

with four hundred and eighty-three boys, and two girls' schools, with twenty girls in attendance.

Eleven of the missionaries of the Society in Bengal labour alone, among seven millions of people.

Since 1842 the number of converts in church fellowship has been nearly doubled—in 1842 there were but 791 individuals, in 1852 there were 1,507, in 1854 there were 1,565.

In 1842 the Society sustained thirty-one missionaries in India; but, though the work has been extending, in 1854 there were but thirty-four.

The volumes of Scripture and parts thereof, printed up to 1837, were 240,065; between 1837 and 1847, the number printed amounted to 593,205; in all, 743,270. From 1847 to 1851 inclusive, 223,580 volumes have issued from the press, making a grand total of 966,850 copies. The average distribution for the last five years has been 44,544 copies each year.

The missionaries connected with the Society have (among their incidental labours) written and published fourteen grammars and nine dictionaries, mostly of languages which previously had no such elementary works.

A native church, independent of the Society, has been formed in Calcutta, by the union of the Colingah and Intally churches, formerly under the care of the missionaries. It contains eighty-three members, under a native pastor.

Some parts of Bengal have never yet seen a missionary; nor is a Christian known to exist in them. Of the thirty-nine millions of inhabitants of Bengal, not more than seventeen thousand pay even a nominal regard to the ordinances of Christianity. Such districts as the following have no missionaries at all: Poorneah, with 1,600,000 people; Rungpore, with 2,550,000; Myensing, with 1,487,000; Behar, with 2,500,000; Tipperah and Bulloah, with 1,406,950.

Some of the stations have only one missionary to carry on every department of labour. Several of the missionaries are also aged men.

To give to the stations efficiency, to unite them together, and in some slight degree to meet the destitution of the bread of life among these perishing myriads, it is proposed largely to augment the number of missionaries sustained by the Society.

THE COMMITTEE PROPOSE, BY GOD'S BLESSING, TO EMPLOY AT LEAST TWENTY MORE MISSIONARIES WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

Everything tends to encourage the Committee in making this proposal.

God has already prospered the work greatly; many souls have been converted, and churches formed.

The work of preparation has effectually been done. The people readily and attentively listen to the evangelist.

All testimony agrees in attesting the changed attitude of the people towards the Gospel. The entire country is open to the preachers of the Cross without peril.

The confidence of the people in their own ancestral religions is shaken: the Hindoos confess that Hindooism is sick unto death.

At home the churches are in peace. The country is prosperous.

Many years have elapsed since especial attention was given to India.

No one can doubt that the £5000 it will require to be added to the annual income of the Society can be raised.

Two missionaries have been compelled by failing health to abandon their stations in Northern India and to return to England; whilst seven have been employed—four in Bengal and three in Northern India—in pursuance of the plan above indicated.

CEYLON.—In Ceylon, the Society sustains three European missionaries. There are seven native churches and pastors, containing 454 members; also a mixed church in Colombo with 49 members. The word of life is also regularly preached in eighty-eight villages.

WEST INDIES.—In the West Indies, the Society has agents in the islands of Trinidad, the Bahamas, and Haiti.

The numerous islands of the BAHAMAS contain a population of about 30,000 persons. The Society sustains two European missionaries. Churches have been formed on eighteen islands. The number of persons in church fellowship amounts to more than two thousand five hundred, under the care of twelve native pastors. The missionaries also obtain assistance, in various departments of Christian usefulness, from upwards of 200 persons.

IN HAITI and St. Domingo, two missionaries are employed. The population is probably 400,000—professedly Roman

Catholic as to religion, but in a most degraded condition. A chapel has recently been erected at Jacmel. Churches exist at Jacmel and Port-au-Prince, containing seventy-one members.

The churches in Jamaica, formed under the ministry of agents sent out by the Society, contain about 25,000 members. The number of European ministers in Jamaica is sixteen, of native pastors twelve, and of native preachers and teachers about fifty.

AFRICA.—On the western coast of Africa, at Fernando Po, and the neighbouring part of the continent, the Society sustains two European missionaries, and six native agents. The churches contain 120 members. Translations of the Scriptures have been commenced in Dualla and Isabu, and partly printed; dictionaries and grammars have also been prepared.

FRANCE.—At Morlaix, in France, one missionary is labouring under the auspices of the Society. Notwithstanding priestly opposition, many persons have been baptized, and the public worship of God in the mission chapel maintained.

The number of institutions connected with the Society for training native converts for the ministry is two: one at Serampore, with eight students, and another at Calabar, Jamaica, with seven, in usual attendance. From the latter, seventeen have entered into various paths of Christian usefulness. Nine are now pastors of churches—two or three have died—and the remainder are engaged either in preaching or as schoolmasters.

At nearly all the missionary stations there are day or Sabbath schools. These are, in number seventy; and contain about 7,000 children, in constant attendance.

GENERAL RESULTS.—The missionaries and native teachers, more or less dependent upon the Society, have increased within the last sixteen years; from about 85 to about 290, not including (in this latter number) Jamaica; an increase twofold of European missionaries and threefold of native teachers. For the support of these agents the Society has not more than £15,000 a-year available.

The encouragements to missionary labour are great. The evangelization of the West Indies, of the South Seas Archipelago, of Western and Southern Africa, bears testimony to the value of missions.

In India and Ceylon alone, 309 native churches have been formed by the agents of different Societies. These churches contain 17,356 truly converted persons, and form the nucleus of a native Christian community of 103,000 individuals, who are under constant Bible instruction.

In India and the South Seas, Sattees and infanticide have ceased.

The arts of peace and civilization have found a place amid the deserts of Africa through missionary influence. Liberty of conscience has been secured in our Eastern possessions.

Of the many heathen lands which were closed against the gospel fifty years ago, all, with the exception of Japan, are now open to its messengers. Let the fact be pondered, that the eight hundred millions of our fellow-men who are without Christ, are accessible to the preachers of the Cross.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 17, 1856.

SINCE the article on the English Baptist Missionary Society was in type, we have received the Minutes of our last Convention, a neat Pamphlet of 26 pages. The results of this annual deliberative Council of our Churches contained in it, cannot but possess a deep interest for every whole-hearted subject to which its consultations are chiefly confined.—Foreign Missionary operations and the advancement of Education—are second to no other within the circle of human effort. Ever since the Baptist Denomination have had anything like an important standing in these colonies, these subjects have engrossed a large share of the affections and prayers of our Churches. In looking over the Minutes we are forcibly reminded how strong and how permanent our interest in them is, and especially in the vast work of Foreign Missions. The following resolution, although given in our report of the proceedings of the Convention some time since, on the subject of the English Society, we again repeat, in order to bring before our brethren its action as respects that first great Harbinger of Foreign Missions—that sacred enterprise in the promotion of which, the honoured names of

Fuller, of Carey, of Pearce and others will stand emblazoned on the pages of Christian history, to the latest periods of time.

Resolved, That the action of the Board, in appropriating one hundred pounds to the English Baptist Missionary Society, which amount has been paid over, be confirmed.

The fact here referred to, together with the appropriation to the American Missionary Union and the amount allowed for the support of the widow and children of our departed brother Burpe, will sufficiently attest to the contributors towards the Foreign Missionary Funds, that although the Board have been unable to establish an independent Mission in the foreign field, yet that their contributions have been made the means of essentially aiding this great work, in quarters where help was and still is imperatively needed. We trust it will also impress them with the necessity of not relaxing their zeal or their liberality in the good cause. We cannot, as just remarked, as yet found an independent mission of our own. We are fully aware how beneficial it would be to the cause, could such a mission be fairly commenced, in rousing the energies of our churches and people, and giving them a specific and worthy object for which to labour and to give. But if the arrangements of an infinitely wise and directing Providence do not permit our immediately once more assuming an independent action, let not our pride or our heartlessness prevent our helping on the good cause in whatever shape it may most fitly present itself for "doing what we can." A mission to Australia has been talked of. An independent mission there seems to be thought by many, it is possible justly, to be beyond our present means. We are glad to see by late English papers, that urgent appeals are being made to the Baptist Churches there, to undertake some effective measure for establishing a mission so greatly needed. Should such be effected, it would surely be a most legitimate object for ourselves, as far as our means and our other claims would admit, for these Provinces to contribute something for so desirable an enterprise. But these are mere cursory thoughts. There will always be found sufficient and abundant outlets for our zeal and liberality in one form or another for contributing to Foreign Missions. In the mean time let us not fall asleep on this or any other matter of Christian effort, but "what our hand findeth to do, do it with our might." We shall, in our next, endeavour to offer a few thoughts on the subject of our own Domestic Missions.

DRAWING near the close of another year, we feel that in addition to the grateful acknowledgements we owe to the kind and superintending Providence of God, in permitting us thus far to have been engaged, we trust with some measure of profit and success, in the prosecution of the great work of His glory and the good of our fellow-men, a debt of no small amount is due to the numerous brethren and friends, who have so cheerfully lent us their aid in this laborious and responsible undertaking.

To our AGENTS, alast of whom is given in our present number, therefore, and generally to the Baptist Denomination, we now tender our sincere thanks for the ready assistance we have received, and the support and patronage we have enjoyed during the past year, and without which we, of course, feel that our best individual efforts would have entirely fallen short of the attainment of our objects. To our Agents, whether local or temporary, in every part of the country, we are largely indebted for the perseverance and efficiency with which they have laboured in our behalf, and by means of which a very creditable addition has been made to our list of subscribers. Their reward must almost wholly lie in the reflection of their having been fellow-labourers with ourselves in a just and holy cause, and we trust they will not be weary in well doing, or withhold giving us a helping hand, when we are full as much, if not more in need than ever of every support and encouragement which our efforts may be kindly thought to deserve. They will, no doubt, reflect that the cause of truth, as connected with our own section of the Church of Christ, as well as the credit of the Denomination at large, is in some measure committed to our care as public Journalists, and they will, we cannot doubt, show no diminution for the future, of their valued and indispensable aid.

THE Third Lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association was delivered on Tuesday evening last, on "Job," by the Rev. Charles Churchill. The Hall was, as usual, crowded. The lecture was a highly interesting development of the progress

which had evidently been made in civilization, arts and science at the time that book was written. It is generally admitted that it is the most ancient of the sacred books, although there is some doubt whether it should be understood as authentic history. The lecturer shewed the probability of Job being the same person as in Genesis x. 29 is called Jobab, the son of Joktan.

James Forman, Esq., was announced to deliver the next lecture,—subject, The Works of Creation, as revealed by the Telescope and Microscope.

WE are pleased to find by the Western News that a lecture on Temperance was delivered at Bridgetown on Monday last, by the Rev. George Armstrong. We doubt if he would endorse the statement of our contemporary in said article that "the admirers of this method (Prohibition) have not affirmed the illegality of drinking when the liquor can be found." This is a stale piece of slander with which the enemies of legal intemperance, together with the friends of intemperance, endeavour to undermine all legislation on the subject, and by that means allow the present fearful tide to proceed in swallowing up the brightest and fairest prospects of hundreds of our fellow-countrymen.

AN interesting account is given in the Provincial Wesleyan of the ordination of Rev. Mr. Harris, on Wednesday the 3rd inst., preparatory to his leaving for the purpose of supplying the vacancy occasioned by the sudden death of the Rev. Mr. Chesley, at St. John's, Newfoundland. The Rev. Dr. Richey delivered the charge to the candidate, founded on Acts xx. 28. At the commencement of which he gave some critical revision of the sacred text on the word "overseer," with a view of destroying the Episcopalian idea, that any authority exists for more than two orders of officers—bishops and deacons—in the Church of Christ. The introductory remarks referring to the death of Rev. Mr. Chesley, and the simultaneous information that he had arrived amongst the redeemed in heaven, and the announcement from St. John's, Newfoundland, to this city, that "CHESLEY is no more," was most touching. It is somewhat remarkable that three clergymen, we believe, have recently died from similar causes in that Island. We trust Mr. Harris may be long spared for the high office on which he has entered in that important but too much neglected people.

Notices of Books.

HARPER, for December, has 20 pages on Washington Irving—the father of American literature, and another twenty of Little Dorrit, besides some smaller pieces. Passages of Eastern Travel, &c., &c.

GRAHAM, for December, has handsome plates of "The Greek Maiden," Fashions, &c., with its usual quantity of light reading.

BELCHER'S ALMANACK for 1857 has been an annual visitor for the past 33 years, and is known favourably to all who require its services.

CUNNABELL'S ALMANACK for 1857 has nearly completed a quarter of a century, and gives all the annual and local information connected with the Province. It also contains a list of deceased persons with the Executors, which will be of great value to business men.

General Intelligence.

Foreign and Domestic

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Dec. 10, 1856.

APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. James Chaloner, of Sydney, to be a Notary and Tabellion Public.

To be the Judge of the Court of Probate for the County of Shelburne—Henry William Smith, Esq., in the place of Alexander McNaughton, Esq.

A Bazaar was held on Tuesday and Wednesday last in the Masonic Hall, for the purpose of aiding Mrs. Coleman, a respectable colored woman of this city, to purchase her daughter, who is now a slave in the U. States. The ladies who assisted, as well as those who patronized it, deserve much credit for their efforts. The sum of £115 was realised; sufficient to enable her to accomplish more than anticipated—purchase another of her children besides the one proposed.

All the banks in the city have raised the rate of interest, on sums deposited therein, from 3 to 4 per cent. Shares in the Union Bank have sold during the week at 24 per cent premium.

SAD ACCIDENT.—A lad named Richard Beck, whilst skating along with some companions upon a small lake near Cow Bay, on Sunday the 7th inst, fell through the ice and was drowned.