

**LONDON SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIANITY AMONG THE JEWS.**—The 49th annual meeting was held at Exeter Hall. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided. The report stated an increase in the income of the Society. The gross receipts for the year now closed amount to £32,230 5s. 5d., showing an increase over the preceding year of £2,411 19s., and the largest sum ever realised. The expenditure for the same period amounted to £30,997 4d. The receipts from Ireland exhibit a further increase of about £400, being a total increase of nearly £1,100 in two years. The items of expenditure are on account of general expenses at home and abroad, £39,515 8s.; on account of widows and disabled missionaries, £481 12s. 4d. The temporal relief fund for the year shows neither contributions nor expenditure. The number of ordained missionaries for the year is 25; of lay agents, 33; of colporters, depositories, &c., 21; of school-masters, 23; and of stations, 32. The issue of Bibles in Hebrew, from the Society's depots, for nine months ending 31st December, were 2,593 copies, 416 from the Bible Society, including 108 in English, German, and French, total, 3,009; and of Pentateuchs, New Testaments, Books of Common Prayer, Missionary and Home Tracts, &c., upwards of 70,000. The amount realised by the sale of the Scriptures was £324 12s. 7d.

**BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.**—The anniversary meeting was held in the Poultry Chapel; Peter Broad, Esq., presided. From the Report it appeared, that notwithstanding the comparatively feeble resources of the Society, several new stations had been established during the past year. In reviewing the operations of previously existing stations, many grounds of thankfulness, and causes for encouragement, were manifested; much palpable progress having been made, and much secret good, there was reason to hope, having been accomplished. The number of stations assisted during the same period was 210. They had 99 Sunday-schools, with 1000 teachers and 7,000 scholars. The places of worship would accommodate 27,000, and the number of weekly hearers was from 17,000 to 18,000: 239 were added by baptism during the year, and the church members were about 4,000. Last year the debt was £620. Contributions had reduced to £120. A loan, found necessary, raised it again to £240. The total receipts had been £40,432 19s. 2d. For missionary purposes £3,208 had been expended, and the total expenditure was £4,058 14s. 2d., leaving a balance of £5 5s. in the hands of the treasurer; but there was still the debt of £240 due to the Banker.

**WEEKLY TRACT SOCIETY.**—Annual meeting held at Exeter Hall: the Treasurer in the chair. The Society publishes a million tracts per annum. They desired to increase the circulation, gratuitously, to 50,000 weekly. The expenditure for the year was £1,230, leaving a balance against the Society of £44. Since the formation of the Society in 1847, to March 1857, 11,218,761 tracts had been distributed gratuitously.

**BIBLE TRANSLATION SOCIETY.**—Annual meeting at Bloomsbury Chapel.—A summary of the Society's operations shewed that seven editions of entire volumes of the Bible, numbering 9,500 copies, and twenty-six of the New Testament, 52,490 copies, had been published; and that, in all, 293 editions of volumes and parts of Scripture, had been printed. The average cost of a Bengali Bible is 8s. 5d., and Testament 2s. 8½d.; of a Sanscrit Bible, 5s. 7½d., and Testament, 3s. 6d.; of Persian and Hindoo Testaments, about 3s. each. The receipts for the year had been £1238. Against this, £1175 had been disbursed.

**SOCIETY FOR PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL AMONG THE JEWS.**—Annual meeting at Freemasons' Hall; Sir Culling Eardley in the chair. 19 missionaries are employed. From the foreign mission most satisfactory accounts were received, and the Society was prosperous, its works successful, and honoured by God. The income of the Society for the year had been £4,236, expenditure £4,045. One speaker stated that at the commencement of the present century "there was not in this island a single Jew known to have been converted to Christianity. At the present time there were 200,000, of whom 200 were preachers of the gospel."

**RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.**—The annual meeting was held at Exeter-hall; chairman Earl Shaftesbury. Every part of the Hall was densely crowded, and several noblemen were present. The present number of the Union's scholars is 22,000; schools, 350, in 156 distinct buildings. But there are 22,000 children still wandering about, with no one to care for their body or soul. Whole districts have no place for afford-

ing instruction to their congregated thousands. The shoe-black brigade had earned no less than £2,300 during the year, at which about £640 had been placed to their credit in the Savings-Banks. Two schools have been removed from, and nine added to the list, during the year. There have been in operation 139 Sunday-Schools, with 18,000 scholars; 100 day-schools, with 40,700 scholars; and 118 evening-schools, with 7,500. These 357 schools are carried on in 157 school-buildings, being an increase of 7 upon the previous year. The number of industrial classes has not increased. The shoeblack-brigades continue to flourish; and the boys, on the whole, improve in steadiness and efficiency. In the three brigades, 132 lads earned, last year, £2,981, by cleaning boots and shoes at 1d. per pair. Of this sum, £1,600 have been paid to the lads, for food and necessaries; and £725 for sundry expenses. Several lads in the shoe black brigade have saved money, and emigrated to Canada. During the year, 641 boys and 619 girls have been placed in situations from 50 schools. 70 Teachers in the schools were formerly ragged scholars; and out of 15 schools, 70 have become communicants at various Christian Churches. The number of refugees is 16, receiving and maintaining, on an average, 500 young persons. The penny-banks have been so successful that persons residing in the locality have taken advantage of them to deposit their little savings. There are now, in 46 of the schools, no less than 10,117 depositors; and the sums paid in during the year have amounted to £3439. Clothing Funds are now in operation in 31 of the schools, and the amount paid in by the children has been 306. During the last year the receipts amounted to £7,324; the expenditure, to £6,952; leaving a balance in hand of £372.

**CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY.**—The 22nd Anniversary meeting was held in Exeter-hall, the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. The report stated that the total receipts for the year ending March 31, 1857, amount to £41,708 5s. 9d.—including donations, subscriptions, and association returns, £35,547 8s. 4d.; legacies, £4,618 12s. 3d.; long annuities, interest, &c. £1,542 5s. 2d. The total expenditure was £39,698 4s. 9d. The increased liability arising from additional grants is £3,445, and the annual expenditure, if all the grants were occupied, £45,960. The total receipts since the Society's formation are £47,962 2s. 8d.; number of grants, 1,121; population benefited, 5,360,000.

**WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting was held in Exeter-hall; Mr. Kinraid, M. P., presided. From the report it appeared that three Chinese had been baptized at Macao during the past year. The following is a general account of the Society's operations:—central or principal stations, 458; chapels and preaching places, 2,624; ministers, &c., 632; other paid agents, 886; unpaid agents, 6,832; full church members, 114,625; on trial for church membership, 4337; scholars, 92,619; printing establishments, 8. The entire receipts for the year amounted to £119,205 8s. 2d., being a little in advance of the receipts of the previous year. The entire expenditure amounted also to £119,205 8s. 2d., including in that amount a sum of £6,397 10s. 1d.; the balance of debt reported at the last annual meeting of the Society; and on whose extinction the report congratulated its subscribers.

**WESLEYAN MISSION TO CHINA.**—The annual breakfast meeting took place at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Upwards of 400 persons attended. The chair was occupied by Mr. Charles Baxter, M. P. The report states that, in consequence of the events at Canton, the missionaries, in the early part of November, all left that city. The books and mission property had been secured. A letter dated December says that the missionaries had been out every day among the Chinese, who gladly read the books. The missionary work was going on well at Macao in the past year (1856); the contributions for the China missions were £1,285, and the expenditure £1,149. The report says, with regard to the present hostilities against China, that "it would perhaps be fair to claim a decided improvement in the position of the missionaries, from the changes that will probably occur."

**COUNTRY TOWNS MISSION SOCIETY.**—The 20th anniversary was held at Freemason's Tavern, Thos. Chambers, Esq., in the chair. The object of the Society is, "to send forth missionaries to read and explain the Scriptures from house to house, carefully avoiding all sectarian opinions." It has 105 agents employed, in 76 different places. The amount of labour thus performed during last year was—number of visits, 283,332; to the sick, 49,506; read the

Scriptures, 242,394 times: meetings, 9,472; open-air services, 830; children sent to day-school, 1,570; to Sunday-schools, 1,553; persons induced to attend worship, 1,185; Scriptures sold, 891; Tracts distributed, 354,193; death-beds visited, 1,526; hopeful cases, 404. The income shows a steady advance. Receipts, for the year, £7,927; expenditure, £7,627.

YOUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

For the Christian Messenger.  
**Notes of a Tourist from Halifax, on the Continent of Europe.**

[No. 2.]  
NAPLES, April 1, 1857.

I wrote on the 23rd March, from Marseilles, giving a short account of my journey so far, and now though I am very unwell (but only temporarily so, and I will explain the cause by-and-by) I must write you a few lines before leaving Naples for Rome early to-morrow.

The week we have been here has been devoted to sight seeing. The first day we went to the Museum, the second to the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, the third to Sorrento, the fourth to Baia and Cumæ, full of ruined temples, villas, amphitheatres and other relics of the ancient Romans. Another day to several mountains and churches, and lastly to the top of Vesuvius, where from the clouds of sulphurous smoke that enveloped us I have taken sick again with the old throat complaint. For two days I have eaten little and slept less, but am mending now and hope to be quite well in a day or so.

The cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii, you will recollect, were destroyed by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius, in A.D. 79, being completely buried underneath ashes and lava, and all traces of their position were unknown till not many years ago. To see what remains of Herculaneum, which is much nearer Naples than Pompeii (at a guess, for I have packed up all my books) the first being but 4, the latter 8 or 10 miles distant; you go down a stairway dug out of solid rock (lava hardened) some 40 or 50 feet and then only a small portion of its vast amphitheatre is seen by the aid of torches. Much that has been opened formerly has been filled up to support the other and present town as far above it as I mentioned.—Herculaneum then is soon seen. Pompeii requires a much longer time as it was only imbedded in ashes, which are more easily removed and give you to the life an exact idea of old Roman Houses and of many of their domestic habits. Indicia have been discovered in many of the houses by which their ownership can be identified; as have been the houses of Sallust the poet, and others, of Vestal Virgins, of Diomedea—in whose wine cellar some 8 or 10 skeletons were dug out with rich jewels still adhering to them. The wine jars in long rows still remain as they were 1800 years ago. The kitchen, the fire-places there, the bed-rooms and baths are still discernible; while many of the floors are yet decorated with the most rich Mosaics, and the walls frescoed with paintings. The best of all the Statues, Mosaics, frescoes, and other relics have been removed to the *Museo Borbonico*—which is very extensive and well worth seeing.

Herculaneum and Pompeii and most of the towns along the Gulf of Naples, were places of summer resort for the ancient Romans, where the Emperor, noblemen, and wealthy and eminent men had villas of the most grand and massive proportions. Everybody hears of the beauty of the Bay of Naples, and it is the only place I have yet seen of which I had previously heard whose descriptions fail to equal its realities. The districts around Castellamare, Sorrento, and the towns along the southern point of the Bay surpass any thing one can imagine, in romantic, grand and beautiful scenery contained in the same picture. The drive to Sorrento—about 10 miles from Castellamare put us all in raptures: terraced mountains full of orange trees (loaded with fruit) and vines and olives; with every variety of hill and dale, and an atmosphere loaded with perfumes of fruits in blossom quite overpower one with pleasurable sensations.

I have not time to describe our visits to several churches (there are 300 in Naples) and monasteries, but they surpassed in gorgeousness anything I have yet seen and are to remain so until we visit St. Peters, at Rome. We rode up to the Monastery of Camandoli the other day on donkeys. It is very high, situated along the north western shore of the Bay, and commands a most extensive view of the surrounding plains, which one can see for 50 miles dotted with towns and cities sparkling in the bright sunshine.

population, containing about 600,000. Near its vicinity are the old roman ruins of the sites of the cities of Baie and Cumæ, filled with remains of Temples, Villas, Amphitheatres, Baths, &c. Of the latter the Baths of Nero at Baie are wonderful; a passage cut in the solid rock takes you down some 50 feet, where the water (salt) is boiling. To go down it is necessary to have an extra suit of clothes provided so as to be able to change on coming up, for the perspiration one gets from the steaming vapors in his descent completely saturates his clothes. This Bath is a great thing for rheumatic complaints, and has effected wonderful cures in that way. Near here too is the celebrated Lake of Avernus, of the ancients, (supposed by them to be hell), surrounded by their Elysian fields. Part of the river Styx, a little canal leading out of Avernus is still seen, where the dead bodies were laid with money in their mouths as Charon's fee for rowing them across.

The great point here is, of course, Vesuvius. We, four of us, took a carriage with three horses and left the Hotel about 8 o'clock a. m. 10½ a. m. brought us up, as far as carriages can go—to where a solitary hermit lives adjoining an observatory. He gave a very sardonic looking grin when I asked him if any ladies ever visited him. Here we took donkeys for half an hour, to the point where we commenced being pulled up by ropes—which trying operation lasted nearly an hour—then we are at the Craters—of which there are two now burning. Every time there is a grand eruption (i. e. when the mountain sides pour down with red hot lava) a new Crater is formed. Those now burning are down in circular gorges, some 40ft. deep, only one of which can be descended, to where the sea of fire burns, encrusted with a black coating, upon which sometimes it is safe and sometimes unsafe to walk, as you can see the red-hot fire through the crevices beneath you: Supposing after you have gone down into this little bed, smoking with sulphur and flame, you cross as I did, the sea of fire for 50 yards, the black coating of which crackles under you, you come to a mound of 20ft. high out of the top of which the red-hot lava and stones are belched in fitful gusts, and you have to take good care to dodge the red-hot balls of lava which fall in a liquid state around you. A few minutes exposure to the air hardens and blackens them. I have for you, two little silver coins, which I dipped into a little piece of this lava in a liquid state not five seconds after it had come out of the volcano. It is now hard and black there is a peak of the mountain far above either of the craters to which Mr. S. and I went by ourselves with one guide. It is not difficult to ascend, but while there the wind brought the sulphurous smoke down upon us, so that for some minutes we could not see, and were nearly choked. It is the effects of this upon my throat to which I attribute my illness.

We leave for Rome to-morrow, to be there during Holy-week, which commences on Good Friday, about ten days from now. The distance is about 120 miles, and there is a railway to Capua, 30 miles of it. Next year they expect to have the road open through to Rome, which will be a great convenience for travellers; although the post goes in 20 hours, travelling day and night, in a private carriage, as we get the law will not allow us to take less than days for it.

My next letter will be from Rome: until then good-bye.

For the Christian Messenger.

**Letter from Boston.**

MR. EDITOR,  
In accordance with your request, and my own promise, I shall attempt to write you occasionally during my absence from home, of such things as I may chance to see or hear—that will be likely to interest at least a part of your numerous readers. But my visit to this famous land of steam, electricity and general progress being to all intents and purposes a flying one—these sketches must be necessarily very meagre and imperfect.

We arrived at Boston to-day, in the *America*, from Halifax. We had a long tedious and most disagreeable passage;—enveloped in dense fog the greater part of the time, besides any quantity of rain—calm and head wind that could be desired to make the trip as unpleas- able as it was unpleasant. There were in all about 40 passengers of both sexes, and all in one class, the character of which I am not less willing than unable to define; suffice it to say that they were either above or below holding converse with any-body, on any subject, religious, political, scientific or otherwise;—

seeming into most rigid felicity could sullen mood. of the scene old Neptune most imminent to and fro his cing effects most uncom- trate victories sickness than an know same; and a description while witness—especially days and wonder the theories in days are fil- effectual relief, affliction, o Sunday, had ample ing ground Sootia. V lying at an other days mandantes, rations mind can eration so along our evil, confin- indulged in who not ot tion of glori- bet by the courage a to God an men. Boston again ma- dressed ar- ing at the the effects in respect- He comm- man's du- moval of evil there- absorbing far as the preferred of temper- was of si- General answerin- to ordain- cause of and Glas- it was th- provome- had alw- who den- Ireland, of food, English- millions law to working land fr- ing or d- was no- which I- was ab- Let me- and wo- compli- stone o- crowd- that d- immin- or we- turned stand I- the ris- We o- forward- keep b- fatal to- 'Impo- thing crowd- heaven- impos- cause- world- Bee- DRAP- W- my to- the- East- (D.)