

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, MAY 17, 1848.

RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES.

We present abstracts of several of the Reports submitted during the past week, to the religious Societies holding their anniversaries in New York. By the next mail from England, (Sab. next) we shall probably hear from the London Anniversaries, which were held three weeks since. The friends of Missions and of benevolent operations have never before met to exchange congratulations and devise measures for extending their influence, under so interesting circumstances as they meet this year. Many effectual doors have been opened most opportunely and yet most unexpectedly, for the free circulation of the word of God, and for the prosecution of Protestant Missions. The Lord has largely exceeded the hopes of the most sanguine; and in the time of greatest fear, when obstacles were accumulating by restrictions on the press, and incarceration of colporteurs and missionaries, the Lord has appeared so signally that none can well deny his presence and power. He has, as it were, laughed from the heavens at the perverse designs of those who have taken council against Him. He has, indeed, given a most remarkable lesson, directed to the senses of those who lacked faith in his word, that he holds all authority or rather abuses of authority, and all the machinations of rulers and their subjects of Popes and Princes in derision, and will vex them in his sore displeasure.

The different benevolent societies whose reports we have seen, appear to be in a healthy condition; their prudent management, and the measure of success with which their exertions have been crowned, have multiplied their friends and secured the necessary funds. Both the receipts and success of many of the large societies considerably exceed those of former years.

Great attention will doubtless be bestowed upon the European field, and no careful observer will take exception to such a course. There is a vast amount of intelligence, enterprise, and wealth in those countries, which, if brought into the service of the Church of Christ, would soon encompass the globe with missionaries, and send the pure translated word of God to every corner of man. We can readily conceive of the free circulation of the word of God, or bound down by the creeds and formularies of eumbrous national establishments, are now emancipated from the tyranny of a lordly priesthood such an enthusiasm will be created in favor of bible distribution and colporteur labor as will effect vast changes in the character of nations. It is most certainly a time for importunate prayer and for generous contributions.

In reading the interesting extracts, which are furnished by Elder Crandel, of the early history of the Baptist cause in Salisbury, we know many readers will sympathise fully with us in hoping that they are but an earnest of future and more extensive contributions. We know that the denomination is under a great debt of obligation to those early pioneers who bore the burden and heat of the day, and were open, active advocates for our principles when friends were few, and when so much opposition had to be encountered; but for the Lord's sake, and the sake of his precious cause, we consider the few who experienced the severities of those times, and who yet remain to witness and enjoy the privileges and extensive Christian fellowship of the present day, under great obligations to furnish the present and rising generations a record and testimony of what the Lord has done. Few men, and no other one in this Province, doubtless, have it in their power to confer so great a boon and leave so valuable a legacy as the venerable and respected Pastor at Salisbury. That the early history of the denomination in this Province would, to so great a degree, be his own history, should by no means deter him from communicating it. "Whoso offereth praise, glorifieth God," and what a revenue must arise when the friends of our beloved Zion are permitted, under the guidance of a well-informed and judicious teacher, to contemplate the wonderful way through which their fathers were led, and how evidently the hand of the Lord has always been towards them for good. We probably have few if any readers who are not acquainted, at least by reputation, with Elder Crandel, and who would not feel highly gratified with such contributions in this way, or upon any other subject, as his convenience or pastoral labors will allow.

Hon. P. S. White, of Philadelphia, Most Worthy Patriarch of the Sons of Temperance, delivered an address to a large audience, in the Mechanics' Institute last evening, that is spoken of in the highest terms by all who were favored with the privilege of hearing it.

Mr. White's character, ability, and style, all contribute to impress his auditors. His aim is evidently to do good, and not merely to amuse an audience. His addresses are substantial, instructive, full of convincing argument; they are at the same time so happily illustrated as to keep up the liveliest expectation and interest to the close. Those who hear him once will not neglect a second opportunity if they can secure it.

An address is to be presented by the Sons of Temperance this afternoon, at 5½ o'clock, P. M., on Queen's Square, and a reply returned, after which a social gathering will take place at the Mechanics' Institute. The procession forms at the Institute at 5; Tea served at 8 o'clock.

EDITORIAL CHANGE.—We learn from Zion's Advocate that the Christian Watchman and the Christian Reflector of Boston are hereafter to be united under the editorial charge of the Rev. Wm. Hague and Rev. J. W. Olmstead; such an arrangement will doubtless secure for the Baptists of New England a very superior paper. We presume, from the information at hand, that Rev. Mr. Crowell, who has so long and so ably conducted the Watchman, retires to some other field of service. He will certainly carry with him, and deservedly too, the kindest regards of thousands who have been gratified and instructed by his firm and consistent discharge of his editorial duty. The name of Rev. Mr. Hague, in connection with that of the editor of the Reflector, is a sufficient guarantee that the new paper will be a strong and able advocate of our principles.

AMES & CO.'S EXPRESS.—We were glad to see our old acquaintance, Mr. Ames, in a business for which he is so well adapted, and particularly pleased to see him upon the routes,—"Boston and St. John." We are indebted weekly to his kindness for papers. With such an attentive express, and such able and gentlemanly officers as the Admirals, there can be no want of confidence on the part of the travelling and business community. We wish them the large success to which they are entitled.

Visitors after this week regularly at Mr. James Thompson's store.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

The twenty-third anniversary of this Society, was celebrated in the Broadway Tabernacle, on Wednesday last. The following abstract of the Annual Report, contains a summary of what has been accomplished by the Society, during the past year.

All the departments of the Society, its receipts, its printing and issues, its grants, and the playful labors of colporteurs and others accompanying the distribution, are largely in advance of any preceding year; and the rich blessing of the Holy Spirit, in our own and foreign lands, has been graciously bestowed.

Circulated, during the year, 163,303 volumes, 6,987,262 publications, 211,730,285 pages; making the total circulation in twenty-three years, 4,068,928 volumes, 96,949,992 publications, 2,035,001,326 pages. Christian Almanac, 128,000; American Messenger, upwards of 100,000 copies monthly—the expense of the paper having exceeded the receipts by \$117.

Receipts, \$237,296 04; \$129,744 81 being for sales, and \$105,915 15 donations. Of the donations, \$32,912 76 were received for colportage, \$1,729 30 for foreign distribution, and \$11,804 88 were legacies. Expenditures for paper, printing, binding, engraving, and copyright, \$143,699 32; for presses and machinery, \$6,741 70, remitted in cash for foreign lands, \$11,000; expended for colportage, (exclusive of grants of publications to the value of \$16,622 49,) \$50,559; total expenditure, \$237,155 95—leaving a balance in the treasury of \$140 09. There was due for printing paper, payable within four months, \$16,503 97.

COLPORTAGE.—The Report presents a cheering view of this enterprise, exhibiting the hand of God in its history, the necessity for its application to the destitute native and foreign emigrant population, and its adaptation to rural districts, German, French, Norwegian, and other immigrants, thoroughfares, sailors, and soldiers, and various other classes; and the moral results our respected foreign missionary boards, by whom they have been gratefully acknowledged.

Remitted, during the year to Toulouse, \$300; Paris, \$300; Baptist mission, France, \$200; Belgium, \$200; Basle, \$100; Hungary, \$200; Hamburg, \$200, and \$500 for American Baptist mission; Russia, \$500; Italy, \$100; Armenians, of Turkey, \$1,300; Nestorians, \$300; Ceylon, \$700; Madras, \$700 Madras, \$300; Lutheran

mission, Guntoor, \$100; Orissa, \$300; Northern India, \$1500; Siam, Baptist mission \$300, board of Commissioners \$200; China, General Assembly's Board, \$300; Canton, Southern Baptist Convention \$300, Board of Commissioners \$300; Hong Kong \$200; Amoy \$300; Fuh Chou \$200; Ningpo \$200; Shanghai \$200; Sandwich Islands \$700—total, 11,000.—*Boston Recorder.*

FOREIGN AND PAGAN LANDS.—Every year a more perfect knowledge of the languages is acquired, new facilities for printing are enjoyed, and the value of the personal labor of missionaries, native assistants, and colporteurs among the people, accompanying the distribution of books by religious conversation and prayer, is seen to be more and more essential. The recent wonderful events in France and other countries of Europe, give great encouragement of access to the people by colporteurs and books.

The pecuniary grants for foreign lands are designated according to the immediate necessities of the countries and stations supplied; and those for foreign mission stations are sent through in the promotion of education, temperance, Sabbath-observance, individual conversions, and the revival of religion, under the divine blessing.

Colporteurs. Two hundred and ninety-one colporteurs have been in commission for various terms of service, of whom two hundred and six were in commission April 1. Fifty of the number were employed among the German, French, Irish, Welsh, Norwegian, or Spanish population. Three have recently commenced their operations in Mexico. In addition to the above, one hundred and six students, from seventeen theological or collegiate institutions, have been employed as colporteurs during their vacation; making a total of 397 colporteurs in commission for the whole or a part of the year.

Statistical results. Whole number of families visited, 254,308, or about one-sixteenth of the entire population of the United States; families conversed with on personal religion or prayed with, 152,203; number of volumes sold, 303,957; books distributed gratuitously, family by family, among the poor, 81,188, besides 4,761,244 pages of Tracts; public or prayer meetings held 9,634; families of Roman Catholics, etc., visited, 334; families destitute of all religious books except the Bible, 34,354, and destitute of the Bible, 21,401; supplied with Bible or Testament, 20,215. Nearly forty thousand families were visited by students, who sold more than forty-two thousand books, and granted more than ten thousand books and seven hundred thousand pages of Tracts.

AM. SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

The 20th anniversary of this Society was held in the Tabernacle, on Monday evening.

From an abstract of the Annual Report, it appears that the receipts of the Society for the year ending May 1st, were \$24,007,—an excess over a large number of \$6,422, and does not include treasuries of auxiliary and branch societies. The expenditures have been \$23,894.

In addition to the chaplains and sailor missionaries previously employed, the Society has commissioned seven chaplains within the past year, for important stations in China, France, the West Indies, Chili, and the Sandwich Islands. Temperance boarding houses, or sailors' home, are every year increasing in number, and by their good fruits illustrating their practical, fundamental importance.

The fruits of these various labors are seen everywhere:—in the great improvement, in the temperate habits of seamen, in their self-respect and manly bearing; in the increasing amount deposited by them in the savings' banks; in their reluctance to board in houses or ship in vessels where intoxicating liquors are used; in their respect for the Sabbath, and anxiety to attend meetings for social and religious improvement; in the pains taken by ship owners and others to promote their physical comfort; in the changing discipline at sea, (partaking less of the iron and more of the parental); in the increasing faith or fidelity of those who cast their bread upon the waters; and more than all, in the spiritual transformation of masters, officers, and sailors, from the image of the earthly into the image of the heavenly.—*Bos. Recorder.*

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The seventh anniversary of this Society was held on Friday morning, at Dr. Cone's Baptist Church, in Broome street. The exercises were opened by reading a portion of the Scriptures, and by prayer, when the President, Dr. Cone, made an address relative to the purposes and operation of the society.

The following is an abstract of the report:
Balance from last year, - \$2,013 66
Receipts, - 31,521 14
Disbursements, - 34,421 92
Treasury overdrawn, - 887 12

The whole number of volumes of Sacred Scripture published at the expense of the society in foreign lands, previous to May 1st, 1846, 300,000.—The number published at the date of the report is 263,734. Total of Scriptures published at the expense of the American and Foreign Bible Society, 563,734.

The society is stereotyping in Germany a portable German Testament, and is adding to its stock of stereotype plates at the repository a set of a nonpareil 12mo. Bible, and another for a decimo reference Bible.

The French Testament is neatly printed; the Italian is undergoing preparation for the press.

The receipts and operations of the society are on the increase. The fiscal year just closed was shorter than any of its predecessors, consisting of only eleven months and six days. In this time the amount of money received exceeds the amount received during the same period last year by more than \$3,300, while the expense of agencies has been less by nearly \$1,200.

The society maintains six colporteurs in Germany exclusively engaged in Scripture distribution.

The society commences the new year in debt. Its operations are every where growing in importance and in interest, and the demand for appropriations is constantly increasing. A large increase of receipts for the ensuing year is absolutely indispensable.

The following resolutions were then offered and supported as follows:

Address on the resolution:

That the report, an abstract of which has been read, be printed and circulated under the direction of the board.

Rev. John Dowling, D. D.

Address on the resolution:

That the political, social, and religious elevation of mankind, can be accomplished only by the universal dissemination and influence of the Sacred Scriptures.

Hon. Ira Harris.

Address on the resolution:

In view of the indispensable necessity and divine efficacy of the Scriptures in the economy of human salvation, that the work of translating, printing and distributing Bibles, should be prosecuted with augmented vigor, both abroad and at home.

Rev. John H. Raymond.

—N. Y. Express.

CORRESPONDENCE.

For the Christian Visitor.

ON THE GOVERNMENT AND DISCIPLINE OF A CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Letter 4th.—PERSONAL OFFENCES.

The third class of offences are of a personal character. Personal offences are such injuries of one brother by another in person, reputation, or property, as can be proved. The statute law of the kingdom given by the great lawgiver has fixed all the steps to be taken in the case. Mat. 18: 15, 17 "Moreover, if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone. If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother; but if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established. And if he neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican."

The parties here are *thy brother* and *thee*: two members of the same church. The offence is here called a *trespass*. Now in case of such trespass or offence, some things must be settled in your own mind before you take a step or say a word.

First decide the amount of real injury you have sustained; the amount of the wrong committed. It should not be magnified nor diminished. In the second place, you should ascertain the proof you have got in the case. If you have no proof, the offence is a private one, and you have only to see your brother alone. But if you have such proof as will establish every word in the mouth of two or three witnesses, you are prepared to act on the case at once. Your charge must be reduced to your proof.

In the third place consider the aggravation of the offence; if it is such as should be brought before a christian church, or is such as would exclude the offender from the church of God. To commence with a vexatious question—a fable or a matter of opinion only—shows a weak mind. To trouble a brother or a church, about what a church would conclude was little or no cause of action, would be mortifying to you. In the third place never tell your grievance to the pastor or any brother, until you see your offending brother alone. If you have published it abroad before you have thus acted on Christ's law, you are an offender, and you have a right to be brought to an account for your sin.

In the last place go in a right spirit to your sinning backsliding brother. Go from your knees from solemn prayer to God. Go with a design to restore and to bring that erring brother to repentance. Do not say a word which is calculated to irritate or insult. Talk to him as to a brother. Leave the impression on his mind that it is out of love to Christ, and to his law, and to his soul, that you have come to tell him his fault.

For the law given by Christ involves three steps of labour. The first step is, "Go tell him his fault between thee and him alone." Go at once—do not keep it laid up in your mind until the Lord's Supper is to be administered, and then say you cannot commune with him, and withdraw from the Lord's table. Few acts manifest so much contempt for the authority of Christ, and so much ignorance