

## Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

ENGLAND.—WESLEYAN MISSIONS: *Missionary visitation of the Lincoln District.*—The visitation of the principal Circuits in the Wesleyan Connexion, recommended by the "Committee of Review" at Manchester, and sanctioned by the Conference, having for its primary object the augmentation of the annual income of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, has been commenced in the Lincoln District by the Rev. James Dixon, President of the Conference, and the Rev. John Beecham, one of the General Secretaries of the Society.

After the preparatory work of meeting the Local Committees had been gone through, a more general meeting of subscribers and friends, as well as the collectors, members of committee, and other official persons, was held at every place. All were invited to attend these meetings who were interested in the cause of Missions, and disposed in any way to promote its advancement. These meetings excited much interest, and were attended by many missionary friends from the surrounding villages. At Louth and Lincoln several hundreds of persons took tea together, previous to the meetings, in the large school-rooms connected with the chapels. The meeting at Lincoln was favoured with the attendance of many of the ministers from those circuits in the district which the deputation were not able to visit, and by Henry Holland, Esq. of Rithby, the Treasurer of the district,—who had also kindly accompanied the deputation to Louth,—Francis Riggall, Esq., of Louth, and other long-tryed friends of the missionary cause. At these more general meetings the deputation entered into a full exposition of the circumstances and prospects of the Missionary Society, showed how the financial embarrassments in which it had been inevitably involved were retarding that glorious work in which it had been providentially called to engage; and appealed to the friends, whether they would increase their pecuniary efforts on a scale equal to the emergency, or allow the Society to be arrested by the want of means in the full career of success. The response was worthy of the occasion. Every where the question was taken up as a matter of principle; and, in all the meetings, several friends came forward and announced that, under a deep sense of their obligations to the Great Head of the Church, they had resolved to double, or treble, or otherwise increase, the amount of their annual subscriptions. Others, whose names had not been previously on the list of annual subscribers, engaged to become such; and intimations were given that the number of collectors would be greatly augmented. Stress had been laid on the christian duty of attaching the rising generation to the missionary undertaking, and several stated that they would henceforth enrol their children as annual subscribers, and there is ground for hope that steps may be taken to enlist the Sunday Schools also in the sacred cause.

In the course of the proceedings, arrangements were made in every Circuit-Town for the visitation of all the villages in the Circuit, by local deputations, for the purpose of introducing or reviving plans for obtaining from the inhabitants weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual subscriptions.

The religious services connected with this visitation were eminently "means of grace." The deputation were at Lincoln on Sunday the 24th ultimo, and sermons had previously been preached by the President to deeply-attentive congregations at Horncastle, Louth, and Boston. From the very peculiar action which attended it, the sermon at Boston will not be readily forgotten by those who had the privilege of being present. And as this was the opening service, so to speak, of the projected Missionary Visitation of the whole Methodist Connexion, the special manifestation of the Divine presence which was vouchsafed on the occasion, was hailed by many as a token for good, as affording encouragement to pray for and expect that the important undertaking will be sanctioned by the farther blessing of heaven. On the whole it may be safely stated, that the visitation of the Lincoln District has been attended with all the success that the most sanguine could have anticipated. At the close of their labours at Lincoln, the deputation proceeded

that their visit had yielded to them unmingled satisfaction. Nowhere had they met with an unkind look, or heard a harsh or reproachful word; but in every place they had been welcomed with warmth and cordiality, and from all classes of persons they had received assurances of support; and they took their departure with the full persuasion that the county which gave birth to the venerable founder of Methodism, would in the present emergency act worthy of itself, and the honoured name with which it will be identified in all history, and will fully do its part to promote that object which he proposed to himself at the commencement of his apostolic career—which was not merely the revival of pure christianity in this country, but its ultimate spread through the whole world.—*Watchman.*

### MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEEDS DISTRICT.

The services connected with the twenty-eighth anniversary of the Auxiliary Wesleyan Missionary Society for this district commenced on Sunday, the 24th October. On that day sermons were preached to congregations, mostly crowded, in the various chapels of the four circuits, by the Rev. Messrs. Geo. Osborn, of London, Henry Price, of Dublin, David Cargill, A. M., Missionary from Feejee, James Bromley, of Wakefield; and John Bowers, G. B. Macdonald, Charles Cheetham, and Wm. Cattle, of Leeds. The annual meeting was held on Monday morning, in Brunswick Chapel; and, by adjournment, on Tuesday evening, in Oxford-place Chapel; Alderman Meek, of York, in the chair. After a very lucid and eloquent report was read, at the former meeting, by the Rev. Thos. Galland, one of the secretaries, powerful and spirit-stirring addresses were delivered, in the course of the whole proceedings, by the Chairman, the Rev. Messrs. Price, Cheetham, Cargill, Osborn, Bowers, Bromley, Galland, Ely, (Independent,) and by W. G. Scarth, Esq., and Mr. Alderman Musgrave, to deeply attentive and interested audiences. The Annual Sermon to the District Society was preached to a very large congregation, on Monday evening, in Brunswick Chapel, by the Rev. G. B. Macdonald. . . . The Breakfast Meeting, on Wednesday morning, which was held in the school-room of East Parade (Independent) Chapel, (kindly lent by the Rev. John Ely and Trustees for that purpose,) will not soon be forgotten. Emotions of holy zeal were felt and expressed in a degree which, even in this highly favoured town, has never been surpassed, perhaps never equalled. It is very difficult to convey a true idea of the absorbed attention and delight produced by the address of the Rev. J. Beecham, one of the General Secretaries, who was happily and unexpectedly introduced into the meeting. His statements respecting the position and prospects of the Society were so luminous and comprehensive, and his vindication of the Managing Committee in incurring their present debt so powerful, that every heart and understanding were subdued; and it only remained for the impassioned and almost overwhelming appeal of the Rev. G. Osborn to complete the impression. It was during this state of sacred but subdued excitement, that the Rev. John Bowers rose, and, after some introductory observations, announced that his honoured relative, James Hargreave, Esq., had committed to his hand the princely gift of ONE THOUSAND POUNDS to be applied to the liquidation of the Society's debt; and assurances were soon given from various individuals, that the Leeds Auxiliaries should produce, inclusive of the noble donation now presented, at least £3,000 towards the accomplishment of this great object; resolving, at the same time, to afford a zealous co-operation in the plan of the Managing Committee to raise, by simultaneous effort, the regular annual income of the Society, to the present scale of expenditure. Thus the sacred flame, which was kindled in Leeds, when the Society was originated, still burns, and our Missionaries are cheered on. The whole of these proceedings were pervaded by a solemn conviction, that, however it may please the all-wise Disposer of temporal events to afflict us, nationally or individually, it is the paramount duty of the professing Church to disseminate, far and wide, the Gospel; knowing that nothing else will heal the distractions of human society, and bring a robust tide of blessing on our own country. The ordinary receipts of the present Anniversary amount to upwards of £450.—*Watchman.*

ISLINGTON.—On Monday evening, the annual Missionary meeting was held in the Liverpool-road Chapel; the Rev. R. Reece in the chair. The meeting was favoured with the attendance of the President of the Conference, who delivered an eloquent speech. The Rev. John Cumming, of the Scotch Church, who has so often kindly pleaded the cause of the Society, again rendered his efficient services. The meeting was also addressed by the Revs. J. Hannah, D. D., Robert Wood, W. M. Bunting, John Beecham, and R. Cargill. The best feeling seemed to pervade all who attended; and there is but little doubt, that at the Visitation meeting, to be held at Islington, next week, a noble and well-sustained effort will be made to increase the amount of annual subscriptions, and also to meet a most liberal offer made by the respected Pastor of the congregation, relative to a contribution towards liquidating the heavy debt. The meeting was greatly cheered and animated by a statement made by the President, that during his late visit, on Mission affairs, through the county of Lincoln, he met with nothing but zeal and noble liberality.

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING OF THE JEWS.—The following is a Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving of the Jews, which was used on Saturday at the different Synagogues, throughout Great Britain, in the Hebrew language, on the accouchment of Her Majesty the Queen, and the happy birth of a Prince Royal:—"O Lord God, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, whose dominion is everlasting, in Thy great goodness dost Thou bestow Thy kindness on all the inhabitants of the universe; through Thee kings reign and princes administer justice; on them hast Thou placed the kingly diadem: with songs of thanksgiving do we approach Thee, and with praise and blessings for Thy favour shown to us, that Thou hast vouchsafed to visit our Sovereign Lady the Queen Victoria with mercy and salvation. Thou givest to the weary, strength, and to the feeble, power. In Her travail Thy help was nigh. Thou didst release Her in safety from Her suffering and hast granted Her a Son. O Lord, bestow on him, length of days in health and prosperity, and may his name be praised and extolled; and, as Thou pourest water upon the thirsty soil, and floods upon the dry ground, so abundantly grant to him the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and of might. Thou, O Lord, be with him for ever. Amen. Most High King, whose eyes are upon all created beings, as Thou hast, in Thy goodness, given the kingly crown to our Gracious Queen Victoria, so continue to bestow upon her Thy favour to strengthen her, and may her throne be established in mercy and in kindness; may her days be prolonged, and her reign be continued in happiness; may the sceptre not depart from her posterity; and shield her and her offspring, and be to them a guard from all evil; may peace reign in their habitations, and tranquillity in their dwellings; and may the bounty of the Lord be on them. Amen.—Let Thy blessing attend His Royal Highness Prince Albert, the illustrious Consort of the Most Gracious Queen; may he live to behold his descendants, to the third and fourth generation, flourishing and populous in the fullness of Thy bounty. Amen."

CONVERSIONS TO ROMANISM.—The papers announce that one of the most active exhibitors in the new school of religion has turned Papist outright, and is even about to take orders from Rome. We wish that the whole set of Illuminati, the holy candle-snuffers, and surpliced posture-masters, would follow his example. We are also told that some half dozen of individuals, in still more responsible positions, feel the "movement" within them, and are about to crave the benediction of the Old Lady of Rome. So much the better, we say. If such sheep are in the flock, the sooner they are under the Papist crook, the better for the church that gets rid of them. But, with whatever mixture of pity for the wretched blindness of those poor creatures, or scorn for their love of letters and falsehood, we must ask, is it not time for the heads of the Church to examine into those matters, give full evidence of their own opinion on the subject, and prove that the Articles and Canons are not waste paper? We understand that the new convert is to be made a cardinal by the present Pope, and the Bishop of St. Jago's! The King will go

on. Bedlam is wide, and Rome is bountiful.—*Britannia.*

THE NEW BISHOP OF JERUSALEM.—On Monday week, the Rev. M. S. Alexander, the new Bishop of Jerusalem, administered the holy sacrament, in Hebrew, to a large number of persons, at the Society's Episcopal Chapel, in Bethnal-green, and in the evening delivered a farwell sermon, taking his text from the 20th chapter of Acts, commencing with the 23d verse, "And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there."

The new Bishop of Jerusalem was, seventeen or eighteen years ago, the officiating rabbi of a synagogue at Plymouth, where he was baptized by the Rev. Mr. Hatchard, and received orders of the late Archbishop of Tuam, in the Church of Ireland. His Lordship is of Hebrew descent, of the tribe of Judah, and Mrs. Alexander is also of Hebrew blood, and of the tribe of Levi; their eldest son, Michael, is a student of Christ's Hospital.

UNITED STATES.—DR. OLIN.—We learn by way of the Southern Christian Advocate, that Dr. Olin (now in Vermont) has improved much in his health. He considers himself better than he has heretofore been since his return from Europe. The Advocate remarks, "The admiration universally felt among us for his pre-eminent abilities, is surpassed only by the attachment which the virtues of his character have won among southern hearts."—*Zion's Herald.*

EASTERN CANADA.—FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—In presenting the claims of this society, a short sketch of its object and operations may be requisite. Its formation took place in April, 1839, for the purpose of evangelizing the French Canadians, sunk in the deepest ignorance and superstition, by means of Agents, lay and ordained, whose native language, if possible, should be French. Its design was to follow in the steps of the Bible Society, taking a wider range however, and to unite the preaching of the gospel and a scriptural education, with the reading and circulating of the sacred volume. Its Committee is composed of members of all the Protestant churches in Montreal professing the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, and the Agents it seeks to employ may belong to any Protestant denomination. The society stands pledged to "maintain an entire absence of a sectarian spirit in the choice of its Agents, the application of its funds, and the management of its concerns."

The first Agents of the society, *Colporteurs* or Scripture readers, arrived in June, 1840, from Switzerland (where there is an auxiliary Committee to choose suitable labourers,) another followed some weeks after, and in August of the next year, through the divine favour, the Rev. Mr. Tanner, his wife, and another *Colporteur*, were added to the number of agents, who now number seven.

The field of the society's labours has hitherto been to the north of Montreal, where it has two missionary stations, Belle Riviere and St. Therese. At these places schools are kept by Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Amaron, while, from them as a centre, the lay Agents visit the neighbourhood from house to house. Public worship on the Sabbath is regularly kept up at these stations, Mr. Tanner preaching at them and other places alternately. To the latter belongs the charge of superintending the labours of the *Colporteurs*, besides his pastoral duties.

The success which has attended the operations of the society, although of so recent commencement, is a subject of deep gratitude to God. Two or three persons give genuine evidence of conversion, and several families have entirely separated from the Church of Rome and are inquiring after the truth, while a number of persons scattered about the field of labour, are favourably disposed to listen to the Agents, although still nominally attached to the Romish Church.

The support of seven Agents, furnishing the mission stations, travelling expenses, rent, &c., must necessarily amount to a considerable sum, in a country where few people have the ability, and a still smaller number the will to aid in the support of the mission. The Committee have also had to pay the postage from the Continent, and outfit of their Agents, which have been