

Religious Intelligencer.

BIBLE SOCIETY, MISSIONARY, AND SABBATH SCHOOL ADVOCATE.

E. McLEOD, Editor.

That God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.—PETER.

TERMS.— ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, IN ADVANCE

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BRITISH ANNIVERSARIES.

BRITISH & FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY held its Anniversary as usual in Exeter Hall on the first Wednesday in May. Lord Shaftesbury, the President, in the Chair. This meeting as all former ones was largely attended, and enthusiastic. One feature of this Anniversary, however, which distinguished it from all others was, it was opened by PRAYER. We trust this example set by the Parent Society will be followed by all Auxiliaries and Branches. We have not space for the addresses, which were given on the occasion. The following abstract of the Report, affords a idea of the operations of the Society, and the extensive circulation of the pure word of God.

The narrative of foreign operations commenced, as usual, with France. The circulation of the past year in that country, was stated, 84,886 copies, and the spiritual results surpassed those of any former period. In Belgium, a civil war was threatened at the commencement of the year, in consequence of the growing encroachment of the Church of Rome; but this danger had passed over, and the issues exceeded those of previous years by 8,228 volumes. In Holland, the issues amounted to 23,233, exceeding those of the previous year 2,500. Regret was expressed that, in that country, the Scriptures had ceased to be the basis of instruction in the Government schools. The rapid extension of the circulation in Germany had attracted the attention of the committee throughout the year. Germany had received from the society during the year, at the great centres of action, Berlin, Cologne, and Frankfurt, 296,607 copies of the Scriptures, being an excess of 101,245 over the circulation of the previous year. The agent at Frankfurt had visited Baden, Wurtemberg, and other parts of Germany, and had drawn most favourable conclusions with regard to the prospects of the work. In Denmark there had been an increased circulation. In Sweden, the increased circulation of the previous year, instead of satisfying the appetite for the Scriptures, had only stimulated an increased demand. The Bible had formed a centre of attraction to all classes, from the baron to the peasant, from the general to the soldier, and from the bishop to the village schoolmaster. The circulation of last year was 86,562. Norway continued to receive considerable supplies; and those amounted, within the year, to 19,416 copies. The committee regretted that, owing to the obstructions which still existed, Russia occupied a brief space in their report, but they hoped this state of things would not continue long. During the year, 14,290 copies had been circulated at St. Petersburg. At Odessa, the restrictions imposed during the war had not yet been relaxed, and the people were placed beyond the pale of the Scriptures. The German colonies on the Sea of Azov continued to receive the Word of God, and the issues there amounted to 4,753 copies. Spain still remained an inaccessible region to the friends of Bible distribution. In Switzerland and Northern Italy the labours of the agents had been continued, and the circulation was 35,369 volumes. Saxonia continued to be a most promising field of labour, and the circulation amounted to 12,607 copies, which exceeded that of the previous year by about 2,000. Monsieur Madral, the agent of Nice, gave an encouraging account of the estimation in which the Scriptures were there held. In Malta and Greece the issues amounted to 3,898. In Turkey there were many evidences of a spirit of inquiry among the Muslims, and the prospects were encouraging. The issues from the depot at Constantinople, inclusive of 2,761 copies circulated by colportage in Bulgaria, amounted to 25,280, being an increase of 7,968. Under the head of India, it was observed that the committee had opened a special fund, the necessity of which was evident from the fact that extraordinary efforts were about to be made by the various Missionary Societies. The aggregate circulation in India up to the present time was not more than 2,500,000, and these were chiefly portions of the Scriptures. The issues of the year at Calcutta were 39,528. Mention was made of the death of the late Bishop Wilson, who, it was said, as a last token of his attachment to the Bible Society, be-

queathed to it the sum of £100. The society station at Agra was involved in the general destruction, and the depot was a blackened ruin; but the destruction had not extended to the zeal, faith, and hope of those who were engaged in promoting the circulation of God's Word in that part of India. At Madras, the issues of the year amounted to 68,679 copies; at Madras, to 3,896. As regarded China, it was stated, that though Canton and Hong Kong had during the past year afforded little scope for the circulation of the Scriptures, the work had prospered at Shanghai and Amoy. From Australia there had been remitted during the year £5,144, of which £1,130 had been sent as a free contribution to the society's funds. 15,000 copies of the Scriptures had been despatched thither from London. The issues of the British colonies of North America amounted within the year to 60,000 copies. Under the head "Domestic" mention was made of the presentation of a Bible through the President of the Society (the Earl of Shaftesbury) to the Prince Royal of England on the occasion of her marriage with Prince Frederick William of Prussia, and it was stated that the sacred volume was most graciously received by her Royal Highness. (Loud cheers.)

The following is a general summary of the receipts, expenditure, and issues:—
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. 10s. 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 in any former year.

To the above must be added the sum of £1,379. 13s. 7d. for the Chinese New Testament Fund, and £1,886. 2s. 10d. for the Special Fund for India; making a grand total of £152,574. 3s. 6d.

The issues of the society for the year are as follows: From the depot at home, 297,653; from the depots abroad, 262,624; total, 1,602,187 copies; being an increase of 84,229 copies over those of the preceding year.

The total issues of the society now amount to 33,983,946 copies.
The ordinary payments have amounted to £146,563. 5s. 1d., and the payments on account of the Indian and Chinese New Testament Funds to £6,613. 19s. 7d., making the total expenditure of the year to amount to £153,177. 4s. 8d., being £4,136. 10s. 11d. more than in any former year. The society is under engagements to the extent of £38,818. 17s. 4d.

The CHAIRMAN then announced a donation £500. from Samuel and Henry Edward Gurney, Esqs., as a memento to their father, the late Samuel Gurney; and a donation of a sovereign from a person in the room, accompanied with a note, stating that it was a thank-offering to God for enabling the writer to be present on the day when this great anniversary meeting was for the first time opened with prayer. (Cheers.)

Religious Tract Society.

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY of Great Britain held its anniversary in Exeter Hall on the 7th of May. J. C. Marshman in the chair. On the platform were a number of distinguished ministers and others, among whom was the Rev. Baptist Noel. The meeting was opened by singing and prayer. The following abstract of the report was read; and addresses made by several speakers, from which we subjoin some extracts:—

G. H. Davis, Esq., the Secretary, read a brief account of the report. Numerous tracts were announced as having been printed during the year, besides volumes and other publications, of a useful character, adapted for adults and the young in different ranks of life. Nearly fourteen millions of tracts have been put into circulation in the last twelve months. The total number of new publications amounted to two hundred and sixty-one; and the issues from the Depository was thirty-four millions six hundred and eighty-eight thousand four hundred and seventy, making the total for fifty-nine years seven hundred and eighty-two millions. The attention of the friends of the society was directed to the large report for detailed accounts of the progress of tract distribution in France, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Russia, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Turkey, Palestine, the East Indies, Burmah, China, the West Indies, and other lands. The benevolent income was £3,186, while the grants were £10,248, showing an excess over the former of living sources of £2,062. The sales of the year amounted to £75,856. The total receipts were 88,730. The Report concluded with an appeal for an increased support on the grounds of the great work in which the society was engaged, and the openings presented in the Divine Providence for the diffusion of Christian truth.

The Rev. J. H. Wilson said, on looking into the history of the society, he found that in 1832 the total amount of its issues was 27,000,000, while in the same year the total circulation of the anti-Christian publications of the United Kingdom was no less than 2,000,000. In 1857, the total circulation of publications of an infidel and skeptical character had, as he was informed on the best authority, fallen to 20,000,000; and during the same year the circulation of the publication

of the Religious Tract Society was, as they had learnt from the report just presented 34,000,000. Nor was this all. While that society had been thus progressing, other societies having the same object had come to its aid. In Scotland, for example, they had a tractagency, by which one man, Mr. Peter Drummond, (cheers)—had been enabled within the last few years to distribute twenty millions of tracts; in addition to which he had obtained for his British Messenger a circulation of 200,000 per annum. They had also in Scotland a society called "The Scottish Tract Society," which was issuing publications to the amount of about 3,000,000 a year. Colporteurs were likewise employed in the same work, and their labours extended over the whole of Scotland. If to these several agencies were added some smaller ones which existed in various places, he had no doubt it would be found, on examination, that altogether there had been issued in Scotland thirty millions of tracts and publications within the last seven years. (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. Smith late missionary at Agra, showed what a valuable auxiliary the religious tract had been to the labours of the missionary in India: "One great means of enlightening India," he said, "is by attending the immense religious festivals so common in that country. I have seen a great fair where 150,000 persons have been gathered together, coming from the vast mountain ranges and the districts surrounding the Ganges; persons of various tribes and nations, from Tibet, Cutchin China, Afghanistan, Punjab, Assam, and Rajpootana. We are thus brought in contact with persons to whom we have at other times no access. Among these we commence our labours, and I am happy to say that missionaries of different denominations are often able to work together, and thus form a practical evangelistic alliance. Early in the morning, at one of these fairs, one brother will commence, and preach for half-an-hour. He is followed by a second, and a third, and then he begins again himself. This preaching is kept up perhaps for eight, or ten, or twelve days, and on some of these occasions I have seen an Episcopalian, a Presbyterian, and a Baptist occupying the same platform. But along with this preaching we find something else necessary; and here comes the utility of the publications of the Tract Society. We have usually a shed at hand, in which different brethren sit all day, taking it in turns, and we have there, in these vernacular, publications of the Tract Society, together with the Bible and Testament, and single gospels; and the people who are anxious to ask questions, and have difficulties solved, are sent into the shed, and there they get a tract or a gospel, and they go back, it may be to their distant homes, with a large amount of Christian knowledge; and in this way a knowledge of the truth spreads far beyond the limits of the labours of the missionary. These publications are extremely necessary in India, in order to give permanence to the labours of the missionaries. At other times, when not engaged in these affairs, I have made long journeys to different parts of the country, travelling through village after village, where a missionary had never been before, and I have met with numbers of instances of men who have attended the fairs and have got a tract or a gospel and returned with it to their own home."

Robert Baxter, Esq., said no man could meditate on what was going on in China without being led to the conclusion that that vast country, containing one-third of the human race, which had hitherto been almost hermetically sealed against European intercourse, was now having its barriers of exclusion broken down; and he hoped the friends of that society would not neglect to take advantage of the opening which would be presented. The reading habits of the Chinese rendered their country peculiarly suitable for the operation of a society like that. Let them glance, for a moment, at another field of labour, the contemplation of which might well humble them in the dust; he referred to portions of Europe where Christianity once prevailed in its purity, but where the masses of the people were now sunk in apostasy. They had been told that, in France there was now an opening for the distribution of religious tracts, and that tracts were actually being circulated in that country. In Belgium, too, there was, through the providence of God in over-ruling political discussions, an entrance for the truth, and in Piedmont also, where there had been for ages a faithful Church, bibles and tracts might in some places be freely distributed. What, however, should they say of Southern Italy, what of Spain, what of Portugal? (Hear, hear.) As regarded Spain, he might observe that he travelled a few months ago with a gentleman who had a great deal of intercourse with the Spanish people, and this gentleman expressed it as his opinion that if a door were opened in Spain for the circulation of the Scriptures and religious tracts, and for the preaching of the Gospel, one half of the nation would abandon Romanism. The faith of numbers in the Romish System appeared, he said, to be shaken to the foundation, and though they professed it, it had scarcely any hold upon them. He trusted that Europe would, ere long, present a wider field for the operations of that society.

Miss Harby, the daughter of the old man who killed C. H. Stone, her seducer, in New Orleans, is now a maniac. Stone is dead, the father in prison, and the woman crazy!

The Prayer of Faith.

A FEW days since, I listened to the following incident illustrative of the prayer of faith, from a gentleman in Spring Chapel, Boston. He assured the audience that it was a simple statement of facts that had recently come to his own knowledge:

At the close of a prayer-meeting in a country village, the clergyman observed that a little girl about twelve years of age remained upon her knees when most of the congregation had retired. Thinking the child had fallen asleep, he touched her, it was time to return home. To his surprise, he found that she was engaged in prayer, and he said, "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing, ye shall receive." She looked at her pastor earnestly, and inquired, "It is so? Does God say that?" He took up a Bible and read the passage aloud. She immediately commenced praying, "Lord, send my father to the church. Lord, send my father here?" Thus she continued for about half an hour, attracting by her earnest cry the attention of persons who had lingered about the door.

At last, a man rushed into the church, up the aisle, and sank upon his knees by the side of the child, exclaiming, "What do you want of me?" She threw her arms about his neck and began to pray, "O Lord, convert my father!" Soon the man's heart was melted, and he began to pray for himself. A gracious answer of peace to a prayer of faith from the lips of a little child! Let it encourage Christians to be more simple and child-like in their prayers, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who he said, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

It was ascertained afterwards that the child's father was three miles from the church when she commenced praying for him. He was packing goods into a wagon, and he felt an irresistible impulse to return home. Driving rapidly to his house, he left the goods in the wagon and hastened to the church, where he found his daughter crying mightily to God in his behalf, and he was then led to the Saviour.

Fellow-traveler to eternity! Do you feel a secret impulse to turn from the evil of your ways, and seek Christ for your portion? It may be that some loved one is now pleading for you at the throne of grace, and in answer to prayer the Spirit is whispering—"This is the way, walk ye in it." Do not resist his gracious influence, but immediately yield your heart to Christ, and the angels shall joyfully announce the glad tidings, "Behold, he prayeth!"—Independent.

"It is Impossible."

Not long since a young lady, in the upper part of this city, was lying upon her dying bed. The sands of life were rapidly running out, and weeping friends stood around waiting, with as much composure as they could command, the inevitable termination. Years before, she had made her peace with God, but still felt some apprehensions when suddenly brought to face the last enemy. Not long before her end she opened her lips, and said in a clear, distinct tone, "It is impossible." Presently she repeated the asseveration, "It is an impossible thing." After a few moments the same words were said yet once more, "It is certainly impossible."

One of her sisters then bent down and asked, "Do you mean to say that it is impossible that Jesus can forsake, in the dying hour, a soul that puts his trust in him?" "Yes," was the reply, "you have said just what was in my mind. It is an impossible thing." The dying believer never spoke again, and before long the struggle was over. Her soul was with God. In the dread passage to the unseen world, in the mysterious article of death, she, no doubt, had verified to her own experience the assurance she so steadfastly and repeatedly avowed. Yes, thank God! it is impossible that Jesus should leave his chosen to struggle alone with the king of terrors. Easier, far easier, may heaven and earth pass away than his covenant presence fail to any who believe in him. It is written, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." It is a mighty act of faith to go calmly down the valley of the shadow of death, confident that, amid the thickening gloom, the form of the Great Shepherd shall appear with the rod and the staff to guide and support; but there is a sufficient basis for such faith in the Word of Him who cannot lie. It is impossible, absolutely impossible that the faithful Saviour should forsake his own. For who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors, through him that loved us. For neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.—Chr. Intelligencer.

Romish Idolatry.

An American, on a visit to Rome, heard a sermon from an eminent priest on the feast of St. Joseph. This writer makes the following reference to the sermon;—he dwelt with even more stress upon the direct indebtedness of the world to St. Joseph for its redemption, and upon the necessity of worshipping him in life, if we wish his consolation

in death. Carried away in the heat of his entreaties and exhortations, the preacher cried out, "Yes, yes. Let us come before him; let us call upon him while he is near," and, turning to the illuminated glittering altar of the saint, which was near the pulpit, he and all the great congregation prostrated themselves before it, while the preacher sought and implored St. Joseph for a blessing. Not a syllable was addressed to God, no mention made of Jesus Christ. Every hope seemed founded on St. Joseph every succour must come from him. It was the most impressive and point blank idolatry I had ever seen. I could scarce restrain myself from starting the worshippers with the same cry which startled their heathen ancestors seven centuries ago, when dedicating Aurelian's splendid temple to the sun: "Thy Gods are false, O Rome." Apologists of saint worship may bandy sophisms as long as they please; Perrone may pursue his fine distinctions between 'latría' and 'dóblia,' but any system of teaching which brings forth such fruits as this, is a dangerous system, and irreconcilable with the spirit of holy writ.

London Correspondence.

LONDON, May 21st, 1858.

THE GOVERNMENT AND INDIAN AFFAIRS.

A political conflict, more intense and lengthened than any of late years, has been raging and is still unspent. In the House of Lords the Government barely escaped an adverse vote by a majority of ten; and to-night will probably settle the question whether the House of Commons will suffer the Tories to remain at the helm a little longer. I say, a little longer, for no one expects that a Conservative regime will endure beyond a session or two at furthest. Lord Ellenborough, a man of great talent and spirit, and of very marked discretion, has been the means of bringing about this whirlwind. To shield his party he bent beneath it, but it continues to blow, and the deliverance of the Cabinet bow is by no means assured. The facts are few and such as any mind of ordinary sagacity can interpret and argue from. Lord Canning prepared the draft of a proclamation to the people of Oude, in which the proprietary rights of the landowners who aided in the revolt are forfeited to the Government; he sent this draft to England unconscious of the pending change of Administration; Lord E. returned an answer through the Secret Council of the Court of Directors disapproving of the draft and extenuating the crime of the landowners of Oude, also reflecting on the late annexation; the Times correspondent at Lucknow supplied a copy of the proclamation received there, which varies on the side of clemency from the draft; the Government received by the same mail no information; Lord Granville and Mr. Bright were shown copies of the secret despatch from Lord E.; questions were asked in both Houses; the Commons with a complete copy of the Despatch—and the war begins. Lord Ellenborough assumes all the responsibility of the Despatch, and resigns his office as President of the Board of Control to the Queen in person; but large parties in Parliament will not allow that this step exonerates the Cabinet as a whole, nor does the Cabinet decline the responsibility of Lord E.'s act. Lord Shaftesbury in the Lords and Mr. Cardwell in the Commons proposed a resolution censuring the publication of the secret Despatch as calculated to retard the pacification of India. On this, issue is joined, yet not joined—for the justice or injustice of Lord C.'s proclamation—though no one is sure that it is yet proclaimed—is again and again discussed. Few persons, I think, dispute that Lord E. was yielding to an imprudent itch for fine writing when he discussed in a correspondence with the Governor General the question of the Oude-annexation; and to publish that Despatch was undoubtedly very rash. Lord C.'s friends urge that it amounts to a virtual censure of his policy, and was an indirect way of procuring his resignation. The points in themselves are very grave, and the charge of party feeling banished from one side of the House to another, does not, if true, diminish the importance of a due understanding in the policy to be adopted in the East. Who would have thought last December that Lord Canning would be chargeable with "severity"? His vindication has yet to come, though the tenor of it may be conjectured from some of his private notes. It will be, in substance, that the Government could not do less than assert the fullest rights of conquest in order to convince the natives of India that the conquest had been achieved, and that a careful and element mode of carrying out those paramount rights would be the best means of conciliating the mass of the people and the better class of chiefs. In this I think him right, though, at present, it appears, that Outram, Lawrence, and others think that the form of asserting the sovereign rights of Government should have been less apparently rigorous and sweeping.

The Commons appointed a Committee to wait upon the the Lords to "confer" in the Jew business, and strange to say, and to see, Baron Rothschild, it was found could legally be put on that Committee, and was so appointed. It will not be the first time that ridicule has been more effective against bigotry than reason, if the Lords retire from a contest which on their part is becoming a comedy and farce.

The Commons have given what may be taken as a final vote against Church rates by 227 to 153: that this majority is large enough for the Lords to do not believe. They will "amend" the Bill and send it to the Lower House—so I predict. Admiral Napier has got a Board of Enquiry into the state of our naval defence, and Sir J. Burgoyne is fortifying Portsmouth. The dread of a French invasion is not yet defunct. People talk mysteriously of the French Emperor as a desperate man—and indeed he will be desperate if he should attempt the invasion of England and the capture of London on the sly!

RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES.

The majority of the May meetings are now over; all have been interesting, some particular so. At the Bible Society's meeting a remarkable fact was stated in reference to Mrs. Orr and Miss Jackson's rescue at Lucknow. They had with them in their dangerous captivity a little girl, and some native doctor in sending her a mixture enclosed the bottle in a piece of paper, torn, no doubt, from the nearest book or sheet—what was their surprise when they found on it the words in plain English—"I even I, am He that comforteth thee; who art thou that thou shouldst be afraid of a man that shall die and of the Son of man that shall be made as grass; and forgettest the Lord thy Creator that stretched forth the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor? The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed and that he should not die in the pit." The ladies had not been able to procure either Bible or Prayer Book, and those lines became additionally precious to them from the hope they awakened of a deliverance soon to befall them. In this case the augury was realized. The Church Missionary Society reports an increase of £130,776, and also a special fund for India which amounted to £24,719. This Society has 138 missionary stations, and 2,077 persons engaged as missionaries, catechists and teachers. The Wesleyan Mission boasts of 893 principal stations and 1,678 official laborers of every class. Its church members are 121,479, and its school children, 113,681. The year's revenue was £123,062 18s. 11d., of which rather more than one-third came from "foreign" sources—was raised in our Colonies and dependencies. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the great-grandmother of missionary societies, but which has grown more active since 1796 and had an income of about £93,000; and the London Missionary Society reported its receipts at £72,996 10s. 8d. The Soldiers' Friend Society has expended little more than its income, £4,356. The Peace Society gathered its friends in Finsbury chapel at its forty-second anniversary, and had, as was met, a peaceful celebration. The Liberation of Religion Society has called its Members of Council together, who have talked, debated, and resolved, not forgetting to rejoice over the favourable appearance of the Church Year question, and a year's receipt of £2,740 5s. 2d. As partaking of the ecclesiastical, I may mention here, the consecration of the new Bishop of Calcutta, who succeeds a great man, and has a great work, demanding great abilities and greater grace. It is no treachery to nonconformity to pray that he may have them.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Her Majesty's birthday—the 39th—has been celebrated with unusual brilliancy. Why it is a part of court of etiquette to anticipate the actual day I presume not to say. The Queen is not 39 till Monday, 24th.

The newly married (by proxy) Queen of Portugal has been a visiting at our Court on her way to her peninsular home; and the gaiety of her visit has been chased by the gloom dispensed by the unexpected decease of the Duchess of Orleans, the only Protestant princess of Louis Philippe's family, and the only person in it who exhibited a royal bearing in the memorable revolution of 1848. She leaves her sons, the Count de Paris and the Duke de Chartres a glorious memory and a title to the throne of France!

Speaking of great personages I must spare a word for the Bishop of Exeter, who is now turned 80, and is in good health. The evangelical party don't like him, but they would less like him to lay down the crozier whilst the Shaftesbury influence is under eclipse.

A clergyman named Radcliffe has been convicted of forgery in connexion with a trust; and there is no small fear that a strict examination would bring other cases of kindred dishonesty to light. It is possible to carry on such impositions for years without detection, where the deception is skillfully practised.

I regret that a very well conducted weekly paper, The People, of liberal politics and christian spirit, has been compelled to succumb. It aimed to be a working man's paper, but could not find a class prepared to pay for its good plain fare. Some of our weekly papers have a great circulation, but they are rankly seasoned with criminal reports, and publish a Sunday edition—late on Saturday night, i. e., for delivery on Sun-