

The Religious Intelligencer.

AN EVANGELICAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER FOR NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

REV. E. McLEOD.]

"THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST." Peter.

Editor and Proprietor.

Whole No. 457.

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1862.

Vol. IX.—No. 41.

THE INTELLIGENCER.

ABSTRACT

OF THE FIFTY-EIGHT REPORT OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY, 1862.

(Continued.)

Word of God is favourably received, and some fruits of the Spirit are beginning to appear.

In Rio de la Plata it is a subject of some congratulation that Popish bigotry is not in the ascendency. In the city of Buenos Ayres, Protestant worship is not only tolerated, but distinctly recognized.

At Uruguay a Waldensian colony has been established, the influence of which, it is hoped, may be productive of much good.

In Chili the friends of the Bible are not inactive; the efforts of a Colporteur employed at Valparaiso have been most encouraging.

WATERBURY.—Several letters have been received during the past year from Bishop Waterbury, of the Church of the United Brethren, on the subject of a legacy left to the Bible Society by Mr. Bradshaw. He has lately returned to this country, and was the bearer of part of the residue of Mr. Bradshaw's estate, amounting to £1000. A considerable sum more is yet to be received.

JAMAICA.—The revival which has taken place in this island is again noticed by the Rev. John Clark, of Brown's Town, in terms of grateful acknowledgment to Him who is the Author and the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

UNITED STATES.—NEW YORK.—War is a fearful scourge to any land, and civil war bears an aspect more sad and more gloomy still. Your Committee, feeling that financial derangement must be one inevitable result of political convulsion; and anxious to sympathize with their American brethren in a season of trial, and to co-operate with them in sustaining their great work of Bible distribution, placed at the disposal of the American Bible Society the sum of £2000.

Having, however, means enough to meet all their liabilities for the year, their Board did not like to take funds which could be put to other important uses.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.—CANADA.—It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of our Canadian Auxiliaries, whether as ministering to the wants of their own rapidly increasing population, or as contributing, according to their ability, for the furtherance of that comprehensive scheme of Bible distribution to which your Society is pledged.

TORONTO.—The Upper Canada Auxiliary still maintains its efficiency, and pursues its course with unabated zeal. Its issues have numbered 29,485 copies, being an increase of more than £200 on the preceding year.

MONTREAL.—The Montreal Auxiliary is the prolific parent of no fewer than 160 Branches, which are reported to be generally in an efficient state.

The issues again show an increase on those of the preceding year, having amounted to 13,606 copies.

KINGSTON.—The Kingston Auxiliary has been anxious to enlarge its sphere of labour, and thus to obtain the means of employing a District Secretary. They have engaged, for a short period, the Rev. J. F. Wilson.

The total issues amount to 3313 copies, and the sum of £266 19s. 1d. has been both received and expended.

QUEBEC.—Our friends here work on in faith and hope, using the means which God gives them, and relying upon His promise, that in due season they shall reap if they faint not.

Colportage, especially when carried on by men who have the love of Christ and of souls at heart, here, as elsewhere, produces its fruits.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—ST. JOHN.—This Auxiliary still flourishes, and its Branches multiply. A new Ladies' Association has been formed at Richibucto, which is working very satisfactorily, having as its first object the collection of 500, and 600, in addition to a small sum by which sympathy for Italy is shown.

The annual contribution of St. Mark's Sunday School, to aid Bishop Gobat in supplying children in Jerusalem with copies of the Scriptures, amounts this year to 71. 6s. 8d.

FREDERICTON.—The Rev. C. Spurgeon gives the most satisfactory account of the state of this Auxiliary. It has remitted this year 100l., of which 20l. is for Italy.

MIRAMICHI.—From the Ladies' Auxiliary in this district a Free Contribution of 25l. has been received.

NOVA SCOTIA.—HALIFAX.—Death has again been busy among the friends of this Auxiliary, who are called upon to mourn the loss of M. G. Black, Esq., their late Treasurer. His son has kindly undertaken to fulfil the duties of this office. The sum of 200l. has been remitted as a Free Contribution.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—ST. JOHN'S.—From this Auxiliary only one short letter has been received, advising of a remittance of 187l. 4s. 6d., of which 100l. is for the General Purposes of this Society.

DOMESTIC.—The Prince Consort, whose early death has elicited feelings of universal regret, not only in our own land, but in every country which has become familiar with the knowledge of his public domestic virtues, and the integrity of his public character, was a donor of 50l. to your Society. With the deepest sorrow for Her Majesty the Queen, in this season of bereavement and anguish, your committee sought to lighten the burden of her grief by presenting to Her Majesty, through their President, an address of sympathy and condolence.

It is with unfeigned regret at their loss that your Committee have to record the death of three of your Vice-Presidents. The names of Montagu Villiers, John Thornton, and Thomas Farmer, are embalmed in the memories of all who knew them.

Three of your Life-Governors, also, have exchanged the toil of earth for the rest of heaven. The Rev. J. W. Cunningham, of Harrow, the Rev. W. Burgess, of Thorpe Kirby, near Colchester, and the Rev. J. H. Grey, Rector of St. Mary's, Byramstone, Square, London.

The following Prelates have permitted their names to be added to the list of Vice-Presidents:—The Right Revs. the Bishops of Gloucester and Bristol and the Bishop of Malines.

It is also with feelings of deep thankfulness that your Committee record the acceptance of their noble offer of Treasurer to the Society by their long tried and much esteemed friend, John Bockett, Esq.

In consequence of the appointment of the Rev. John Mee to the Deanery of Graham's Town, he has resigned the office of Clerical Secretary, and the Rev. Charles Jackson, Incumbent of Bentley, Hants, has been appointed to succeed him.

FUNDS.—The Ordinary Receipts have this year amounted to 107,084l. 1s. 4d. For Special

* Since the above was written it has pleased God in His mysterious providence to call that great house.

THE TRIUMPH OF CHRISTIANITY.

The following passage is quoted by the London Quarterly Review, with the remark that, "for the condensation of its wide historic survey, and its vigorous and glowing eloquence, it is one of the finest in the whole range of literature."

It arose in an enlightened and skeptical age; but amongst a despised and narrow-minded people. It earned hatred and persecution at home by its liberal genius and opposition to the national prejudices; it earned contempt abroad by its connection with the country where it was born, but which sought to strangle it in its birth. Emerging from Judea, it made its way outward through the most polished regions of the world—Asia, Minor, Egypt, Greece, Rome—and in all it attracted notice and provoked hostility. Successive massacres and attempts at extermination, persecuted for ages by the whole force of the Roman empire, it bore without resistance, and seemed to draw fresh vigor from the axe; but assaults in the way of argument, from whatever quarter, it was never ashamed or unable to repel, and, whether attacked or not, it was resolutely aggressive. In four centuries it had pervaded the civilized world; it had mounted the heights of its way, and had spread beyond the limits of its own country, and had gathered all learning into itself, and made the literature of the world its own; it survived the fall of the barbarian tribes, and conquered the world once more, by converting its conquerors to the faith; it survived an age of barbarism; it survived the restoration of letters; it survived the nurse of learning; and if light, and humanity, and freedom be the boast of modern Europe, it is to Christianity that she owes them. Exhibiting in the life of Jesus a picture, varied and minute, of the perfect human united with the divine, in which the mind of man has not been able to find a deficiency, or detect a blemish—a picture copied from no model, and rivalled by no copy—it has satisfied the moral wants of mankind; it has accommodated itself to every period and every climate; it has retained, through every change, a salutary spring of life, which enables it to throw off corruption and repair decay, and renew its youth, amidst outward hostility and inward divisions.

POWER OF AUGUSTINE'S PREACHING.

Augustine was one of those preachers whose power can never be estimated by their written discourses. We want to see the man and hear his voice, to witness the fascination of his manner and the flash of his eye. Who could form any adequate conception of Whitefield by the mere perusal of one of his printed sermons? That Augustine had great skill and power as a preacher, is evident from the effects which he occasionally produced. Two instances of this kind he has himself recorded.

There was a custom among the people of Caesarea, in Mauritania, which had been carried to a monstrous pitch of cruelty. At a particular season of the year, citizens, neighbors, brothers, and children, having formed themselves into parties, engaged for some days in battle with stones, each one killing whom he could. Augustine's object was to draw off the people from a spectacle of this kind, and to give them a great delight. He has given us his discourse on this occasion. He tells us, however, that he availed himself, as far as he was able, of the grand in eloquence, and not without some success. After he had addressed the people for a while in this way, they began to speak aloud, and to applaud him. He was too well acquainted, however, with the human heart, to suppose that he had effected any thing substantial, so long as they amused themselves with giving him applause. He therefore proceeded in a different train, and said that he had seen in reality taken place in heaven, and that the horrid custom, which had been handed down from their heathen state, would be abolished. "Nor was I," he added, "disappointed; for it is now eight years since, and no attempt has yet been made to renew it."

As to the second instance mentioned, it seems that the African churches—and that at Hippo among the rest—had long been accustomed to celebrate the birthday of certain saints, and in the end had so perverted them, that they were made occasions of feasting and drunkenness. And what made the matter more intolerable, these disgraceful celebrations were held in the churches. Augustine early determined to put an end to them, at least in his own church, and, in a long letter to Alypius, he tells us, church, and, in a long letter to Alypius, he tells us, how skillfully and faithfully he managed, and with what entire success. He had been for some time preparing his people for the change, by reading and expounding to them the most appropriate Scriptures. On the day preceding one of these celebrations, he told them plainly, if they dared to condemn the great things which had been spoken to them in the name of God, that He would surely visit their transgressions with a rod, and their iniquity with stripes, even in the present life.

"While I thus addressed them," says he, "and made my complaints, the Spirit of God seemed to impart to me courage and strength, according to the magnitude and danger of the enterprise. I did not move their tears by mine; but, when I had finished speaking, I confessed that I was unable to refrain. Having thus wept together for a while, with a strong expectation of their amendment, I brought my address to a close."

On the following day, when they were accustomed to prepare for this disgraceful festivity, some were inclined to murmur and ask: "Why now? Our fathers who lived before us, and were wont to engage in these festivities, were not they Christians?" To these men, and to all those who sympathized with them, Augustine replied, "Say not, Why now? but rather, Even now. Yes, now, after so long a time, break off this disgraceful practice, and honour the holy martyrs in a manner more appropriate and edifying." The practice, the preacher goes on to tell us, was effectually broken up.—*Princeton Review.*

"A Christian in the world," says John Newton, "is like a man transacting his affairs in the rain. He will not suddenly leave his business because it rains, but the moment that business is done, he is off."

THE MIDNIGHT MISSION IN LONDON.

(From the London Times.)

This remarkable movement has lost nothing of its first efficiency, though it has long ceased to excite the interest of novelty. It was a bold, but an important enterprise. It is now confessedly a great success. It demanded a more than common amount of good sense, discretion, and delicacy; it laid its promoters open to severe censure in case of failure, and exposed them to great ridicule and smart gibes on the part of those who can always laugh at what they cannot understand, or will not help. The brief history of this movement is instructive. Many kind and earnest ministers and laymen felt deeply for the condition of 40,000 fallen women traversing nightly the streets of London. They were not only lost sheep, but apparently inaccessible to the aggressive efforts of those whose compassion their sorrows and sufferings had excited. That there might be no fair opening for censure, the first promoters sent out to leading and influential persons 700 notices of their design. On the 8th of February, 1860, 500 invitations, enclosed in envelopes, were distributed among the women frequenting Regent Street, Coventry Street, and the Haymarket, and in the various casinos which they are in the habit of visiting, affectionately and respectfully inviting them to meet a few friends at tea in the Restaurant of St. James' Hall, at 11½ p. m.

About 250 of these "unfortunate ladies" accepted the invitation. They were addressed by the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, in words full of earnest remonstrance, Christian feeling, and in a temperate spirit, and the effect was most impressive. Numbers felt chords touched in their nature that had long ceased to vibrate, and reminiscences stirred that had been almost effaced, and applications many and fervent were made by the victims of a great evil for deliverance from its bondage. The results, in a mere statistical point of view, were as follows:—Twelve meetings of this kind were held; 2,400 unfortunate women attended, 26 were restored to their friends, 18 were placed in service, 91 were gathered into various "Homes" provided for this purpose, four married, and two emigrated. A contemporaneous attempt was made by some French pastors, under the same sanction, to impress the very numerous Frenchwomen who have fallen into the same degraded condition; but here the difficulties were very great. The haunts of these unfortunate are the property of Belgians and Frenchmen, who import the unhappy creatures into this country by gross misrepresentations, and afterwards live and become rich by their gains. These taskmasters forbade their victims to accept the invitations, and threatened to flog them if they disobeyed their order. It was also found that the scepticism and superstition in which they had been trained in their own country, enabled them to a great extent to resist every attempt to awaken them to a sense of their position, and to throw off every earnest and salutary appeal. But accepting all the failures, there remains sufficient success to be a reward to those benevolent persons who so nobly pitied and so kindly toiled for those who did not pity themselves. The countries to which the 238 reclaimed belonged were as follows:—59 were natives of London; two came from Wales, three from Scotland, and six from Ireland. Yorkshire furnished three, Gloucestershire four, Somersetshire eight, and two were from each of the remaining English counties. Their average age was 22 years. The sources and springs of the "social evil" are many and various. Not a few start on their unhappy career from fashionable dressmakers' establishments. Young and beautiful, they feel the oppressive fatigue of vitiated air, late hours, and incessant work. They meet with them that "smile and are as villians." Dissatisfied with their intolerable toils, yearning for relief and sympathy, they yield, are forsaken, and die alike unknown and unknown.

Another source of this evil is found in the army. The rules of the service allow only six wives in each company, and the marriage of soldiers is generally discouraged. Regiments sent out to India are accompanied by 30 wives, though composed of 1000 men. If young women could look forward to early marriage, they would thus be lifted out of the way of temptation. But, owing to the consumption of men by the navy and the army, by emigration, and by the fact that there are thousands of shopmen whose masters would dismiss them if they dared to marry, there were found at last census 1,400,000 women between 20 and 40 years of age unmarried. Servants, too, of place and rank, are often found in the streets of London, and in the houses of the fallen. In fact, poverty has much to do as an occasion, if not a cause, of the first step downward. They see thousands of their sex in the streets gaudily attired, apparently prosperous and merry, while they are cold, and hunger-bitten; and in rage. The temptation to plunge into the current is strong, and they are ruined. The power of calculation are weak, and they are ruined. The upper classes also contribute their share of victims. Fashionable mothers cultivate the society of profligate young men of rank and fortune, and often reap the fruits they have been fostering in the degradation of their daughters. No conduct is more worthy of censure. Vice ought to be reprobated in manly as firmly as in woman. If we cannot extinguish the social evil, we may do much to lessen it. Earlier marriages would be a step in the right direction. Let young men begin as their parents began, and not wait to begin as their parents live after thirty years of prosperous labor. Let mothers learn to appreciate a fortune in a young man as highly as a fortune with a young man. The former is a mine; the latter is but a balance in the bank. At all events, he cannot have much pity or compassion in his heart who refuses his best wishes for the success of an enterpriser that has already lessened the burden of human suffering, and appears to have capabilities of increased success.

BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.

Mr. Green, the famous diver, tells singular stories of his adventures, when making search in the deep waters of the ocean. He gives some sketches of what he saw on the Silver Banks, near Hayti:—The banks of coral on which my divers were made, are about forty miles in length, and from ten to twenty in breadth.

On this bank of coral is presented to the diver one of the most beautiful and sublime scenes the eye ever beheld. The water varies from ten to one hundred feet in depth, and is so clear, that

the diver can see from two to three hundred feet when submerged, with little obstruction to the sight.

The bottom of the ocean in many places on these banks, is as smooth as a marble floor; in others it is studded with coral columns, from ten to one hundred feet in height, and from one to eighty feet in diameter. The tops of those more lofty support a myriad of pyramidal pendants, each forming a myriad of some water nymph. In other places the pendants form arch after arch, and as the diver stands on the bottom of the ocean, and gazes through these into the deep winding avenue, he feels that they fill him with as sacred an awe as if he were in some old cathedral, which had long been buried beneath "the old ocean's wave." Here and there, the coral extends even to the surface of the water, as if these lofty columns were towers belonging to those stately temples now in ruins.

There were countless varieties of diminutive trees, shrubs, and plants, in every crevice of the coral, where the water had deposited the least earth. They were all of a faint hue, owing to the pale light they received, although of every shade, and entirely different from plants I am familiar with, that vegetate upon dry land. One in particular attracted my attention; it resembled a sea-fan of immense size, of variegated colors, and of the most brilliant hue.

The fish which inhabited those silver banks, I found as different in kind, as the scenery was varied. They were of all forms, colors and sizes—from the symmetrical goby, to the globe-like snailfish; from those of the duldest hue, to the changeable dolphin; from the spots of the leopard to the hues of the sunbeam; from the harmless minnow to the voracious shark. Some had heads like squirrels, others like cats and dogs; one of small size resembled a bull terrier. Some darted through the water like meteors, while others could scarcely be seen to move.

To enumerate and explain all the various kinds of fish I beheld while diving on these banks, would be more than my limits will allow, for I am convinced that most of the kinds of fish which inhabit the tropical seas can be found there. The sun-fish, saw-fish, star-fish, white shark, ground shark, blue or shovel-nose sharks, were often seen. There were also fish which resembled plants, and remained as fixed in their position as a shrub. The only power they possessed was to open and shut when in danger. Some of them resembled the rose in full bloom, and were of all hues. There were ribbon fish, from four to five inches to three feet in length. Their eyes are very large, and protrude like those of the frog. Another fish was spotted like the leopard, from three to ten feet long. They build their houses like the beaver, in which they spawn, and the male or female watches the ova till it hatches. I saw many specimens of the green turtle, some five feet long, which I should think would weigh from four to five hundred pounds.

KNOWLEDGE AND ITS USE.

A writer in *Blackwood* relates the following incident as illustrating the difference between the mere man of knowledge, who leaves the world just as he found it, and the one who "adds to the uses and embellishments of life" by putting into practical use the ideas which are borne into his mind:

A certain nobleman, very proud of the extent and beauty of his pleasure grounds, chancing one day to call on a small square, whose garden might cover about half an acre, was greatly struck with the brilliant colors of his neighbour's flowers.

"Ay, my Lord, the flowers are well enough," said the squire, "but permit me to show you my grapes." Conducted into an old-fashioned little greenhouse, which served as a winery, my lord gazed with mortification and envy, on the grapes twice as large as his own. "My dear friend," said he, "you have a jewel of a gardener, let me see him!"

The gardener was called—the single gardener—a simple looking young man under thirty. "Accept my compliments on your flower-bed and your grapes," said my lord, "and tell me, if you can, why your flowers are so much brighter than mine, and your grapes so much finer. You must have 'died horticulture profoundly,'" said the man. "I have not had the advantage of much education; I don't know so much about the flowers and the vines, the secret as to treating them just came to me, you see, by chance?"

"By chance?" explain." "Well, my lord, three years ago master sent me to Lunnon on business of his'n; and it came on to rain, and I took shelter in a news; what then?" "Yes; you took shelter in a news; what then?" "And there were two gentlemen taking shelter too, and they were talking to each other about charcoal."

"About charcoal; go on." "And one said that it had done a deal of good in many cases of sickness, and specially in the first stage of the cholera, and I took a note on my mind of that, because we'd had the cholera in our village the year afore. And I guessed the two gentlemen were doctors, and knew what they were talking about."

"I dare say they did; but flowers and vines don't have the cholera, do they?" "No, my lord; but they have complaints of their own; and one of the gentlemen went on to say that charcoal had a special good effect upon all vegetable life, and told a story of a vine-dresser in Germany, I think, who had made a very sickly poor vineyard one of the best in all these parts simply by charcoal dressings. So I naturally picked up my ears at that, for our vines were in so bad a way that master thought of doing away with them altogether. 'Ay,' said the other gentleman, 'and see how a little sprinkle of charcoal will brighten up a flower-bed.' The rain was now over, and the gentlemen left the news; and I thought, 'Well, but before I try the charcoal upon my plants I'd best make some inquiry of them as are aren't doctors, but gardeners; so I went to our nurseryman, who has a dead end of boy, and I asked him if he'd ever heard of charcoal dressing being good for vines, and he said he'd read in a book that it was so but had never tried it. He kindly lent me the book, which was translated from some foreign one. And after I had picked out of it all I could, I tried the charcoal in the way the book told me to try it; and that's how the grapes and the flower-beds came to please you, my lord. It was a lucky chance that ever I heard those gentlemen talking in the news, please your lordship."

"Chance happens to all," answered the peer, sententiously; "but to turn chance to account is the gift of a few."

"His lordship, returning home, gazed gloomily on the hues of his vast parterres; he visited his vines, and scowled at the clusters; he summoned his head gardener—a gentleman of the highest repute for science, and who never spoke of a cowl except by its name in Latin. To this learned personage my lord communicated what he had heard and seen of the beneficial effects of charcoal, and produced in proof a magnificent bunch of grapes, which he had brought from the squire's."