, and since the gale it is said to have been the most destructive of any in the memory of the oldest inhabitants--Every vessel in port, without a single exception, went on shore, most of which will be totally lost. A great many of the houses and stores are blown down, and a number of lives lost. So sudden and violent it came on, that a great many saved not any thing from their houses, and with difficulty escaped with their lives. The streets were filled with ruins of buildings, broken furniture, masts and spars of vessels driven ashore, hen coops, boats, &c.; and so very impetuous was the wind, that it actually blew over one of the Keys, or Rocks, situated off the harbor, which has been standing, perhaps, ever since the creation of the world. St. Martins has suffered equally with St. Barts--6 buildings (sugar) houses are all that were left standing, and it was said 147 lives were lost there, and a few at Anguilla, which suffered more in comparison than either St. Barts or St. Martins. St. Kitts received a great deal of damage. Antigua had not been heard from. I left at Moran, brig Charles, Cross, of Bath, to sail in twenty days. Spoke 28th, off Hanega, a schooner from Baltimore for Porto Rico. In lat. 29, long. 77, schooner Hannah, of Portland, from St. John for Fredericksburg. South shoal of Manucker, W. by N. 7 leagues, brig Leopard, from Boston for Philadelphia. Off Dominica was boarded by the Patriot privateer Harriet, and treated politely."

Extract of a letter from Capt. Barnes, of the schooner Oscar, dated St. Barts, Sept. 27:--

"We obtained a new anchor and cable sufficient for a vessel of 150 tons (the Oscar is only 65 tons) but before 12 o'clock on the 21st we went on shore, as many had done before, and the remainder soon followed. We saved some of the cargo, and had it stored, but such was the violence of the gale, that the store, together with the merchant's house, were washed away. I have lost the vessel's papers, &c. and in fact every thing except what I stood in. To describe the horrors of the 21st, is beyond my power--an eye witness can only imagine, and to me it seems a dream. Ships of between 300 and 400 tons are now on dry land; hundreds of buildings blown to atoms, and the sea is now flowing where many stores stood before the gale. Fortunately there were only twenty-one lives lost; but many were injured, myself among the number, by the falling of a house. I lay under the ruins some minutes, when I fortunately got assistance--am getting better. By accounts from the neighbouring Islands, they have suffered as much as this. Every estate, except two, in St. Martins, are in ruins, and returns are received of 146 souls being lost and missing."

Montreal, September 11.

It is a maxim in Politics, that "unnecessary procrastination, in the execution of any object, is always attended with danger, and ought to excite suspicions in those against whom it is employed." How far this may apply to the following account, (which we believe to be authentic) we shall leave for our readers to determine.

It will be remembered that the Commissioners and Astronomers appointed for fixing the boundary line between these Provinces and the United States, concluded their operations last autumn, at or near Missiquoi's Bay on Lake Champlain, with the determination of recommencing them the following spring at the same place.