

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.]
THE WISDOM OF GOD.

THE present imperfection of our faculties, and senses even, illustrate, in an admirable degree, the infinite wisdom of the great Author of nature. We are ushered into a world of beauty, while the mind is yet in an undeveloped state; the objects around us are thus gradually familiarized to us, and with the thirst for knowledge in due time awakened in our breast, the advancing powers of the mind enable us to open the Book of Nature, and there investigate phenomena, which at first, or at an earlier period of existence, might have paralyzed, or even destroyed, the balance of Infant Reason. Thus it is, that by study alone, and the careful exercise of the various mental faculties, we gradually unravel the wondrous mechanism of nature; and as the mind advances to perfection, the veil is gradually withdrawn from our eyes, only to be completely so when the termination of our existence on earth shall have prepared us for our removal to a higher sphere—a sphere in which the full magnificence of the design, with the Divine Author, will burst upon our admiring gaze, in all the splendour of HEAVEN!

January, 1842.

J. D. M'D.

THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, JAN. 27, 1842.

WE are sorry to learn (says the *Boston Recorder*) by a letter received in this city from Beyroot, that the Rev. Colby C. Mitchell, who left Boston last January for the Nestorian Mission in Persia, died, while passing the desert in a village of the Koords. He was buried in a village of Jacobite Christians, near by, called Tebel. Five days afterwards, the company reached Mosul. The information was brought to Aleppo by a man who accompanied Messrs. Mitchell and Hinsdale from Beyroot. On his return, he was himself sick, and in the meantime robbed of all the letters which the Missionaries had entrusted him to convey to Beyroot, and which would have given the particulars respecting the journey, and the decease of Mr. M. The man states that Mrs. M. also was sick, and carried on a litter three days to Mosul; but when he left, three days after their arrival, it was thought she would recover. Mr. Beadel, of Aleppo, immediately on the bearer of the intelligence reaching there, despatched a Courier to Mosul, who was expected to return in about thirty days, with letters from the Missionaries—when more particulars respecting this mournful event will be forwarded to this country.

After the above was in type, we were kindly favoured with a copy of the *New York Observer*, containing the following interesting intelligence—which we hasten to lay before our readers:—

NESTORIANS.—RECEPTION OF DR. GRANT.

Letters have been received of various dates, from June 19 to September 4. Dr. Grant had entered the country of the Independent Nestorians by the shortest possible route from Trebizond and Erzeroom, passing along the eastern shore of Lake Van, and through the Koordish mountains from the north. He arrived at the Patriarch's residence, July 9. His reception was as favourable as he had been encouraged to hope. The Patriarch told him that the whole land was before him to teach, preach, and dwell where he thought best. The Patriarch himself would accompany him in visiting some of the tribes, and his brothers in visiting the rest. He commenced his visitations the next day, July 30, he wrote, that preaching the Gospel was take the precedence, to prepare the minds of the people for schools and other missionary operations; and that, owing to the manner in which the various tribes are scattered among almost impassable mountains, a large number of preachers would be indispensable. The people in various parts, too, insisted on having Missionaries among them; so that a few could not meet their desires for instruction.

When he had been employed in this visitation about six weeks, a messenger whom he had sent to Mosul,

returned, with information that Mr. Mitchell and his wife were sick. He considered it his duty to visit Mosul immediately. The Nestorians remonstrated; as the Koords, through whose country he must pass, were then peculiarly hostile to the Nestorians, so that they could not safely escort him, nor could he travel among them without danger. At length he obtained an escort to accompany him in the night to the vicinity of the Koordish town of Amadih. They left him on the mountains, two or three miles from the fortress, with a single friendly Koord. On their way to the town, they met two Koordish robbers, who seemed disposed to attack them, but finally let them pass. Having obtained a mule at Amadih, he went on; and after a narrow escape from a band of predatory Arabs, arrived at Mosul. He found Mr. Hinsdale dangerously sick; but the fever soon gave way to medical treatment, and he began to recover. Later accounts, by way of Beyroot, announce his complete recovery.

Dr. Grant writes that the Pope has sent a strong reinforcement of priests, to oppose this mission. The Papal Bishop of El Koosh had written letters against the American Missionaries, and was contemplating a visit to the mountains, to counteract their influence. He is attempting to bribe the Nestorians by the offer of immense temporal advantages, to be conferred through the French Consul General at Mosul. I suspect that this Bishop of El Koosh is of Nestorian descent, and is the same man who once set himself up as Patriarch of the Nestorians, with the hope of carrying the whole body of them over to the interests of Rome.

Mr. Perkins, of the mission at Ooroomiah, has sailed from Smyrna, with his family and Mar Yohanna, Bishop of Galavan, for New York; and some apprehension begins to be felt for his safety. It is now 100 days since he embarked; and the usual passage is only 70 days. Several vessels which sailed since his embarkation, have arrived at this port. He may, however, like some of his predecessors, have been obliged to visit the West Indies for repairs. It is remarkable that no Missionary of the Board has ever yet perished by the seas.—*Correspondent of N. Y. Observer.*

ON Monday evening last, the Tract Society held its annual meeting, in the Wesleyan Chapel, St. James Street—Colonel Maidland in the chair. The Report was read by the Rev. Mr. Girdwood. It represents the affairs of the Society as being in a very flourishing condition: upwards of 65,000 books and tracts have been sold, and given away as grants, during the past eleven months. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. Messrs. H. Wilkes, J. Borland, M. Caruthers, Dr. Davies, R. Cooney, T. Osgood, and T. Rattray, Esq. The interest of the meeting was sustained throughout, and the speeches were marked by Christian liberality, ardent piety, eloquence, and humour. We do not remember to have seen so large a number of persons present at any former anniversary of this Society, nor do we remember one better calculated to make a lasting impression on the minds of the public, of the importance of this truly useful institution.

IN our last number, we took occasion to notice the liberality and benevolence of the citizens of Montreal; and we have now much pleasure in recording another instance of their anxiety, by every means, to relieve the necessities of the destitute and afflicted.

On Friday, the 14th inst., a meeting was held in the Ladies' Benevolent Institution, for the purpose of appointing a Committee of Management, for the Lying-in Hospital, which has been recently established in this city.

The Rev. H. Wilkes acted as Secretary, and the Rev. Mr. Thompson opened the meeting with prayer. The Rev. H. Esson then addressed the meeting, and stated that the public was indebted to Dr. Macnider Loth for projecting and actually establishing the Hospital. He stated that three patients had already been admitted; and then read a most interesting Report, which our limits deny us the pleasure of copying. Dr. Macnider stated that Dr. Robertson had assured him that he will gladly afford his professional services gratuitously, when required. The following la-

ties were appointed a Committee of Management for the ensuing year:—Mesdames Moffatt, Robertson, Dorwin, White, (Andrew) Richardson, Ogden, T. B. Anderson, M'Donald, Gunn, Ferrie, Macnider, Cushing, Court, Crawford, (Dr.) Neutz, J. G. Mackenzie.—Mrs. Wilson was nominated Secretary, and Dr. Macnider Treasurer.

An opportunity will now be afforded to our citizens to contribute to this truly charitable institution—which we have no doubt will be gladly embraced, in that spirit of liberality which has always characterised the city of Montreal.

THE reader's attention is directed to the advertisement of the *Temperance Soiree*, to be held in celebration of the birth of the Heir Apparent to the British throne, which will be found on our last page. The selection of this mode of celebrating the important event reflects much credit on the citizens of Montreal; and furnishes a striking proof of the influence which the cause of temperance is exerting upon the community at large. The cause is good, and it must succeed.

TWO new religious periodicals have recently been commenced in this city—*The Register*, and *The Harbinger*. *The Register*, we believe, is intended to succeed the late *Baptist Advocate*, as the organ of the Baptist Church, and is published semi-monthly. *The Harbinger* is a monthly magazine of 16 pages royal 8vo., and is published under the auspices of the Congregational Church in Canada. We sincerely wish success to every means employed for extending the knowledge of the Saviour, and improving the spiritual condition of our fellow-men.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

SIR,—I thank you for the hints which appeared in your last number, in relation to the poor of Montreal.

You have justly observed, that it is not sufficient to say, "Be ye warmed and be ye filled." The one half of what is foolishly expended annually in strong drink and other luxuries, would provide a refuge for the poor in every town throughout the empire.

All who are about to enjoy themselves at the celebration of the birth of the Heir to the British throne, are most earnestly requested to assist in raising a fund for the erection of a House of Industry, where all in want might find bread, clothing, and the means of instruction.

It is most painful, and very disgraceful, to suffer the poor to go from door to door, asking alms, when they might, in a school of industry or refuge for the destitute, support themselves.

That the benevolent example of Him who came from Heaven to save the lost, may be copied by all, is the prayer of
A FRIEND TO THE DESTITUTE.

Montreal, Jan. 24, 1841.

LITERARY NOTICE.

A SERMON ON ORIGINAL SIN. By Rev. DAVID DOBIE, Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Huntington. Montreal: Campbell & Becket. Price One Shilling. 1842.

THIS is an attempt to prove that the doctrine of Original Sin, as understood by the generality of Christians, is wrong. The author has endeavoured to saw through some knotty points—the result of which, however satisfactory it may be to himself, we feel persuaded will not suffice to satisfy the serious enquirer after truth. He cannot surely have given sufficient attention to the 7th chapter of Romans, especially the 17th verse to the end. We think he will discover a very remarkable agreement between that and the 9th Article of Religion of the Church of England.

To the "two hundred individuals," alluded to by Mr. D., who, he says, "fled to the influence of Original Sin, as the grand and sufficient excuse for their