

British Empire, had observed that a wonderful change had taken place there within a very few years both in the disposition of the natives to receive instruction and in the opinions and views of the Europeans resident among them. A similar change is gradually taking place in this country; in truth it appears that the zeal which gave rise to so many religious Societies in London, and which has added new strength and energy to those already existing begins to manifest itself where it was the least expected. Those who are conversant in the narratives of travellers, will recollect that it was their boast to refer upon every possible occasion to the Classics. One boasted that he travelled through Italy with Virgil in his hand, and derived great delight from examining on the spot the various descriptions of this excellent Poet. Others in visiting the different parts of Greece and the plains of Troy, have endeavoured to discover the names of places from their resemblance to the description of Homer. To discover classical allusions was to obtain a triumph to which the traveller did not fail to attach much importance. But even here, there is a change, and many travellers are now found with their Bibles in their hands, instead of the Classics, comparing the present state of various places with what they were when visited by the Apostles and their first disciples. I met lately with an example of this, which may be as interesting to this Society as it was to me.

"The traveller set out from Constantinople to visit the Apocalyptic Churches in Lower Asia.—On arriving at Ephesus, which was blessed so long with the Apostles labours, he found no vestige of its ancient splendour remaining; and only fifteen cottages, forming a miserable village, near the place where it must have once stood. Here he saw only three Christians; and these so lamentably ignorant, that they never heard of St. Paul, or only recognized his name as one in the Calendar of their Saints.

"When he arrived at Smyrna, he found the Christian Church, in point of numbers, still respectable, consisting of nearly 20,000 Greeks, 6,000 Armenians, 5,000 Catholics, and 140 Protestants; but deplorably ignorant; the people not having access to any copies of the Sacred Scriptures.

"In Pergamos, now called Bergamo, the Church in respect to numbers may still be said to flourish. The Greek Christians have a Bishop and several Priests, and may amount to 3,000. There is likewise a small congregation of Armenians, consisting of about 200. The clergy were found exceedingly ignorant of the Sacred Scriptures.

"On visiting Sardis, the traveller was sadly disappointed, for he had trusted that in its utmost trials this Church would not have been suffered to perish; yet he was told that not a vestige of it remained. But on farther enquiry he was agreeably surprised to find a small Church establishment in a neighbouring village, to which the Christians in the city resorted, as they had been forbidden by the Turks to build a Church in Sardis.

"In Philadelphia he was gratified to discover some surviving fruits of early zeal and the form of a Christian Church. There are about 1,000 Christians who have a Bishop and about twenty resident Clergymen.

"Laodicea is now a heap of ruins; but near it there is a village containing about fifty poor inhabitants, in which number are two Christians, who cannot read. The prayers of the Mosque are the only prayers which are heard near the ruins of this once flourishing city, on which the threat seems to have been fully executed, in its utter rejection as a Church."

The Honorable Chief Justice here rose and proposed the thanks of the Society to the Secretary and Treasurer.

It was then ordered that the Report be printed and a copy forwarded to the Parent Society.