

Missionary Intelligence.

Religion in the Bahamas.

In a letter from Rev. Mr. Littlefield, of the West India English Mission, given in the last number of the London Baptist Magazine, we find an interesting detail of the large ocean-field over which he voyages to the various islands which form the scene of his missionary labors. We give an extract, in which a bird's eye view is taken of the condition of the churches to whom Mr. L. ministers:

If the state of these widely scattered churches is not prosperous, it is at least peaceful.—When the lambs of Christ's fold are assailed by the enemy, a safe refuge is the resort of the faithful; a season of darkness is succeeded by the reappearing of the "Sun of Righteousness." If the cause of God is hindered by cold-hearted professors, the pious efforts of others, who seem to realize the sentiment and embody it in their lives, "The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up," encourage the hope that "the day of the Lord draweth nigh."—And if the piety of one declines, and he goes back, and "walks no more with us," the conversion of others, whose cry is, "This people shall be my people, and their God my God," assures us that the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge." By the hand of death we have lost twenty-one of our members, several of whom were eminent Christians, and it may be said emphatically of them, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, yea, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors and their works do follow them." Two have withdrawn from us, and forty-seven have been excluded. As a counterpoise, we have rejoiced in the baptism of 108, in the restoration of thirty-four, and eighty candidates are waiting for admission into the fold of God. We have six native agents, assisted by their wives, exclusive of 140 Sabbath-school teachers. Their work is divided between forty-five churches, 1475 members, 3045 attendants on public worship, 1226 scholars. Through the efforts of so many we can but hope that good is effected, which is evidenced in the steady accession to our churches, and in the increased knowledge and piety of the people, though I assure you there is lamentable room for improvement, for it is to be regretted that so many love darkness rather than light.

Glad News for Missionaries.

As the accounts of revivals in America reach our missionary stations, they will touch a responsive chord in many hearts. The missionary, while toiling on in his voluntary exile, often turns an eager and imploring look towards the land of his birth. "Do the churches mean to uphold us by their contributions?—Do they pray earnestly for us? Do they love the missionary cause? Are the claims of a perishing world remembered? Will the efforts of Christians keep pace with the signs of the times and the wonderful developments of God's providence?" And when the answer comes month after month, "The churches languish; worldliness is stifling our piety; few young men are pressing forward into the ministry; missionary candidates are not to be found; the Board is in debt; your expenses must be reduced; your cherished plans must be given up or seriously modified; the future wears a gloomy aspect; we know not how you will be sustained;" the tidings fall like lead upon the missionary's heart. And had he not his Bible before him, with its glorious promises, and the throne of grace, where he may go and breathe his sorrows into the ear of an Almighty friend, and did he not assuredly know that the Savior stands by him, to speak words of comfort and beckon him onward, his situation would be unhappy indeed. He has put his all at stake, and yet the churches hesitate who sent him forth. He has gone down into the darkness of the pit, expecting that his brethren would hold the ropes, and now he finds them fast giving way. A man, in such circumstances, must be more than man not to be disheartened. It requires very peculiar grace to make the representatives of dead churches, living, efficient soldiers of the cross.

But now there is glad news for missionaries. The fiftieth year—THE YEAR OF JUBILEE—has dawned. The people of God are beginning to awake out of their sleep. "For lo! the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." In many and widely remote districts of country, among all denominations of evangelical Christians, the Holy Spirit is moving on the minds of men.—

The followers of Christ are quickened in their zeal, backsliders are reclaimed, and the song of redeeming love is heard from many, who but just now were in the paths of destruction. Missionaries may thank God and take courage. The influence will not be confined to our own borders. It will be felt abroad. We can have no surer pledge than powerful revivals of religion, that funds will be provided and men raised up, to enter the field and gather in the whitening harvest.—*Journal of Missions.*

Romanism Waning in Ireland.

The May number of the Irish Chronicle, represents the power of the Romish priests in Ireland as waning. A correspondent of the Chronicle writing from one locality, says the priests are rapidly losing their political influence, and that he knows men who, a short time ago, were led by their priests in political as well as spiritual matters, and who would not now, as we phrase it, turn about on their heel for them. Roman Catholics, a few years ago would not have dared to speak in the way which they now do.

The same writer states that during one month he distributed 46 tracts, visited 96 families—68 Protestants and 28 Roman Catholics, 134 Protestants and 111 Roman Catholics, heard the word of God from house to house.

Another missionary gives the following cheering statement of his labours. He says:

The Catholic inhabitants of the different localities in which I labor, now constantly invite me to their houses to read the word of life to them in the Irish tongue. Many are inquiring after the way of salvation by Christ. Some are denying the doctrine of transubstantiation—more are refusing to go to a confessional, and are denying the power of a priest to give absolution. I have heard them say, "One sinner cannot forgive another sinner, that power is with God alone."

Still another missionary in Ireland holds similar language. He writes as follows:

"I have during the past month labored through most parts of my usual district, and in all places I have met with encouragements to urge me on, and to renew my feeble exertions in the good cause. In the barony of Carrin, where I spent several days and held some pleasing prayer meetings, I found the people to attend with an earnestness that surpassed my most sanguine expectations; the Roman Catholics, almost upon all occasions, equalling in number the Protestants. Some of them bringing their Testaments with particular portions marked for explanation, which always gave an ample scope for interesting conversation, that proved, I trust, profitable to us all. As to Popish priestcraft, it has lost much of its power and influence over the minds of the people here, so that the gospel alone, and salvation through the merits of a Saviour, are now becoming the principal objects of inquiry. Such a change, in a locality where a few years since popery swayed its all-controlling dominion over the minds and consciences of its then deluded votaries, must be consoling indeed, as the pleasing omen of future blessings."

Such records inspire a hope that Ireland, deep as is the degradation to which Popery has sunk her, may yet cast off the yoke of her thralldom. Patriotism as well as religion, bids American Christians pray that she may rise and do this speedily.

American Bible Society.

The managers held their monthly meeting on the 4th of April. The receipts of the month were \$34,792 22; the issue of Bibles and Testaments 44,211. Nine new societies were recognized as auxiliaries; one in New Jersey, two in Ohio, one in Illinois, one in Kentucky, one in Georgia, two in Arkansas, and one in Texas. The business of the thirty-fourth year of the Society closes auspiciously.

A STARTLING DISCOVERY, confirmatory of the truth of the Book of Jonah, has been made by Mr. Layard. In excavating the city of Nineveh he discovered the name of Jonah inscribed upon the ruins. The prophet, as our readers know, was sent to announce to the people of Nineveh the destruction of the city. His eloquence converted many of them, and "God repented him" of the doom He had pronounced, and spared the city for that time.—Jonah then became the prophet of Nineveh, and was revered by the inhabitants. As was the Oriental custom, they doubtless inscribed his name in conspicuous places on the walls of the public edifices, and the inscriptions engraved by Assyrian hands a thousand years before the Christian era, have been found by Mr. Layard. This is one of the most extraor-

inary demonstrations of the accuracy of Biblical history we have ever heard of.

As yet we have only seen the beginning of the end. The city of Nineveh has scarcely yet been entered, and when the excavations shall have been completed, if Mahometan jealousy should ever permit that consummation, we may expect illustrations of the prophecies that will strike the world with awe and wonder.

Great credit is due to the British Government for the munificent spirit they have exhibited in aiding the labours of Mr. Layard; placing at his command vessels for the navigation of the Euphrates, conveying to England the magnificent sculptures which he has disinterred, and affording him every facility which money or British authority could secure. We should be glad to see a similar spirit exhibited by the Government of this country in reference to American antiquities.—*Sunday Times.*

Rev. Dr. Burns, of London, recently declared in a public meeting, that there are in Great Britain at least three millions of professing Christians who expend each not less than one pound sterling per annum in strong drink, equal to fifteen millions of dollars.

ENGLISH NEWS.

The Mail Steamer *America*, Captain Shannon, arrived at Halifax from Liverpool, at 9 o'clock on Monday evening, making the passage in a little over nine days, bringing dates to the 25th May.

In the parliament no very important matters had transpired during the week.

Lord Palmerston had been several times questioned upon the sudden withdrawal of the French and Russian Ministers, caused by the difficulties connected with the settlement of the Greek affair, but had answered much in the same way as reported by the former Mail: he pretended to attach no great importance to the circumstance, and at the same time avoided giving any actual explanation as to what the actual state of the difficulties at the present time really are.

Connected with this subject it is said that the withdrawal of the French Minister under the pretence that the honour of France has been compromised in the settlement of the Greek affair, is only a ruse on the part of the French Ministry, in order to divert the attention of the people, and to quiet the very strong opposition manifested against the Electoral Law.

Whether this be the object or not, the Law has been carried by a considerable majority, but not without a very decided manifestation of popular dissatisfaction, and a motion was made in the Legislative Assembly to the effect that, in such a case the Government should appeal to the nation, it being so manifest that the measure was in opposition to the majority of the people. This motion caused great excitement.

The Russian Government has addressed a very insulting note to Lord Palmerston, intimating that in future no English residents will be permitted in Russia or Austria unless for the time of their residence they renounce the protection of their own Government.—This is said to be the most impertinent and seemingly uncalled for, public document which has appeared for a long time. What is the object of Russia in sending such a note, or what course the British Government will take concerning it, is yet unknown; but it is generally thought, Russia is seeking a quarrel with England and would like to make the Greek affair the pretext, and at the same time afford employment for the excitable and irritable Frenchmen.

Her Majesty and the Prince Consort, accompanied by their seven illustrious children, have left for Osborne, East Cowes. The Court is expected to remain at Osborne until the 18th of June.

Admiral Parker has sailed for Malta, but has sent a Vessel of War to Naples, for the purpose it is said of demanding from that Government reparation for English losses sustained in 1848.

The Greeks not being aware of what had taken place between France and England, had renewed in good faith their intercourse with Great Britain and had honorably received the Minister.

From Italy—It is stated that affairs are becoming very critical at Rome, that the Pope seems very desirous to escape again, and throw himself into the arms of Austria; he is closely watched, but it is generally thought if he does

not yield to liberal institutions, his reign will not be of long duration.

An attempt has been made to assassinate the King of Prussia; he was fired at and wounded by a Sergeant of Artillery; the circumstance caused great sensation throughout Europe.

In France the prosecution of the opposition Press is still continued with unabated vigor.

ENGLAND.—The accounts from the manufacturing districts are considered satisfactory. The weather throughout the week had been most delightful both in Great Britain and Ireland, and the prospects for the coming crops very promising.

The news from India is favorable to trade, business prospects in that quarter much improved.

THE INFANT PRINCE.—On the baptism of the infant Prince he will take the Christian names of "Arthur Patrick Albert," the first in compliment to the noble and gallant Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington (as has been announced), the second in compliment to Ireland, and as commemorative of her Majesty's visit to the sister country, and the last after the illustrious father, the Prince Consort.

MONTHLY TIMBER REPORT.—There have been only two arrivals from North America; there has been a steady demand from consumers, and a large business effected, without any material advance in prices, but the market has an upward tendency. *Pine*.—a cargo 18½ inches sold at 17d., one of 18¾ inches at 17½d. and parcels in the yard divided at 18½d. to 19½d per foot. *Birch*—cargo, sales at 14½d. and 15½d. per foot, retail sales much higher. *Plank and Boards*—cargo sales £7 per standard—parcels at auction £7 10s. to £7 15s. *Ash Hhd. Staves* £7 10s. per M. *Hemlock Lathwood* £5 5s. per fathom.

FREIGHTS.—There have been but few arrivals, and there is more firmness both for goods and passengers.

MARKETS.—Cotton unchanged but firm; sales for the week 32,000 bales, of which speculators took 6000 bales. Flour is inactive, with a declining tendency. Corn, best yellow 33s., dull and less activity. Provisions, no material change but generally firm. Coffee, no alteration in price, market very dull. Sugar in full demand, and prices fully sustained. The Money Market has been steady during the week. Consols closed on Friday at 95½d.

TUNNELLING THE ALPS.—The project of digging a railroad tunnel through the Alps between Chambéry in France, and Susa in Sardinia, has been talked of for several years.—Now it would seem the great undertaking is in a way to be realized. A commission of the Piedmontese Government has unanimously decided in favour of the project, and application is about to be made to Parliament for the means of carrying it into execution. The tunnel will be about seven miles in length, 19 feet high, and 25 feet in width—admitting a double track. The estimated cost is about three million dollars. Mount Genevre, which it is thus proposed to penetrate, rises to an elevation of about 10,000 feet. Chevalier Henry Maus, the author of this gigantic scheme, has spent five years of constant study upon the subject.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A SAVANT.—M. de Blainville, the successor of George Cuvier in the chair of comparative anatomy at the Museum of Natural History in Paris, was found dead on the first May, in one of the carriages of the night train on the Rouen railway. His death is a serious loss to the cause of science. Although 72 years of age, he had preserved an unusual degree of vigor and no professor could equal him in spirit and energy. He was engaged with indefatigable activity in a work on fossil remains.

VACCINATION.—The following paragraph from the *Home Journal* contains information which may prove useful to all newspaper readers:—"First, every individual is susceptible of vaccination; second, re-vaccination is not necessary before puberty; third, the system undergoes a change at puberty, and re-vaccination is then necessary; fourth, vaccination is a sure preventative of small pox; fifth, re-vaccination is a sure preventative of varioloid; sixth, the third vaccination is inert; seventh, the system is susceptible of varioloid after puberty, whenever the individual is exposed to small pox, without re-vaccination; eighth, re-vaccination is not necessary if the first operation was performed since puberty; ninth, those who disregard vaccination are always liable to small pox whenever exposed to the influence of that dreadful disease; tenth, if every individual were vaccinated before puberty, and re-vaccinated at that revolution of the system, there would be no such disease existing as the small pox.