

as possible to provide such as are possessed of the knowledge and other qualifications necessary to enable them to cope with so dangerous a tendency in the public mind.

I have received with unfeigned gratitude the information communicated in the latest letter from the Society of their having determined on extending the allowance of 50*l.* per annum to 15 clergymen for this colony; and five for Van Diemen's Land. The most favourable impression has been made upon the minds of all well disposed and reflecting persons by this example of the Society's great liberality, and of their anxious attention to the spiritual wants prevailing over so wide an extension of country as is committed to my superintendence. In Van Diemen's Land the same sentiment will I am sure be excited, as the same deplorable want prevails there as here. My able and most worthy coadjutor, Archdeacon Hutchins, is incessantly occupied in endeavouring to lighten by his own exertions the evil arising from so insufficient a supply of pastors to so scattered a flock. With indefatigable activity he endeavours, and with great success, to extend his own powers of usefulness, by preaching, as opportunity is afforded him, at many distant points the glad tidings of redemption; which, but for his activity and earnestness, could never penetrate thither. But this wide extension of labour rests upon him, I could not fail to observe, a very disproportionate burden of fatigue, anxiety, and expense, which he supports with the quiet determination of one whose views are fixed upon one high object; and who finds in its attainment the only reward he seeks. I have therefore learned with increased satisfaction since my return to this Colony that so many additional clergymen would be provided for the Archdeaconry; as it will relieve Mr. Hutchins from some of those labours which, being added to the proper duties of his office, have accumulated too much upon him. The inhabitants of that Colony are (16 out of every 23) Members of the Church of England; and are, with some exceptions, which I have alluded, warmly attached to it. They are proceeding very generally in the erection of churches in the various parts, and more are in contemplation; to all of which I shall most readily extend such aid as may be in my power from the amount of the Society's grants still remaining at my disposal; though that aid will not be so extensive in amount as I should gladly have made it if my resources had been more ample.

INDIA.—CASTE ABOLISHED.

Extract from a letter from the Rev. D. Schreyvogel.

The catechist I have placed here was by birth a Soodra, but because he had given up caste, and had renounced with parriars, he was totally rejected, when I set him to take charge of a christian village in the Coleroon; but amongst these new converts he is not only received, but respected; and, although he has since married a girl of low caste, he is still permitted to live amongst them, and his wife also. When I administered the Lord's Supper, he took the end and his wife the other, so that, at either, I had to begin with a parriar, and the congregation took no notice of it.

P. S.—Since writing my report, I have had the pleasure to receive again the Soodras who had separated themselves from the congregation; and I am happy to say they have yielded implicit obedience to the rules laid down by his Lordship the Bishop of Calcutta.

I made no concessions whatever; and they have not promised to observe no distinction of caste when they come to the Lord's table, but have consented to receive from a parriar catechist in his official capacity; and have already sat with the parriars in church, as on the same mat. Thus, after 11 years' struggle regarding caste in this congregation, I have at last the satisfaction to see this formidable shackles of prejudice broken; and I hope we shall now understand and love one another more than before. Rev. Mr. Jones also, by his conciliatory conduct, assisted in the adjustment of the affair, the Soodras having selected him as mediator in the cause. Their number amounts to 60 souls, if not more.

Extract from a letter from the Rev. J. C. Kohlhoff.
CONVERSION OF ROMANISTS.

In the village of Pudocottah, on the Coleroon, 10 Roman families, being the remnant of that Church there, have placed themselves under instruction, and will be publicly received when some of us go there. The most pleasing circumstance we have to mention is the reception of a whole village of Romanists on the banks of the Vennar, within two miles and a half of Tanjore: they had been frequently visited by our catechists, and at last came to the resolution of giving up to us their idols and their church, and putting themselves under instruction. They have been twice visited by us, and appear to be humble and sincere people. We had a similar application from the Romanists of Mattoor, but, after searching into their motives and finding them worldly, we refused to receive them.

Extract from a letter from the Rev. J. Thomson.
DEATH OF A HEATHEN CONVERT.

The Tamil and English Schoolmaster Njanaperagassam breathed his last on the 21st of May after having suffered much for about six weeks. His life, as long as I knew him, was consistent with the Christian profession, and I have every reason to believe that his death was a happy one. On April 12th, when I visited him, I found him in a weak state, and exhorted him most earnestly to prepare for eternity, as there were evident signs of his approaching removal from this world to another. During my conversation I asked him if he was afraid to die. His answer was affecting. After pausing a short time, he proceeded nearly as follows:—"Sir, I was born of heathen parents, who are still living but do not own me; but by the instrumentality of fathers Kohlhoff and Houbroe I was brought to the knowledge of the truth. I was admitted into the church at Tanjore by baptism: and by God's grace have been preserved from that to the present time; and now, when on my death-bed, I feel resigned to the will of my Heavenly Father. I am ready to die when he sees fit to call me away." Here he stopped for a short time, and afterwards cried out, "Thy will be done, I am going to my Father, and my Brother Jesus Christ." The last time I visited him was on the morning previous to his death, when he respectfully requested me to read the scriptures to him, as he loved to hear "the words of everlasting life." I read several passages which seemed to afford him much comfort, especially the incomparable passages from the beginning of the burial service. I left him about 7 o'clock, after having commended him to the Almighty. He then became speechless, and before 10 A. M. his soul was in another, and I hope, a better world.

Extract from a letter from the Rev. W. Hickey.

By the grace of God there has been a small increase to our congregations at this station—17 Romanists have renounced the errors of popery, and 2 heathen adults, with 24 children of popish parents, have been baptized.

This small degree of success has much encouraged me in my humble labours, and has excited in my bosom a deep sense of gratitude for the gracious presence and blessing vouchsafed to me by the great Head of the Church.

Divine service is performed by me twice in English, and twice in Tamil. The congregations I am happy to say are on the increase; I have frequently counted forty. Not a few Romanists resident in the line of our place of worship are uncomfortable in their connexion with the fallen church; a silent work is going on in their minds. May the "Holy Spirit" work in them to will and to do of his good pleasure.

In conclusion, it is truly gratifying to observe the steady progress of evangelical truth, wherever we turn our pleased attention. God is evidently among his faithful ambassadors. Now is the time for missionaries to be up and doing. Glorious indications are abroad. The peaceful banners of the cross are waving gracefully over every habitable region. O that the great Head of the church would pity and bless this poor and unworthy instrument, and manifest his own glorious power and mercy, by granting abundant success to my feeble labours. "May God, even our own God, bless us; and all the ends of the world see the salvation of our God."

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

RELIGION IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Burton, of New South Wales, who had been invited by the Standing Committee to attend this meeting, addressed the Board on the subject of the religious destitution of Australia. He began by thanking the Society for the repeated grants which it had made in behalf of the cause of religion in the colony. After acknowledging similar services rendered by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, he paid a just tribute to the zeal, judgment, and perseverance of Bishop Broughton, and stated that on his lordship's arrival in his diocese, the Church was in a very depressed and degraded condition; whereas now, in consequence of his exertions, aided by the benevolence of the two Societies at home, and the efforts of many pious and charitable persons on the spot, circumstances had arisen of a hopeful and promising kind. The paucity of clergy employed in ministerial duties in New South Wales had long been a serious evil. This reproach seemed likely gradually to be removed, the number of clergymen having been recently increased. But though much had been done of late in promoting the increase and efficiency of the clergy, churches, and schools in the colony, much more yet remained to be done for the spiritual interests of the Australian population, a large number of whom, though bearing the Christian name and profession, were totally destitute of religious instruction, and debarred the privilege of the Christian ordinances. This he stated to be the case with too many of the free settlers, and descendants of the original colonists, who being, by the lamentable neglect of the mother country, left to themselves; and to the impulses of their own bad passions, appeared to have totally forgotten God, and had fallen into a fearful depth of wickedness. An instance of dreadful cruelty and ignorance had occurred shortly before Mr. Burton quitted the colony; in the murder of several unoffending natives, by certain convict servants, and, unhappily, some free men, who looked upon the coloured people as beasts, and considered themselves unjustly dealt with when sentenced to punishment for such crimes. The knowledge of Christianity, through the medium of churches and schools, and the superintendence of the clergy, must be diffused in these remote regions, towards effecting real moral and religious good.

He also alluded to the situation of those prisoners of the crown, who, for offences committed either in this country or in the colonies themselves, are under sentence to labour, generally in irons, upon the public roads and works. The supply of the means of religious improvement for these "iron-gangs" is vastly disproportionate to the want which is felt.

He had great pleasure in recording the pious munificence of an individual in the colony, who had already made great sacrifices in behalf of the church, and was prepared to manifest yet greater liberality in its cause. There were other cases of Christian generosity which he could enumerate. He then adverted to the successful efforts made by a clergyman in this country,† in procuring, through his own charity and that of his friends, the sum of 3,000*l.*, besides a library of theological works, as a contribution in aid of the designs of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and especially for the purposes of Australia.

Extracts from a letter from the Lord Bishop of Calcutta.

A most important design is now on foot for giving permanence and stability to our protestant Episcopal Church in India, which I am persuaded the Venerable Society will allow me to submit to them. The Christian population of Calcutta has been for some years pushing itself out into a suburb called Charinghee, running parallel with the superb esplanade of Fort. Several attempts have been made by my honoured and right reverend predecessors to build a church for this increasing body; but, being distant nearly two miles from our Calcutta churches, do not,

*From the Ecclesiastical Gazette.

†The Rev. E. Coleridge, M.A. of Eton College.