

was at a low ebb. That the church was very much reduced, the congregation exceedingly small, and the salary, including the funds, a mere trifle.

He considered the contents of the letter, and having made it a matter of earnest prayer to God, for direction, resolved to come over and make a trial. He soon agreed to serve this church in the gospel of Jesus Christ; and he often blessed God for that kind Providence which brought him to Bridgewater.—“When, (says Mr. Morgan,) I undertook the pastoral charge of this church, the whole number amounted to seven, and the congregation was very small indeed. The congregation gradually increased, till on a Sabbath evening the meeting-house was well filled.

“From 1791, to 1807, a considerable number of persons were added to the church; so that after filling up vacancies occasioned by deaths and removals, the church amounted to 35 when I gave up my charge.

“From my arrival at Bridgewater, to the death of my beloved friend, Mr. Earland, I was very happy; but after this afflictive Providence, a variety of painful circumstances led to my resignation. My trials have been very great, but I forbear to mention the causes of them; and as I cordially forgive all, I wish to cast a veil over the whole for ever.”

(To be Continued.)

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

SURVEY OF THE PROTESTANT MISSIONARY STATIONS, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,

[CONTINUED.]

GAMBIA.

BATHURST—A Settlement on the Island of St. Mary, at the mouth of the Gambia; formed in 1816—Inhabitants, in 1826—were 1021 males, and 846 females; chiefly Jaloofs and Mandingoes.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, 1821.

Samuel Dawson, Missionary.

Members 25. The Committee say—This Mission remains much in the same state. The Native School is promising; and will, doubtless produce ultimate fruit. Among the adult Natives there have also been some encouraging symptoms; a few have been brought to know God, in truth. The obstacles to rapid success appear, however to be numerous.

Major Rowan, one of the Commissioners of Inquiry, who alone visited the Gambia. (Mr. Wellington, the other Commissioner, having returned home on account of his health,) thus speaks of the Mission in his report to Parliament—

During the residence of the Commission at St. Mary's, the Chaplain of the Settlement being in Europe, the only Clergymen in the place was the Rev. Mr. Hawkins, a Wesleyan Missionary, who officiated on Sundays in the building used as a Military Chapel, and had Service for his own congregation in his dwelling house. Mr. Hawkins stated that the number of persons, exclusive of the Military, who had attended the Colonial Chaplain, was very small. He estimates his own congregation at 150, of whom 100 sometimes attend: of these, a few are Europeans; some are persons of colour, not originally belonging to countries in the immediate vicinity; and the rest are Joliffs or other Natives of these countries, most of whom have some slight knowledge of the English Language. Mr. Hawkins informed me that several of the Natives, who were of his congregation, had been married according to the forms of the Church; but that marriage was not customary among the other native inhabitants.

The only provision for the instruction of Youth was that afforded by the Rev. Mr. Hawkins and his wife, who had resided upwards of two years at St. Mary's. The boys under Mr. Hawkins's tuition at the time of my visit were 40 in number, of whom there were only 30 present at examination; several of these were French Lads, formerly of Goree; but the great majority were Joliffs and Mandingoes, or other native residents. The school was established by the predecessor of Mr. Hawkins, and had existed somewhat more than three years. The scholars were not divided into classes, nor was there any particular system of instruction adopted; but, if the recent origin of the school and the mixed description of the scholars be considered, the progress which they had made under many difficulties appeared to be highly creditable to the instructor. Those boys who attended the school from the time of its formation read fluently in the Bible, and in general wrote a very good hand; and those who had attended for

shorter periods had made in proportion equally good progress. Mr. Hawkins says their improvement has been retarded by the rains, which prevent a regular attendance: and thinks that their parents generally take but little interest in their education. Mrs. Hawkins instructs eight or ten girls in reading and needle-work; she says that some of their parents having expressed a desire that the reading should be dispensed with, she would not consent; when a little advanced in these acquirements they are taken away, and she is thus deprived of the assistance which they might afford in teaching the others.

SIERRA LEONE.

A Commission of Inquiry into the state of Sierra Leone and its Dependencies having been appointed by Government, the public attention has naturally been turned more than usual to this quarter. The first part of their Report was noticed at pp. 285, 286 of our last Volume; the second part has since appeared, and is that which we have quoted under the preceding head; the Appendix is not yet published.

Beside the Report of the Commissioners, the two parts of which consist of 143 folio pages, another publication, of nearly as many octavo pages, appeared in the course of the year, which throws great light on the affairs of the Colony and the Mission. That bitter hostility against Sierra Leone, the causes of which are so accurately traced at pp. 521, 522 of our last Volume in an extract from the twenty-first Report of the African Institution, has occasioned a Vindication of the Colony, by Mr. Kenneth M'Aulay, more particularly against the attacks of Mr. M'Queen, of Glasgow, which commends itself strongly to all who wish to form a right judgment on its state and prospects: at pp. 199—203 of our last Volume, we extracted Mr. M'Aulay's statement of the case between the Colony and its opponents, and a Vindication of the Missionaries against the representations of Major Laing.

But there is a third source of information relative to the Colony, more particularly with regard to the state of Religion and Education, to which the intelligent Christian will be inclined to pay peculiar attention, from the principles on which the inquiry is

* Mr. M'Queen has just published, in an article occupying from p. 63 to p. 69 of Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, a reply to Mr. M'Aulay, grounded on the Commissioners' Report. We shall here give one instance of the manner in which Mr. M'Queen states to his Readers what he alleges to be Facts: the question will inevitably arise, “Is any confidence whatever to be placed in the statements of persons who will thus mutilate and misrepresent public documents?”

Mr. M'Queen says—“The ‘congregation,’ say the Commissioners, which attended the Rev. Mr. Raban, the only Clergyman of the Established Church in the place, did not on any occasion exceed 12 Europeans, 15 Persons of Colour, the Military, and a part of the Children who attend the School.” Mr. M'Queen remarks—“The Missionary Register for May 1826, p. 261, states the attendance upon Mr. Raban to be 200 Europeans and 50 People of Colour!”

The Note of Admiration is evidently intended to mark a contradiction between the two statements: but Mr. M'Queen has fabricated the contradiction, by quoting the Commissioners falsely! After the word “congregation” the Commissioners add, in a parenthesis, “the Disbanded Soldiers, already noticed as having erected a Chapel for themselves, not being included here.” This parenthesis Mr. M'Queen conceals from his Readers, in order to make it to be believed that the 15 Persons of Colour, stated by the Commissioners to attend Public Worship occasionally at the Court Room, have been exaggerated into 50; whereas those 50 are expressly stated in our Work to be a separate Congregation, and are the very “Disbanded Soldiers” spoken of by the Commissioners.

If Mr. M'Queen's Note of Admiration be meant to insinuate, that there is a contradiction also, between the “200 Europeans,” which he professes to find mentioned in our work as attending Mr. Raban and the “12 Europeans” of the Commissioners, here also the insinuation has no other colour of plausibility than from his own misrepresentation. Mr. Raban is not said in our work to have been attended by 200 “Europeans;” though that was probably the fact at the time spoken of: but his Congregation is said to have “exceeded 200,” without specifying its component parts, as the Commissioners do; and it is said expressly to have attained that number by the regular attendance of the Military; that is European Soldiers, of whom they were at that time between 300 and 400 in the Colony.

We have thought it right to enter thus somewhat at large into the only statement made by Mr. M'Queen, which affects our Work, and which we had the means of completely exposing: in order to show that the character given of him by Mr. Kenneth M'Aulay as a controversialist, quoted at p. 209 of our last Volume, seems as unchangeable as the Ethiopian's skin; and that, in this new “laboured work,” also “brought out, like that which preceded it,” at the opening of Parliament, for the evident purpose of influencing the minds of the Government and the Legislature, “no dependence whatever can be placed on his statements.

conducted; for such a man well knows that an estimate of the State of Religion and Education in any part of the world will be just and accurate, in proportion as the judge himself is an intelligent Christian. We refer, in illustration of this remark, to the faithful, candid, and able Reports of the Mission of the Church Missionary Society in Sierra Leone, which have appeared in our pages—one, for the Year 1825, at pp. 255—262 of our Volume for 1826; and another for the Year 1826, at p. 534—542 of our last volume. No one could have manifested the true philosophy with which those Reports are imbued, if he had not been deeply conversant with the state of the human heart; and both able and anxious to form a candid but faithful judgment, under all the difficulties of the case, of the attempt to enlighten and evangelize a population so circumstanced. The vital religion of the heart must both furnish materials and give direction to the most sagacious intellect, in order to its forming just conclusions; no infidel, no wicked man, no mere formalist can be a true philosopher. In this view we refer also with pleasure to the sentiments of the Rev. John Raban, Lord Bexley, and the Hon. and Rev. Gerard T. Noel, at the Annual Meeting of the Society and recorded at pp. 269—371 of our last Volume.

In reading the Report of the Commissioners, it should be remembered, that, though evidently anxious to state every thing faithfully and candidly to the best of their information and belief, they yet found the Liberated Africans, generally, in a state very far retrograde, in respect of Religious knowledge and Education, as compared with that in which they had been some years before: their Report therefore, of the condition in which they found these Natives neither impeaches the veracity of the statements of their better condition when under greater advantages, nor proves that a wiser course toward them could have been pursued by the Society. Had it pleased God to spare the lives and the health of the Labourers, their arduous toil would have no doubt produced a more sensible influence than can now be expected to appear, on that rude and ever-renewing mass of ignorance and superstition on which they had to operate. In this view, in particular, as well as in respect of the history, the capability, and the prospects of the Colony, Mr. M'Aulay, from his long and thorough knowledge of all circumstances, has communicated much information which it was not in the line of the Commissioners' researches to acquire, but which is absolutely necessary to a right understanding of the whole case. Our Volumes contain repeated testimonies to the improved and promising state of the Liberated Negroes in respect of Religion and Education, from the years 1816 to 1823. These testimonies though known to Mr. M'Aulay and quoted by him, are not noticed by the Commissioners.

We cannot refrain from adding, in this place, another testimony to those which have already appeared, of that zeal of the Labourers, which, while their lives were spared, was crowned with the blessing of God, and produced the effects of which we have spoken. At a recent Meeting at Bedford, the persons assembled were highly gratified by the Address of a Naval Officer, who had been on the African Station nearly four years, during which time he had many opportunities of closely observing the conduct and exertions of the Missionaries: of them he said—

The only fault to be found with them is, that they have attempted too much; and, in consequence have fallen a sacrifice to their exertions. The beneficial effects of their labours and example are felt and acknowledged on all hands at Sierra Leone. I knew them well; and can only say that I wish I could get such a set of faithful servants as the Church Missionary Society has in Africa. I am not myself connected with any Missionary Society; but I feel it to be an act of common justice, to bear testimony to the lives and labours of these excellent Men.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

LETTER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE DUTY OF PROPAGATING THE GOSPEL.

[Continued.]

Education subservient to the Success of Preaching. Yet let it not be inferred, from our having said so much about Schools and other Seminaries of Educa-