

Wesleyan Missions.

(From the London Watchman, May 7th.)

The Annual Meeting of the Parent Society.

(Continued.)

The GENERAL REPORT, read by the Rev. Dr. ALDER, reviewed the state and prospects of the Society's Missions in the usual order.

The State of the Society's Missions in Ireland was such as to afford great encouragement, especially when viewed in connection with a variety of circumstances which have long operated in that country as obstacles to the complete success of Missionary enterprise.

The Stations in Ireland at present are eighteen in number, on which twenty-five Missionaries, including three Supernumeraries, are employed by the Society. The extensive mission of Lucan and Trim, reaching from the county of Wicklow on the South East of Dublin, to that of Westmeath on the North West, and embracing the intermediate Counties "is a field," says the Official Report, "which invites diligent culture." "Our cause in some of the towns has not been in a better state at any former period. The members, generally, appear to be growing in grace and divine knowledge. The congregations are regular in their attendance, and all seem to feel a deeper interest in the cause of Christ. In the City of Kilkenny the congregations are steadily increasing, and "many persons have been converted to God." "Although we have lost," say the Missionaries, "more than fifty members during the year by removals, emigration, and other causes, but their places have been supplied by the good hand of our God upon us. We have had special good amongst the military." Two new preaching places have been opened in the town and neighborhood of Tipperary, and a Sabbath School has been established. A Catechumen Class has also been formed, and instruction given to the young in general. Catechumen classes have been formed at the Berhaven Mines, in the county of Cork, and success has cheered the Missionary in the midst of difficulty and trial. On the Nenagh Station there are three Chapels; viz., at Nenagh, Killaloe, and Mountshannon. Here great good has resulted from regular monthly sermons which have been preached to children and young people. At Nenagh, where, a few years ago, our people could not assemble to worship God without insult and interruption, "the congregation, now double what it was, can engage in divine worship as peaceably as in any town in Ireland." Reports more or less encouraging have been received from the towns of Youghal, Fermoy, Kinsale, Balinasloe, Kiltrush and Galway on the South and West; and from Donnegal, Rathmelton, Newton-limavady, and Ballymena in the North.

Special attention has been paid, during the past year, to the education of the young, and this is a department of our work which, on this mission at least, yields the greatest amount of promise. Several new Schools have been commenced, while those previously in operation are, but with few exceptions, in a decidedly flourishing state. The Day Schools are now sixty-two in number, and contain upwards of 3,700 Scholars. The progress which the children are making in useful knowledge, is "not only pleasing, but in some cases quite surprising," and the people are earnestly requesting to have more Schools established in various parts of the country. "Of the good that these Schools are effecting," writes the General Superintendent, the Rev. Samuel Young, "mentally, morally, and spiritually, the half cannot be told. Many of the children have been truly converted to God; and, it is hoped, will become useful members both of civil and religious society." The Model School at Dublin, under the able management of Mr. Corrigan, still continues to prosper.

The Missions on the CONTINENT OF EUROPE were next adverted to.

Gratifying intelligence has been received as to the growing prosperity of the Society's Mission at Wittenberg in the kingdom of

Wittenberg. Notwithstanding some new political regulations of an adverse character, and various other hostile influences, which combine to present a formidable opposition to the interests of spiritual religion, this interesting Mission, under the fostering care of the Society's faithful Agent, has not only succeeded in maintaining the ground already gained, but has also, by God's blessing upon it, continued, in a very satisfactory manner, to extend its operations. The number of Mr. Muller's fellow-labourers has increased, during the year, from sixteen to twenty; all of whom are zealously engaged, under his direction, in conducting the work of the Mission in the various places to which access has been obtained. While many hundred persons by means of this united agency, are regularly enjoying the advantage of weekly religious services, considerably upwards of a thousand have already been admitted to the full privileges of Church-membership.

France.—The constant changes to which our English congregation at Paris is exposed, still operate unfavourably as to any very large accession of Church members in the city. There has, however, been a considerable increase, during the past year, in proportion to the total number of members in society. These additions have taken place chiefly among the English residents at St. Denis, to whom allusion was made in our last year's Report, and who, during the year, have been regularly supplied by the Missionary with religious ordinances. A considerable improvement has taken place in the average congregational attendance at our chapel in the Rue Royale, and those connected with the Society are reported to be "walking consistently with their Christian profession." There has been a small increase in the French department also, during the year. The day-school, in Paris, has been given up for some time, as it was found impossible to maintain it in successful operation in consequence of the active and persevering opposition of the priests.—The labours of Mr. J. P. Cook, employed as catechist in the city, under the direction of the Wesleyan Education Committee, have already proved, in many respects highly beneficial. Cheering information has been received as to the success of our Mission at Calais, especially among the English inhabitants. At Caen the congregations are encouraging, and would doubtless, be still larger, were not the Missionary frequently compelled to be absent, in order to supply the country-places in the surrounding districts. Both threats and promises have been employed to withdraw our people from us, "but, with few exceptions, they have remained faithful." The word of God at Lisieux, amid increased opposition from without, has continued to progress. Several have renounced Popery during the year. The gospel is occasionally preached in a considerable number of towns and villages, to Roman Catholic populations. In some cases, Romish Priests, though they have come in a spirit of opposition, have yet "heard the truth as it is in Jesus." In most parts of the Nismes Circuit, notwithstanding some obstacles, the brethren have been favoured with marked "indications of the presence of God." "The Spirit of God has been poured out at Ganges in the Cevennes Circuit, and several persons have been truly converted." Prejudice has yielded to better feelings in the public mind; and there is reason to anticipate that the free access, which the Missionaries now have to all classes of the Protestant population, will produce very beneficial results. The Report from the Drome and Upper Alps is highly satisfactory. The Missionaries have long prayed and laboured for a revival of religion in these mountains. Their hopes have, at length, begun to be realised.

Switzerland.—Here, several additions have been made to our Societies during the year; but emigration has also carried off a considerable number, so that the solitary Missionary on this Station has, with all his efforts, been able to do little more than to maintain the ground already gained. Our outward position is, however improved.—Toleration is now granted by the authorities; and, notwithstanding the existence of the prohibitory laws, the Missionary is permitted to labour in peace.

A considerable amount of success has been realised in connection with our Mission in Gibraltar more especially in the English department. The congregations have been steadily good, and a large proportional increase has taken place in the number of Church-members. In the Spanish department, no effort has been spared during the past year; but the results achieved, though in some degree encouraging, have, in other respects, fallen short of what the Missionary had ventured to anticipate. Among the means employed "may be named Bible classes, tract distribution, visitation from house to house, and occasional addresses in crowded *patois* and in the public streets." By these means Mr. Alton "has seen and conversed with not fewer than one thousand adults in their own houses, and publicly addressed several hundreds more."

CEYLON AND CONTINENTAL INDIA then came under review. The Missions in SOUTH CEYLON have been reinforced by the return of Dr. Kessen to Colombo, and the appointment of Mr. Rippon to Galle, and Mr. Hill to Colombo. Dr. Kessen holds the office of Principal of the Native Normal Institution, under the Ceylon Government, and is engaged in carrying out the benevolent purpose of preparing Christian teachers for schools which are to be formed in every town and village throughout the island.—Whilst he devotes his energies to this sacred object, he is laying wide the foundations of the Christian Church in that heathen country, and deepening the impression which has already been made on many professed followers of Budhu, and worshippers of the Devil.

"The preparation of suitable books occupies the attention of the Missionaries; and an addition of five thousand copies of the New Testament, and of two thousand copies of the Old Testament, is now passing through the Mission press at Colombo, under the able supervision of the General Superintendent, the Rev. D. J. Gogerly.—Meantime the word of God is preached in the several languages of the people by all the Missionaries; there are continual accessions to the converts under their care, and very attentive congregations assemble in the numerous chapels connected with the Mission, and are instructed and edified by the labours of the Missionaries. The number of communicants, or members in Society, chiefly natives, is twelve hundred and seventy-five, being an increase of sixty-one, and there are three hundred and thirteen on trial for membership. In the schools, there are two thousand six hundred and eighty-seven under instruction, of whom five hundred and thirty-six are girls. Several new chapels have been erected during the year; one at Dewelpitiya, in the Colombo South Circuit, another at Polawatte, in the Negombo Circuit; and others at Amblangodde, Batapola, and Goddapitiya. New chapels are in the course of erection at Dalapota, Katane, and Karagampitiya; chapels are also to be built at five other places, viz, Andiambian and Minnangodde, on the Seedua Circuit, Auefelani, on the Galkisse Circuit, Bandaragama, on the Pantura Circuit, and at Weheragampitiya, on the Matura Circuit. The erection of so many new places of worship by funds raised in their several localities, is a strong testimony to the progress which divine truth is making among the people of South Ceylon."

The TAMUL DISTRICT (it was stated) embraces the provinces of the north and eastern portion of the island of Ceylon. To quote the language of the Bishop of Colombo, in his Visitation Journal, in 1846, "The Wesleyans found it an occupied field, and they entered in to save it, in their own way, of course;—but well have they done their work." "Heathenism is continually losing its hold on the native mind in these districts. There are many indications of it. Instead of five hundred, not fifty temples are kept up as they were." The Bishop further states,

"We visited an unfinished heathen temple. It was begun some years since, on the highest point in the centre of this low island (Batticaloa) Its supporters were reduced by the efforts of the Wesleyan Missionaries to one individual of any importance or influence in the station. Provoked by the success of the Missionaries, he ordered the

idol to be made at his own expense. He went himself to bring it in solemn procession. On the way, conscience struck him; he asked himself, 'What am I doing? Am I going to worship that which I have myself seen made?' He suddenly left it, and returned, and from that day became a consistent Christian. Not a stone has been added since. It stands now in neglected ruin, a monument of truth as well as error, not less full of encouragement than of warning."

The Missionaries in the NORTH part of CEYLON have addressed themselves very successfully to the work of education. The results of Mr Percival's long-continued efforts in this department are thus described by the Bishop, who says:—

"As President of the School Commission, I accompanied the Inspector, the Rev. B. Bayley, to examine the Wesleyan Schools; they were large and fully attended; they were examined in Scripture history and evidences, ancient and modern history, and the usual subjects of general education, and the result was highly satisfactory; they are the best Schools in the town of Jaffna. I found Bishop Corrie's 'Manual of Ancient History,' in use for the first time. It was new to me, and much recommended as a very judicious compilation by Mr Percival, the active and energetic Superintendent of these Schools. The Girls' Schools, under the same effective superintendence, was next inspected, to which we were accompanied by Mrs Chapman and Mrs Carr. All was here alike satisfactory; the writing, singing, and chanting particularly so."

In the Chapel of the Wesleyan Mission with which these Schools are connected, they have daily prayer, in the morning in English, evening in Tamul; they use our Liturgy, but slightly altered and abridged; they chant the services. Mr Percival, the head of the Mission, is himself engaged in translating the Liturgy, and Jeremy Taylor's 'Holy Living and Dying,' into Tamul. He is revising also Rhenius's Version of the Bible, as being too literal and unidiomatic, and is reputed to be the best English Tamul scholar in the island, besides having a knowledge of both Hebrew and Sanscrit. In connexion with this Mission, the Wesleyans have 22 Schools, containing 767 boys and 245 girls; in all above 1,000 children. Their establishment at Jaffna is very extensive and complete, comprising a boarding-school for girls, an institution for elder youths to be trained as Catechists and Teachers, besides the large Day-Schools which I inspected, and above a dozen others in and about the town of Jaffna and Wannarponne."

Mr Percival has successfully completed his three years' task of a new translation of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament into the Tamul language, undertaken at the request of the Jaffna Auxiliary Bible Society, and by the sanction and at the cost of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Towards the close of 1850, he returned to his usual work in the Mission of Jaffna, where his services, always valuable, were the more required, because of the removal of Mr Williams from that station, in consequence of the serious illness of Mrs. Williams. On the Jaffna Mission there are 160 members in the Society, and 620 children in the Schools. At Point Pedro there are 16 members, and 226 children in the Schools. At Trincomalee there are 31 members in the Society, and 169 children in the Schools. At Batticaloa there are 93 members in the Society, and 447 children in the Schools. In the whole island of Ceylon it is computed there are 10,000 persons, adults and children, under the teaching of the Missionaries of the Society.

The Mission at MADRAS occupies very important localities in that great city, viz., Royapetta and Blacktown. These are the points which enjoyed the chief care of the Missionaries at the commencement of the Mission, more than thirty years ago. The Mission in Madras occupies a less extended sphere than formerly; but it is hoped, that by a concentration of the attention of the Missionaries to a more limited circle they will cultivate it the more successfully, and be permitted to see encouraging results equal to those of any former years.

"The Committee record with satisfaction the kind liberality of John Liddett,

Esq., by his free preparation, for conversion. "O stant erect mul G the ca Privat toward Rupee and it will t Repoi both Madr the fu "A has b work the ne tion. added total i Hund Hund Socie tives, Child Distri Th has st by who l recov lore i "J of the 1850 and S lish; pages pasto derso Holy inten Educ siona tant Missi of pr in o Engl of M year: Tuon fact of the these der t succ char the thre crifi niel who are j vera of th sive and Chri dert at th best " are and that that help do, by c thus That And "