

stant to be blasted and crumbled by Heaven's lightning and thunder.

We think that the obligation of Christians to interpose in behalf of the Slave, is increased by the fact, that he is forbidden to open his mouth, or to lift his arm in his own defence. Christians! equivocate, blanch and falter no longer. Let the accused thing be put down. Delay is dangerous; the sacred principles connected with your dearest and most cherished hopes and prospects, call for wise, full, efficient decision.

In conclusion, we would say, Republican America, we would not express the depth and extent of our friendship, by seeking to surround the seat of your President with the triumphs of war and the trophies of arms; we would not build it on military or naval greatness, but on rights secured to all; liberty extended to all; humanity exercised to all. Listen to the teachings of Christianity, as its moral meaning is indicated by the illustrious Channing, "The Spirit of Truth is distinguished by universality. It is universal justice. It respects all the rights of all beings. It suffers no being, however obscure, to be wronged, without condemning the wrong-doer. Impartial, uncompromising, fearless, it screens no favourites, is dazzled by no power, spreads its shield over the weakest, summons the mightiest to its bar, and speaks to the conscience in tones under which the mightiest have quailed. It is also universal love, comprehending those that are near and those that are far off, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, descending to the fallen, and especially binding itself to those in whom human nature is trampled under foot. Such is the Spirit of Christianity; and nothing but the illumination of this Spirit can prepare us to pass judgment on Slavery." J. D. C.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The Anniversary Meeting of this Society was held in London on the 7th May, Lord Ashley, the President, in the Chair. The proceedings were opened by one of the Secretaries reading the 55th chapter of Isaiah. The President then rose and referred with great eloquence and feeling to the influence and to the effects of the operations of the Society, and to the necessity that existed at the present time for its organization, and for increased efforts being made for the free, full, and universal circulation of the Word of God, upon which alone depended the evangelization of the nations and the peace of the world. "What office," he asked, "can be more glorious, even for the most powerful of empires, than to be as it were the *Colporteurs* of the Word of God to every kindred and tongue and people; and what position can be more dignified than to be as it were the store house of the Word of Life, to be offered to every living and immortal being.

The Secretary proceeded to read the Report, of which the following is a brief abstract:

FOREIGN OPERATIONS.—The Committee had had under their consideration whether the expenditure in France and some parts of the Continent had not been greater than was justified by the state of the funds, they would, however, be slow to restrict a work which had risen in importance year by year. During the year 109,210 copies of the Bible and Testament had been sent to France, making a total since the establishment of the agency at Paris, of 2,838,178 copies. The issue by the French Bible Society during the year was 52,849. In Belgium, Holland, and the northern parts of Germany, the issues by the agent, Mr. Tiddy, amounted in the year to 85,534. There had been sent to Brussels and Cologne, 4,453 copies. From Germany a gratifying report had been received from Dr. Pinkerton, whose issues during the year amounted to 71,000 volumes, and since the establishment of the agency, in 1830, to 1,176,369. The work of colportage in Germany increased in importance. Lieutenant Graden had distributed in Switzerland 6,000 copies during the year; the Geneva Committee had disposed of 3,594. The operations in Italy had been chiefly confined to Piedmont and Lombardy. In Milan, 8,914 copies had been disposed of through the medium of the booksellers. A public document was quoted, in which the Archbishop of Milan and the bishops under him lamented the extensive circulation of the Bible in that part of Italy, and designated the Bibles introduced by the Society as "corrupt Bibles, intended to upset sound doctrines." 11,251 copies of the Scriptures had been disposed of in Lombardy within the year. 66,000 copies of the Italian Scrip-

tures had been printed, or put to press. In Prussia, the total circulation from the commencement now amounted to 335,000 copies. In Sweden, the issues during the year amounted to 50,667; in Schleswig-Holstein, to 6,000. In St. Petersburg, in the year ending January, 1851, the issues amounted to 27,633 copies, the total circulation from the commencement being 284,682. Finland had again been an important scene of operations. The year's issues in Odessa were 5,652; in Malta, 12,000; in Smyrna, 10,000. Much had been done in Asia Minor by means of *colporteurs*. In Calcutta, there had been circulated in the year, 20,000 copies. The Madras Auxiliary had received a grant of £1,500 from the Parent Society. The Committee were happy to report that the revised translation of the New Testament into the Chinese language was brought to a close on the 24th of July last. In reference to Sydney, Port Philip, and Van Dieman's Land, it was stated that during 1847, 1848, and 1849, the Auxiliaries in these places received from the Society 28,566 copies of the Scriptures, and paid to the Parent Society £1,930. From the South Seas, the Committee had received £248, and the printing of the Bible in the Raratonga language was advancing to a close.

HOME.—Under this head was reported the acceptance of the office of President of the Society by Lord Ashley. (This announcement was received with loud and long continued cheers.) Reference was also made to an appeal issued some months ago, for increased support, and which was the last official document of the Society signed by Lord Bexley, the deceased nobleman, accompanying the act with a donation of £1,000.

The entire receipts of the year ending March 31, 1851, amounted to £103,330 2s. 8d., being an increase of £11,695 10s. 1d. on those of last year. The receipts applicable to the general purposes of the Society, amounted to £53,795 7s. 10d., including £33,896 0s. 10d., free contributions from Auxiliary Societies. The amount received for Bibles and Testaments, was £49,534 14s 10d.

The issues of the Society for the year were as follows:—

From the depot at home 788,073 } 1,137,617
From depots abroad . . . 349,554 }

The total issues of the Society now amounted to 24,247,667 copies. The expenditure during the past year had amounted to £103,543 10s. 10d., being £6,297 8s. 10d. over the previous year. The Society is under engagements to the extent of £61,552 2s.

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.—The meeting in behalf of this Association was held at the Tabernacle on Friday, May 9. Rev. Dr. Ferris made a prayer, and the congregation united in singing the hymn, "Great God; the nations of the earth." Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, President of the Board, briefly addressed the audience.

Rev. Selah B. Treat, one of the Secretaries, then read the following statement:

The missionary year which has just closed may be characterised as one of quiet and thankful progress. Both at home and abroad there has been uniform prosperity.

The receipts of the Board during the nine months of the current financial year have been \$186,500, showing an advance of \$17,304 upon the corresponding months of the previous year. The advance on donations has been \$24,588. A greater increase could have been wished, but we would cherish the hope that this is but the earnest of larger and costlier offerings.

In our schools of Theology there has been a marked and gratifying change. To some of them, indeed, God is evidently granting the self-same spirit which shone forth in the pioneers of American missions.

From October 1, 1850, to May 1, 1851, (seven months) thirteen (students) received appointments as Missionaries to the heathen. During the corresponding period of the previous year only four were accepted. The number under appointment at the present time, in this country, is eighteen.

Rev. Henry R. Harrington gave an interesting account of the mission in Ceylon. He said the great evil they had to contend with there was not idolatry, but a system of philosophical deism, in which the most intelligent of the natives have been instructed by English infidels.

The meeting was also addressed by Rev. William H. Steele of the Borneo Mission, Rev. William Walker of the West Africa Mission, Rev. Henry Ballantine of the Ahmed-

nugger Mission, Rev. Geo. W. Wood of the Mission to the Armenians, and Rev. Dr. Smith, after which the assemblage dispersed.

THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.—*Meeting for Discussion.*—The business meeting of this Society took place at the Broadway Tabernacle on Wednesday morning, May 7. In the absence of the President, Rev. H. H. Kellogg was appointed Chairman *pro tem*.

The Secretary announced the decease of R. G. WILLIAMS, an active member of the Society, and formerly its Office Agent. He had left a legacy of \$1,000 to be expended by their Society, and also legacies to the Colored Home, the American Missionary Association, and several other Societies. The President of the Society, ARTHUR TAPPAN, Esq, having arrived, the Chairman *pro tem*, resigned in his favor.

A communication was presented from SAMUEL ALLISON, Jr., of New-Jersey, giving a history of the condition, soil and productions of the Island of Jamaica; also statistics showing the population, expense of living and the price of labor. We shall endeavor to publish this document at length in a few days. It was prepared with a view to the emigration of the colored race to that Island. On motion, the communication was referred to the Executive Committee, with power to publish it under the direction of the Society, if deemed advisable.

The Secretary announced the formation of an Anti-Slavery Society at Toronto, Canada, of which Rev. Dr. WILLIS was President; also the formation of a Female Society at the same place, to aid Fugitive Slaves who might be destitute and in need of assistance. On motion, a resolution was adopted returning the thanks of the American Society to their brethren in Canada for this manifestation of interest in the cause of the oppressed. Rev. Mr. WILLIS being present, briefly addressed the Society in acknowledgment of the complimentary resolution which had been adopted.

A communication was received from the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society of Barbadoes, embracing resolutions condemning the Fugitive Slave Law. He also gave an account of the condition of the emancipated slaves of that Island, and of the improvement which was everywhere evident. The communication was referred to the Executive Committee.

A Convert to the Faith in India.

In the April number of the London Baptist Magazine, we find the annexed account of a conversion in India, sketched in the journal of Rev. Mr. Smith, of Chitoura:

My attention was attracted by a strange looking man standing nearly outside the large circle of hearers by which we were surrounded; his attention was fixed, and he drew nearer and nearer, until at last he stood almost under the preacher's elbow. In this position, I had an opportunity of watching him for some time. He stood with mouth extended, eyes glistening, (as the eyes of Vairagees only can glisten,) ears open, posture erect and motionless as a statue, devouring with avidity every word that fell from the speaker's lips, and sometimes, when anything pleased him, or appeared applicable to himself, his iron features relaxed into a smile. Here was a man, who, having been made sensible of the plague of his own heart, renounced the world at least in profession, and set out in search of a peace which experience taught him it could not give. For years had he wandered in search of happiness, but in vain. Thousands of miles had he dragged his weary limbs over the burning plains of India. He had visited Jagannath, Dwarka, Gaya, Badri Nath, and every place of pilgrimage of any note; but his heart, he said, was as hard as ever, and full of sin as ever, and his mixing with vile companions in his pilgrimages, and eating intoxicating drugs, had made him still more callous, blunted his feelings, and almost destroyed his susceptibility to impression, but now strange things are sounded in his ears. A Saviour who is able and willing to save the vilest of the vile—a Saviour who gave his life a ransom for rebels such as himself, is proclaimed to him for the first time; his attention is arrested! he listens again, doubting as to whether he has heard correctly or not, and again he hears, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners." "He that believeth shall not perish, but have everlasting life." This is just suited to his case; just what he wants and

has been seeking. He is convinced that this is the truth; that pilgrimages and austerities are vain. He surveyed himself, daubed with mud, a brass chain about him, and scarcely clothing to cover his nakedness, and said, "I have left all for salvation—home and friends and all that is dear in this world, but until now I have found no hope, not one gleam of light to guide my soul through the world's dark waves and billows. I will now make a second surrender of my own works, my brass chains, and malas, and tilaks, and I will take refuge in Jesus Christ." He washed himself, stripped off his idolatrous ornaments, and we trust, was beheld sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. Is not this a brand plucked from the burning? His former companions tried hard to get him back again, and would have laid hands on him had he not kept close to us; he, however, accompanied us home to the Christian village, and is anxious to be able to make known the Saviour he has found to his deluded countrymen.

A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE.—There is something specially worthy of notice in the fact that God so carries his superintending hand over the propagation of the human race, that there is in all places, an essential equalizing of the sexes in the births which occur. A striking fact under this head, appears in the record of births in Lynn. This record stands as follows:—1848, males 196, females 210: total 406.—1849, males 210, females 196: total 406. So the discrepancy in the first year, is exactly balanced by that of the next. A single event of this nature might be supposed to occur by chance. But when essentially the same work by equalizing the sexes is seen to be everywhere in progress, we cannot avoid the conclusion that God's hand is in it. —*Boston Paper.*

ANSWERS TO PRAYER.—The fact, that thirteen of our colleges have enjoyed special outpourings of the Spirit, within the three months since the day of special prayer for colleges—and at a time when the churches have not experienced perhaps more than the average of Divine influence, is a significant fact, and full of encouragement. It not only assures us of God's faithfulness in his promises, but it is an assurance, that by the multiplication of future ministers, he is preparing the way for a great extension of his kingdom.—[Puritan Rec.]

MASSACHUSETTS.—In the Senate, on Tuesday, the bill to remove the Seat of Government from Boston was carried through by a party vote; as was the bill to make single Representative Districts out of large towns and cities. The House voted down the project for breaking up separate schools for colored children.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

[FOR THE OBSERVER.]

ORDINATION OF WESLEYAN MINISTERS.

Last evening, a very impressive and solemn service was performed in "The Centenary Chapel," Saint George's Street. I have often enjoyed the privilege of being present at the various religious services of the Wesleyan Methodists, but on no occasion that I remember have I been more gratified, or more profited, than on that to which I have alluded. The spacious and well known edifice was filled, indeed crowded, with an attentive and devout congregation. The preliminary services commenced, according to previous announcement, at 8 o'clock, when the Rev. Mr. Knight arose and gave out an appropriate hymn, which the whole multitude sang with great devotional fervour. This sacrifice of praise was followed by the offering up of a suitable and comprehensive prayer by the Rev. Mr. McNatt, of Bridgetown, N. S. At this stage of the services a very hallowed feeling seemed to pervade the whole congregation, by which they were prepared for rightly hearing THE WORD OF GOD, select and appropriate portions of which were read by the Rev. Mr. Cardy, a Methodist Missionary lately arrived in this City from Haiti.

According to the Ecclesiastical usages of the Methodists in their ordination service, a brief synopsis of the doctrines, constituting the Theology of the body, was exhibited by the Rev. Mr. Temple, of Fredericton. The presiding Minister, Mr. Knight, directed the two Candidates to relate to the congregation, an account of their conversion, and a statement of their Christian experience and Call to the Ministry. These two young men, Messrs. PRINCE and TAYLOR, performed this important duty, in a manner highly creditable to their piety and their understanding; and which, no doubt, furnished to all present, the most satisfactory evidence of their fitness for the office of the CHRISTIAN MINISTRY.

My attention at this time was attracted by a new feature in this varied and imposing ceremonial—the Rev. H. Pickard, Principal of the Sackville Academy, here presented the Candidates, accompanying the presentation with some very grave and well chosen observations. They were then set apart for the service of the sanctuary, in the truly Apostolic way, namely, by the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery; and while the senior Ministers were engaged in this solemn transaction, the whole house seemed to be filled with the Divine presence and glory. A very instructive Address, or Ordination Charge, was delivered by the Rev. H. Daniel, of Carleton; nor can I dispose of my allusion to this incident, without saying that this esteemed Minister acquitted himself with his usual ability.—The concluding prayers were offered up by the Rev. Messrs. Cooney and Sutcliffe, and when the benediction had been pronounced by the Chairman, the Congregation, retired, apparently imbued with theunction that cometh down from above. K. C.

St. John, June 3, 1851.