



A Family Newspaper: devoted to

Religious & General Intelligence.

REV. E. D. VERY,

"BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED."—ST. PAUL.

EDITOR.

Volume III.

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1850.

Number 18.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

### WHAT AM I PURSUING?

Why do I see old ocean white with sails?  
Why smoky steamers cut her yielding wave?  
Why thousands pressing with universal zeal,  
As if in haste to find an early grave?

From every quarter of the globe they come,  
And every toil and every danger brave,  
They leave their friends and all their joys of home,  
And venture on the treacherous, boisterous wave.

One central point appears their common aim,  
One great design their every nerve inspires;  
What is the good they labour to obtain,  
To pay their toils and meet their vast desires?

'Tis California's glittering dust they seek,  
The yellow sands besprinkled o'er her soil,  
'Tis here their most enlarged wishes meet,  
Here the reward of all their anxious toil.

But Wisdom calls them to a richer mine,  
Which with earth's brightest rubies dare not vie\*

To gold refined in crucible divine, †  
Which shall enrich them to eternity. ‡

But who the heavenly invitation hears?  
Who strives with earnestness to share the prize?

Alas! there's none celestial wealth to claim,  
But only those the Holy Ghost makes wise.

Sad proof of Man's apostacy indeed,  
That all his powers are wholly sensualized;  
Ignorant of what he chiefly stands in need;  
And hence the heavenly treasure is despised.

Look round, my soul, and form an estimate;  
Suppose the gold of all the earth thine own;  
And thou couldst occupy the highest state  
In which earth's greatest monarch ever shone;  
Could these content thy high immortal aims?  
And would'st for these relinquish heavenly joys?

And dare to venture on eternal pains,  
To play a moment with the glittering toys?

No, I will choose affliction's thorny road,  
Though mark'd with blood, and poverty and woe;

I'll choose the road that leads direct to God,  
To pleasures which no earthly good can show.

But California's gold belongs to God,  
And he will claim it in his own good time,  
To waft His glorious gospel far abroad,  
And make the tidings sound through every clime.

See, see, the light which rose on Eden's bower,  
And travelled westward through time's lengthened vale,  
Cast its last beam on the Pacific's shore,  
And San Francisco vies with London's fame.  
*Grand Lake, April 10th. ONOMAZO.*

\* Prov. viii. 11. † Rev. iii. 18. ‡ Prov. viii. 18.

### BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of this society took place on Wednesday at Exeter-hall, which was filled on the occasion. On the platform were the Earl of Harrowby, Marquis of Cholmondeley, Lord Charles Russell, Lord Lillford, Bishop of Norwich, Bishop of Cashel, Archdeacon Hill, Sir T. D. Acland, Sir John Kenney, J. P. Plumptre, Esq., M.P., Hon. and Rev. H. M. Villiers, Hon. and Rev. B. W. Noel, Capt. Pakenham, R. N., Capt. Barlow, R. N.,

John Thornton, Esq., Rev. F. Close, Rev. Dr. Archer, and Dr. Barth, from Stuttgart.

The Rev. A. Brandram, the secretary, stated that the venerable President of the society, Lord Berkeley, not being able to attend, had requested the Earl of Harrowby to take the chair. (Hear.) The reverend gentleman then read a minute of the committee, stating that, in compliance with a resolution agreed to at the last anniversary, they had taken into their consideration the suggestion of commencing the proceedings of the meetings of the society by reading a part of the Holy Scriptures, and had agreed to the following resolution:—"The committee will make arrangements for commencing the future annual meetings of the society by reading a portion of the Holy Scriptures." (Loud applause.) In accordance with that resolution, the 35th chapter of Isaiah had been selected as the portion to be read that morning.

The chapter having been read,

The Chairman, said: Ladies and gentlemen, before you are called upon to hear the report, it is my duty to address to you a few words, and they shall be very few, for I am surrounded by those who will appeal to your sympathy with far more power than I can, and I will not willingly stand in their way. It is too late now to discuss the question of the fitness of your undertaking—that question has been debated and discussed for thirty years, and I cannot bring myself to discuss it any longer. (Hear, hear.) Day after day and year after year deepens the impression in my mind that our course is right, that our cause is holy, and that God has prospered it. (Applause.) In the midst of all the trials, the troubles, and perplexities of political and religious life, it becomes more and more essential to raise the common standard around which we can all gather and fix our eyes with hope and confidence, and following up which we may heartily, earnestly, and humbly be secure of that great salvation which has been promised to us. I am happy to say that the report you will hear read, will give you a satisfactory account of our proceedings; it will tell you of undiminished resources—it will tell you of increased circulation of the Word of God, and it will tell you that the great work in which we are engaged is prospering in those hands to which you have committed it, and it urges on you increased energy in that duty which every event and every circumstance in the world seems to call upon us more and more to prosecute.—(Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Mr. Brandram (the secretary) then read the following letter from his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury:—

Lambeth Palace, April 29, 1850.

My dear Mr. Brandram,—The return of your anniversary reminds me of former years, when I have delighted to listen to the rehearsal of the wonders which God had wrought through the instrumentality of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Increasing years, in addition to increasing occupations, prevent my attendance at such meetings in future, but do not diminish my interest in the society, which, I trust, will continue to receive that measure of blessing which has hitherto been granted to it, and to maintain its privilege of disseminating the Word, which, in proportion as it is made the rule and practice, will prove the safeguard, of the nation and of the Church. That it may become so more and more is the earnest prayer of

Dear Mr. Brandram, yours very faithfully,

J. B. CANTUAR.

The Rev. gentleman next read the report, of which the following is an abstract:—

It commenced by acknowledging that during the year the labors of the society had been marked, both at home and abroad, by many

tokens of the Divine favour. Under the head of foreign operations, it stated that in France, though political jealousy and ecclesiastical interference had impeded the labours of the colporteurs, the issues from the depot in Paris had surpassed those of preceding years, and amounted to 108,338 copies, making the aggregate issues in France, since 1820, 2,728,968. The French and Foreign Bible Society having made an application for aid, a grant of £300 had been made to it. The Paris Protestant Bible Society had received a grant of 500 Testaments for the use of schools. From the depots in Belgium, Holland, and the Rhenish Provinces, including some of the northern parts of Germany, 76,000 copies of the Scriptures had been issued during the year. The distributions during the year in Belgium amounted to 4,267 copies, making the total number issued from the Belgium depot 171,708 volumes. 23,661 volumes had been distributed during the year in Belgium, making a total of 261,228 since the 1st of June, 1844. The issues from the Cologne depot during the year amounted to 48,344, while those of the preceding year were 28,089. The civil war in the eastern provinces of Germany had greatly interrupted, and for a time almost suspended the society's operations there, but though distribution was difficult and dangerous, the results of the year in Germany had, on the whole, been highly satisfactory, especially as regarded the labors of the colporteurs. The year's issues from the Frankfurt depot amounted to 99,436 copies, making the total issues in twenty years 1,105,438. 40,426 copies had been sold by the colporteurs, realising the sum of £1,067 5s. 11d. The grand duchy of Baden had received 15,462 copies, and the demands in that quarter was still great. In Bavaria two colporteurs had been employed, one chiefly among Roman Catholics; their united sales amounted to 3,468 copies. Colporteurs had also been employed in the States of Hesse Cassel, Hesse Darmstadt, Nassau, the Palatinate of Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and in the Hartz mountains among the Nuneis. The Prussian Government had removed all the legal hindrances in the way of colportage; the Bible Society at Berlin had called upon all its ninety auxiliaries to send forth colporteurs into their respective fields of labor. In Hungary, since the termination of the war, a great eagerness had been shown to obtain the Scriptures, and 5,000 copies had already been issued.—The issues from the depots in Switzerland during the year amounted to 5,259 copies. An Italian-Swiss Bible Committee at Geneva was exerting itself to effect a circulation of the Scriptures, principally in the cantons bordering on Italy. The Society continued to employ an active colporteur in the cantons of the Grisons. In Italy a cloud rested for the present on the hopes and labours of the Society. The report of last year left Mr. Graydon and the committee exulting in the unexpected openings which he had found for the introduction of the Scriptures into Lombardy and Piedmont. At Turin the demand for the Scriptures had been so great, that a colporteur employed in the neighborhood sold, in about two months, five hundred copies. Subsequently, he was arrested at the instance of the bishop of the diocese, and the Government of Turin had since taken measures to stop the public sale of the Scriptures throughout the kingdom. A petition for a bookseller's licence, on the part of Mr. Graydon, presented last autumn, during another visit by him to Lombardy, had been refused; but he had previously contrived to dispose of a large part of his stock. In Tuscany and the Papal states, political revolutions had restored the ascendancy of the Romish Church. When Rome was invested by the French forces, 4,000 copies of the Italian Testament were placed in the custody of the

American Consul where they yet remained.—In December last, the Pope condemned the distribution of the Sacred Scriptures in the vulgar tongue, which, he said, had been denounced again and again by the Holy See, 'and was contrary to the rules of the Church.' After this fulmination 3,000 copies of Martini's New Testament, which had just been printed, though the translation was that of one of their own archbishops, were seized and locked up, and the presses, types, and paper, carried off; while a British officer, who had distinguished himself by his zeal in promoting that and similar objects of benevolence, was, with his family, banished the country at a few days' notice. Measures had been taken to obtain redress, and the final result was not yet ascertained. The committee hoped that the present destruction was but temporary, and that the wave of Biblical truth would ere long spread over Italy; supplies to the extent of 14,243 copies had been sent out during the year. The issues in Stockholm during the year amounted to 43,558. The King of Sweden, accompanied by his four sons, attended the last anniversary meeting of the Swedish Bible Society. At Christiana the issues of the year were 5,230 Bibles and Testaments.—The Emperor of Russia had generously remitted duties to the amount of £300 on Scriptures sent to St. Petersburg. The issues in Malta during the year were 12,175 Bibles and Testaments. The issues from the depots at Smyrna and Constantinople had amounted to 7,684 copies, or 2,187 more than in the preceding year. The carrying out of the proposal of the Reverend W. Arthur, who was settled in India, to give to every family in India a copy of the Word of God, was not yet deemed practicable. The issues of the year at Agra amounted to 16,000 copies, or portions of Scripture, in various languages. The issues at Madras to 50,348 copies, in various languages. The issues at Jaffa amounted to 5,552 copies. In China, the revised translation of the New Testament, for some years in progress, was nearly brought to a close. The four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles were ready last July.—The committee—finding, from the correspondence inserted in last year's report, that there was a wide and inviting field in China for the employment of a colporteur agency—had placed at the disposal of the London Missionary Society the sum of £300 for that kind of distribution. The committee had made a grant of £250 to Dr. Gutzlaff, for the purchase of copies of the New Testament according to the version revised by him. Such are now the facilities for producing books in China that it was proposed to publish the whole of the New Testament at a cost of threepence or threepence-halfpenny per copy. The auxiliary society at Sydney had remitted £130, and ordered 2,000 copies. The South Australian Auxiliary, at Adelaide, had remitted £175, and ordered 2,067 copies. The Australia Felix Auxiliary, at Melbourne, had remitted £100 and ordered 707 copies. The Bishop of Melbourne had become the president, and manifested the most lively interest in promoting its objects. The auxiliary at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, had remitted £200, and ordered 1,741 copies. At Tahiti, 5,000 copies of the revised Tahitian Bible had been received; of these 1,900 had been sent to the Leeward and Society Islands, the remainder had been retained in Tahiti; 700 copies had been sold in Tahiti, realising £280. The issues of the society at Cape Town, during the year, amounted to 3,940 copies. The Grahamstown Auxiliary had remitted £194; the Sierra Leone Auxiliary, £126. Under the head "Domestic" the report commenced by announcing, that his Royal Highness Prince Albert had lately constituted himself a life governor of the institution by a donation of £50.