

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER



And Bible Society, Missionary, and Sabbath School Advocate.

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Religious Intelligence.

GENERAL BAPTISTS.

The annual association of this section of the Baptist body was held last week in the town of Birmingham, at Lombard street Chapel. The attendance of ministers and delegates was good, few parts of the connexion being unrepresented. The meetings commenced on Monday evening, June 22nd, with a devotional service, at which the Rev. E. Stevenson, of Loughborough, presided. On Tuesday morning, the Rev. J. Sutcliffe, of Stalebridge, and H. Wileman, Esq. of Langton, were chosen moderators; and the Rev. J. Wallis, of Leicester, the chairman selected at the previous association, delivered the opening address. Through the greater part of the day, business of various kinds, chiefly the hearing of reports from the Churches, and cases of a minor character, engaged the attention of the delegates. In the evening, the Rev. H. Hunter, of Nottingham, delivered an animated discourse of an expository and practical nature. On Wednesday morning, the Rev. J. C. Jones, M. A., of Spadling, preached. At a subsequent sitting of the Association, it was unanimously requested that Mr. Jones' sermon might be printed for general circulation. On the afternoon of Wednesday, the Public Home Missionary meeting was held in the chapel, whilst the Foreign Mission and College Committees, assembled in the schoolroom. At none of these meetings did anything occur worthy of special mention. The public meeting of the Foreign Missionary Society, held on the evening of Wednesday, was rendered specially interesting by the presence of a valued missionary brother (the Rev. J. Buckley) and his wife, who have just returned from the scene of their labours in Orissa. From the report read by the secretary, the Rev. J. G. Pike, of Derby, as well as from the statement made by Mr. Buckley, the prospects of the mission appear to be of a very encouraging nature. The finances are in a good state; additional labourers rather than increased contributions, being what at the present moment are chiefly needed. On Thursday, the business connected with the Theological Institution, at Leicester, was the first matter of importance which occupied, at any length, the attention of the representatives. It appears that the number of students during the last few months has been ten. Two of these having finished their term of preparatory study, now enter upon spheres of public labour. Two others proceed, one to Glasgow, and the other to University College, London. Other candidates for the benefits of the institution were reported. It was decided by the association to take steps during the ensuing year with a view to the erection of college premises more suitable than the present rather inconvenient building which is rented in Leicester. The "circular letter" was by the Rev. J. B. Pike, of Bourn; subject, "The Inspiration of the Scripture." Among the resolutions of a public nature, passed at this association, may be mentioned first, one on the subject of slavery, renewing the protest made in former years against that horrible system of iniquity; a second, requesting the chairman to write to Mrs. Stowe, informing her of the fact that the Freewill Baptist of America,

a sect of Christians numbering 50,000, and holding similar views of Christian doctrine with the General Baptists of this country, neither are nor have been tainted with the sin of slaveholding, an honor which in her late work, "The Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin," she assigns to the Quakers exclusively; a third, condemning the Government measure of education, and agreeing to petition against it; a fourth, approving (exclusively on social grounds) of the closing by law of public-houses during the whole of the Lord's-day; and a fifth, agreeing to memorials to the Queen, and to the King of Hanover, relative to the persecution of the Baptists in Germany. The proceedings of the association terminated on Thursday evening. It was stated that the clear increase in numbers, during the year, was about 220. Total number of members nearly 19,000.—*London Christian Times.*

MISSIONARY.

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 100,000 individuals, who are under constant bible instruction.

In 1850, 130,000 copies of the bible, or parts of it, in thirteen languages of India, were published, and 185,400 copies distributed.

Wherever christian missions have been established, slavery has been abolished.

In India and the South Seas, suttees 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.

For the nearly two hundred millions of India, there are but 403 missionaries. In Bengal and Behar, alone, it is reckoned eighteen millions never hear the gospel. Within fifty miles of Calcutta there are towns of 30,000, 20,000, and 10,000 inhabitants that have never seen a missionary. Delhi, with 150,000 people, has had no missionary since Mr. Thomson died. Midnapore, with 70,000, has none.—*Baptist Reporter.*

TURKEY.

The empire of the Greeks was overthrown in 1483, when the Musselman conqueror entered Constantinople. For nearly 300 years the Turks were the scourge and dread of Europe; but their power has now dwindled into weakness, and within the past fifty years their existence, as a nation, has been several times in peril. In 1844, England secured from the Turks freedom from persecution for the christians, and the abrogation of the law of the Koran which made it criminal to profess christianity. In the Turkish empire at this time, commerce prospers, the bible is free and much sought after by many, and there are now twenty evangelical christian churches, chiefly Armenians. But the rulers of the Greek and Latin churches oppose these as Protestants, and would persecute them were they not protected by the Turkish Government.—*Baptist Reporter.*

BAPTISM IN THE GREEK CHURCH.

Baptism in the Greek Church has, as most of our readers are aware, always been performed by dipping the subject in water. It now appears that the Emperor of Russia, as pope of the Eastern Church, is interfering in this matter also. We copy a paragraph from the public papers:—"The Patriarch Germanos takes much to heart the tone of supremacy with which Prince Menschikoff made him prohibit the sale of the pamphlet lately published upon the baptism of the Greek Church, (by immersion) the only baptism valid at Constantinople. The Synod of St. Petersburg, less exclusive on this point, admits the baptism of Latinists and Protestants.—*Baptist Reporter.*"

Forty missionaries, male and female, have been sent to Ningpo, since the ports of China were opened in 1843, by different English and American Societies. Of these, only one male and female missionary have died, and only two families have been compelled to retire by sickness.—*Morning Star.*

PREPARATION FOR THE PULPIT—A man who is tied to a system, however excellent in itself, will never make a really good preacher. Study human nature, and you will see the necessity of studying variety; for minds are so variously constructed, that what is worst for many will be best for some; and sometimes a sermon preached without any regular plan will be more effectual than the most labored composition, and the most perfect plan you can devise. You who are studying to make neat skeletons and fine sermons, depend upon it that the first requisites to good preaching are earnestness and unction. And these must be sought upon your knees. *Bene arasse est bene studuisse.*

THEY WILL BE DONE.—A little child of six years old, was observed by its mother to be weeping during the funeral sermon of the late lamented William Howells of Long Acre Chapel. When the child said her evening's prayer at her mother's knees, she mentioned how unhappy she had been in the morning. "But do you know, Mamma, how I was comforted? I looked up through my tears towards the end of the church, and just at that moment the light of the sun shone upon the words, 'Thy will be done.' Then I was comforted. I thought it was the will of God to take away dear Mr. Howells."

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST!—There is everything that is wonderful in the Church of Christ.

She is wonderful in her origin. She is a King's daughter; she is born of God; heaven is her native country.

She is glorious in her apparel. She is arrayed in white garments—made white in the blood of the Lamb.

She is extraordinary in her diet. The whole world cannot afford anything for her to eat; it must come from heaven; no less will satisfy her than the bread of God.

She is peculiar in her language. None can understand her language or learn her song, but the hundred and forty and four thousand which are redeemed from earth.

She is singular in her choice. She chooses not the pleasures and vanities of this world; she prefers waiting for her inheritance, instead of taking her portion here below.

She is wonderful in her courage. We often meet in the streets of the Zion below, pilgrims who are weak and feeble; yet the weakest has courage enough to subdue kingdoms—to go through fire and water, yea, they will stick at nothing which stands between them and their Beloved.—*Rev. T. Jones.*