

travelled over 5000 miles, and raised £2400. The great want was, earnest, good, energetic, ministers; 40 settlements were ready for them, and would support them when out there; he wanted £100 to provide for preliminary expenses and made an urgent appeal for it; which has been responded to in some measure already, and will probably be increased.

Last year there was a debt on the Society of nearly £1500: towards the liquidation, £1571 has been already raised. The total receipts for the year have been £6061; the expenditure, £6005.

**VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting was held at the Milton Club, preceded by a soiree. The chair was taken by Samuel Morley, Esq. In the schools aided by the Society during the past year, there are upwards of 3100 children receiving a sound and scriptural education. The School fees received during the past year were £866 9s.; while £776 8s. 4d. has been contributed in the form of subscriptions and donations. The places to which grants have been made during the past year, include two localities in the island of Jamaica. The schools to which these grants have been made are normal institutions, established for the purpose of training native teachers for the negro population of the West Indian Islands. The institution at Kettering is a training school for female teachers, and is conducted by the widow of the late devoted missionary, the Rev. W. Knibb; that at Calabar is a similar establishment for male teachers, conducted by an experienced master lately sent out from England. In both institutions there are a number of young persons being prepared for the work of teaching; and the reports received from Jamaica represent their progress as being satisfactory. The receipts for the year were £979; and, deducting expenditure, a balance of £272 was left in hand.

The Rev. Mr. Dendy, from Jamaica, said that when he first undertook the charge of his present congregation, not 3 persons out of 100 could read the New Testament. Since then he had been engaged in erecting no less than six schools, at an expense of at least £1200, which had been nearly defrayed by the exercise of the voluntary principle, and the greater part of which had been paid by the people themselves, when they were in better circumstances than they are in at present. In these six schools there were native teachers: and the Governor, who lately paid a visit unexpectedly to the schools, expressed himself gratified at their efficiency. It appeared from the statistics of education in Jamaica, that there were no less than 24,000 day scholars there; which was one in sixteen of the population—the same proportion that existed in England thirty years ago. Mr. Miall said that, while school education in America was supposed to be, and was nominally, far superior in point of numbers to our own, the class of crime coming under the cognizance of the police, was rather more than double, in that country. There was only one way in which people could be thoroughly elevated; by making them acquainted with moral and religious truth.

**JERUSALEM DIOCESAN FUND.**—Annual meeting held at Willis's Rooms, St. James, Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. The income of the year from ordinary sources, was £1486. The commencement of the Abyssinian mission formed the most important and interesting of the Bishop's missionary work during the year.

The Abyssinian Church, now in a deplorable state of decay and corruption, was very ancient, dating its foundation from the days of the great Athanasius, patriarch of Alexandria, who consecrated its first bishop in the early part of the fourth century. From the occupation of Northern Europe by the Saracens to the close of the fifteenth century, it was so isolated from the rest of Christendom that its very name was forgotten. A large body of Jews, (descendants of those who by some were supposed to have emigrated thither at the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus) were to be found in the vicinity of Gondar, &c., sunk in the grossest ignorance. Perhaps the most important feature of the mission was, that Abyssinia afforded a ready access to the barbarous pagan tribes of Central Africa.

**PEACE SOCIETY.**—The Annual meeting was held, May 19, in Finsbury chapel; Mr. Charles Hindley, M. P., in the chair. The report commenced by regretting that after the conclusion of the war with Russia there should have been hostilities with Persia and China, and fears of outbreaks in Italy and America. Lectures had been given and public meetings held during the past year, for the benefit of the society, in London and its suburbs, and in most of the principal towns in England, Wales, and Scotland. Upwards of 600,000 publications, advocating peace principles, had been put in circulation during the past year. The present position of the peace cause was a source of sorrow and regret to the committee, it being believed by them that a warlike and unchristian spirit was abroad; but at the same time it was believed that the cause must finally triumph, and wars cease from one end of the world to the other. The official account showed the total income for the past year to have been £1,538, and the total expenditure £1,210, leaving a balance in favour of the society of £327. The resolutions expressed undiminished confidence in the principles of the society; deplored and discredited the Canton operations as alike opposed to Christianity and civilization; and rejoiced at the improved spirit of kindness and conciliation between the Governments of America and Great Britain.

**FOREIGN AID SOCIETY.**—Annual meeting held in Hanover Square Rooms, the Marquis of Cholmondeley in the chair. The report said that the great masses of the Roman Catholic population in France and Belgium are earnestly desirous of better teaching than is afforded by their own religion, and attended the preaching of the gospel in large numbers. The Evangelical Society of France continued to advance, in spite of all opposition. It possesses 93 persons as teachers and students. The Société Centrale Protestante had eight Provincial Associations. New places of worship had been established; at Moulins, for the first time for 170 years. A great revival had taken place at Blois and its vicinity. In Belgium, it was stated, 25 years ago, the Roman Catholic religion was supreme, and not one native was known to profess the religion of the Bible. The Evangelical Society at Brussels, aided by the British and Foreign Bible Society, had now altered that state of things. During the past year they had employed 31 agents, of whom 12 were ordained ministers. They had 13 central stations, with 1000 communicants and 5000 worshippers: also, 800 children in schools, making a community of nearly 7000 persons, all, with few exceptions, drawn from the Roman Catholic body.

**SOLDIERS' FRIEND SOCIETY.**—Annual meeting in Exeter Hall Captain Stuart in the chair. During the past year, 285 persons had been induced to attend public worship. 247,456 tracts had been given away, 1480 bibles, 3154 testaments, 841 Italian bibles, 7084 Italian testaments, 154 French bibles, 854 testaments 118 Irish bibles, 120 Church of England prayer books, 8850 tracts in various languages, and 1115 tracts to officers. The income was £4260, but the expenditure had exceeded it by £347.

**TRINITARIAN BIBLE SOCIETY.**—Annual meeting at Freemasons' Hall, Marquis of Blandford in the chair. In Spain, Italy generally, and in Sardinia, the Society had been very successful. The Irish bible especially enjoyed, where circulated, and much good hoped from its perusal. The Cork and Dublin societies were productive of much usefulness.

**CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION.**—Meeting in Crosby Hall, Bishopgate; S. Morley, Esq., in the chair. 36 students having completed their education in Homerton College, had been appointed to schools, making the total number sent out by the

Board 267. Forty-three are now in the Training Institution. Of these, two were natives of British Guiana, intended for Missionary operations in that colony. The number of children in schools connected with the Board is 13,500 in round numbers. 41 schools had been assisted by the Board, affording instruction to 3000 children.

**CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL BUILDING SOCIETY.**—The fourth annual meeting was held at the Milton Club, Ludgate Hill; John Finch, Esq., in the chair. The report alluded to the distinctive function of the society, viz: that of an auxiliary to local operations in aid to Chapel extension; to the scheme of raising £10,000, to be used perpetually if not exclusively in loans in aid of new chapels; to a charter of incorporation, &c. &c. The number of chapels aided by the Society, in for years, is 67; their accommodation, 35,000 sittings; their entire cost, more than £122,000; and grants in their aid have been made to the amount of £17,000. Many applications are now awaiting similar assistance, asked for. Income for the year just closed, over £6,800; and the expenditure being deducted, a balance of £1500 is now in hand.

**BRITISH AND FOREIGN SAILOR'S SOCIETY.**—The twenty-fourth annual meeting was held at the London Tavern, Rear Admiral Vernon Harcourt in the chair. The annual report detailed the operations of the Society during the past year, the most interesting and auspicious in the annals of the institution. It especially alluded to the completion of the Sailors' Institute at Snadwell, which has been recently opened for the benefit of the seafaring classes. Sunday services are there conducted, lectures are delivered weekly a reading-room has been established, a navigation school opened in concert with the Board of Trade, and other means adopted for the moral and intellectual cultivation of sailors. Reference was also made to the labours of missionaries in London and various provincial seaport-towns, and many interesting instances were cited of good being accomplished by their labors. Though the project of the Sailors' Institute was made public only three years ago, £1400 had been subscribed—the Emperor of the French and Miss Nightingale being among the donors. The total liabilities of the Society amount to £1810, to meet which there is but £1316; it is hoped that a forthcoming bazaar will clear off the balance of £494. The total receipts for the past year, including the Institute fund were £2,721; the expenditure to £2715.

**MORAVIAN MISSION.**—The half-yearly meeting of the Society for the furtherance of the gospel among the heathen in connexion with the Moravian Community was held in the Chapel of the United Brethren, Fetter-lane. After a preliminary service, the Rev. P. La Trobe said, they were met in order to take leave, if not of missionaries, of a vessel which for many years past had made hazardous voyages to the coast of Labrador. The commission of the "Harmony," was to maintain connexion and intercourse, year by year, with the church at home and the missionaries and their flock on the distant desolate and ice-bound coast of Labrador. The Circular Letter of the Brethren's Society, addressed to the Mission Conferences at Nain, Okak, Hopedale, and Hebron, on the coast of Labrador, which was read, rehearsed the peculiar trials and vicissitudes of the Mission in these places. The Esquimaux flock had recently passed through great trial. In only two years (1836-7, 1845-6) were the suffering and mortality, the famine and disease, at all to be compared with that recently endured. The description given in the letters from Nain, Okak, and Hebron, of the want and suffering, especially among those who resorted to the seashore for shell-fish and seaweed, were deeply affecting. Although none died from actual starvation, many perished from complaints brought on through unwholesome food, or want of proper nourishment. The blessings of health seemed to have been enjoyed by the Esquimaux generally, save in the instances alluded to. The reports from Nain and Hopedale were of an encouraging character. At the latter a small Missionary Association had been formed. At Hopedale a new chapel with increased accommodation, was to be commenced. The missions on the Mosquito coast and in Central Asia maintained their place amid great hardships. The meeting was of a fraternal character, and addressed by Captain White, Mr. Warinow from Greenland and others.

**SOCIETY FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF FOREIGNERS IN LONDON.**—The Annual meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, Newman-street and Oxford-street very numerously attended. The chairman drew attention to the fact that there were 100,000 foreigners in London, many of whom were political refugees living in a state of great poverty and distress. The Society had established a school which was attended by 100 children of foreign parents, who were now receiving daily instruction and thus preparing to become useful members of society, instead of becoming pests to the community in which they lived. Particulars were then given of the various foreign Sabbath services, conducted under the Society's auspices, and the success which had attended their establishment.

**ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.**—At the meeting, held in Bishopgate street, the Secretary made a verbal statement respecting the operations of the Society during the past year. He was happy to state that, notwithstanding the traffic in slaves was still considerable in Cuba, there were signs of the entire trade approaching its termination. It might be said to have ceased at Porto Rico, and even the East Coast of Africa, while it was rapidly declining in Turkey and the West Coast of Africa. Addresses had been presented to Lord Clarendon, who had promised that something would be done. In America there were encouraging signs, and he hoped the slave trade there would soon become extinct.

**SCOTTISH TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.**—The 13th Anniversary was held in Glasgow. Mr. Neal Dow was among the speakers. The report showed that the League had 4 periodicals, with very large circulations. During the former year, 14 millions pages of letter press had been circulated; this year they amounted to 19,500,000. The agency had been increased 25 per cent. There are 12 agents employed. The meetings were well attended, and the League was making great progress. It has 6732 members, and 364 societies. The income had increased in the year from £3420 to £6300.

**NATIONAL TEMPERANCE LEAGUE: Welcome to the Hon. Neal Dow of America.**—The Annual meeting was held in Exeter Hall, for the double purpose of transacting the ordinary business, and of giving a welcome to the hon. Neal Dow, originator of the Maine Liquor Law. The Hall was crowded, and Mr. George Cruickshank was called to the chair. The report stated that at the amalgamation of the National Temperance Society with the London Temperance League, under the title of the National Temperance League, the liabilities of the joint societies were very great, but by joint subscriptions and a bazaar, the committee had been enabled to meet all the claims due, the income having been £1570 and the expenditure £1547. After speeches by the chairman and Rev. Newman Hall, a collection was made; and then the chairman introduced to the meeting the hon. Neal Dow, and, taking the distinguished visitor by the hand, bade him welcome in the name of the teetotalers of England, amid long-continued and vociferous cheering. The company rose en masse, and gave three times three hearty cheers; the ladies waving their handkerchiefs with the utmost enthusiasm. When it had subsided, the hon. gentleman made a forcible speech in support of his principles.

**THE UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE FOR TOTAL SUPPRESSION OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.**—A meeting was held on the 26th of May, in Exeter Hall, to welcome the hon. Neal Dow. The meet-

ing was crowded to suffocation and presided over by the hon. Earl Marshall, of Nova Scotia, Dr. Burns, Mr. Begg, and the Earl of Harrington having spoken, the hon. Neal Dow rose and was received with tumultuous applause. Amongst other things, he said that he had been struck with nothing so novel, during his sojourn in England, as the palatial residences erected for the accommodation of those whose vices, caused by crime and fostered by drink, had led them to be kept there; the remedy was, to prevent their having that drink which showed them the way there, and that was only to be done by a prohibitory law.

Here, for the present, Mr. Editor, my reports must close; but perhaps the following may be interesting, as cognate with the subject:—

**A BISHOP PREACHING TO THE WORKING CLASSES AT EXETER HALL.**—Last Sunday evening, (May 24) the first of a series of special religious services for the working classes, originating with a number of Evangelical clergymen and laymen of the Established Church, was held. The great hall was crowded. The Earl of Shaftesbury and Mr. Arthur Kinnaird accompanied the Bishop on to the platform; and the latter gentleman introduced to a seat next the preacher a poor old man perhaps seventy years of age, with matted hair, a broken hat, a bundle, done up in a red pocket handkerchief, in his hand! The preliminary service, which occupied about thirty minutes, consisted of two hymns, and the ordinary litany of the Common Prayer-book; and the Bishop preached in a simple but natural and very earnest manner for fifty minutes, from the words, "What saith the Scriptures?" He first set forth what the Scriptures are, and how they were proved to be true, and then divided the subject into three heads: "What saith the Scriptures to your head, to your heart, and to your life?" The audience was remarkably attentive.

**EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.**—A deputation consisting of the Rev. Mr. Glynn, Rector of Wychampton, the Rev. Dr. Steane, and the Rev. Herman Schmettan from the British branch of the Evangelical Alliance had an audience with the King of Prussia on the 15th inst. The object of the visit is to concert measures with the Berlin committee for holding the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in that capital next September, in pursuance of an invitation issued by a number of Protestant christians of all denominations in Germany, towards the close of last year. The deputation were exceedingly well received by his Majesty, who had the whole of a lengthy address read to him, and afterwards entered into affable conversation with them, in English, referring to the events of his visit to England in 1842, and reminding one of the party of his having also on that occasion also brought him up an address.

YOUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers comprising the Western Baptist Association, to the Churches which they represent, send christian salutation.

DEAR BRETHREN,

The interests committed to, and the confidence placed in us, by you make us feel our position to be responsible and important.

We feel deeply interested in all the objects calling us together at this time, and hope your prayers will follow our plans to maturity and success. We hope to be able to give due attention to all the interests of our beloved Zion and foster and promote those institutions designed by a gracious God to save and bless a ruined world.

The subject, however, to which we feel particularly anxious to call your attention this time is that of Missions.

The Christian Church is emphatically a Missionary organization, upon the banner that has been unfolded over her walls and battlements for more than eighteen hundred years, have been written in glowing characters, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved and he that believeth not shall be damned." While receiving this command of our loving Saviour, we direct our thoughts to the whitening fields of usefulness, we become convinced that this request of the best of departing friends has not been fully attended to. When we think of districts in which souls ripening for and dropping into the grave—where the young are advancing to manhood and womanhood, and still no gospel preached there, to lighten the path of the one through the dark valley, nor prepare the other for happy and useful lives, we feel assured that the Saviour has not there seen of the travail of his soul, and we have not made that effort towards such a realization as we should.

When we extend our field of observations to the regions beyond; where the gospel is but little known, or never preached; where the spiritual atmosphere is fearfully contaminated with the pestilential influences of heathenism and superstition;—where souls are still dropping into eternity, unblesed and unsaved, we feel constrained to say, we have not run to their rescue as we should, with our men, means and prayers. We feel pained when we contrast those fields of darkness and cruelty, with the land of light and peace where the "wilderness and solitary places are glad and the desert blossoms as the rose," and feel compelled to say, O! that the "Kingdoms of this world were become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ."

Again, when we listen to the instruction of our Saviour, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth more labourers into his harvest,"—and see so few young men like Isaiah saying, "Here am I, send me," we fear there is a want of earnestness in our own prayers for an increase of the ministry; souls are still crying, "come over and help us," yet how few of the churches seem to be looking out from among themselves, young men of character and talent, to be devoted to the ministry. O brethren how intensely, intimately connected with the cause of Missions, is an increase of Ministers!

There are two or three important points in the foregoing observations to which we especially call your attention.

First: We most earnestly and affectionately call attention to the subject of prayer for an increase of ministers. The command is pray the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth more labourers into his harvest. Many young men of talent among us are following other occupations than preaching the gospel, whose labours among the destitute would gladden their hearts and save their souls, and revive our drooping and languishing churches. We beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that in your secret devotions, at your family altars, in your social meetings and public supplications, ye pray especially for God to send forth labourers into his harvest.

Secondly: We call attention to the necessity of increased efforts on your parts, in your contributions, to enable us to maintain our present position and extend our field of operation. How many of the most important missionary departments are not as efficient as they would be if an increase of funds could be secured? How many important fields are nearly abandoned for the want of means to continue? We do not ask you dear brethren to deny yourselves of the comforts or necessaries of life; but of its superfluities and those things which minister to sinful appetites, that ye may have to give to the needy, and enable us to carry forward and complete the designs of our Heavenly Father in giving us this ability and the means to do so; reminding you of the words of the Lord Jesus how he said that it was more blessed to give than to receive. We also wish you to follow his example, "who