

have awakened kindred feelings among those disunited on every other point? Who could have supposed, that within the short period since the Society has been established, it should have circulated *one-half as many Bibles as had ever been circulated before, in all preceding time, and in all the world?* In a word, the Society has outgrown the obloquy of its enemies; and lived down, if I must say it, the suspicions of its friends. Whilst he trusted, with the Rt. Rev. Prelate who had preceded him, that in considering the prosperity of the Institution, all boasting should be excluded, well remembering that unless the Lord builds the house, all labour will entirely be in vain,—he could not but regard its success as a legitimate ground of encouragement. There can be no doubt, he said, that this Society would not have spread its boughs so widely, nor flourished so well, if the seed had not been sowed in prayer, and nourished in humility. From all that we have heard in this Report, let us learn to dare much, hope much, attempt much, and expect much; and when much is done, let the glory be given to Him who is the giver of all mercies.

The Right Rev. Dr. Turner, Bishop elect of Calcutta, in the course of an energetic speech, took occasion to advert to his intended mission to India; where he hoped to witness the utility of the Society's labours,—and which he should endeavor to promote by every means in his power.

The Rev. Mr. Hands next addressed the meeting giving an account of the mission at Bellary, in the district of Madras, from whence he had recently returned to England, and which he represented as holding forth the most encouraging prospects. He had laboured in India for more than twenty years during which, he had in conjunction with another missionary, completed the translation of the Sacred Scriptures into the Canaree, a language spoken by no less than 10,000,000 of people, and in which the Pentateuch, the book of Psalms, the prophecies of Daniel and Isaiah, and the greatest part of the New Testament had already been published and circulated to the extent of nearly 20,000 copies. He earnestly intreated those connected with the Society to do all in their power for the immense population of India, which Providence in its wisdom had committed to the influence of the British empire, for the grand purpose of communicating to them the word of God, which they were rapidly preparing to receive. In conclusion he could not but bless God for what the Society had been enabled to do in his absence, for when he left England it was only in its infancy; it was but a small rivulet, which had since extended and widened and deepened and was become a mighty river, and he trusted under the providence of the Most High, it would prove one of the means of hastening the time when the knowledge of the Lord should cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

The Rev. W. Jowett, connected with the Church Missionary Society, took occasion to allude to the station which he occupied at Malta, as being placed with Popery on one side, Mohammedanism on another, and Barbarism on the third; nevertheless the efforts of himself and his colleagues had in many cases been blessed with success; amongst others he had particularly noticed a circumstance which had recently occurred in the Patriarchate of Lebanon.—A little band of Missionaries from America had located themselves at the foot of Mount Lebanon and commenced the formation of schools. They had in fact succeeded in establishing nine schools, two of which were for females, when they attracted the notice of the Patriarch, who directed his Secretary, an ingenious and able young ecclesiastic to draw up a statement against them. In order to do this with effect, the young man felt it necessary to look into the Scriptures for some text which he might plausibly bring against the Missionaries. In the course of his examination he met with the following passage in the twenty-ninth chapter of Isaiah: "Is it not a very little while and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?" He was so struck with the application of this text to the particular enjoyment of the Missionaries that he read the whole Bible over with greater attention than ever before, and the result was that he renounced those errors in which he had been brought up, and became a zealous advocate of the very men whom he was commissioned to persecute. He was afterwards made to suffer for his faith; he was imprisoned, and bound, and otherwise persecuted by his former friends, but by the grace of God he was enabled to persevere.

The Rev. Dr. Singer, of Trinity College, Dublin, in moving the thanks of the meeting to the Noble President for his unwearied attention to the concerns of the Society, dwelt at length and with much eloquence on the great and moral improvement which had taken place and might further be expected from the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures in Ireland.

Mr. Witherfore seconded the motion, and traced the progress of the Society from its early establishment under great difficulties, to its present eminent and commanding position. It was not in an isolated point of view that he regarded it, but as a great seminal principle from which other means of promoting the interests of Christianity are to be derived and spread abroad in ten thousand forms, "I remember," said the venerable speaker, "this Institution five and twenty years ago. I remember it as the parent of almost all the other religious societies, and in that as well as in other points of view, we cannot but be grateful to those by whom its infancy was fostered and by whom at a more advanced period its interests were promoted and sustained.

Several other excellent speeches were delivered in the course of the day by the Rev. Mr. Reichardt, the Rev. Dr. Townley, T. F. Buxton, Esq. M. P. the I. v. T. Grimshaw, and the Rev. J. Burnett, of Cork. The Meeting then separated after a brief address from the Right Hon. the President, expressing the love and gratitude with which he was filled for the great enjoyment received at the meeting.

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MONTREAL, July 15.—The period for the anniversary of our Benevolent Institutions, the BIBLE, SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION and TRACT SOCIETIES, is one of much interest, not only to the members composing them; but, to those who feel an earnest desire for the spread of the Gospel—to those, who acknowledge the importance of an early inculcation of divine truths—and not the least to those, who see in the rapid dissemination of Tracts, an additional mean for the moral and intellectual improvement of the country.—This period is now rapidly approaching; and it is to be hoped, that the past year, will have afforded to each Society abundant proof, not only of the necessity of their existence; but of the want of vigorous exertions in the cause in which each is engaged. The Canadas present a noble field for the operation of benevolent Institutions; and so long as a single inhabitant is without his bible, so long as a single section of the country is without the preaching of the Gospel, and the ordinary means of Education, just so long, will the loud and earnest appeal "come up to the house of the Lord," be heard singing in the ears of those who have promised their aid: but who have not fulfilled their promises.—The Bible Society has circulated Bibles to thousands; but thousands still are destitute of the word of Life.—The Sunday School Union has established Sabbath Schools in many destitute sections of the country but many are still deprived of these little nurseries of piety,—and the Tract Society has sent forth its "Heralds of the cross" without measure; but the measure of its labours is still far from completions—as the prosperity, however of the Parent Society depends in a very considerable degree upon the active corporation of its branches, those branches will see the necessity not only of vigorous exertions; but of the propriety of communicating the results of their labours to be embodied in the general report of the Society—as the time is now at hand when the annual meetings will be held; no unnecessary delay should be made in forwarding reports from the several branches of the Bible, Sunday School Union, and Tract Societies and from the Sunday Schools generally in connexion with the Sunday School Union.

MISCELLANY.

HORRORS OF THE DEAD SEA.

From Travels in the Holy Land. By William Rae Wilson, Esq. F. A. S.

"Leaving the banks of the Jordan," says this traveller, "I directed my course to the Dead Sea, striking along the plain or desert, in a northern direction. The weather having brightened, it only served to lay open in a more frightful form that awful scene of devastation, which was in truth lifting up the very shroud from the dreadful disfigurements of death itself. The accursed soil over which my path lay, was of a white colour, resembling powder, and rains had converted it literally into mortar. My attention was vividly excited by the views of regularly formed

castles, fortifications, and other edifices; but, on approaching these, the illusion vanished, and I found them to be mere masses of shifting sand, which had assumed in the course of time these fantastical appearances.

"No language of the most eloquent writer can give a proper description of that mournful devastation which reigns in this devoted region from the curses denounced against it, or express that solemn horror, which the scenes are so much calculated to inspire. The country must be visited in order to be believed, which may be said as strikingly monumental of the tremendous wrath of Almighty God, and held up an everlasting warning to mankind. To the terrible acts of his vengeance here, we find allusions in the Sacred Volume, by the denunciation of the divine judgment on apostate Israel.* I now—

"Drew to where, in dreadful ire,
Heaven rain'd on earth of old a storm of fire,
To avenge the wrongs, which Nature's laws endured,
On that dire race to horrid deeds inured."

"A profound silence, awful as death, hangs over this lake; but the sound of its heavy waters, slowly rolling before the wind which blew at the time, and along with the heavy showers, were even more appalling than the desolation of its shores. At this time, when opening the Bible, and reading that most tragical and heart-rending description of the "fire and brimstone," which rained upon the place, I was riveted to the spot in silent wonder and awful dread, and gazed on every thing around, attended by my savage guards—feeling as if I had been brought to the very verge of the habitable world, when the words of Moses might with propriety be applied, 'So terrible was the sight, I exceedingly fear and quake.'

"The strongest wish I could express at this peculiar moment, was that those Infidels who knew not God, nor believe in his Gospel, were standing on this identical spot, and spectators of those terrible scenes, which would have unheeded every nerve, shaken them to the very centre, and brought home powerful conviction to their miserable and deluded minds, on the actual existence of demonstrative evidence that there is an Almighty power, whose arm has been made bare, thrown down the thunderbolts of his vengeance, and burned up his adversaries! On the whole, the vast wilderness, frightful sterility, and strange apparitional form of the moving sands, are sufficient to impress a beholder with sentiments of the most profound religious awe, and the dreadful power of an avenging Deity."

* Deuteronomy, xxxii. 23.

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THE REWARD OF CHARITY.—A clergyman who had been performing the last services at the grave of one of his communion, observed at the extremity of the audience a female wrinkled with age, and bending with weakness—one hand held a motherless grand-child, the other wiped her tears with the corner of a coarse woollen apron. He pressed towards her when the service was closed—"Have you lost a friend?" She heaved a melancholy sigh—"The Lord bless her memory!" He soon learned that the deceased had for several years allowed her a sixpence per week. Who would waste a sixpence that might cause the widow's heart to sing for joy? How small a sum may produce great relief, and exquisite gratitude and joy!

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DRUNKENNESS.

What is it that saps the morals of youth—kills the germ of generous ambition—desolates the domestic hearth—renders families fatherless—digs dishonoured graves? Drunkenness! What makes a man shunned by the relatives who loved him—contemned by the contemporaries who outstripped him—reviled by the very wretches who betrayed him? Drunkenness! What fills our asylums with lunatics—our ponds and rivers with suicides—our jails with thieves and murderers—our streets with prostitution? The same omnipotent vice! He, who, by precept, whether oral or written, shall succeed in rendering drunkenness detestable, and sobriety an inviolated virtue throughout the land, will confer on the humbler classes of society—a boon beyond all price.—Edinburg Observer.

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Almost all our desires are apt to wander into an improper course; but, care will render us safe and happy through life.