

hereby pledge themselves during the coming year, as God may help them, to further to the utmost of their power this great work amongst the churches of our denomination."

Mr. Hughton (of Liverpool) alluded to what had been done in evangelistic work during the last twenty years, and spoke of the great need for continuing and increasing the efforts in this direction. Baptists were, he thought, singularly well qualified by their position to undertake the work, because they could take the Acts of the Apostles, and say to those who believed, "Why should you not be baptized?" (Laughter.) They all knew that the great majority of Christians were unbaptized, and that was not right. ("Hear," and laughter.) It would be a grand thing if the churches would take up the work of evangelizing the masses, he did not think it was money that they so much wanted, but the right men. (Hear, hear.)

The President: Permit me to say how much I am rejoiced and refreshed by this very profitable and excellent meeting. The spirit of prayer was poured out upon us at the commencement, in the introductory devotional service, and we have been enabled to carry on important and difficult business in the spirit of the Gospel.

The benediction was then pronounced and the assembly adjourned to the Metropolitan Tabernacle to dinner, to which the pastors and delegates were as usual invited by the London Baptist Association. Rev. S. V. Tyms (president of the association) presided.

Mr. Spurgeon spoke a few words of hearty welcome, and apology for having to leave to attend the Guildhall presentation to Lord Shaftesbury. He thought he should go there because his lordship would never have another eightieth birthday; but he (Mr. Spurgeon) did hope to see his brethren again at the Tabernacle, "to which they would be welcomed as long as they were in the body."

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

was held in Exeter Hall, London, on Thursday evening. The report shows that there are flourishing Missions under this Society in India, Ceylon, China, Japan; Western Africa—Victoria, Bohemia and Cameroons, Central Africa—the Congo River, San Salvador and Makuta; Bahamas, Hayti, San Domingo, Turk's Islands, Caicos Islands, Trinidad, Jamaica, Norway, France and Italy.

In referring to the Finances, the Report states that the accounts for the past year show that the total contributions from all sources have amounted to £51,459 14s. 10d., the largest income the Society has ever received, and £1,108 3s. 3d. more than in the previous year.

Of this large sum, £11,915 15s. 9d. had been contributed for special purposes, including £4,000 from Mr. Arthington, of Leeds, for the Congo Mission, £3,421 15s. 1d. for the Jamaica Cylone Fund, and £2,198 15s. 11d. for the Widows and Orphans and Superannuated Missionaries Fund.

The following extract or two from the Report will be read with interest: Rev. John Wenger, D. D., of Calcutta, a short time before his death wrote:—

"Has India lost her hold upon the Church at home? In my early days our choicest, ablest, best young men yearned to engage in this work, now they need almost to be whipped up to it or earnestly entreated to engage in it—and yet, to-day, India with her 240 millions is vastly more full of promise than ever before—for the harvest—ay, the ripened harvest—waves golden far and wide—plenteous indeed, but the reapers—oh, how few!

"In India to-day there are millions of people who have never beheld the face of a Christian missionary. Territories larger far than England and Wales, are without a missionary, and this vast empire may be crossed five, six, seven, eight hundred miles without sighting a missionary station."

From Delhi Mr. Smith writes:—

"In Delhi and its suburbs we hold about twenty regular weekly services, besides sundry small meetings kept up by the brethren in their own neighbourhood in which we take no part. The services held in the chapel in Chan-tee Chouk, and on Friday and Sunday evenings at the mission house, are the most numerously attended we remember in India, and, we trust, indicate a widening and deepening of the Lord's work amongst us. The systematic attendance of more than 200 natives at regular religious services we feel to be highly encouraging; and, when we remember that 2,000 unite weekly with us and our people in Divine worship in the name of our common Saviour, we thank God and take courage.

"The baptisms during the year have numbered 28. Candidates are numerous, but we hesitate to baptize them. It is most difficult getting rid of and keeping clear of old heathen habits, especially in connection with their marriages; hence we refuse to add to the church any who will not agree to carry out Christian usage in their families and social life. This checks what otherwise would be rapid growth in numbers in most of the churches.

With reference to CENTRAL AFRICA the report says:

The Committee feel that, in the review of the experiences of the past year in connection with this great enterprise of planting the Gospel in the interior of Africa, they have abundant cause to thank God and take courage.

The great object of our brethren on the Congo is, of course, to reach Stanley Pool, for from this point only may we consider we have fairly entered Central Africa. This spot is inevitably the great Western gate of the magnificent Congo waterway.

But for the cataracts and rapids near the mouth, this mighty river would be uninterruptedly navigable for 1,400 miles, and Central Africa probably, by this time, would be well known to the nations at large.

Slowly, but surely, is the work progressing. In the words of Livingstone it may be said:—"If progress in Africa must be slow—and I think it must be—it will be sure; of this I have no doubt."

Africa must be redeemed. It belongs to Christ, and must be given up to Him. Our brethren on the Congo have obeyed the Divine command, "GO!" They do not doubt their mission. "As my Father has sent me, even so send I you," and "Lo, I am with you always." The triumph, though long delayed, will come. Difficult as is the work it will yet be accomplished:—

"And Africa's sable sons become The free men of the Lord."

"The year 1880 has been one long to be remembered in the history of Jamaica, and in the annals of the churches—especially in some districts—as a year of great trial and affliction.

"The great calamity of the year, however, was the cyclone of the 18th of August, which extended with great violence over about one-third of the island, and with extreme fury in certain well-defined districts." How destructive this storm was may be gathered from the fact that, according to returns officially obtained in the several parishes, there were totally destroyed 8,939 dwelling-houses; whilst the number reported as badly injured was 6,812, making together 15,751. The destruction of crops, immediate and prospective, amounted to not less than 14,209 acres, excluding that done on the larger plantations; and the number of cocoa-nut, bread-fruit, and other valuable fruit trees destroyed was beyond all reckoning. The number of places of worship totally destroyed in the whole island has not yet been presented in any complete form; but specific accounts have been given of twenty-five belonging to the Baptist Mission so destroyed, while other chapels have been more or less injured.

In a single district of St. Mary's there were eleven persons killed and eleven places of worship totally destroyed by the cyclone; while the houses destroyed or greatly injured numbered 3,283.

In connection with the 123 churches associated with the Union 2,394 persons have during the year put on the Lord Jesus by baptism, and 4,446 are reported as inquiring after salvation. The total membership of the 111 churches is 25,422.

Of the ultimate triumph of the Gospel, thank God, there can be no doubt. It stands out clearly in the Divine utterance to Moses—"As truly as I live all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord." It rings forth in David's triumphant psalm—"His name shall endure for ever. His name shall be continued as long as the sun, and men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call him blessed." It flashes forth in the prophetic vision of Isaiah's message—"The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." And it lightens the mysterious gloom of the Apocalyptic page—"After this I beheld and lo! a great multitude which no man can number, of all nations and kindreds, and people, and tongues."

The displacement of corrupt superstitions has been difficult and slow, but the hour is approaching when a "nation shall be borne at once."

THE MISSIONARY STAFF.—During the year the Mission and the Church of Christ have lost by death, on the foreign field, the services of the Revs: Richard Williams, of Agra, John Clark of Jamaica, John Wenger, D. D., of Calcutta, John Williams, of Muttra, and W. Greenway, of Dinapore; at home, the Revs. C. M. Birrell, and James Webb. To reinforce the staff of the Mission, so sadly reduced by sickness and death, the Committee are thankful to report that during the past year they have accepted for India, Messrs. Evans, Barnett, Potter, Thomas, Ellison, and Jewson; for Ceylon, Mr. Lapham; for China, Messrs. Sowerby and Whitwright; for Africa, Messrs. Shred, Dixon, Grenfell, and Miss Comber; and for Italy, Mr. Robert Walker. It cannot but be an encouragement to the friends and supporters of the

Society to know that a larger number of missionaries have been accepted since the date of the last Report than in the same period for the past fifteen years.

The chairman Mr. J. H. Tritton, said at the opening of the meeting:

From considerations and from debates of policy which have been carried on a little way from us to night, we turn to consider far higher and far nobler things, even the extension of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and as we stand to consider that the magnitude of the scene presents itself before our eyes, for what is it that we aim at in these missionary societies, short of the conquest of the world? The grandest dreams of conquerors, of Alexander, of Cæsar, of Napoleon, did not go to a tithe or the extent to which our faith carries us to-night. (Applause.) Their grandest victories were but as the ruffle of the summer breeze upon the breast of the ocean, compared to ours. The magnitude of our scheme, of our hopes, might fairly daunt us, if it did not inspire us; but dear friends, in such a meeting as this, the magnitude, and the greatness surely should inspire us. First just glance with me for a moment or two at some of the difficulties which our missionaries and we have to encounter. I would to-night speak of the Church of Christ as a whole, we with them and they with us, linked together in one glorious enterprise, we at home holding up our hands in prayer, and sustaining them on whom falls the burden and heat of the day, but not for a single moment separating ourselves by a hairsbreadth from our brethren who have gone forth. They are fulfilling our lack of service; they are there in our stead, let us associate ourselves to the full with them. What is it to which we have set ourselves? The overthrowing of gods whose throne is as old as history, of creeds which have taken hold and entwined themselves in the hearts of millions. We have truth on our side—the truth as it is in Jesus. With this we go to the heathen. It meets their deepest needs. See what it has done. It has overthrown the mythologies of Greece and Rome and rude rites of our savage forefathers. Trace its victories within this century. Eighty years ago there were but 7 missionary societies; there are now 70. There were but 170 missionaries; now there are 2,400, and 2,300 native assistants. Eighty years ago perhaps there were 50,000 converts; now there are at least 1,700,000. The subscriptions were £50,000; now there are annually £1,250,000. It is with no abstract doctrine that the missionary goes to the heathen, but presenting to him a living, loving person, we have in Christ on our side. And then a marvelous transformation is wrought, so that the Missionary realises, "Not I, but Christ." The purposes of God, the truth of God, and Christ Himself are all on our side. Shall not we be assured of victory?

Rev. J. P. Chow was warmly applauded and said, We may be thankful in what seems to me to have been the spirit and character of our meetings this year. Those who were present at our first prayer-meeting felt that it was eminently good to be there. So far as I have ascertained, the Lord's Day services were times of the Divine presence and power. I do not remember a meeting in which business and spiritual power were more happily blended together. The Japanese Christians are fond of calling their history a second edition of the Acts of the Apostles. Would that it could be said, Mr. Chairman, of all missionary work that it is a continuance of the Acts of the Apostles. Let it be seen in the immediate and practical response to the Divine command. Let it be in the fulness and power of the Holy Ghost in which the work shall be done. We are told of the city of New Jerusalem that it stands four square to the universe, and the twelve gates are all open, and always open. Let it be so with the church below, unless that all within it are to go out and compel men to come in that the house might be filled; and that is the work to which you are called. Turning to the resolution before us, it speaks of the thankfulness there should be to Almighty God for the measure of success which has been granted, and this should be, because, while there is no part of the field in which success has not been granted, there are some parts in which it has been very striking. It has been said sometimes, that the romance of missions has passed away. I am not sure of that, to the man who looks at it aright. At all events, if it has, it is only as it was in an apple orchard through which I was leading a child some time since. It was a glorious summer day, but the child had one grief, and that was that all the beautiful blossoms had passed from the tree. I tried to show the child how it came about, but I am afraid of only indifferent success. (Laughter.) And that is how it is now the blossom of romance is giving place to a full and abundant fruit bearing of the tree, the very leaves of which shall be for the healing of the nations. Look at China, where only three men have toiled, but have wrought a work that may well fill us with surprise and gratitude, and of the converts of which another from another part of the church tells us he has never met with finer spirits in any part of the world whatever. Turn to Africa, and we are reminded of the apostles, when he says, "A great door and effectual is opened, and there are many adversar-

ies." He does not say, "but" as though it might be expected, and that for which the church should give up the previous and further trust in God; and then, if you look at Italy, who can think of that fair land without interest and anticipation?

We cherish the memories that should be with us still, and over and above them all the one that sings out from the Divine throne, "Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the world." (Applause.) And so beloved brethren, we give ourselves over to the work and rejoice that we may. We are told that when the Crusades were being preached there was a time when the whole assembly broke out into the shout, "God wills it," and it was in that the keynote of the crusades was struck. With us it is not only that God wills it, but Christ counsels it. He who died on the cross for you commands it—He by whose name you are called, and in whose stead you are in the world, commands it—He whose you are by consecration in what you have said, you are not your own, commands it in some of the last words He ever spoke on earth, and let it be responded to in prayer. It is just as the Church is of one mind in this matter that He shall be glorified.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., May 25, 1881.

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, organized in 1845, held its annual session at Columbia, Miss., on the 5th of May, and four following days. It has a large constituency, comprising all the Churches of the Southern States, except those of West Virginia and North Carolina. There were 246 delegates present. The receipts for Foreign Missions during the year amounted to \$46,820.48; and for Home Missions to \$27,369.69, in addition to which the State Conventions have raised the further sum of \$54,817.21, besides which Dr. Dobbs, the Secretary, says, thousands of dollars are expended by District Associations not reported in these aggregate sums. The Chapel at Rome—to which some years since several of the Nova Scotia churches gave liberal donations—has been completed at a cost of \$30,579.72. This Convention has missions in California, Mexico, Brazil, China, Italy and Africa. There are in connection with this Convention about 500 Woman's Missionary Societies, 350 of which had reported to the Board. It was recommended that the Board appoint some suitable lady "to superintend this work and whose duty shall be to collect and disseminate information, and in other ways to strengthen and stimulate woman's work for women in foreign fields."

Rev. Dr. Tupper—a distant relative of our departed brother of the same name, is the Secretary of the Foreign Missionary Board.

A NOVA SCOTIAN ABROAD.—Principal Dawson, formerly Superintendent of Education in this his native province, now of McGill College, Montreal, is receiving high encomiums from the press of Philadelphia, for the course of Lectures he has recently given in that city in connection with the Crozer Theological Seminary, by appointment of the Faculty of that Institution. The subjects were:—

Agnosticism; as related to Natural Science.

Monistic Biology; Its methods and results.

Evolution; in relation to Paleontology.

Results of Science; as to the Origin and Antiquity of Man.

Mind in Nature.

Nature and Revelation.

The National Baptist says:—

"He." Dr. D. "has long been recognized as a foremost authority in Natural Science, especially in Geology, Paleontology, and not less as a reverent and profound student of God's Word. His published expositions of the harmony between nature and revelation are the best in existence. They exhibit a complete mastery of the subjects treated, and are at the same time models of clear and simple presentation. The Trustees foresaw that a course of lectures on such a subject by such a man was sure to attract many besides the students for whom they are specially provided. They, therefore, generously and wisely arranged for their delivery in Philadelphia.

Dr. Dawson is so thoroughly master of all the questions in hand, that he knows exactly what are the vital points and parts. He is by nature and practice so truly a teacher, that he can put before his hearers the exact things which he wants them to see, in the exact way in which they can best see them. He cares for things more than for names, and so steers clear of technicalities.

At the close of the course, a highly complimentary resolution of "grateful and admiring appreciation" was unanimously adopted.

REV. D. A. STEELE, the pastor of the Amherst Church, has been kindly favoured by his people giving him a vacation of three months. He is expecting during that time to make a visit to Europe. His pulpit will be supplied by Rev. W. George and others during his absence.

We congratulate our brother on his opportunity of visiting his native country, and trust that it may be made a means of improving his health and strength, and that he may return with renewed vigor and usefulness to his extensive field of labor.

REV. E. M. SAUNDERS.—The Wesleyan of last week noticing the intimation given in the Messenger says:

During a fourteen years ministry in Halifax, Mr. Saunders has enjoyed the esteem and respect of ministers and leading laymen of the different churches who will regret any interruption of the relations hitherto existing between them in the pursuit of general Christian work.

The Presbyterian Witness of the previous week also remarked:

"We regret exceedingly that Mr. Saunders' pastoral work in this city is likely terminate thus soon. He has laboured in this city as Pastor of Granville Street Church for a much longer period than any of his predecessors. He has throughout enjoyed the high esteem, the warm affection and full confidence of brethren of other denominations, who will miss his mature judgment and prudent counsels on matters of common interests."

These kind expressions will, we feel assured, be appreciated by the friends of Mr. S. no less than by himself.

In our report of Mr. Saunders' announcement from the pulpit, of his intention to resign the pastorate of Granville Street Church, we did not feel at liberty even to assume that he would leave Halifax, until the resignation had been actually tendered and the church had taken action thereon. We were consequently under some restraint in speaking, as we might and otherwise should have done, in connection with the Church and our denominational and other Institutions during the time he has been in Halifax. When such resignation is received, we shall feel more at liberty to speak in reference to our high appreciation of Mr. Saunders' labors.

IS NOT THE ANALOGY CORRECT?—In the Christian Advocate appears the following question and answer:

Q. What do you think of a regular Methodist minister who habitually substitutes water for wine in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

A. We think it equally absurd and profane, and would never receive anything called the sacrament of the Lord's Supper administered in a way that charges him who established it and who shed his blood for men with wickedness or folly in selecting the symbol.

And now let us ask, Mr. Editor, what you think of a Methodist or any other minister who substitutes sprinkling or pouring for immersion in the Lord's ordinance of baptism. Must you not pronounce this also to be "equally absurd and profane," and ought not every Christian to refuse to "receive anything called the sacrament [of baptism] and administered in a way that charges him who established it with wickedness or folly in selecting the symbol?"—National Baptist.

Our Canadian Brethren have an English Church in connection with their Foreign Mission in Cocanada, India. Rev. A. V. Timpany writes to the Canadian Baptist that this little band, organised last year, consisted of twenty-one members. He says further, "Ten days ago a lot and house were bought for Rs. 2,200. The house will have to be changed some to make it suitable for our services. The purchase money, cost of conveyance, and repairs will amount to Rs. 2,500. It is not intended to pay for this out of mission funds. The members of the church will do it, it is safe to say, all they can to pay for the place, but they must have some help.

The house is large and will furnish a large hall for meetings, a room for "The Cocanada Reading Room," good quarters for our Telugu school recently started in Jugganaikapooram, and a suite of rooms to rent, or what will suit us better, a home for one or two Zenana workers that we hope ere long to employ from among our English sisters.

With care our English church is going to be no drag on our work. I do not think that its members have any desire that it should be. There is an earnest purpose I think to be helped with us in uprooting the idolatry all around us.