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"Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men."

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CHRISTIAN REGISTER.

In our last number we acknowledged the receipt of the Christian Register, and pledged ourselves to lay before our readers, from time to time, the substance of its contents, so as to "give them a condensed view of the wide field of benevolence occupied by the wise and the good of all denominations." Upon examining the Register more particularly, we find that it does not as we then expected contain all the speeches delivered at the London Anniversaries; and that several of those speeches which are given, are abridged and condensed. The probability therefore is, that some of our Readers, who have access to other means of information, will through such channels find the speeches delivered at the Anniversary of the particular Society, with which they are more intimately connected, reported in a more ample manner. We however consider the design to be excellent, and the execution as well as could fairly be expected in the first attempt. It is probable that the speeches were abridged for the purpose of confining the work within the limits of a certain number of pages, and by keeping the price within the compass of all readers, it was intended that the most extensive circulation might be secured, and consequently universal interest on behalf of those institutions be excited. This will no doubt answer a valuable purpose, and the probability is, that on the next occasion the conductors will enlarge their plan and make their information more complete.

The table of Missionary stations and Missionaries on page 53, is not so complete and satisfactory as might be expected, considering the information and documents to which the compilers might have had access. In the list of Missionaries for New Brunswick, the names of both the Clergymen officiating in this city are omitted, and in Nova Scotia, the Wesleyan Missionaries are entirely overlooked. In other quarters the names of Missionaries are continued, who had deceased some years since. In the general statement of Receipts and Disbursements, &c., on page 64 the number of Missionaries employed by most of the Societies is not stated, and although we are not certain that in all cases the numbers could be obtained, yet we know that in some of the cases omitted, they could have been ascertained from authentic documents.

As however, we have no doubt, that the deficiencies we have noticed, and perhaps others which we have overlooked, will be supplied in subsequent numbers, we consider the undertaking as praiseworthy, and the work itself as a valuable acquisition to the religious world generally; as it will in small compass, & to all classes, give a condensed view of what has hitherto been scattered in various periodicals, and consequently difficult to be obtained.

The following introduction to the work will best explain, the spirit and the views with which it was undertaken.

"Although there are many publications devoted to the interests of particular Societies and Institutions, and some that embrace cursorily the objects of several, we are not aware of the existence of any periodical, comprehensive enough in plan, or catholic enough in principle, to combine in one view the proceedings of all those Societies that tend to the advancement of Christian knowledge and the promotion of education. To remedy so manifest a deficiency in this most important branch of information, it is proposed to publish yearly, the *Christian Register, or Annual Record of the several Religious Metropolitan Meetings held for the Promotion of*

Christianity, and the Diffusion of Education; which will be found adapted to all classes and denominations of readers: for, however men may differ upon minor points of doctrine or government, all Christians are united in the charities of their creeds. There is nothing distinctive in the grand obligations of faith; *there* the separations of opinion are forgotten, and differences blended into co-operation and harmony. It is not surprising that in an age like the present, numerous Societies should be established with a view to impart (either immediately or remotely) a moral and religious tone to that avidity for knowledge which confessedly exists. Accordingly, we find that England presents many Institutions of this description (each having its nucleus in the metropolis), which, in the influence they exercise, and the benefits they bestow, exceed the most sanguine belief of their individual supporters. To concentrate their several labours into a cheap and simple record, will, therefore, mainly assist in the formation of a juster appreciation of their character and resources, and in the spreading to all parts of the world full tidings of their whole operations. It may not, therefore, be out of place to state, that the business of each Society in the Metropolis has some peculiar claim to the notice of the Public; impressed with those feelings, we now present an accurate Report of the proceedings at the Meetings held this spring; a condensed view of each Institution, with their receipts and expenditures; the various Missions of all denominations will be noticed, with the names (where attainable) and number of Missionaries attached to each; and an abstract of all monies collected in London for disseminating the Gospel, either at home or abroad. The peculiar and extraordinary size of the *ATLAS Steam-press* has induced the Proprietors of the *Christian Register* to employ it for the present extended purpose, as they are thus enabled to present to the Public the largest printed sheets at a price that no other means could accomplish.

All information, or corrections, respecting either Annual Reports, Meetings, Receipts, and Expenditures, or upon the removal or appointment of Missionaries, &c. will be thankfully received (when sent in an authentic shape) by the Editor of the *Christian Register*, at the *ATLAS Office*, Beaufort-buildings, Strand, London."

BIOGRAPHY.

INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF THE REV. SAMUEL LEE.

Whose talents, industry, and attainments, have raised him to an exalted station.

"Let high birth triumph,—what can be more great!
"Nothing, but merit in a low estate."

Mr. Samuel Lee, now Professor Lee, is a native of the county of Salop. The village of Longnor, which is situated on the Hereford road, about eight miles from Shrewsbury, was honoured with his birth on a day and year, which we regret we have not the means of stating with precision. In this village a charity-school had been founded, and endowed by the family of Corbett; ancestors of Archdeacon Corbett, who afterwards became Mr. Lee's patron and friend. In this school he received the first rudiments of his education, remaining in it until he was twelve years of age; but acquiring nothing more than a general knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and without distinguishing himself in any respect by those bright coruscations of genius, which occasionally give, in early life, such strong indications of future greatness. Nothing, indeed, appeared in this seminary, to kindle the latent spark, or to awaken the torpid energies of his soul. Punishment for negligence was the only stimulus to action; and, under this cheerless system, the height of his ambition was to avoid flagellation.

Having attained the age of twelve, Mr. Lee was put an apprentice to a carpenter, and joiner, through

the kindness of Robert Corbett, Esq. His situation, as an apprentice, was not without its hardships; which, on many occasions, rendered his condition rather uncomfortable. But his father having died when he was young, and the support of two other children devolving on his mother, "whose hand laborious earn'd their daily bread," he submitted, though with some reluctance, to the destiny which he could not avert.

Advancing towards maturity, Mr. Lee felt an attachment to reading, and pursued with attention such books as happened to fall in his way, in the house where he lodged. In the pages of these, he occasionally found quotations from Latin authors, and felt no small degree of mortification, in not being able to understand them. This circumstance suggested to him the first idea of making an attempt to learn the Latin language. Another incident occurring nearly about this time, tended in no small degree to confirm the resolution which he had thus formed. Being employed in the building of a Roman Catholic chapel, for Sir Edward Smith, of Actonburnel, he had an opportunity of seeing many Latin books, and not unfrequently, of hearing them read, accompanied with the painful reflection, that their treasures were concealed from him.

Having fixed his resolution to attempt the Latin language, when he had attained the age of seventeen, Mr. Lee found, on a book-stall, "Ruddiman's Latin Grammar," which he immediately purchased; and, by unremitting application, committed the whole to memory. Not long afterwards, he bought "Corderius' Colloquies, by Loggon," from which he derived considerable assistance; and to this he soon added, "Entick's Latin Dictionary," "Baza's Testament," and "Clarke's Exercises." But, notwithstanding the information which these books afforded him, the difficulties with which he was compelled to struggle, still appeared formidable.—To obviate some of these, he one day ventured to solicit information from one of the priests, who frequently visited the chapel where it was in building. But, unhappily, instead of finding that assistance with which he had flattered himself, he was disappointed with this unexpected repulse, "Charity must begin at home." On the motive which dictated this reply, to a young man struggling with all the difficulties of his situation, and attempting to emerge from the shadows of ignorance, it will be useless to speculate. It is not improbable, that the priest imagined the axe and saw more becoming the hand of a poor mechanic, than the volumes of Livy, Virgil, or Sallust.

Happily, however, for Mr. Lee, he was not to be intimidated by this cold refusal. He was mortified at the unkindness he had received, but his indignity only furnished a new stimulus to exertion; and he determined, if possible, to excel, in his knowledge of the language, the man who had dismissed him with such frigid indifference. But, unfortunately, Mr. Lee had at this time to contend with a more formidable rival. His wages amounted to no more than six shillings per week; with which sum he had to provide for his own subsistence, and to pay for his washing and lodgings. But even poverty itself was unable to extinguish the fire of genius, which the circumstances already mentioned had conspired to kindle. Small as this sum was, he contrived to reserve a pittance, to gratify his desire of learning; but in the same proportion as this literary propensity was indulged, he was compelled to suffer a partial privation of the necessaries of life.

But these difficulties, though formidable in their nature, were only temporary in their vigour. His wages were soon afterwards advanced one shilling per week; and in the ensuing year, one shilling more was added. Small as these improvements in his circumstances may seem, they enabled him to prosecute his studies with renewed vigour, and furnished him with the means of reading the Latin Bible, Florus, some of Cicero's Orations, Cæsar's Commentaries, Justin, Sallust, Virgil, the Odes of Horace, and the Epistles of Ovid. To procure