

# CHRISTIAN

# VISITOR.

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REV. E. D. VERY,

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

EDITOR.

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## THE SOWER TO HIS SEED.

FROM THE GERMAN.

Sink, little seed, in the earth's black mould,  
Sink in your grave so wet and so cold—  
There must you lie;  
Earth I throw over you,  
Darkness must cover you,  
Light comes not nigh.

What grief you'd tell, if words you could say!  
What grief make known for loss of the day;  
Sadly you'd speak;  
"Lie here must I ever?  
While the sunlight never  
My dark grave seek?"

Have faith, little seed; soon yet again  
Thou'lt rise from the grave where thou art lain,  
Thou'lt be so fair,  
With thy green shades so light,  
And thy flowers so bright,  
Waving in air.

So must we sink in the earth's black mould;  
Sink in the grave so wet and so cold;  
There must we stay,  
Till at last we shall see  
Time turn to eternity,  
Darkness to day.

## ANNIVERSARIES.

### American Baptist Home Mission Society.

The Anniversary of this Society was held on Thursday evening last, at the Baptist Chapel in Norfolk-street, J. P. Crotier, Esq., in the chair. After prayer by Rev. A. D. Gillette, of Philadelphia, the Annual Report was read by Rev. B. M. Hill, Corresponding Secretary, from which we make extracts concerning the financial and missionary affairs of the Society: The Treasurer's Report exhibits receipts from different sources for the year ending April 1, 1850, to the amount of - - \$26,443 52 Which, with the balance on hand, April 1. - - - \$3,925 55

Makes the total amount of available means of the Society for the past year. - - - \$30,369 07

The total amount of disbursements during the same period is 25,403 46

Leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of - - - 4,965 61

The liabilities of the Society on the first day of April, were 23,821 38 And its available resources were 9,464 61

Showing a balance against the society of - - - \$14,356 77

Of the amount received, \$25,261 09 were in direct contribution to the Treasury; showing an increase over the receipts, of the same character, last year, of \$4,324 45, beside \$647 43 for the Home Mission Record.

Of the amount of liabilities, \$5,987 14 fall due in the months of April, May and June, and will be needed at regular periods by the Missionaries to whom it becomes due. This amount exceeds the cash balance in the Treasury more than \$1,000.

The number of agents and Missionaries who have labored during the past year, under the commission of the society, is 118. Of these, 77 were in commission at the time of making up our last annual report, and 41 are new appointments. From four of the latter number no reports have been received, they not being due till after the 1st of April. There are, also, 13 others under appointment, not enumerated in the above, as the time for commencing their labors is on or after the 1st of April, which is

the period to which our accounts are all made up. Ten ministers who were under appointment last year need no further aid from the Society, their churches being able to support them.

The whole number of States, Territories and Provinces occupied is 17. The number of stations supplied is 338. The aggregate amount of time bestowed upon those stations, is equal to that of one man for 81 years.

The Missionaries report the baptism of 949 persons, the organization of 33 Churches, and the ordination of 30 Ministers.

Six houses of worship have been completed and seven commenced by the Churches under their care; and those Churches have contributed to the usual objects of Christian benevolence, \$2,732 58, and about \$16,000 for the support of the ministry among themselves, besides the building and repairing of their church edifices.

Since the formation of the Society, 1,432 Ministers of the Gospel have received its commission; they have jointly performed 1,231 years of labor; baptised 18,279 persons; organised 706 Churches; and ordained 342 Ministers.

The meeting was then addressed by Prof. H. J. Raymond of Madison University, and Rev. Dr. Malcolm of Philadelphia.

### American Temperance Union.

The fourteenth Anniversary of the American Temperance Union, was held on Thursday evening at the Broadway Tabernacle, Chancellor Walworth, the President, in the Chair.

The Annual Report, read by Rev. John Marsh, Corresponding Secretary, represented the cause as in a sound and prosperous condition, notwithstanding the apparent defection the last year, in the delusive cholera preventative. The Churches and Ministry have given to it more of their time and influence. The risings and upheavings of Society to throw off the burdens and oppressions of a legalized traffic have been more and more successful.

Maine holds firm to her prohibitory statute and is blessed in it. Vermont has rejected the license system by a popular vote of 20,000 against 12,000. Massachusetts gives no license in any of her counties. Rhode Island none but in four towns. In New York, no Legislative action has been had, but a report of a Committee of the Legislature has been submitted which must ultimately create some definite action. The Sunday traffic is greatly suppressed in New Jersey and Maryland.

The Wisconsin law stands firm, and is found to operate to the terror and check of all vendors of intoxicating drinks. It is considered a model law for all the States. Father Matthew's visit has been well received, and has awakened some interest in the cause at the South. Temperance organizations are numerous, and in many places effective. The Order of the Sons of Temperance being about 300,000. Temperance lecturers are diminished, but the labors of Messrs. Gough, Kellogg, Jewett, White and others have been well appreciated, and very successful. The issues of Journals, Youths' Advocate, Almanacs, Tracts, Books, &c. from the office of the Union, have been somewhat increased. They have been sent to Home and Foreign Missionaries, to California, to the North of Europe and to many destitute portions of our own country. The spirit ration is continued in the Navy, but the seamen of merchant ships, whalers and coasters are now as a class, very temperate. Good progress is making in England. Influential men are more and more impressed with the importance of the cause as a relief for the poverty and sufferings of the working classes. In Scotland the three principal religious denominations are earnestly engaged in it. Fifty

ministers of the Free Church have headed the temperance movement. The King and Queen of Sweden are still patrons of temperance in their kingdom. The Sandwich Islands have suffered from the French aggressions and the California excitement, but temperance is there still predominant. Liberia is a perfect temperance Republic. In Canada and Nova Scotia, in several of the West India Islands, at Madras and Bombay, much progress is reported. More united action, more contributions of money, a vastly increased circulation of temperance tracts, is needed to ensure success.

### American Bible Society.

The Thirty-fourth Anniversary of the American Bible Society was held at the Tabernacle on Thursday morning. The exercises were opened by reading a portion of the Scriptures—the 9th Psalm; followed by an Address from the President, Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen.

An abstract of the Treasurer's Report was then read by Joseph Hyde, Esq., Assistant Treasurer. The receipts of the year have been \$284,614 84, being an increase of \$34,744 68 over that of the previous year. A balance of \$137 49 remains in the treasury.

The leading features of the Managers' Report were presented by Rev. Drs. Holdich and Brigham, the Secretaries. We append an abstract:

RESULTS OF THE YEAR.—In the course of the year one Vice-President, Charles Chauncey, Esq. of Philadelphia, and one Manager, B. L. Woolley, Esq. of New-York, have deceased. The number of new Auxiliaries formed is 64; most of them in the Western States and Territories. The number of Bibles and Testaments issued during the year was 633,395. These books have been distributed in every State and Territory of the Union, in the West Indies, in Spanish and Portuguese America, in Canada and New-Brunswick, among seamen, boatmen, immigrants, hospitals, prisons, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Romanists, white men, red men and colored men, the bond and the free; indeed, among all who were in need and could be reached. A New Testament, with Spanish and English in parallel columns, has been prepared; also, the book of Genesis in Grebo for West Africa, and the book of Acts for an Indian tribe in South America. The number of agents employed has been thirty, including two in Texas, one in California, and one in the West Indies. A large number of Bible distributors or colporteurs have also been in service, but procured, directed, and paid by the local auxiliaries, aided by the Parent Society only when necessary. Beside the grants of books from the Depository, moneys have been sent for making the same in France, Turkey, Syria, Persia; at Bombay, Madras, Ceylon and Lodiana in India; also in China, in South Africa, and at the Sandwich Islands. The whole amount of these payments is \$17,900; and there is still voted, but not yet paid nearly the same amount.

### New York State Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment.

This Society held its Anniversary Meeting at the Coliseum on Wednesday evening. In the absence of the President of the Society, Chancellor McCoun, Benjamin Ellis, Esq. one of the Vice Presidents, was called to the Chair. Hon. James H. Titus, also one of the Vice Presidents, stated that no Annual Address, as heretofore, had been prepared, but that he would offer the following Resolutions as embodying the general views and purposes of the Society:

Resolved, in the language of our late distinguished jurist and statesman, Edward Living-

ston, "That as both society and individuals have the right to preserve their several existence, and are, moreover, under the reciprocal duty to defend it when attacked, it follows that if one or the other is threatened with destruction, which cannot be averted but by taking the life of the assailant, the right, nay more, the duty, to take it exists; the irresistible impulse of nature indicates the right she has conferred, and her first great law shows that life may be taken in self-defence."

Resolved, (and again in the language of the same distinguished jurist and statesman) "that this right, both in the individual and in society, is strictly defensive, and can only be exerted during that period when the danger lasts—when the question is, which of the two shall exist—the aggressor or the party attacked—whether this be an individual or the Society. Before this crisis has arrived, or after it has passed, it is no longer self-defence, and then their right to enjoy existence would be co-existent and equal but not conflicting, and for one to deprive the other of it would be of course unjust—and therefore that the right to inflict death exists, but it must be in defence either of individual or social existence; and that it is limited to the case where no other alternative remains to prevent the threatened destruction; and furthermore, that the preservation of life is the only case in which even necessity could give the right to take life, for the simple reason that this is the only case in which two natural rights of equal importance can be balanced; and in which the scale must preponderate in favor of him who defends against him who endeavours to destroy—and finally, that the only true foundation for the right of inflicting death is the preservation of existence."

Resolved, That where life is taken by an individual in self-defence, extreme necessity is the only justification; and he cannot stand excused in his conscience, nor be exonerated by law, if that necessity is not clearly and indisputably demonstrated; and therefore, that Society before it enacts laws for the infliction of the Death Penalty should prove, as Blackstone declares, by "clear and indisputable demonstration," the necessity of such enactments for the defense of the lives of its citizens.

Resolved, That the extreme penalty of death has never been demonstrated by "clear and indisputable demonstration," as a necessity for the defence of the lives of citizens; but that, on the contrary, whenever and wherever imprisonment for life has been substituted for the extreme and awful penalty of death, it has proved to be signally efficient in the preservation of property, of liberty and of life; and therefore that the welfare of society warrants, and humanity and Christianity demand, that imprisonment for life (free of any benefit of pardon) should be substituted as the penalty of all crimes now punishable by death.

Resolved, That this Society derives peculiar gratification from the fact that it has been applied to by the Executive of the State to respond to an application made by the Government of Great Britain for information and statistics bearing on the important subject of Capital Punishment—and that we feel ourselves honored by the information transmitted to us through our Minister at that Court, that the documents which we have furnished in reply to that application have been much esteemed.

Mr. Titus, in explanation of the last resolution, stated the circumstances connected with the application on the part of the Governor of the State to the Society for a reply to a list of queries which had been transmitted through our Minister at the Court of St. James—and also gave the particulars of a correspondence which had taken place between him and Hon. Abbott Lawrence on the subject, and mentioned the substance of a note from Sir George