

one that brings more joy into the garner of the heart. The seeds are not to be sown like grain, only in spring and fall, but every day of the year, and every hour of the day, for there is no end to the golden crops they produce. They keep us from evil, and do us good; they wean us from earth, and lead us on to heaven; they make our souls to magnify the Lord, and our spirits to rejoice in God our Saviour.

To Subscribers.

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The Christian Visitor.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1853.

Religious Anniversaries.

Universal consent has set apart the month of May as the period for holding the Anniversary Meetings of the great Missionary Societies established in England and in America. These are seasons of peculiar delight, of wide spread interest, and of solemn responsibility.

The fellow laborers in the vast field of Christian effort congregate from the different sections of the globe,—old friends renew the communion of early days,—strangers come to recount the dealings of the Almighty in their respective spheres of labor, and all meet to inspire each other with a holy emulation in striving for the rescue of a sin-cursed world from the direful vassalage of Satan, that it may enjoy throughout its vast dominions the liberty which the gospel imparts. On those consecrated occasions, the reports read, presenting a bird's eye view of the labors of the past year, the earnest prayers offered before the mercy seat, and the thrilling addresses made, calling upon the armies of the living God to gird on anew the gospel armoury, and to go forth with augmented zeal to the mighty conflict with the legions of darkness, are invariably adapted to rekindle the flame of self-sacrificing love in the heart, and to animate the soul with a stronger faith in the immutable promises of Zion's King.

From the several reports which have come to hand, we are led to believe that the anniversaries of the past month, both in the old and in the new world, have been unusually impressive, and have been fraught with circumstances of the deepest interest to the cause of the Prince of peace. Already the reports read, the speeches made, and the resolutions adopted, have been thrown off by the mighty power of the press in million sheets, taken up by the wondrous agency of steam, hurried on as with lightening speed over land and sea, and scattered as so many drops of morning dew amongst all nations, to excite thought, to quicken prayer, and to arouse to action, in the name of the Lord of hosts.

If our space would allow, we should rejoice to furnish our numerous readers with a full report of all those meetings; but as we cannot do this, we will give a condensed abstract of the proceedings of some of the most prominent societies connected with the Baptist denomination. In doing this, we begin with the parent of modern missions, viz., the "Baptist Foreign Missionary Society," of England.

The Annual Meeting of this Society was held in Exeter Hall, on the 28th of April. Its old and faithful friend, W. B. Gurney, Esq., in the chair. On the platform were S. M. Peto, Esq., M. P.; Alderman Wire, M. P.; the Revs. Dr. Steane, Dr. Hoby, Dr. Beaumont, Dr. Duff, Edward White, Geo. Pearce, C. Stovel, H. S. Brown, E. Hull, F. Trestrail, C. Underhill, &c., &c.

The venerable chairman delivered a deeply interesting address, which we give on another page. This was followed with an able report by the Rev. F. Trestrail. It announced the death of two Missionaries, the Rev. W. Carey, of Cutwa, (second son of Dr. Carey,) and the Rev. George Cowen, of Savanna Grande. It affirmed that throughout the whole of Bengal there was an evident change in the tone and temper of the people in respect to the gospel. 34,000 copies of various parts of scripture, or

entire volumes, had been issued from the depository; while 39,000 copies in Bengali and Sanscrit, had been completed for further distributing. A plan was in progress for consolidating and strengthening the Mission in India, by sending out 20 additional Missionaries. The political and social condition of the people was eminently favorable to missionary extension. The total receipts of the Society for the past year were £15,111 3s. 9d., and the expenditure £500 less. The debt now due to the Treasury was £1813 0s. 5d.

The reading of the report was followed by stirring addresses from Rev. George Pearce, a Missionary from India, Rev. Dr. Hoby, Alderman Wire, M. P., Rev. Dr. Duff, Rev. Dr. Beaumont, and Rev. S. H. Brown.

In the course of the exercises, Rev. F. Trestrail announced various donations to the Mission, including £250 from W. B. Gurney, Esq., and £100 a year from Mr. and Mrs. Peto for each additional Missionary sent out to India; making, if 20 missionaries be sent out, an annual contribution of £2000.

Mr. Underhill said he had the pleasure to announce, that an old friend of the cause had authorised him to say that he would wipe off the debt of the Society, £1800. (Loud cheers, and cries of name.) Mr. Underhill stated that he was not permitted to mention the name of the donor. (Cheers.)

We greatly rejoice to see this Parent Society thus freed from all pecuniary embarrassments, and placed in such auspicious circumstances in relation to its future prospects, and we pray God to increase its capabilities a thousand fold for scattering amongst the benighted millions of India the leaves of the tree of life, which are for the healing of the nations.

BAPTIST UNION.

The forty-first Annual Session of this body was held at the Mission House, Moorgate-street, on the 22d April.

Rev. Mr. Hinton read the Report of the Committee, which stated that thirty-four new Churches had been added to the Union, by the adhesion of the Devon Baptist Association. Memorials regarding the state of the Baptist Churches on the Continent of Europe had been prepared and presented, in the name of the Union, to the respective Governments of Prussia, of Hanover, and of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and a memorial was also sent to the King of Prussia. As one result of these efforts, the King of Prussia has issued a decree, while it does not make any organic change in the law, greatly mitigates the administration of it.

A spirited discussion arose on the subject of government education, in which several of the leading ministers took a part, some advocating government support to secular education, and others objecting to government interference, and affirming that secular as well as religious education should depend entirely for support upon the exercise of the voluntary principle.

We agree with such of our English brethren as advocate a wise and judicious appropriation of government funds in the support of secular education, dealing out even handed justice to all parties who are engaged in its extension; but we denounce, as strongly as any of them can, all interference of the government, by monied influence or otherwise, with education touching matters of religious faith. The idea of supporting religion in any way from the national treasury, we believe is unsound in principle, and injurious in practice. On this subject our English brethren are all of one mind, and hence they are careful to keep their churches, and their colleges, perfectly free from any reliance upon public funds, trusting entirely for maintenance upon the voluntary action of the people.

After the subject of education was disposed of by the meeting, Rev. Dr. Steane brought up the case of their suffering Baptist brethren on the Continent of Europe, making a reference to the efforts which had been made on their behalf. He stated that the condition of the Baptists in Prussia had been represented to the Prussian Minister, His Excellency Chevalier Bunsen, who had carefully considered the statements made to him, and seemed on several occasions deeply moved with sorrow on account of the hardships which certain Baptist Churches and their Pastors had been called to suffer, by reason of their religious views. His Excellency, therefore, not only forwarded the memorial to the Prussian Government, but manifested his interest in the matter by sending a letter to the King. The result of this was, that His Majesty instructed

Chevalier Bunsen to see Dr. Steane, and propose to him certain questions respecting the faith and order of the Baptist Churches, and duly report the same. It appeared that some Baptist Minister had been thrown into a vile and pestilential prison, for performing the rite of baptism; but the real cause of the punishment seems to have been, for administering such a rite in a river in the presence of a multitude of people, when some disturbance took place. The King, therefore, wished to be informed whether the Baptists considered that the rite was not valid unless performed in the open air. The correct answer was returned by Dr. Steane, through Chevalier Bunsen, that no importance whatever was attached to this circumstance. It was suggested, moreover, that the sooner His Majesty granted full toleration to the Baptists, the more speedily would they be able to build chapels, in which the service would be invariably conducted. The result of this was, that the law against public baptism in the open air was henceforth to be interpreted, in relation to the Baptists, in the spirit of Protestant liberty.

Dr. Steane concluded his very interesting address by stating, that there are scattered over the Continent of Europe, forty-two Baptist Churches, with 356 preaching stations, which he attributed in the first instance under God, to the efforts of Mr. Oncken, twenty-five years ago.

Such are the efforts made by our English brethren to promote, on the Continent of Europe, the cause of religious liberty; and believing, as all Baptists do, that man has an inalienable right to worship his God according to the dictates of his own conscience, let us earnestly pray, if we can do no more, that those praiseworthy exertions of the Baptist Union may succeed, and that our suffering brethren, some of whom are now incarcerated in gloomy dungeons for their unbending adherence to the true faith, may be delivered from every yoke of persecution, and be allowed to exercise that unfettered liberty of conscience, which justly belongs by divine appointment to all men.

Want of space prevents us from further notice of the recent anniversaries, we hope to be able to resume the subject next week.

Young Wives.

Of all the springs of human joy and love, which divine compassion has opened in the parched and sterile paths of this weeping earth, none "well up" with purer brightness, or deeper freshness to the thirsty and craving heart, than the trustful tenderness and tranquil happiness of a well balanced union.

Though the relation of marriage is highly solemn in its moral bearings, and unspeakably bitter in the hopeless woe it inflicts upon selfish and discordant natures, yet the sympathy, support, and serene confidence it bestows upon affectionate and elevated spirits, are its peculiar gifts.

A "mother's love" is as vital and fathomless as the life of her own soul, but its anxious and wasting cares, and trembling responsibilities, while they root her love more deeply, render a husband's sympathy and affection the necessary aliment of her happiness, and the rich reward of her maternal care and devotion. But, as the tranquility of married life is more dependant upon the performance of real duties, and gentle concessions, than fine sentiment and abstract theories, we would endeavor to present to our young married readers some of its practical aspects, could we select any single view of peculiar importance, in the vast accumulation of influences which operate in domestic life. No expression of the face, no random word, no habit of manner, or cadence of voice, is unimportant and unnoted, at least by memory, which treasures them all up for after thought sooner or later. If, then, previous negations become positive influences in married history, how serious must be the consequences of our actions and principles!

There are some general laws applicable in all cases, but so various are tastes, temperament, habits, circumstances, and position, that no one's experience will be fully adapted to the case of any other. We can only throw out a few remarks, to manifest our sympathy and interest for our youthful married readers, who have entered upon a path, the thorns or flowers of which may, in some instances, be of their own planting. Providence, it seems to us, has placed the precious treasure of domestic happiness more especially in the keeping of our own sex. Our habits, tastes, and

truest attractions indicate the possession of this most delicate and impalpable of human influences. There are two elements of power, characteristic of the two sexes, and harmonizing in effect when each is exercised in its appropriate sphere. No woman who has true taste or self-respect would rob her own brow of its reflected glory, by casting her husband's crown of manhood beneath her feet, to gratify an unfeminine and undignified love of ascendancy and "management." Her influence, like the color and perfume of a blossom, will pervade her gentler province with its grace and sweetness, while she honors his manly prerogatives and nobler attributes, as the highest compliment to her own understanding and taste.

Of the eminent Bishop Kennicott's wife, Mrs. Hannah More wrote, that "she was the object not only of her husband's affection, but of his pride; and he loved her as much from taste as tenderness." Such an elegant tribute to a tender and high-minded wife far outweighs the brightest gems "of Ormus and of Ind."

Let not the young wife simply imagine that the marriage vow secures her all the acquisitions, which can only be won by the exhibition of actual qualities in seasons of trial and duty. She has obtained the lover, but she has still a higher achievement to accomplish. Hopeless disappointment and chilled affection, or the slow and rich reward of a husband's increasing tenderness and approving judgment, are now, like the "lights and shadows" of an April sky, trembling in her horoscope. Her own principle of duty will "weave the warp and weave the wool" of her future lot. She has entered upon a scene solemnized by serious claims and high responsibilities. Her former theories and present knowledge are useless to guide her sensitive and apprehensive spirit. She must commence with her own self-discipline. Her poetic abstractions of excellence must be converted into tangible duties, and her craving sensibilities must nourish, by patient tenderness, the love that querulous demands would weary and repel.

She must not only minister to his domestic comfort and enjoyment, but she should create in herself new tastes and faculties, and task all the deeper energies of her own nature, to meet the nobler necessities of his heart and mind, that no other source may be found to supply to him the aspirations and sympathies born of her intellect and tenderness.

When a union, founded upon sympathy and taste, is sanctified by religious faith, and made sure and steadfast, by a "hope of life everlasting," the "spring" is then fed from a "fountain" whose "living waters" will nourish the roots of the soul's nobler affections.

"TILL ALL BE MADE IMMORTAL."

Steamer Commodore.

Having personally examined the accommodations of this steamer, and possessing entire confidence in the practical skill of her worthy commander, Capt. Belmore, we feel assured that the travelling public will find her a comfortable boat, and her Captain an obliging friend.

We are happy to see that a "Donation Visit" to our esteemed Father Crandall is in contemplation. We should deem it a great privilege to be present; but other pressing engagements will render it impracticable. We doubt not the attendance, the speeches, and the donations will all be worthy of the interesting occasion. If so, it will be a day of much enjoyment.

We have much pleasure in recommending to parents, a School conducted by Messrs. Loaw & Moore, in Orange Hall, Portland. We examined their Pupils on Saturday last, in Latin, Geography, History, Grammar, Arithmetic and Writing, and found the children well grounded, and, for their age, advanced beyond our expectation. We wish these worthy young men every success.

In a letter from the Rev. R. H. Emerson, of Maugerville, he says:—"I send you four new subscribers for the Visitor; and you will be glad to learn that we had a very pleasant day here yesterday. Lord's day—when two young men, of 'good report of those that are without,' were baptized and added to the church, and we trust others soon will follow. We hope to see you at our Quarterly Meeting, to be held at Maugerville on the 25th of June."

We are very thankful to our dear Brother