

and want encouragement." Such I can imagine to be thought by any one of those many black-suited, white-necked gentlemen, or rosy, plump dames, who have left Manchester, York, Devon, Norfolk, anywhere and everywhere within reach of rail, to come to the *great London May Meetings*. But as Nova Scotians can go to *none*—and yet, one is sure they feel the same interest in them as other people—how is the deficiency best supplied?

I don't know short-hand—and have not the means of using it, if I did. Speeches, too, are like eels—'tis hard to pick enough out from the rest, as decidedly better, and dissect them. I will give the *results* (so far as time will allow me to pick them out) of each Society's operations: and, with a fair catholicity, present the combination of all denominations and objects, for selection according to predilection. Such will afford most valuable information: and the friends of each Society will thus know what it has been doing, even though they never saw Exeter Hall, and would not recognize the Freemason's Tavern even in a photograph.

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL AMONG THE JEWS.—Fifteenth anniversary, at Freemason's-hall. The receipts of the past year amounted to £4,662-17s., being an excess upon the former year of £376 6s. 4d.; during the past year the expenses had amounted to £4,430 9s. 4d.; the committee desired that the reserve fund should reach the sum of £1,000; the general balance in hand was £1,400. The number of missionaries employed by the Society during the past year had been 18; and in Syria alone 964 copies of the Scriptures had been distributed; many pleasing instances were given of conversions in various parts where the Society's missionaries are settled.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—Annual meeting in Exeter-hall; the Right Hon. Lord Panmure (late Secretary at War), presided, and congratulated the society that the results of the previous year had far exceeded those of any former year in financial position, and in the exertions of the society in foreign countries. With regard to contributions, they had increased from £119,000 last year to £123,000 this year. The Society now occupied 493 central or principal stations or circuits; they had nearly 4,000 chapels, missionaries and assistant missionaries to the number of nearly 700, agents to the number of nearly 1,000, unpaid agents and Sabbath school teachers to the number of 11,000, and 121,000 full and accredited church members. During the past year they had added 33 missionaries and missionaries' wives to their noble band of labourers. The year's home receipts were £91,050; foreign ditto, £32,012. The entire charge on expenditure is £123,062 18s. 11d. (In this is included £2,500, reserved as special contributions on behalf of India; to be expended during the current year, in sending additional missionaries to the Madras and Mysore districts.) Twenty-two missionaries, and twelve wives of missionaries, together with one school-mistress, have been sent out by the Society since the last anniversary.

HOME AND COLONIAL SCHOOL SOCIETY.—Annual examination and meeting, at the Institution, Gray's-inn-road.—The examination of the children of the Model Schools gave the greatest satisfaction.—208 teachers had been trained for various spheres of usefulness. The present attendance at the infant school was 160; mixed school, 120; juvenile school, 120; practising schools, 340; galleries for the practice of students, 10. Receipts for the year, £7,307 10s. 11d.; and after the expenses had been met, there was a balance of £10 3s. 5d. in hand.

NAVAL AND MILITARY BIBLE SOCIETY.—Eighteenth annual meeting, in Willis's Rooms, St. James's; the Marquis of Cholmondeley in the chair. During the past year, the Society has circulated 19,973 copies of the scriptures (Testaments included), amongst sailors, soldiers, and canal boatmen. The above number was composed of 12,676 Bibles and 7,297 Testaments. The number of Bibles and Testaments exclusively supplied to troops going to India, since January 29th, last year, had been 12,489; of which 9,522 were Bibles and 2,967 Testaments. The special fund for sending these Bibles to the East was £248, and the Society expended £290 more than it actually received for that object.

TRINITARIAN BIBLE SOCIETY.—Annual meeting at the Freemason's Tavern; Lord Haddo, M. P., in the chair. The Society had maintained its distinct position, on the ground of the necessity for the faithful versions of the Scriptures being distributed. It had had a deputation on the British and Foreign Bible Society, but the overtures of the Trinitarian Society were rejected. During the year, 442 Testaments and 4,678 portions of the Scriptures had been circulated in Spanish; a large number of portions in the Irish language, had also been circulated. At

home 4,380 English Bibles and 1,911 English Testaments had been issued. The income of the past year was £1,076 11s. 9d., and the expenditure £1,012 18s. 9d.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—Annual meeting at Exeter Hall. The Earl of Chichester presided. During the past year, the total ordinary income of the Society had been £130,766 18s. 4d., while the special fund for India up to March 31, 1858, was £24,717 16s. 11d., making the total received in the United Kingdom, £155,484 15s. 3d. The balance in hand, after providing for all payments, was £1,444 18s. 11d. The local funds raised in the missions and expended there upon the operations of the Society, but independently of the general fund, were not included in the above statement. They were estimated at £9,915 8s. 10d. The total number of clergymen employed by the society was 225; the total number of European laymen, schoolmasters, female teachers, catechists, &c., was 2,077.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—Annual meeting in Exeter Hall. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided. The receipts of the year ending March 31, 1858, have exceeded those of any preceding year (excluding the special funds). The amount applicable to the general purposes of the Society is £79,040 16s. 2d., and the amount received for Bibles and Testaments, £70,267 10s. 11d.; making the total receipts from the ordinary sources of income, £149,308 7s. 1d., being £11,551 12s. 2d. more than any former year. To the above must be added the sum of £1,379 13s. for the Chinese New Testament fund, and £1,186 2s. 10d. for the special fund for India, making a grand total of £152,574 3s. 6d. The issues of the Society were as follows:—From the depots at home, 976,503, and from depots abroad, 625,624, making 1,602,127 copies, being an increase of 84,329 copies over those of any preceding year. The total issue of the Society now amounted to 33,983,946 copies. The ordinary payments had amounted to £146,563 5s. 1d., and the payments on account of the jubilee and Chinese New Testament fund to £6,613 19s. 7d., making the total expenditure of the year amount to £153,177 4s. 8d., being £4,136 10s. 11d. more than any former year. The Society is under engagements to the extent of £83,818 17s. 4d.

SOCIETY FOR THE LIBERATION FROM STATE PATRONAGE AND CONTROL.—Annual meeting at St. Martin's Hall, Long Acre.—Mr. Cowan, M. P. for Edinburgh, presided, and gave a rapid sketch of the struggles in Scotland to free religious matters from State control, remarked that since the establishment of the Free Church the number of ministers had not only been nearly doubled, but the large sum of £300,000 a year had been voluntarily subscribed, when previously the compulsory payments only amounted to £18,000. The report said that the bondage, the confusion, the helpless inefficiency, of our Church Establishment, as an Establishment, were becoming intolerable to its devout and conscientious members; and never were complaints more loud, or longings for liberty more audibly expressed. The Treasurer's Report shewed that the amount on one side was £2,740; the amount of payments £2,697; and the balance in hand, £43.—Dr. Forster reviewed at some length the state of the church-rate agitation in the House of Commons, and congratulated the meeting that the Bill was at the present time in committee, where it had never been before. In many counties four-fold more was demanded than the law allowed; and in others more was collected than was necessary. Within the past three years £50,000 of rates had been abolished, and another £50,000 was not worth six months' purchase.

LONDON CITY MISSION.—23rd annual meeting, held in Exeter Hall. John Pemberton Plamp-tree, Esq., occupied the chair. The Society had appointed missions to Guy's Hospital and the London Hospital, and authorities of each of these institutions had voluntarily contributed £50 towards the support of these missionaries. The increase had amounted to £32,230, including £4,000 from the provinces. They had received £316 from Scotland and £127 from India, notwithstanding the disturbed state of that country. This was an increase of £1,536 on the previous year, and they had besides received £310 for the Disabled Missionaries Fund. The committee and some other charitable persons had subscribed £4,000 for the reserve fund. They had at present only between £100 and £200 in hand, which was less than they had ever had before. The report then related the operations of the missionaries among the distressed strangers in this country, and also their visits to the soldiers of the army, which were sanctioned and encouraged by the commanding officers.

PRAYER-BOOK AND HOMILY SOCIETY.—Annual meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, Lincoln's-inn-fields. The Marquis of Cholmondeley, the president, in the chair.—From April 1, 1857, to March 31, 1858, 4,720 ships and similar vessels had been visited in the port of London, making a total from the year 1824 of 94,373. The aggregate of the crews of these ships, upon a moderate average, amounted to 45,000 souls. These visits have led to the sale of 2,588 Common Prayer-Books, for use at sea; making a total of, from 1824, 59,928. In addition to this, there has been a very large gratuitous distribution of other books to seamen, to soldiers embarking for India, and to second and third-class passengers emigrating to the colonies. During the year ending March 31,—133 ships, carrying about 12,000 troops, and 8,415 passengers emigrating to Australia, &c., have been especially visited several times before their departure; 93 large Prayer-books have been given for use at public worship; 17,745 books of family prayers, taken from the Liturgy, have been distributed, to encourage social worship; and 1747 books of selected homilies given to ships' crews, to sergeants and others at the head of messes amongst the troops, and to emigrants, for Scriptural instruction on the voyage. Together with the above there have likewise been given 16,664 single homilies, addresses to seamen and emigrants, and other tracts, including collects with catechism, to be used in the schools on board, for general use in reading and instruction. Since the year 1849, more than 178,000 persons have more or less partaken of the benefit of this part of the Society's labours.

CITY DISPENSARY.—69th anniversary was celebrated at Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street. Upwards of 15,000 patients have had medical or surgical attendance and medicines during the past year. 4,000 visits were, moreover, paid to patients at their own domiciles, and 950 cases of accidents and emergent disease were attended. The annual subscriptions amounted to about £300, and the donations at last anniversary dinner to £70.

Mr. SPURGEON preached a SERMON ON BEHALF OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY, at the Surrey Music Hall, on Wednesday, 28th April, in the morning. By half-past 10 every nook and corner was crammed, there being at least 10,000 within the walls, while *thousands went away disappointed*. At eleven Mr. Spurgeon commenced with prayer. The sermon was a most energetic and eloquent discourse, from Psalm 46, 8th and 9th verses. Mr. S. was listened to with breathless attention, and at the close made an earnest appeal, to all who loved the spread of Christianity to contribute in every possible way to increase its growth. "He cherished the fond hope of living to see the day when the monuments in Trafalgar Square, which were now of Napier and Nelson, would be substituted by those of a Whitfield and a Wesley. The day was coming when peace should triumph over war. He hailed the dawn of that happy time with delight." A liberal collection was made.

GOVERNESSES' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—15th anniversary, celebrated at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate. Lord Talbot presided.—Upwards of 1,000 ladies had taken advantage of a system of insurance, adopted and approved by the B. Society, besides those who had been absolutely relieved from its resources. There was an asylum for the aged; a home for governesses during the intervals between their engagements; a provident fund and Savings bank, to provide against contingencies in the future; an Annuity fund, and "Temporary assistance" to governesses in distress.

CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION SOCIETY.—Annual general meeting, held in the lecture-room of the Sunday School Union; Alderman Challis in the chair. The affairs of the Society, after being in a very declining state, have materially improved. At one time it was likely that the Society would have to be dissolved; but the friends of the institution rallied around it, and during the past year, it had been the means of doing much good. Besides keeping up a correspondence with affiliated churches, the committee had conducted open-air services, and also services in a tent near the camp at Aldershot. At the end of last year the Rev. Mr. Wilson had visited many of the churches, with a view to stimulate them in the cause of aggressive Christianity. The committee had received most gratifying assurances of the good that had been done; but the full measure of that good, eternity only could disclose.

THE BOOK SOCIETY.—The 108th Annual Meeting of this Society, which has for its object the diffusion of religious knowledge among the poor, was held at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill. Edward Bell, Esq., M. P., occupied the

chair. The Society was never in a more vigorous condition than at the present time. During the past year many of the publications had been sold by thousands, and the demand for others had exhausted the edition. The Society's income for 1857 was £4,521 12s. 1d.; nearly 150 new subscribers had been added to the list. The receipts have been £4,521 13s. 1d., and the expenditure £4,503 9s., leaving in hand a balance of £18 4s. 1d. The amount of Stock now standing to the society's account was £2,995 18s. 7d.

CHINESE EVANGELIZATION SOCIETY.—Public breakfast at Freemasons' Tavern; Sir E. N. Buxton, Bart., in the chair. The receipts for the year, £1,606 8s.; expenditure, £1,366 7s. 1d.

COUNTY TOWNS MISSIONS SOCIETY.—Annual meeting at Hanover-square Rooms; Mr. G. Hitchcock in the chair. The general summary of labour for the year showed:—Number of hours employed, 30,362; number of visits, 212,115; number of visits to the sick and dying, 54,982; number of times read the Scriptures, 196,697; meetings held, 9,924; meetings held in open air, 1,116; tracts distributed, 390,453; Bibles sold, or given, 1,208; death beds visited, 1,768; death beds visited by missionaries only, 514; children sent to day schools, 1,942; children sent to Sunday schools, 1,563; persons induced to attend public worship, 1,180; hopeful cases, 460; income, £8,419 13s. 6d.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND METROPOLITAN TRAINING INSTITUTION.—Annual meeting held at the College, Highburg Park. Earl Shaftesbury presided, and directed attention to the assistance rendered to the Church by this institution, in the training of young men imbued with sound evangelical views.—Since the autumn of 1850 202 young men had completed their training, 17 of whom had been appointed to schools among the heathen, 12 to the colonies, and the remainder to schools in India. At Christmas, 1857, 59 students attended for examination.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCRIPTURE READERS' ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Hanover Square Rooms. Lord Bishop of Ripon in the chair. During the past year the income had fallen off, so that the number of readers was reduced from 122 to 110, but the number would be again raised as soon as funds improved. Families visited, 116,000; visits accepted, 303,370; number to whom Scriptures had been read, 300,715. In one parish of Southwark, were 20,000 who never attended any place of worship. Receipts for year, £9,384; and only 5s. 5d. of that remained, after paying expenses.

CHURCH PENITENTIARY ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Willis's Rooms: Bishop of London in the chair.—The Indian mutiny had so affected the Society's income, from reverses felt here, that it had not reached £1,000, and was much less than in previous years. There was also a deficiency in donations amounting to £250.—Special reference was made to the increase of "the great social evil," grown to such an extent as to be unbearable, and the Society especially combated that vice. Grants to penitentiaries had been made to the amount of £1,120.—The great institutions of Kersersburg, and on the Rhine, Paris, Berlin, and Dresden, produced 432 deaconesses engaged in the great work of this particular branch of charity.

METROPOLITAN INDUSTRIAL REFORMATORY.—A meeting to take farewell of ten inmates, about to emigrate to Canada. Since 1853, 203 young men had been in the institution; and 74 of them had emigrated, under the Society's auspices, to America. 55, on the average, had been under treatment during the year. Bishop of London (Chairman), Lord Radstock, and others, addressed the young men affectionately and with counsel.

Your Special Correspondent,
NIGHT LAMP.

For the Christian Messenger.
Letters from Rev. D. Freeman.
Wilmot, May 17, 1858.

DEAR BROTHER, Having arrived thus far in my Agency I will communicate to you my success. Tuesday, the 11th, brought us from Halifax to Wolfville. I went on to Canada, attended a public meeting, and returned to Wolfville the same evening. Wednesday, the 12th, returned to Canada, and as Bro. Hunt engaged to use his endeavors to raise £50 in his Church for the object of my Agency, I proceeded on to Billtown. On Thursday, the 13th, I called upon a few persons, and presented the claims of the College; but as the pastor expected to be absent on a tour to Queen's County, it was thought inexpedient for me to spend any time in Billtown at present. With-