

woodlands are made vocal with the music of the feathered songsters.

"When the clouds of heaven drop fatness, and the hills rejoice on every side."

When the verdant pastures and dewy vales are covered with flocks and herds, cropping the tender herbage, and playing a thousand merry gambles.

When all the gay and glad things which are warmed into life by the animating rays of the sun seem to hover as on angels wings about our happy earth, and the buds burst from their cerements into full and perfect beauty. Yes, when leaves and flowers come forth to tell in their mute eloquence of that unchanging clime where Spring eternal reigns.

"And where flowers of all glory and all beauty bloom,  
Touched by no blight, and fearless of the tomb,  
For ever fair,  
The heart looks for the coming of that fadeless day,  
When we shall meet the friends now passed away,  
Never to part."

LEONORA.

THE ANNIVERSARIES.

Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the American Tract Society.

This Society held its Twenty-sixth Anniversary at the Tabernacle, at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, and the attendance was, as is usual on all occasions when this Society meets, most numerous and respectable, filling up every available place of accommodation in this large edifice, with a highly fashionable assemblage of ladies, among whom were many strangers, and also citizens from all parts of the country.

William B. Crosby, Esq., Vice-President of the Society, in the absence of the President, took the chair, after which prayer by Rev. L. Woods, D. D. Letters of apology were read from the President of the Society, Chief Justice Jones, regretting his inability to be present; also from Judge McLean of Ohio and Judge Green. The Treasurer's report was read by Moses Allen, Esq., Treasurer, an abstract of which showed the receipts of the year in donations to amount to the sum of \$109,897 76; for sales, \$200,720 33; balance in treasury last year, \$110,23; total, \$310,728 32. Expenditures for paper, printing, binding, engraving, copyright, translating and revising, \$179,984 48; for colportage, \$73,278 23; remitted to foreign and pagan lands, \$20,000; other expenditures as by items in Treasurer's report, \$37,356 52; total, \$310,619 30; balance in the treasury, \$109 02. Due for printing paper, to be paid within six months, \$32,908 64. Twenty general agents and seven superintendents of colportage have been employed in large districts.

An abstract of the Annual Report was next read by Messrs. Hallock and Cook, Secretaries, showing the results of the labours of the Society for the year. It appeared there were issued: new publications in nine languages 78, of which 42 are volumes, including the Family Testament with brief Notes and Instructions, the Riches of Bunyan, the Afflicted Man's Companion, Life of Summerfield, Hannah More's Cheap Repository Tracts, 8 volumes illustrated, and 14 volumes in German; total publications on the Society's list, 1,598, of which 927 are volumes, besides 2,594 approved for foreign stations in about 114 languages and dialects.

Circulated during the year 636,692 volumes, 7,837,692 publications, 269,784,615 pages; total in 26 years, 6,567,795 volumes, 119,826,867 publications, 2,777,067,404 pages. Illustrated Family Christian Almanac for 1851, 310,000 copies; American Messenger, 186,000 monthly; German Messenger, 18,000. Gratuitous distributions, in 2,697 distinct grants, to missionaries at home and abroad, the army and navy, seamen, humane and criminal institutions, Sabbath Schools and Individuals, by colporteurs, and to life-members and directors, 56,638,543; value \$37,759 03.

The Report then gives a long and detailed statement of the operations of the Society, in connection with the Colportage system, in the various States and Territories of the Union, and also in Canada and Mexico. It went on to show that sixty-seven colporteurs have been recently commissioned. Of the whole number 109 were for the German, French, Irish, Spanish, Welsh and Norwegian population. The whole number in commission, April 1, was 368. The statistical tables shew that the colporteurs have visited 505,422 families, of whom 99,779 were destitute of preaching; 68,027 were without religious books; 34,684 without the Bible, and 54,321 families were Roman Catholics. They have conversed or

prayed with 238,864 families; sold 451,951 volumes; granted to the destitute 127,884 books; held prayer-meetings, or addressed public meetings to the number of 13,300, and distributed 14,201 Bibles and Testaments.

The Report also contained a sketch of the history of this system for the last ten years, and showed its successful operations during that period. No less than 1,599 colporteurs have been, it appeared, commissioned; and 2,168,793 families have been visited. Books to the amount of 2,424,650 were distributed also among families.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The 37th Anniversary of the American Bible Society, was held at the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, on the 8th instant, which was crowded to its utmost limits, and unusual interest was manifested in its proceedings. The President, Hon. T. Frelinghuysen, presided. We gather the following facts from the Treasurer's report. During the past year, one of the Vice-Presidents, Isaac Carow, has died; new auxiliaries formed for same period, 63; receipts of the year, \$276,882 52; this sum, not including legacies, is somewhat less than the previous year: but including legacies, a very fluctuating item, it is larger by \$8,450 18. The number of Bibles and Testaments issued the past year, is 592,432—making a total, since the formation of the Society, of 7,572,967 copies. Several resolutions were offered and eloquently advocated by several able speakers, including distinguished clergymen and others.

THE JEWISH SOCIETY.—The anniversary discourse in behalf of the American Society for Meliorating the Condition of the Jews, was delivered on Sabbath evening, 27th ult., in the Reformed Dutch church in Lafayette Place, by the Rev. Dr. Halley, of Troy, N. Y. It was attended by a very large and intellectual audience. The *Evangelist* gives the following account of the exercises:—

The speaker dwelt on the brighter and glorious scenes of coming times, when the cross shall permeate the nations, and Jew and Gentile become one in Christ, and fellow-laborers in carrying the gospel round the globe. The leading topic of the discourse was the peculiar appropriateness of Jewish instrumentality in the conversion of the world. He took a rapid glance at their history and condition, past, present, and prospective, and the numerous and important advantages and influences which the conversion of the Jews would exert on the spread of the gospel and the conversion of the world. Their commercial habits, their knowledge of the numerous languages of the nations among whom they have been dispersed, will add value to their labors and co-operation as missionaries of the cross. The preacher presented these, and various other considerations, as inducements to labour in behalf of the objects of this Society.

At the close of the discourse, the annual report was read by the Corresponding Secretary, Rev. Mr. McGregor, who said the Jewish field is now fairly open, and the voice from all lands is, "Come over and help us." One hundred and thirty-six laborers had been employed during the past year by the societies of this country and of Europe, in various parts of the world, at an expense of \$200,000. One hundred persons had been received into evangelical churches, nine on Mount Zion alone. The number of Jews in this country is estimated at 100,000, and rapidly increasing. Six missionaries and five colporteurs have been employed by this society in this country. The expenditures of the society have been \$11,000, and their receipts \$5000 in advance of last year. After the reading of the report, a collection was taken up.

AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.—The Twenty-third Anniversary of this Society was celebrated in the Broadway Tabernacle on Monday evening. P. Parit, Esq., the President in the Chair. An original hymn was sung by the congregation with great spirit. This gave the key note to the exercises which followed. After prayer, an Abstract of the Annual Report was read by Rev. J. Spaulding, one of the Secretaries, from which it appears that, in addition to what the Society is doing at home, it sustains Chaplains and Missionaries to labor among the seamen in Canton, Honolulu, Lahaina, Valparaiso, St. Thomas, Havana, Havre, Bordeaux, Gottenburg, Stockholm, Island of Gottland, and has recently commissioned one for Rio de Janeiro. Arrangements are also in progress for placing Chaplains in other important ports.

Nine years ago, this Society opened a commodious Sailor's Home, or Temperance Boarding House in the City of New York. The number of its boarders the last year was 2,525; of

these 105 were wrecked or destitute, and received aid in board and clothing to the amount of \$662.56. The whole number of sailor-boarders since the Home was opened is 30,000.

It has been a protection to their money and morals, and been the means of their professional elevation and general improvement. Capt. M. Saver, the Superintendent, has deposited in the Savings Bank within the past year, for eighty-two of them, \$5,247; while many others have made deposits for themselves. Other similar Institutions are happily and most efficiently aiding in the same work; affording seamen protection from the destructive influences of those places where intoxicating liquors are furnished.

Something has also been done by way of furnishing ships with suitable libraries, and seamen with good books.

The receipts of the Society for the year ending the 1st inst., were \$20,399.91, and the expenditures, \$20,446.57. In this amount is not included a considerable amount raised by its Chaplains abroad, nor a still larger amount raised by Auxiliary Societies and disbursed from their treasuries. The total amount would exceed \$75,000.

A review of the past year exhibits the most gratifying results in the fruits of sobriety; in the improved discipline and cheerful obedience at sea; in many instances of undoubted piety and extensive usefulness.

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.—The receipts of ten of these Societies for the year ending April 30th, are given below; they are greater in the aggregate, about \$15,000, than the previous year, and the receipts that year were nearly \$200,000 more than the one preceding it:

	1849-'50	1850-'51
American Tract Society	\$308,266 72	\$310,618 69
Am. Bible Society	234,614 34	276,852 53
Am. B. C. Foreign Missions	161,855 03	176,976 83
Am. Home Mission Society	157,160 78	150,940 25
Am. and For. Christian Union	58,885 84	56,265 82
" Bible Society	41,625 01	45,373 41
Am. Bap. Home Mis. Society	25,128 52	29,648 28
Am. Seaman's Friend Society	22,292 19	19,252 61
N. Y. State Colonization Soc.	17,414 71	22,000 00
Am. Society for ameliorating the condition of the Jews	6,000 00	11,163 02
	\$1,083,742 74	\$1,098,790 84

The sum of \$200,270 33 was realized by the Tract Society by the sale of tracts and volumes. The receipts of the Foreign Missions are only for eight months, and those of the Christian Union for eleven months.—[N. Y. Mirror.

TEMPERANCE.

Ten Reasons against Signing the Pledge, Considered and Answered.

1. I am temperate already, and signing the pledge is not needed.

Ans. It may not be needed for you, but it may be for others—for your children, or neighbours, or some poor drunkard, looking to you as an example. We sign the pledge, first, for our own good; and second, for the good of others.

2. I can do more good without signing than with. If I sign I shall be viewed as a partizan; now I can mingle with those who drink and induce them to abstain.

Ans. You have yet tried but one side and are no judge in the case. Many lived years on your principle, who say they did more good in three weeks after they signed than in all their lives before. A man who would induce others to go forward in a good work must go forward himself.

3. The act of pledging is wrong, man should be governed by principle.

Ans. Are you a professor of religion? How came you to make a profession? Are you married? Did you not pledge yourself to your wife or husband? Have you never given or received a note? Be consistent.

4. Signing a pledge is a confession that I have drunk too much, or that I cannot take care of myself.

Ans. We do not so view it. It is a declaration of what you intend your future course shall be, and in assuming what, under Providence, may be a protection against an evil which besets you in all your ways.

5. It is a piece of ostentation.

Ans. It may have so been viewed once.—Now there is more ostentation and show of independence in not signing, than in signing. The man who refuses, arrays himself against the best portion of the community.

6. A signed pledge creates a constant disposition to do wrong. I now feel little or no desire for liquor. I fear if I should, it would create in me a constant desire for it.

Ans. When a man is bound by another, he may sigh and groan for freedom. An old man who had lived forty years in Paris and never been out, was placed under bonds by the king

never to go out on the pains of death. He then wanted to go, and did go. But it is not so when a man binds himself from principle.—A judge does not want to be partial, because he has sworn to be just. A debtor does not want to be released from his debt, because he has given his note. A man and his wife do not want to part because they have promised to live together.

7. It is giving up my liberty.

Ans. Liberty to do what? What you neither want to do or intend to do. If you want liberty to do it, it is proof your heart is for it and not against it, and you ought not to sign.

8. I am a professor of religion and I have promised to do all duty.

Ans. And so you will never give a note, or take an oath in court, or join a Missionary or Bible or Tract society. But does a profession of religion exonerate from all this? Ask your neighbour to trust you with a hundred dollars without your note, because you are a professor of religion. See what he will say.

9. Combinations are dangerous. Each man had better be temperate on his own hook.

Ans. So each man can better put out a fire on his own hook, throw his pail of water alone and not unite in an engine company. Each man in raising a building, had better raise the timber by himself. In war, each man had better fight on his own hook, and not in a regular and disciplined army. In religion, each man had better go to heaven alone, and have no churches and no ministers. Try it, and see how it will work.

10. Wine and strong drinks are good as a medicine, but I cannot take them as such without exposing myself to be charged as breaking my pledge.

Ans. Is it not so with thousands of those who have taken the pledge but who have never been a moment retarded by this thought, and who now seldom think of it even as a medicine since they have signed the pledge.—Sign the pledge, and to your surprise you may find you will think far less of them as a medicine than you do now.

THE NATIONAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

This Society in addition to its usual operations has, as we announced last week, assumed the management and support of the Asylum for Inebriates, now known by the name of THE INDUSTRIAL TEMPERANCE HOME. Two hundred and five persons have been received there since December last, most of whom were fair candidates for the Alms House, the Hospital, the Prisons, or the Grave. There are now in The Home 68 inmates. Four children at school, and 34 women are employed in housework, and making shirts, vests, pants. Of the 30 men, 5 are shoemakers, 4 are tailors, who turn out fine coats good enough for Broadway, and the rest are all usefully and happily employed, and doing well. We think there is a field for the National Temperance Society, that has not as yet been very extensively cultivated, at least not so as to exhaust its productiveness of good.—N. York Organ.

DESTRUCTION OF THE BAPTIST MISSION PREMISES, SIAM.

Letters by the Europa bring the painful intelligence that the entire premises of the American Baptist Mission at Bangkok, Siam, were destroyed by fire on the night of the 4th of January last, including the dwellings of the missionaries. The fire originated in a native house a few rods distant, and spread with such rapidity that very few articles could be saved. The printing office and stock, the bindery and type foundry, libraries, and nearly all the personal effects of the missionaries, were consumed. The greater part of the second edition of the New Testament was lost,—it was difficult to procure copies enough to conduct the ordinary Sabbath worship. The total loss is not less than \$10,000, and probably is considerably more. The missionaries were received into the residence of Senor Marcellino D'Arango Roza, the Portuguese Consul, and met with much kindness from others.

PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, MAY 7th.

—Destruction of the Catholic Cathedral.—The Roman Catholic Church, the oldest and largest in this city, which was erected at a cost of \$30,000, was discovered to be on fire at eleven o'clock yesterday morning, and was totally consumed. It contained a splendid organ valued at \$6000, which was also consumed. There was but \$5000 insurance on the building. While the church was burning a man was arrested in the act of setting fire to the Bishop's residence adjoining.