

Missionary Record.

SOCIETY FOR PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

70 Pall Mall, May 7, 1853.

The Society has just received an account of the recent missionary voyage of the Bishop of New Zealand among the Loyalty, New Hebrides, and Solomon's Islands.

"The 'Border Maid' sailed from Auckland on the 19th June, 1852, carrying away all the Melanesian scholars, except George Apale, a boy from the island of Lifu, whose death has been already recorded. It was full time that they should leave New Zealand, for the damp winds had severely affected their health; and two were sent on board dangerously ill. A favorable wind speedily carried them into a warmer climate, where they soon recovered." The account concludes with the following summary of results.

"We saw Cape Brett, in New Zealand, on the 20th October, and anchored at Kohimarama on the following day, after a voyage of four months, from the 19th June to 21st October, during which time we were able to thank God that no casualty of any kind had befallen us, and that even the ordinary inconveniences of a sea voyage have scarcely been felt.

"In twenty-six of these islands we were able to hold some kind of intercourse, more or less, with the people; from eleven we have received scholars; in seven Mission stations have been established by the London Society, three of which are proposed to be given up to the Church Mission. The aggregate of population cannot be less at the lowest estimate than 200,000 souls; with a different language or dialect, on a probable average, for every 500 souls. This is evidently a field in which each body of Christian Missionaries may carry on its own work without collision with others; and upon this principle the operations of the Australasian Board have always been conducted. May the Holy Spirit so guide and bless the work of all, that 'the multitude of the Isles' of the Melanese may be added to the Lord!"

SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

The Lord Bishop of London recommended to the favorable consideration of the Society an application made by the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, for aid towards the promotion of Christian Knowledge in Palestine, and forwarded the following extract from a letter addressed by Bishop Gobat to the Rev. W. Douglas Veitch:—

"Fe 25, 1853.

"Among the native Christians there is much inquiry, and a great number of Latins, Greeks and Armenians seem to be desirous of joining our Church. Thus, during the course of last year, a goodly number of individuals and families have joined our Church, although only thirteen or fourteen are communicants with us; but all meet every Lord's day, and two or three times a week, to hear the Word of God simply read and expounded, and to pray together, with the help of the Arabic version of our edifying Liturgy, which they all (Latins and Greeks) like very much. Indeed they like it so much, and its dissemination in this country has had such an effect, chiefly on those who had been previously led to read and study the Bible, that I do not hesitate to attribute the chief cause of the formation of several Protestant communities in this country, from the Greek and Latin Churches, to the well timed efforts of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, which, during the two last years, has circulated a great number of their Arabic Version of the Liturgy of our Church.

"You know that from the beginning my single object was to teach the children, and induce the adults of this country to read seriously the Word of God with humble prayer, leaving it, as much as I could, to the Spirit of God, to direct their further steps according to the light of the Word. But since the above mentioned Society has stepped in with the Prayer Book, that form of Christianity which these people want has been given them, and nothing could prevent them from leaving the Greek and Latin Churches, and forming themselves into Protestant communities of the Church of England, and thus placing themselves under my care. I have, therefore, a right to hope that that excellent Society will willingly help me in providing means for the edification of these people, in their and our common and most holy faith."

It was agreed to grant 200 Arabic Prayer Books, 100 Arabic New Testaments, and some Arabic Psalters.

CONVERSION OF A MAHOMMEDAN FAMILY.—A family of the Mahomedans, under the instruction of

Mr. Dodd, our Missionary in Salonica, has renounced Mahomedanism, and embraced Christianity. The family consists of seven persons—the husband, wife, and four children, and the wife's sister. As the Mahomedans punish apostasy with death, this family had to flee beyond the boundaries of Turkey. They went to Malta where they were baptized, and admitted to the Church. The rarity of such events, gives them a special interest. May this, however, be but the first fruits of a more than primitive ingathering,—that now, as then, the Gospel may 'come not in word only, but in power,' and that the Word, 'received in much affliction,' may 'sound out' from Salonica, 'in Macedonia and all Achaia'.

Fouth's Department.

STRENGTH OF INSECTS.—Few of us suspect, while we amuse ourselves with watching the active gambols of the tiny beings, that to enable them to perform such feats as we see them execute every day, an amount of strength has been conferred upon them which could not safely have been intrusted to any of the larger animals, and that nothing but the comparatively diminutive size, to which all the insect races are jealously restricted, prevents them becoming the tyrants of this globe, and destroyers of all other terrestrial creatures. The common flea, as every one knows, will, without much apparent effort, jump 200 times its own length; and several grasshoppers and locusts are said to be able to perform leaps quite as wonderful. In the case of the insect, they scarcely excite our notice; but if a man were coolly to take a standing-leap of 380-odd yards, which would be an equivalent exertion of muscular power, perhaps our admirers of athletic sports might be rather startled at such performance.

Again, for a man to run ten miles within the hour, would be admitted to be a tolerably good display of pedestrianism; but what are we to say to the little flea observed by Mr. Delisle, "so minute as almost to be invisible," which ran nearly six inches in a second, and in that space was calculated to have made 1080 steps? This according to the calculations of Kirby and Spence is as if a man, whose steps measured two feet, should run at the incredible rate of twenty miles a minute! Equally surprising are the instances of insect strength given by Mr. Newport. The great stag-beetle, (*Lucana cervus*), which tears off the bark from the roots and the branches of trees has been known to gnaw a hole, an inch in diameter, through the side of an iron canister at one of the meetings of the Entomological Society. The common beetle (*Geotrupes stercorarius*) can, without injury, support and even raise very great weights, and make its way beneath almost any amount of pressure. In order to put the strength of the insect Atlas to the test, experiments have been made which prove that it is able to sustain and escape from beneath a load of from 20 to 80 ounces—a prodigious burden, when it is remembered that the insect itself does not weigh as many grains; in fact, once more taking man as a standard of comparison, it is as though a person of ordinary size should raise and get from under a weight of between 40 and 50 tons.—*Ryder Jones's Natural History of Animals.*

STRIKE THE KNOT.—When we were boys, little fellows, our father began to teach us to work, and we were anxious to perform the allotted tasks. We were splitting wood. A rough stick with a most obstinate knot, tried all the skill and strength of a weak arm, and we were about to relinquish the task, when father came along. He saw the piece of wood had been chipped down and the knot knuckled round, and took the axe, saying, "always strike the knot." The words have always remained safe in memory. They are precious words, Brethren. Never try to shun a difficulty, but look it right in the face; catch its eye and you can subdue it as a man can a lion. It will cower before you and sneak away and hide itself. If you dread difficulties, difficulties will grow upon you till they bury you in obscurity.—*Cal. Ch. Adv.*

THE BOY CRITIC AND REPETITIONS.—Old Father Bushnell, of Vermont, used to say that the best criticism he ever received on his preaching was from a little boy who sat right at his feet, looking up into his face, as he was preaching in a crowded room of a private house. As he was going on very earnestly, the little fellow spoke out, "You said that afore." I fancy that an honest critic would find in these sermons an hour long, a good many such sentences, said afore in the same discourse, and said afore on almost every Sabbath day. A word to the wise is sufficient.

A scholar of bad life is like a blind man holding a torch, by which he gives others light, but cannot himself see.

Temperance.

LIQUOR NEVER HURTS ME.—This is the almost universal remark of the moderate drinker, whether he believes it or not; and it is not uncommon for the most confirmed drunkard to use the same language when the subject of intemperance is mentioned in his hearing. Habit, which is second nature to the tippler, seems to make him oblivious to the terrible ravages which alcoholic stimulants make upon the human system, and it is only when he is in the very jaws of death, or when recovering from an attack of the delirium tremens, that he realizes his situation, and becomes conscious of his having trespassed against the laws of nature. And even then, if permitted to recruit his strength, so seductive is the intoxicating bowl, that unless endowed with more than common firmness, he not infrequently relapses into his former habits, and his last condition is worse than the first. Tell the regular toper that alcoholic drink is unnecessary to the healthy man—that the system requires nothing of the kind—and he will laugh in your face. Talk to him till dooms-day, and you could not convince him that healthful exercise and bodily labor, without artificial stimulants, is sufficient to answer all the demands of nature. You can never make him comprehend that a man following regular employment, without the use of stimulating drinks, is continually undergoing a regular course of natural stimulation, especially if his avocations bring into play the mental faculties. A person engaged in ordinary labor or employment, according to scientific men, who have written upon the subject, is in a state of excitement sufficient for health; to add to this must be to add to what cannot be good, and what must always inevitably do harm. The nervous system excited by the will and still further by the rapidly circulating blood, if further excited by alcohol, becomes wild and therefore unsteady; the stomach pours forth its juice too rapidly, the healthy irritability and exercise is impaired. The spirit enters the blood, and there its chemical properties come into play, to interfere with and derange the process of nature's laboratory.

We have been led to this train of thought from inspecting an enormous liver, taken from the body of one of our citizens, recently deceased. We were not personally acquainted with the individual of whom we speak, but we understand he had for a number of years lived very intemperately, though for some time previous to his demise, he had reformed, and lived a sober and respected citizen. At the time of his death he had attained his fortieth year; and it is the opinion of medical men, who examined his internal organization, that he would have lived, in all probability, many years longer, had he led a temperate life. The liver we speak of, was greatly diseased, but its chief peculiarity was its extraordinary size, weighing seventeen pounds. Besides its immense bulk it was covered with tumors, of the character of Gcirrhosis, evidently produced by the excessive use of alcohol. It also presented what Dr. Dungleson terms a 'granulated' liver, a disease common to gin or whiskey drinkers. It was exhibited at the office of Dr. Hayes of this city for two or three days, and was inspected by the faculty and the curious. The average size of the human liver Dr. Wilson estimates at about four pounds;—that of the individual alluded to, weighed thirteen pounds more than the usual weight.

It is the opinion of the faculty who examined this singular case, that the enlargement and diseased condition of the liver, was the procuring cause of this poor man's death. Its immense size had pushed the stomach out of its natural position, producing inflammation, which was the immediate cause of the extinction of life. Besides inflammation, dropsy of the abdomen had supervened; the pancreas had become affected; in short, the whole internal structure was more or less diseased and deranged.

The subject was a man of medium size, and exhibited nothing peculiar in his appearance. It is supposed that his extraordinary enlargement of the liver had been going on for years; and the astonishment of all is, that he was enabled to carry about with him such an enormous mass of putrid corruption so long. We wished it could have been seen by every liquor-loving citizen of this country. No question, however, if it would have availed any thing, for so deceitful and infatigable is the intoxicating draught, so perfectly powerless is he who worships at the shrine of Bacchus, that even death and the grave have no terrors for the drunkard.—*Chrys-tal Fountain.*