

AMERICAN ANNIVERSARIES.

Among the various objects of Christian benevolence considered at these meetings, the Baptist Churches of this Province will feel a special interest in that of the American and Foreign Bible Society, to which the New Brunswick General Union Society is in part an Auxiliary. We are happy to say that the Anniversary of this Society both in New York and Boston passed off with the greatest unanimity, and its prospect of further success and usefulness is most flattering. The discussions of the past year have brought the great work prominently before the mind of the denomination, and have doubtless tended both to create a greater interest in the work, and to harmonize the sentiments of its friends in regard to the method of prosecuting their labours.

The fourteenth anniversary of this Society was held in the Meeting House of the Oliver Street Baptist Church, on Friday, March 9th, 1851. The Society met in the lecture room for the purpose of transacting business at 9 A. M. The President, Rev. Dr. Welch, of New York, called the meeting to order, after devotional exercises a Committee was appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

Rev. J. N. Granger, of Rhode-Island, then presented the report from the Committee on amending Article II. of the Constitution, showing that the manufacture of English Bibles had been carried on previously to April 5th, 1850, at a loss of 26½ per cent., and that the total losses in this way, during the Society's past existence, had amounted to \$24,583 99, exclusive of stock on hand, Bibles given away, and granted to Life Members and Directors. This loss has accrued from selling English Bibles at a price less than their original cost to the Society.

[Prompt measures have been taken by the present Board, during the past year, and will be during the year to come, to secure the Society in future against any such loss. All, however seem to concur in the propriety of keeping up the supply of English Bibles in the rooms, and the Board are certain that it can be done without the loss that has accrued in their manufacture in the past.]

On motion, the report and the accompanying resolution were made the order of the day for the afternoon session, after which, the regular business was suspended, the hour for the public services having arrived.

PUBLIC EXERCISES.

The public services were opened by singing the 404th hymn of the Psalmist, commencing, "God, in the gospel of his Son," &c.

Rev. J. Girdwood, of Massachusetts, read the 19th Psalm, after which Rev. David Benedict, of Rhode-Island, led in prayer.

Rev. B. T. Welch, D.D., the President of the Society, then arose and addressed the meeting. After which the Treasurer, N. C. Platt, Esq., presented his Report, showing the total amount of receipts into the treasury, during the past year, from all sources, to be \$45,373 41, and the expenditures during the same period to be \$45,729 88, leaving a balance against the Society of \$356 47. The appropriations to the American Baptist Missionary Union amounted to \$14,750; to the Rev. Amos Sutton, D. D., for Scripture operations in Orissa, \$1,000; to Rev. J. G. Oncken, of the German Mission, \$6,511 76; to Rev. T. T. Devan, of the French Mission, \$521 51; to the Grand Ligne Mission, \$217 50. The Report was accepted and ordered to be printed.

The Report of the Board of Managers was next presented through Rev. S. S. Cutting, the Corresponding Secretary. We have room only to insert the concluding portion of it.

Against this Society's engaging in the work of revising the English Scriptures, there are divers and strong objections. Its members are not agreed as to the duty, and would differ widely on the scope and character of the revision, if it were attempted. The attempt would wound the hearts of vast numbers scattered over the country, who regard the Society as under virtual pledges to bear no part in such a work. Their confidence lost to this Society would soon be lost to others, and a general injury to the cause of religion, of most painful character, would ensue. Besides this, these are among the best learned, whose learning entitles their opinion on such points to respect, the gravest doubts as to whether a Society whose business it is to circulate the Scriptures in our own language, could under any circumstances engage with propriety in the work of English revision. A Society engaging in this revision, and with circulation

in view as the ultimate purpose, is in danger of anticipating the merits of its work, and of bringing the weight of its influence and authority to bear in circulating a version which, if left to the dispassionate judgment of the world, might be little esteemed. Such persons believe the revision of our version whenever attempted, to be the proper work of a few Christian scholars, shut away from the din of controversy, in calm converse with the God of the Bible, supported in their work by the munificence of individuals, or of an association of individuals for that purpose only. Others still, favoring a new version, desire a preliminary correspondence of Bible Societies and Universities, and in some way a union of all denominations of Christians in making a version which should be worthy the confidence of all. Such a union for such a purpose, they suppose, might require a considerable period for its formation, but they believe the object worthy of the effort.

Now, under the pressure of objections arising from these divers and irreconcilable opinions, would it be wise, would it be likely to eventuate in good to the cause of religion, for this Society to take up and prosecute the revision of the English Scriptures? Within the broad purpose "to aid in the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures in all lands," is there not enough of labour, which is less questionable and more urgent, to occupy the means and energies of this Society? Is there not enough in the calls of perishing millions to demand of us to abstain from questions which gender strife, and give our united strength to the practical work of dispensing to the dying the bread of life?

With these views, your Board have been unable to see any just cause for division among brethren who for these many years have been the friends of this Society. Do any desire a revision of the English Scriptures? This Society places no obstacles in their way. Let such a work be an independent work, to stand or fall on its own merits, and let brethren who are agreed in principle go together in details so far as agreed. Your Board believe this the apostolic rule, and that the adoption of it would be the harbinger of peace and concord to our churches, and a blessing to a dying world.—"Let there be no strife between me and thee, for we be brethren." We are agreed in our labours for the destitute abroad, and even in regard to labours at home we are agreed in so far as this, that our common version should be diligently circulated until, in the providence of God, it shall be superseded by a better. In these labours there is ample room and imperative call for the most enlarged benevolence, and your Board believe it should not be the fault of this Society if all do not rally upon this common ground. Believing this, they have felt it to be their duty to suggest the tender of this branch of peace, in the earnest hope that it may be accepted. If it is declined, you will have the consciousness of an honest and earnest effort in the right direction. If this branch of peace is accepted, your Board recommend an administration of the Society carefully adjusted to such relations, which shall inspire mutual confidence by illustrating the spirit of fraternal love. They believe that such acceptance would have the approbation of God, and that this approbation would be attested by enlarged prosperity and usefulness.

Is it said that, in all this, this Society concedes nothing? Certainly it will not be required that it should concede anything from its great object, "to aid in the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures in all lands."—From this it cannot decline. But it comes to old friends temporarily estranged, and in the spirit of generous conciliation offers explanations, and tenders confidence and love. It comes to invite them to co-operation in the essential things on which we are agreed, and to assure them of non-interference on the single labour about which we differ. It declares our fast adherence with them to the principles which gave rise to this Society, and to ask only that on the question of the practical application of those principles in a single case, none shall coerce the consciences of their brethren, or suffer prejudices or reproach for differences of opinion. On such grounds there may assuredly be union, which will commend itself to Christian hearts.

The Board of Managers here yield the trust which has been confided to them, invoking the Divine blessing upon the future labours of the Society.

Rev. Mr. Fyfe, of R. I., then addressed the Society in a neat and appropriate speech, in which he set forth the claims of the Bible to our regard, as furnishing the only certain

guide to all true and lasting reforms, acting (as it did when allowed to exert its legitimate influences) so efficiently on the individual and on the masses. He glanced at the field of labour opened before us at home and abroad, and urged to greatly enlarged operations in giving to the world the word of God.

AFTERNOON.

Business Meeting. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Gillette, of Pa. The committee on nominations, reported the following list of officers for the ensuing year:—B. T. Welch, President; J. L. Dagg, Chas. Sommers, E. Lathrop, A. Caswell, and E. G. Robinson, Vice Presidents; S. S. Cutting, Corresponding Sec'y; The Board of Managers nearly the same as last year.

The order of the day was then taken up, and the report presented before the society in the morning, by the Rev. Mr. Granger, was laid before the house. The following resolution was presented by Mr. Granger:

Resolved, That the Board of Managers be instructed to discontinue all future operations in the business of manufacturing English Bibles, except what may be required by existing contracts, and that so much of the existing capital stock, now on hand, as is held, for the purposes of manufacturing, be disposed of in the most advantageous manner, for the benefit of the Depository.

After considerable discussion the whole matter, was referred to the Board, with full power to act in the premises. It was stated in the report of Mr. Granger, that during 14 years the Society had sold Bibles and Testaments \$24,000 less than first cost. While this is not in one sense an actual loss, yet as there is liable to arise a misconception of this mode of managing the financial operations of the Society, it is understood that it will for the present be the policy of the Society to sell no books under cost.

The meeting of the Bible Society was a harmonious and a pleasant one. The services were closed by singing the good old Doxology.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

[From Christian Watchman and Reflector.]
Anniversary of the Missionary Union.

During the past week our city has been the scene of an interesting religious spectacle. From all parts of the free States, the friends of missions have been assembled here to greet each other, to listen to reports respecting the various departments of their great enterprise, to take counsel as to its advancement, and to invoke the blessing of Heaven on their efforts. The skies have smiled on these gatherings; four successive days and nights the weather has been favourable; in spite of all diversities of opinion, a fraternal spirit has prevailed, and we doubt not that the missionary spirit has received fresh strength and quickening influence.

The attendance, on this occasion, has been very large. More than twelve hundred persons were received and accommodated by the Committee of Arrangements.

It becomes us, moreover, to acknowledge with grateful emotions the kind and hospitable spirit exhibited by our brethren of other denominations who threw open their doors to visitors from abroad as cheerfully as if the Union had been a society entirely their own. The hands of the Committee were filled with cards from gentlemen connected with the Congregational Churches around us, as passports to their hearths and homes. Such fraternal acts are refreshing to the heart, and illustrate the true "unity of spirit" which is "the bond of peace," and the honor of a Christian country. In accordance with this fact, we noticed that Drs. Anderson and Pomeroy, officers of the American Board of Commissioners, manifested a sympathetic interest by their attendance throughout the week.

The Union was not favored at this session with the services of its President, Ex-Governor Briggs. The Hon. Judge Harris of Albany, N. Y., presided at the meetings both of the Board and the Union, and made on the minds of hundreds, a deep and lasting impression of his talents as a presiding officer, of his gentlemanly character, and of his genuine Christian spirit.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

Boston, Tuesday, May 13th, 1851.

At 10 o'clock, A. M., the Board of Managers of the American Baptist Missionary Union, commenced its thirty-seventh annual meeting

in the Bowdoin Square Baptist church. Hon. Ira Harris, of New York, Chairman of the Board, presiding, Rev. M. J. Rhees, of New York, Secretary.

The services of the meeting were opened with prayer by Rev. N. W. Williams, of Maine. The roll of the Board was then called.

On motion of Rev. Dr. Church, the times of meeting were fixed at 9, A. M., 3 and 7½, P. M., and of adjournment at 1 o'clock and 5½ o'clock, P. M.

The Chairman, Hon. I. Harris, addressed the Board, saying it was with extreme reluctance and unfeigned diffidence that he entered upon the discharge of the responsibilities which the kindness of his brethren had assigned him. He felt himself utterly incompetent to perform the duties devolving upon a presiding officer on an occasion like the present. The anniversary of this body, which he attended a year ago at Buffalo, was truly a *fete* day in the calendar of life, and one which he can never forget. While most of our days pass away unremembered, this season would never fade from his memory. Never till then, had he so large and inspiring views of the work engaged in by this organization. The present anniversary he hoped would be animated by the same spirit and marked by the same gracious results.

R. E. Eddy, Esq., read an abstract of the Treasurer's Report. Rev. Solomon Peck, and Rev. Edward Bright, Jr., also read abstracts of the Report of the Board for the year closed. The Report having made reference to the decease of Dr. Judson, Rev. Alfred Bennett, and others, Dr. Wayland was requested to offer prayer in view of these bereaving dispensations, which he did in an appropriate and feeling address to the throne of grace.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.—The receipts of the year ending March 31, 1851, have been \$120,826 35, and the expenditures \$118,873 58, leaving a balance of \$1,952 77, with which the debt existing April 1, 1850, has been reduced to \$19,548 32. Of the receipts, \$14,750 were grants from the American and Foreign Bible Society, \$1,000 from the American Bible Union, \$3,000 from the American Tract Society, \$50 from the American Baptist Publication Society, and \$4,000 from the United States Government for the civilization of the Indians.

PUBLICATIONS.—Of the thirty-sixth Annual Report 3,000 copies have been issued. An abstract of the report was circulated in the Magazine. The monthly issue of the Missionary Magazine has been 5,250 copies, and of the Macedonian 30,000.

MISSIONARY APPOINTMENTS.—Two missionaries and seven female assistant missionaries have been commissioned during the year; Dr. and Mrs. Dawson to the Ava Mission; Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Whiting, and Miss M. S. Shaw to the Assam Mission; Mrs. Ashmore to the Siam Mission; Mrs. Thomas to the Tavoy Mission; Miss E. P. Gookin to the Shawanoe Mission; and Mr. W. T. Biddle to one of the Asiatic missions not yet designated.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNION.—The Union now has 3,172 members by the payment of \$100 each, about three-fourths of whom were made such by churches and other religious bodies, and one-fourth by their own contributions or those of personal friends.

RECAPITULATION.—The Board have now in charge 18 missions—10 in Asia, 1 in Africa, 3 in Europe, and 4 among the North American Indians. Connected with these missions, are 77 stations and 164 out-stations,—119 missionaries and assistants, of whom 54 are preachers, 192 native preachers and assistants, 154 churches, 5 schools for native preachers, 18 boarding and normal schools, and 75 day schools, with 2100 pupils, and 5 printing establishments, at which, exclusive of work at other stations, there have been printed the past year, 6,131,300pp. The accessions to the churches by baptism within the year, as far as reported, were 1563. Whole number of members more than 12,700.

The nominating Committee reported the following list of officers:

Executive Committee—Baron Stow, Joseph W. Parker, Wm. H. Shailer, H. J. Ripley, R. H. Neale, Heman Lincoln, S. G. Shipley, J. W. Converse, B. Smith.

Corresponding Secretary for Foreign Department—Solomon Peck.

Corresponding Secretary for Home Department—E. Bright, jr.

Treasurer—R. E. Eddy.

Auditors—Charles D. Gould, Joshua Loring.