

kept in boxes for their preservation; and when a vessel is leaving the Port, a box containing moral and religious books and tracts, is lent to the Captain, for his own use and that of the crew, which is exchanged for another on his return. These are eagerly sought for by seamen. But it is melancholy to add, that there are upwards of 100 boxes, and only twenty-seven of them supplied with books. Let this speak for itself.

The annual expenditure of the Society is calculated in the last Report at £300 per annum. During the year 1827, it was £321 19s.; 1828, £276 13s. 10d.; 1829, £230 4s. 1d. The greatest prudence and economy have been observed in all the departments of the Society.

The Directors would here turn your attention to the unavoidable expenses attending the continual repairs of the chapel, which increase yearly, as the ship becomes old. During the last year, a considerable expense was incurred in consequence of an injury sustained by the bursting of the dock gate, which left the dock nearly dry. These circumstances, besides various other inconveniences, and especially the prospect in view of being obliged, in the course of a few years, to purchase and fit out another ship, lead the Directors to contemplate the expediency of building a place for worship on shore, somewhere in the neighbourhood of the dock.

They feel assured that the attachment of the seamen to this establishment, would obviate any supposed objection they may have to a house of worship on land; which, it may be confidently imagined is only supposed, or, if felt, originated from their having no house of worship they could consider their own, and where they would be certain of finding accommodation. If the Directors meet with that encouragement from their friends, by their annual contributions, which they confidently anticipate, they would be glad to turn their serious attention to this project, which would eventually be attended with considerably less expense, although requiring a larger sum of money to be raised at the present time.

Before they leave the subject of their finances, they would remark, that at the close of the past year they were in debt £45, whilst in the beginning of 1827 they had £110 15s. 1d. in hand: and on referring to the statement above, it will be seen that the expenditure was greater then, than now, that the Society is thus indebted. This is a deplorable instance of the falling off in the contributions.

After this brief but, it is hoped, forcible detail of facts, is it necessary to address a word of further appeal to professing Christians, to support an institution which has been, by the Lord's blessing, of such incalculable benefit? and (to put it upon no higher ground) if what is here advanced respecting the moral improvement of the seamen frequenting this port, upon the testimony of their Captains, be true, surely that highly respectable body, the merchants of this City, are peculiarly called upon, both in gratitude and as a matter of self interest to grant their liberal aid to a society that has been the means of such a happy result. But the Directors would press its claims upon higher motives, and would earnestly and affectionately call upon all who value the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, to come forward with all their heart in aid of a Society so eminently calculated to benefit the souls of our seamen, and to contribute liberally to its support. "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might, for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

\* The expense which unavoidably attends the keeping the Floating Chapel in a proper state of repair, has averaged for the last five years, the sum of £44 each year.

#### ANECDOTE OF READING THE SCRIPTURES IN PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Mr. Editor,

Not long since I was in the United States, and heard the following anecdote from an Episcopal Clergyman whose piety and industry place him high among the good and the useful.

After having been several years in the parish the substance of

the following conversation took place between him and a Baptist of excellent character;—

*Baptist.* I have some time, Mr. M. been thinking how much better customers I find your Church people than other professors.

*Parson.* How so, Mr. H.? I am sure they are far from being the richest customers who go to your shop.

*Baptist.* That is not what I mean. There are many other professors in our town far wealthier than the generality of your congregation, and who consume at least in proportion to their wealth. But what I have to observe is, your Church people are the best paymasters.

*Parson.* Indeed Mr. H. I am sorry to learn that any are bad paymasters; but I cannot but feel gratified on hearing such honorable testimony borne of the people among whom I exercise my sacred calling, and I trust that God has blest my labors to them.

*Baptist.* Yes;—and I have been considering why such a blessing follows you in a higher degree than others. There must be a moral cause for it,—and I do think it is this. You read more *Bible* to the people than the ministers of other denominations, and particularly the *ten commandments every Sunday*; while the people add a prayer to each that God will help them to keep them, and write them all for that purpose in their hearts. Shop keepers you know have a chance of finding out rogues:—and I never hear you read the laws forbidding theft and covetousness but I think of the crooked behaviour of some of my customers, and wish they could hear you with both ears open,—and their hearts too.

*Parson.* I think your observations very just, Mr. H., and I am happy to find that you so highly estimate our scriptural services. The reason that we set so great a value on them is, that they are carefully collected out of the Book of God, and contain nothing contrary thereto: and our discipline does not permit us ministers in our private capacities as leaders in devotion to add to or diminish aught from that form of sound words.

*Baptist.* Honesty in dealing is, as I think, a great branch of true faith—it is one of the fruits of the fear of Him who said, Thou shalt not steal. And though I feel partial to my own denomination, I must say that I believe you Church people have a method of making men good inferior to none. You worship God with his law in your mouths.

If, Mr. Editor, you think the above worth reading, please print it in the Sentinel, and oblige

A CONSTANT READER.

*Bishop Heber's Monument at Madras.*—The subscription raised at Madras for the erection of a Monument to the memory of the late Bishop Heber amounted, with interest, to 50,944 rupees. Sufficient funds for the erection of a Monument having been allotted, there remains a balance of nearly 13,000 rupees. This balance is to be kept as a distinct fund, to be styled "Bishop Heber's Monumental Subscription Fund." The interest of this fund is to be annually applied to the maintenance, education, and clothing of such a number of Scholars, for the office of superior Catechists, as the same shall be found sufficient to support; to be educated in the Seminary now building in the Vepery Mission, for the service of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, within the Archdeaconry of Madras—such scholars to consist, one half of the descendants of Europeans, and the other half of natives; and to be designated "Bishop Heber's Madras Scholars."—*London Mis. Reg.*

*Jews at Rome.*—The number of Jews at Rome is about 3000; of these, 1488 are wretchedly poor, and dependent on the Synagogue Fund, or on the charity of the richer Jews. The proportion of extremely necessitous poor among the Jews, in every part of the world, is much larger than is generally believed.—*Id.*

A Swedish Missionary Society was formed on the 15th Feb. 1829, at Gothenburg, under the protection of the King. That day was chosen, because on the 15th February 829, Ager, the first Missionary at Scandinavia, departed from his labors, and that for ten centuries the glad tidings of the Gospel had resounded on the shores of the north.—*Id.*