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THE MAY ANNIVERSARIES.

(From the *New-York Presbyterian*.)

The second week in May is familiarly known among us as the Anniversary Week.—Then our principal Benevolent Societies for the spread of the Gospel hold their annual meetings, make their reports, and choose their officers for the ensuing year. The occasion is one of great interest. The proceedings of late years have attracted great attention abroad as well as at home, by reason of the numerous daily papers of our city that spread them before their readers.

It will doubtless be a source of pleasure to those who are curious in such matters to know the origin of this Holy Week in New-York. So long ago as September, 1795 a Society was formed in the city of London, called "The Missionary Society," by a union of Christians of various denominations, for the spread of the Gospel among the heathen. In the "plan of the Society" it was arranged, that the general meeting should "be held annually in London on the second Wednesday in May." Accordingly such a meeting was held on the 11th, 12th and 13th of May 1796, at the Spa Fields Chapel, in London. This meeting brought a large number of ministers and other friends of Christ together from every part of the kingdom; and it was soon perceived that the occasion might be embraced for other observance of the kind.

At the fifth anniversary of the Missionary Society just fifty years ago, a Society was formed on the 10th of May, that took the name of "The Religious Tract Society" the annual meeting of which was to be held "on the Thursday morning of the missionary week," as the second week in May was then called. In March, 1804, the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed and its annual meeting appointed to be held on the first Wednesday in May, or the week previous to the missionary week. In 1807 a Congregational Union, or a general union of Independents, was formed to meet annually on the third Wednesday in May. The annual meeting of the Hibernian Society was fixed for the second Friday in May.

In 1812, the anniversary of the Sunday School Union was fixed for the second Wednesday in May. In 1813, the anniversary of the Church Missionary Society was held on the first Tuesday in May; the Prayer Book and Homily Society, on the first Thursday, and the Jews Society, on Friday of the same week. In 1813, were introduced, on the second Monday, the Aged Pilgrim's Friend Society; on the second Tuesday, the Naval and Military Bible Society, and some others. And now almost the whole month of May is given to these religious festivals in the city of London. On the Sabbath after the meeting of the London Missionary Society, the ministers who support it spread themselves over the city, and occupy as many pulpits as they can in behalf of the cause. They have thus preached in one day 125 sermons in 63 places. The anniversary of this Society is now held on the second Thursday.

On Friday, May 11th, 1816, the American Bible Society was formed in the city of New-York, and the anniversary fixed for the second Thursday of May, at New-York or Philadelphia. Reference was had in this arrangement, not only to the holy season in London, but to the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, on the third Thursday. One after another were formed the Education, the Tract, the Home Mission, the Temperance, the Anti-Slavery Societies, &c., and their anniversaries arranged with reference to that of the Bible Society, so as to occupy the same week. The

first anniversary of the Bible Society was held in Washington Hall, the site of which is now occupied by the splendid warehouse of A. T. Stewart & Co.

The second anniversary, in 1818, was held in the City Hotel, which is now in the process of demolition for warehouses. In this latter place the annual meetings were held until 1825, when it was found necessary to occupy the Middle Dutch church, since converted into the Post Office. In 1828, it was held again in the City Hotel, but for that year only. In 1832, the anniversaries were transferred to Chatham-street Chapel, and in 1836 to the Broadway Tabernacle, where they are now established.

AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

ABSTRACT OF THE 21ST ANNUAL REPORT.

The labours of this Society for the benefit of the more than two millions of seamen are divided into the two general departments of Foreign and Domestic Operations. The Foreign field embraces Gottenberg, Stockholm, and the Island of Gottland in Sweden; Havre, Bordeaux and Marseilles in France; Canton in China, Havana and St. Thomas in the West Indies; Valparaiso in Chili; Lahaina and Honolulu in the Sandwich Islands, and several other ports reached by the chaplains at these stations, by missionaries of other societies, and by sailors who feel themselves constrained by the love of Christ and commissioned by the grace of God to do good. As for example, a sailor in Oregon city, at the head of navigation on the Columbia River, remitted money to the chaplain at Honolulu to buy a Bethel flag, saying—"You may rest assured I will endeavour by the grace of God to hoist it; and, if no one else will, I will try and preach under it."

A Bethel flag, furnished by a society of ladies in Newburyport, is also waving over the beautiful bay of San Francisco; and a correspondence has been opened with the view of securing the permanent labours of a chaplain there.

The Domestic Operations of the Society are conducted in concert with those of numerous auxiliary and local societies, extending inland and the entire length of the Atlantic seaboard, and employing more than four-score labourers for the spiritual improvement of those who do business on the waters.

Those institutions called Sailor's Homes, and now justly regarded as indispensable in the work of elevating and saving seamen, are increasing in number, improving in their management, and happily accomplishing the great object in view.

The Receipts of the Society the past year have been \$18,582 and the Expenditures \$18,497; the details of which will be given in the Treasurer's published Report.

A review of the labours and the results of the year, whether the eye rests on our own or the shores of other lands—on the islands or on the broad surface of the deep—fills the heart with admiring gratitude to God. All the Societies chaplaincies and missionary stations seem to be in a healthful and prosperous condition. God's way in the sea is luminous with grace and mercy. Among those converted in a recent revival at sea, we find an officer, once a preacher of the old doctrine, "Ye shall not surely die"—and now promising to become a preacher of righteousness.—A sailor coming down the Columbia River, was reading his Bible, when light above the brightness of the sun shown into his soul.—Another was led to Christ by a sermon preached on shipboard in the harbour of Honolulu. A captain, whom the chaplain at this station had known as a wanderer from God, on be-

comming a new creature at sea, thus writes him: "We have meetings every evening on board, and enjoy ourselves much. I shall ever remember you and your deep interest for my welfare."

Of as seamen by thousands are becoming temperate, and by scores converted, what encouragements there are for the prosecution of a work so fraught with good to men, with gladness to Zion and glory to God.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

ABSTRACT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The Society enjoys richly the smiles of God. The number of new publications, in English, German, French, Italian, Danish, and Welsh, of which 23 are books, is 145—total publications 1,458, including 254 volumes—besides 2,387 in more than 100 foreign languages and dialects. The new volumes comprise several narratives for the young, all of which are simple records of fact. The series of tracts have been reissued, chiefly from new stereotype plates and engravings, in twelve volumes of 500 pages each.

Circulation during the year, including 734,664 volumes, 7,203,682 publications or 234,409,300 pages. Total since the formation of the Society, 4,803,592 volumes; 104,153,674 publications, or 2,268,410,626 pages.

Publications issued gratuitously, 47,890, 225 pages; to foreign and domestic missionaries, army, navy, seamen's and Bethel chaplains, literary, humane, and criminal institutions, Sabbath-schools, and individuals; by colporteurs, to life members, and directors.

Receipts of the year, in donations, \$94,081 48; for sales, \$164,218 73; balance in the Treasury last year, \$140 09; total, \$258,440 25.

Expenditures for paper, printing, binding, engraving, translating, and copy-right, \$148,677 46; for presses, \$2,723 56; for colportage, \$58,106 42; remitted for foreign and pagan lands, \$14,000; total \$258,283 91; leaving balance in the Treasury, \$157 90.

There was due, April 1, for printing-paper, on notes payable within six months, \$29,727 76. The whole means of the Society are energetically employed in issuing the best evangelical books, in a neat and legible style, and circulating them among the masses of the people.

Colportage—Including 106 students from 23 different colleges or seminaries for their vacations, and 52 for the foreign immigrant population, 480 colporteurs have been employed for the whole or part of the year, in different states and territories. The whole number in commission April 1, was 268.

Foreign and Pagan lands. The waking mind of millions in France, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Italy; their struggles for freedom, and their success procuring the liberty of the press, have laid claims on the Society greater than ever before; and at Foreign mission stations connected with our various Boards, the press is unusually prosperous and active. The evidences of conversions, and of the permanent diffusion of gospel light, by tracts and books, and the labours of colporteurs, missionaries and native converts in foreign and pagan lands, are greater than in any previous year. Many very striking facts have occurred.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MELIORATING THE CONDITION OF THE JEWS.

This Institution celebrated its twenty-sixth Anniversary last evening at the Dutch Reformed Church, corner of Broome and Greene Streets. The President, Rev. Dr. Dewitt, took the chair, and after the opening exer-

cises the annual report was presented, from which it appears that the Society perseveres in its philanthropic efforts in behalf of the Jews, and with such success as to give complete occasion for encouragement. The receipts of the year just closed have been \$3,221, and the expenditures \$3,208, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$13.

Mr. Bernard Steinhilf, of the Andover Theological Seminary, a Jew, addressed the audience upon the conclusion of the reading of the report. He made an urgent appeal in behalf of his brethren. He thought that the church of God probably never saw a period more interesting than the present. The kingdom of God is being shaken to its centre, and the Jews are deeply affected by it. The revolutions which have for some time been going forward in Europe have been the means of restoring the Jew in a great measure, to the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty—to the enjoyment of those blessings which as men and as Christians, of right belong to them. The Jews are at present widely dissatisfied with their religion. Relying on the revelations of the Talmud they have looked for the coming of a Messiah to reign over them, a mere man, a temporal prince, but now after awaiting 1800 years, they seem in a degree to have rejected the false teachings of the Talmud; and a spirit of religious inquiry is abroad amongst them, and a preparatory work of good is evidently going on. He thought the signs of the times demanded action on the part of the Christians, for, if they do not speedily arouse, Judaism will only be shaken off to give place to the darkening shades of infidelity. It seemed to him that Americans were a people specially designed by Providence to take the lead in the evangelization of the Jew. They will in a few years form no small portion of our population, and they will be eminently accessible to these means which may be employed for their regeneration. The audience was then addressed by the

Rev. Dr. Thompson, of the Broadway Tabernacle. He did not rise to excite sympathy in behalf of the Jews, for he was speaking to American Christians. He thought however, if we were to analyze our feelings, we should find not a little prejudice, and this it was more specially his object to remove. The speaker continued at some length, and was followed by

Rev. Dr. Bacon, of New Haven. His design was more especially to show that the fear of losing nationality, on the part of the Jew, presented the chief obstacle to his conversion to Christianity. When it was seen that conversion did not imply extinction we might expect to witness the redemption of the race.

At the conclusion of the addresses, and the appropriate closing exercises the audience adjourned.

THE FOREIGN EVANGELICAL SOCIETY.

Met last night in Dr. Hutton's Reformed Dutch Church, corner of Washington Place and Wooster street. The Rev. Dr. Dewitt acted as Chairman. The Report of the operations of the Society was presented by the Rev. Dr. Bean. This is one of our most active religious organizations. Last year over \$24,000 was spent in the dissemination of Evangelical opinions in Catholic countries.—Add to this the amount spent for the same object by the American Protestant Society and it amounts to \$75,000. The Society has aided the French Canadian Missionary Society and missions of its own on the borders of Mexico, in South America, Hayti, among the French Population of New Orleans and New York.

In Europe, the Society employs a missionary in Stockholm a colporteur, or Tract and Bible Agent, rather, in Russia, aids the