The Provincial Wesleyan.

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Halifax Anniversaries of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society.

We proceed this week, in fulfilment of our promise, to present a report of the meetings lately held in this city in aid of Wesleyan Missions. Weather of the most favourable description prevailed during these important anniversaries, and though various circumstances conspired to prevent the attendance of as large a number as it was hoped would be present on occasions of such peculiar interest, we have much reason to be gratified at the result of the assembling together of those whose hearts are earnest in this great work. The aggregate amount of the collections from this city and Dartmouth is as reported to us by the Treasurer £56 15s. 8½d., being fully equal to the amount received last year.

On Sunday, the 25th ult, sermons on behalf of the Society were preached in all our Chapels on this station. In the morning the REVEREND ROLAND MORTON preached in the Grafton Street Church from the 3rd, 4th and 5th verses of the 45th Psalm; and the REVEREND CHARLES STEWART in Brunswick Street, from Acts i, 8. In the evening the pulpit of the Brunswick Street Church was occupied by the REVEREND ROLAND MORTON, and the REV. J. B. BROWNELL preached in Grafton Street Church from the 15th and 16th verses of the 89th Psalm.

The services at Dartmouth were conducted by the REV. H. POPE in the afternoon, and the REV C. STEWART in the evening.

On Monday evening the Missionary Meeting was held in the Brunswick Street Church. Of this we propose to give some account in our present number, reserving till next week a report of the meetings in Grafton Street and at Dartmouth.

The opening devotional services, which were conducted by the Rev. WILLIAM BENNETT, having been concluded,

The Rev. Dr. RICHEY announced to the meeting that in compliance with the request of the Committee, JOHN H. ANDERSON, Esq., had consented to preside. Mr. Anderson, on taking the Chair, stated that in responding to the call of the Committee, he had consulted their wishes rather than his own inclination,—that a less prominent position would have been more congenial with his feelings.

I am aware, he said, that nothing more is expected of me, than briefly to bring to your notice the object of this Society, but that is of momentous, and vital interest, even the eternal well-being of hundreds of millions of our fellow creatures; for when we remember that out of the present population of the Globe, computed at one thousand millions, and including Protestants, Roman Catholics, and Christians of the Oriental Churches there are but three hundred and fifty millions of nominal Christians, or only a little more than a third part of the human family, it surely is incumbent upon us to enquire, what can we do in furtherance of the objects of this and kindred Institutions, in order that the Gospel may be promulgated to the six hundred and fifty millions who are now in heathen darkness, living without God and without hope in the world. It may be that some of us feel that we have not done all that we might have done—if so, the opportunity is now presented of making some amends, and I trust we shall avail ourselves of it, by contributing liberally and cheerfully of the means which a gracious Providence has placed at our disposal—and by offering up our fervent supplications to the throne of Grace, that the Divine blessing may attend the labours of those servants of Christ who are now engaged in the Mission field.

It is gratifying to reflect that so much has been accomplished, and that a growing interest in the success of the Society is manifested from year to year. It may be within the recollection of some present, that when the contributions to the Society amounted to Ten Thousand Pounds, that sum was not only considered large, but munificent in the extreme, but now that it has reached to ten times ten thousand Pounds and upwards, is there any flagging of interest manifested? no! just the reverse, for the good accomplished hitherto has prompted, and we believe will continue to prompt to renewed action, and the day we trust is not far distant when the amount will not be calculated by thousands and tens of thousands of Pounds, but by hundreds of thousands, if not by millions—and a corresponding amount of spiritual good by the blessing of God be effected.

The Chairman then called upon the REV. J. B. BROWNELL to read the report. This interesting document it is not in our power to place in its completeness before our readers, or even to sketch with accuracy. The reverend secretary opened with a reference to the expansive benevolence of the Christian Religion, as evidenced in the lives of the Apostles, and first Messengers of Christ, in the labours and zeal of Modern Missionaries, and in institutions like that whose claims were then to be brought forward. The past year had been most eventful in the history of the world and of the church. In the inscrutable councils of the Most High, after a peace of as long a duration as was occupied by Israel of old in traversing the wilderness, WAR in its most fearful and desolating forms, had been permitted to break forth as an overwhelming flood scourging the nations, and hurrying myriads of our fellow-beings into an awful eternity, nor could any human foresight discover, or human forethought predict, where or when or how its evils would terminate. Pestilence too had stalked abroad laying waste kingdoms and provinces, cities, towns, and villages, making sad the hearts of thousands of the people, whilst earthquakes and famines in divers places, had contributed their share in filling men's hearts with fear of those things which might be coming on the earth. But amid these saddening scenes, the church of the Redeemer had not only maintained its position; it had shown its capability to maintain its aggressive character by continuing to take the prey from the mighty and divide the spoil with the strong, extending its conquests to every part of the habitable globe. In our own section of the Church of Christ two most important events had transpired, namely the formation of the Mission Stations in Australia, and the Canadas into two distinct conferences, independent to a very considerable extent in their movements of the Conference in England,—the Societies in these places being considered to have arrived at such a state of maturity as to be fully able to manage all their own affairs without further control or guidance from their fathers and brethren in the Mother Country. The increase in the society's funds from an advance in the receipts of the Home Districts, the Hibernian Society and foreign auxiliaries, and the unprecedentedly large sum remitted from Nova Scotia were set forth and a luminous view of the financial condition of the Society presented. The extended operations of the Society's missions in various portions of the globe were then ably sketched, leaving the mind in wonder at the vast amount of good accomplished through the instrumentality of Wesleyan Missions, when the comparatively short period of their existence and limited means at disposal are considered.

T. A. S. DEWOLFE, ESQ., having been called upon by the chairman, came forward to move the first Resolution:

That this Meeting rejoices in the encouraging information contained in the report now read, as well as in the tidings from time to time received of what is being accomplished by other sections of the Church of Christ.

He said that this resolution required no argument on his part to commend it to the adoption of the meeting. He was satisfied there was not one present who had listened to the interesting report just read, without a feeling of gratitude to the Giver of all good, for the abundant success that had crowned the efforts of the society during the past year. It was gratifying to be able to record the blessings which had attended the labors of those who had left the bosom of their families for foreign lands, to preach the glad tidings of salvation to the benighted heathen. The Lord had been with them and blessed the work of their hands. In looking at the wide field of christian labor, in all its aspects, it must be a matter of rejoicing to the true-hearted Christian to find the word of Divine revelation penetrating into the heart of India, Australia, and the islands of the sea. The people of the Lord were gathering in a rich harvest of souls; and the survey of the whole work of Missionary enterprise was most encouraging to the heart of the philanthropist and the Christian. But there were yet some few points of regret, some dark spots which required renewed exertions on the part of the friends of Missionary enterprise, yet we remember the time when these were more discouraging, and if we persevere, God in his Providence shall remove the veil from their eyes, and the light of heaven shall disperse the clouds of superstition by which they are surrounded. He hailed with pleasure the success of all laborers in the Christian Church—the work is *one*, the Lord owns the labors of those on the right hand and on the left, and He will reward their efforts with an everlasting success. What wonders hath He wrought in bringing the heathen to bow before the sceptre of Immanuel! In reading of the progress of the word of God among the inhabitants of the Feejee Islands, in his heart he had rejoiced and been glad to see how, according to the Divine prediction, they had bowed before the throne of grace with reverence, and embraced offered mercy. Notwithstanding the Lord has done great things, he waits to do greater things. Still there are multitudes bowing down to stocks and stones, knowing not the God who made them; but with the light of missionary effort spreading and winding its way into their poor benighted hearts, they will be brought to a knowledge of the truth. God has begun a great work in the hearts of the people, and none shall stay its progress; and if we live to witness another anniversary of the Methodist Missionary Society, we may expect to hear of great things being done, and many added to the Lord's vineyard. We rejoice in contemplating that this is of the Lord's doing. The wealth of the world is his, and should be employed in the work. He was pleased to see by the report that where gold was most abundant, there was a great inclination to give; and spoke of the liberal offers of the friends in Australia for the support of missionaries. He hoped the contributions would be greatly increased, so that many more might be invited into the field, go out and labour, and spread the gospel throughout the earth. May the efforts of this Society be crowned with abundant blessings, and when we die, may we rejoice in the hope of meeting multitudes from these far off isles in that place where we may join in the praises of them that love their God.

S. L. SHANNON, Esq. seconded the resolution, and referred to the varied aspect of the Mission field, to the lights and shades which marked it, but expressed his satisfaction that the light so much predominated. It was illuminated by the Sun of Righteousness, and the day was not far distant when all the darkness would be dispelled. The Gospel tide was rolling onward, and although a wave might be seen occasionally to recede, yet the advance was not retarded. He mentioned the importance of the Mission enterprise—it was important to ourselves as well as to the heathen. If we discharged our duty as Christians, we must sympathise with every effort made for the evangelization of the world, and in so doing the reflex act upon our own minds was of the most beneficial character. It was true that objections had been raised that greater exertions were made for the conversion of the heathen than for reclaiming the vicious in our own land, an objection that was particularly aimed at the the religious movements in England. But what was the fact? Efforts of the most self-denying character were made for the outcasts of the home population,—and by whom were they made? By the objectors to Christian Missions?—no, but by the very men who were devoting their energies to the good cause; so that attention to the one department of benevolence was by no means incompatible with steady persevering labour for the other. But it was still more important for the heathen themselves. He proceeded to mention various instances of the degradation of the heathen, even in places partially enlightened and subject to the Christian influence of England, such as British India. He also referred to the mistaken idea which prevailed on the discovery of the beautiful islands in the Pacific, that man in his primitive state was superior to the civilized and christianized European. This mistake prevailed among the philosophers of the last century, but when the Missionaries made their appearance the veil was removed, and vices of the deepest dye were found to stain the character of those who were so highly lauded. It exhibited plainly that nothing but the power of the Gospel could remedy the fallen nature of man. He then partially reviewed the operations of the Wesleyan Missionary Society as detailed in the Report, and dwelt particularly on the great encouragements and openings in Ireland, Africa, and China, and closed with an appeal to the meeting to continue the work.

REV. DR. RICHEY, in support of the resolution said, that after the addresses of the gentlemen who had preceded him, it was really quite superfluous to say a word in *support* of the resolution; and that he would best consult his own views of propriety, and, he believed, also the interests they were assembled to promote by occupying only a few moments of the valuable time of the meeting. He remarked that it was incumbent upon the disciples of Christ, in obedience to his authority, and prompted by his love, to diffuse, as they had opportunity,—that is,—to the utmost of their power, the light of the glorious gospel, irrespective of the amount of success granted to their exertions. It was, however, most refreshing to be able to review such manifest and multiplied tokens of the Divine sanction and approbation, as the history of this Institution presented,—demonstrations of the saving power of the gospel in every field of its labours, and eminently among some of the most degraded portions of the human family. The most accurately compiled statistics could afford only a very inadequate conception of the amount of good achieved. From connecting as was now very generally the case, the gift of the Scriptures in the languages of those pagan tribes who were evangelized, with the living Ministry, a degree of permanence and pervasive influence on which they could not otherwise reckon, would be given to the results of Missionary labours. He eulogized the B. & F. Bible Society as the efficient auxiliary of all Protestant Missions, while he justly appreciated the labors of Missionaries in the work of *translation* as furnishing that noble Institution with most important aid in prosecuting its God-like enterprise. His closing observations related to the necessity of greatly increased liberality in connexion with faith and prayer, that the hundreds of millions of our fellow-men accessible to the Missionary, but still destitute of the word of life, may soon rejoice in its light. At the present ratio of progress many centuries must elapse before the whole earth is filled with the glory of God. Shall myriads who might be saved, be permitted by the apathy of the churches, to perish for lack of knowledge?

The second resolution was moved by the Hon. Hugh Bell, and was as follows:—

That this Meeting, contemplating the facilities which exist for the spread of the Gospel in Heathen lands, and devoutly recognizing the hand of Divine Providence in continually opening to many doors of usefulness to the evangelistic labors of the Churches, resolves to be more faithful than ever in the use of every means at its command for the accomplishment of the grand object of the Missionary enterprise.

HON. HUGH BELL, M. L. C., said—The resolution contained three important leading ideas to which he would briefly direct their attention. He referred to the facilities afforded for extending the Gospel, and the many privileges we enjoy at the present day, compared with those who occupied our places a century ago; and spoke of the circumstances which produced that beautiful allegory, Pilgrim's Progress, when its author was confined within the walls of a prison because he dared to preach the Gospel of Christ in his own tongue, and refused to comply with the prevailing dogmas of the day. Like Baxter and many others he submitted to persecution rather than yield. At last religious liberty began to dawn upon the world, the Bible Society was next established; and from the exertions of this one Institution the Bible has been translated into a majority of the languages of the earth. Perhaps one of the great facilities of the times in which we live, is the ascendancy of our own people in every nation of the earth. Missionary labourers are penetrating nearly every portion of the earth, proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation; the extension of commerce is breaking down almost insuperable barriers between nations, while the astonishing mode by which communication may be had by the agency of steam and the Electric Telegraph, enables men, wide as the poles asunder, to meet each other; and who but regards the conflict of nations now going on in the East as preparing the way for the spread of the Gospel. A large number of Germans are already attempting to settle themselves near Jerusalem. But without our Heavenly Father's superintendance little can be done. May we not believe that the scattering of his own people over the face of the earth was ordained for a wise and benevolent purpose; that all might embrace the word of God. The overthrow of nations and the downfall of Empires will be as naught compared with the changes to be accomplished by the spread of divine truth. Shall we not say that our efforts should be directed to the fulfilment of this great and good work; and whatever our condition in life, or means may be, shall we not give our assent to this resolution. It must be the Divine spirit operating upon our own hearts that can induce us to give liberally in support of the Missionary enterprise. We must not be discouraged. Bunyan, after he began to preach got into the slough of despond, doubting as to whether he himself should be saved, and thought if he could only be the instrument in the hand of God of bringing one soul to Christ he would then be happy. Have we not reason to be thankful for what the Lord hath done for us? We are told it is more blessed to give than to receive. Shall we not now, give the meanest of all talents committed to our care—money; and in the fervent spirit of prayer place it in the service of the Gospel, and it shall afford more pleasure than all that the selfish use of wealth can bestow.

M. H. RICHEY, Esq., in seconding the resolution, adverted to the promise vouchsafed by Christ to his disciples, to be with them to the end of the world, when giving them the commission to go into all the earth and preach the Gospel to every creature. He pointed to the evidences of its fulfilment in the history of the Church through all ages, marked the providence of God in the various openings now presented for the spread of the pure Gospel, dwelling more especially upon the aspects of European Society the state of heathen lands having been already treated of by preceding speakers, and concluded by urging the necessity of Christians availing themselves of opportunities now afforded, that when the Master inquired of His servants employment of the talents committed to their care, they might be able to give a good account of their stewardship.

The third resolution, *That this meeting devoutly recognizes the importance of connecting prayer with all the efforts which are made for the extension of the Gospel, and especially recommends that prayer be offered to Almighty God that the war in which our own and other countries are involved may be signally overruled for the advancement of the kingdom of the Prince of Peace*, was introduced by the

REV. ROLAND MORTON, who said that every country stood in need of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, whatever might be its productions or resources, and we should be continually reminded of the impropriety of allowing nations to remain destitute of the Gospel when we have it in our power to assist them. The Gospel is an appointed instrument of heaven for man's amelioration, the great exclusive means which God in his infinite mercy hath thought fit to appoint. Those nations which are destitute of the light of the gospel of divine truth, have the strongest claims upon our sympathies. If a great work is about to be accomplished, and much land or possessions to be gained, men naturally use every exertion towards its accomplishment. But the Gospel conveys a balm for every wound; and this coming from the author of all spiritual and eternal good, would it not be cruelty in us to withold this sovereign, his infallible remedy from the poor benighted sons and daughters of this lower world. But it was not a matter left at all discretionary with ourselves, he was no Christian who did not feel in his heart for his fellow-man. He then spoke of Philip Sydney, a gallant officer upon the field of battle, who as he was placing a cup of water to his parched lips, saw another soldier carried bye, writhing under the agonies of pain, and looking wistfully at the cup, as if imploringly asking for a drop of water to wet his lips, the gallant Sydney instantly directed his comrades to relieve the agonies of the poor soldier, saying that he would sooner do without it himself than see a fellow-being suffer. Shall this noble example be lost on us, and shall a man under such circumstances exhibit a greater degree of Christian sympathy than we who have refreshed our souls at the fountain of life? No! Let the waters of spiritual life flow out upon the nations of the earth. We recognize in Missionary enterprise, not only the cause of humanity, but the cause of God. It had its origin in His Divine benevolence, and we see Him providing openings for the ministers of the cross, and means to enable them to prosecute their arduous work. It is by the will of God that the disposition is placed in the hearts of the people to give; and in this matter we should become the subjects of a right feeling and disposition. It afforded him great pleasure to see the respectable sums of £50 here, and £50 there, so much for China, and so much for the common fund, and he hoped that in all future operations the same disposition to give liberally, would continue. May we be found praying for a heart to give; and methinks that God would place it in our power to give. He related the story of a poor woman who, on returning from a Missionary meeting, retired to her closet and prayed, "O! that I had something to give to show my love for my Redeemer." Presently she came away her eye fell upon a small lot of garden Seed on the table which she intended to sow, but instantly determined to dispose of it and put the proceeds in the Missionary Box. Before she had time to do so, her pastor entered the house, she told him what she intended doing, when he said he was going to a Missionary meeting and would take the parcel with him and dispose of it for her. He arrived at the meeting, told the story about the old woman's donation, held the little parcel of seeds in his hands, and asked how much they would give for it? at last five dollars was bid for it, the purchaser sold it again, and so it passed from one purchaser to another until the sum of $25 was realized. The Pastor, after the meeting was over, returned to the old lady and said, here is the result of your sale of Garden Seeds. "Oh, no," she said, "the money is not mine, *it belongs to the Lord*—it is no longer mine." Thus we ought to pray to the Lord for the giving success to the labours that are being put forth, and that God will help us to do our duty. After all, the great aggregate of Missionary success is much more indebted to the widow's mite, than to the rich man's pound. The Lord will bless the poor widow who will cast in her mite. It becomes us as Christians to give according to our means. Let not those who cannot give the pound, withhold the shilling or the pence. I am firmly persuaded the more we give to the cause, in the spirit of prayer, the more the Lord will bless us.

HON. STEPHEN FULTON, M. P. P., in seconding the resolution, said:—It is indeed delightful to contemplate the close, the important connection between prayer and our efforts for the extension of the Gospel. Such efforts will assuredly prove successful when engaged in in a spirit of humble, believing, prayer. Prayer is the key that unlocks the treasury of heaven. Ask and receive is the Divine command and promise. In answer to prayer we receive the Holy Spirit's influence into our hearts; in answer to prayer the like influence is shed down upon the Church, and in answer to prayer, our efforts for the salvation of the perishing heathen are rendered successful. Effort and prayer ought always to accompany each other; and when such is the case, we may safely trust the event to God—and if ever our exertions and our prayers were necessary, they are more particularly so at this important crisis. The Committee appointed to direct and superintend Missionary operations never needed both more. The funds placed at their disposal are all exhausted—their liabilities are heavy. In order, therefore, to maintain the ground already occupied, increased exertions are necessary. But we must not stop here. There is a great work before us, new openings are daily presenting themselves, and I have no doubt that the sanguinary conflict now going on among various nations will be overruled by the good hand of God to cause a wider dissemination of the blessings of the Gospel of peace. Let, then, our united, importunate, humble and believing prayers, ever ascend to the throne of the heavenly grace, that our efforts may be rendered abundantly successful in carrying forward the great missionary enterprise, and that the world may speedily be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. It is an honor to be permitted to become co-workers with God in diffusing light and life to our fellow-men. Our time for working will soon terminate; others will occupy our places. While we have opportunity, then, let us work with our might, and in so doing the Lord will bless us more and more. In proportion as we value the blessings we ourselves enjoy, so in proportion will we feel interested in extending the like blessings to those who do not enjoy them.

He was much pleased to learn that in the various circuits throughout this district where Missionary Meetings had been held, the people appeared to be increasingly alive to the importance of increased exertions in this good work, when such a spirit prevails prayer will not fail to be made. What cause to thank God and take courage. The same feeling prevailed also in the Eastern district as far as his knowledge extended. He attended three meetings on the Wallace Circuit shortly before leaving home, and never attended better meetings before, it was indeed delightful to witness the deep seriousness and hallowed feeling pervading the audiences, all appeared anxious to do what they could in aid of the Mission cause, and it was fully anticipated that in that circuit the contributions would be from 30 to 40 per cent in advance of any previous year.

REV. CHARLES STEWART supported the resolution, he said, I feel grateful for having an interest in this Resolution. It associates us with the blessing and the power of God. It recognizes our dependance upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and claims the aid of his Spirit to render our weak efforts in this holy cause successful.

For myself, I can say that I have no desire to be where his name is not revered, and have no confidence in any scheme for the amelioration of human evil, which is not sanctified by prayer, offered through that name. But with such a Resolution as this, we feel that we are under his auspices, and on this account each one may say, "Bless the Lord, O my Soul."

In the furtherance of Christian Missions, prayer has already accomplished much, yet, not enough. We must have its spirit intensified. Humility is a constituent of effectual prayer, and that must be deepened. The disciples of Christ ought to feel more nearly allied to all who are yet without God in the world. For their idolatry and wickedness, for their guilt and misery, it becomes us deeply to be affected with shame and sorrow. This will lead to greater fervency in their behalf.

Faith is also a most essential element in prevailing prayer. In this, our faith must be specific, having reference to the various forms in which iniquity and superstition exist. With a correct apprehension of the evils of Buddhism, Mahommetanism, or Popery, we shall be led to fix our trust upon those promises which peculiarly apply to them, and to plead for their fulfilment. These promises have their conditions, and to them also our faith must be directed. The Prophet Malachi had a difficult duty to perform when required to charge Israel with robbing God. We must not shun to declare the whole counsel of God, and you must receive it if your prayers for the heathen would be more effectual. If, to the very utmost of our ability, we do not bring our tithes and offerings to the cause of the Redeemer, we rob him. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Let us do this, and a glorious era shall soon arrive, the earth speedily shall

"Be o'erflowed,
And the universe filled with the glory of God."

After the adoption of this resolution, the Collection was taken up. The Doxology was then sung, and the Benediction pronounced, when the Meeting separated, to meet by adjournment in the Grafton Street Church on the Wednesday evening following.

[FOR THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN.]

Missionary Meetings, River Philip Circuit.

MR. EDITOR,—I gave you a hasty sketch last week of a series of Missionary Meetings held at River Philip, and not to do injustice to our liberal friends at Maccan, the duty becomes imperative to place before your numerous readers an account of our Missionary campaign in that quarter also.

Having preached at Maccan Mountain on Friday evening, and thrice on the Sabbath at three different places—travelling twelve miles amid continual storm—announcements were made at the close of each sermon for the Missionary services of the week.

Our appointment for Monday evening was West Brook; and having anxiously awaited all day the arrival of Bro. Crane, who was expected to have given us his valuable assistance, the unwelcome tidings came to hand in the evening, that severe family bereavement would not allow of his absence from home. Snow from the Eastward had fallen all day; and this, with the darkness of the night, no doubt deterred many a wavering one from giving his presence and assistance. Amid such difficulties, few could have been present but noble, generous spirits, devoted both heart and soul to the success of the Missionary enterprise; and of the faithfulness of this statement, the subscription list at the close of the meeting gave practical evidence. With a few additional names to be secured by the collector, West Brook will raise this year in behalf of the Mission cause, the handsome sum of Seven Pounds—and the present only the third Missionary Meeting ever held in that place.

On Tuesday evening we—I use the plural nominative because accompanied by Mr. Richd. Black, of the River, who acted as Chairman at the different places—repaired to Maccan Mountain, and still the storm raged; but here, too, as in the former place, it failed to detain from the meeting warm supporters of the Missionary cause. I need not in this article give prominence to the liberality of our dear friends at Maccan Mountain. Amid hard toil, loss of crops, and some privations, their yearly expression of deep sympathy for the dying among the heathen, and of high-toned liberality towards the Mission cause has suffered no abatement; and at the present Meeting their words were pledged to give Twelve Pounds Ten Shillings.

Wednesday evening was our appointment for Little Forks, and still it stormed; and as the present was the first Missionary Meeting ever held in the place, the state of the weather may have had some influence in keeping the people away. We had, however, a good meeting, and a subscription list of Four Pounds. One circumstance at this place struck me as peculiarly interesting: an individual—quite a boy, and not blessed with abundance of this world's goods—awakened during the meeting to deep interest in the Missionary scheme, gave in his name at the close for the liberal donation of One Pound.

I may here state, in reference to our cause at Little Forks, that, with a subscription of Two Hundred Pounds, arrangements have been made for the erection of a new Chapel.

With the names of several subscribers yet to be secured, our contributions to the Mission cause on the Maccan part of this Circuit must exceed that of the past year.

J. HERBERT STARR.

River Philip, Feb. 4, 1855.

Loss of the Ship "Polar Star," by Fire in the South Atlantic.

We are indebted to Color Sergeant G. Thompson, R. A., for copies of the *St. Helena Herald* of Oct. 26th and Novr. 2nd, containing accounts of the loss of the ship "Polar Star" which was burned down on the 3rd October, on her way to New Zealand with Artillery soldiers and passengers. The *Herald* says:—

The cause of the fire seems not to have been ascertained, though a conjecture has been given that some hay or coal in the hold must have become ignited. It a great satisfaction to learn that though there were upwards of ninety persons on board of the burning vessel, for three days after the fire was discovered, none lost their lives. It is stated that one of the Passengers named Mrs. Hair died a few hours after the alarm of fire was given, but she was in a sinking state previously and her death seemed to have been expected verysoon.

On Saturday morning last great excitement was caused by the arrival here of a boat with 8 or 10 persons in her, the more especially as there was no vessel in sight. They proved to be Capt. Walker, of the Polar Star and Lieut. Temple of the detachment of Artillery who were saved from the vessel. They had left the *Annamooka* on the previous day 15 miles to leeward of the Island, their object apparently being to secure a speedy transmission of supplies to the vessel if she should be unable from calms or other causes to make the land within a few days. She was seen a few hours afterwards and after making numerous tacks, she reached the anchorage the following (Sunday,) morning.

The troops were landed about nine o'clock in the morning, and they indeed seemed to have lost their all; some were without shoes, some without caps, and others without jackets, some dressed apparently in clothes which had not originally been made for them, and most of them appearing soiled and worn out altogether, presenting a melancholy spectacle. Their wives and children too were most distressingly ill-provided for. The intermediate passengers also are no better off. They had to leave all behind them and were only too thankful to escape with their lives. All on board indeed appeared to have met with severe losses. Some who had sold everything they had in England and had laid the money out on articles which they expected to sell on reaching New Zealand, have lost the whole of them and having failed to insure, are now left penniless; one is said to have lost fifteen hundred pounds and another has lost two hundred.

Captain Hutchinson of the *Annamooka* will ever be remembered with gratitude by those whom he has thus been instrumental in saving from an awful death, and we are happy to see that his kindness is appreciated by all.

We are happy to notice also from the letters published, that Captain Walker and Lieut. Temple have rendered themselves conspicuous by their cool and manly conduct throughout the whole trying occurrence, and we feel assured that those who have thus generously acknowledged the abilities of their leaders have not themselves been wanting in the performance of *their* duties.

The arrival of the *Annamooka* has afforded all here an excellent opportunity of exercising their benevolence towards their suffering fellow creatures, and it is gratifying to witness the willingness with which an appeal for aid is being answered. We might name several who have privately but liberally and promptly come to the relief of those who were landed almost naked. The subscription list is going round and many handsome donations are being offered. On Sunday the soldiers made a most liberal subscription, the officers also gave freely. The Freemasons met on Monday night and voted twelve pounds from their funds at once. The Mechanic's Society met on Tuesday night and ten pounds were subscribed by the members before they left the room. The sympathy for the sufferers is universal and the desire to render assistance is most pleasing. Rich and poor co-operating in the work with the utmost eagerness.

Some of the passengers of the *Polar Star* have already returned to England, and an American Captain—Capt. C. Linnell of the *Eagle Wing* generously took a whole family of six for nothing.

Reconstruction of the Cabinet.

The *Watchman* treating of this subject says:—

There were, in fact, but three retirements, and these caused only two vacancies in the Cabinet: first, there was the voluntary secession of Lord John Russell, in whose place Earl Granville re-appears as President of the Council, with the added dignity of the Government Leadership in the House of Lords; secondly, the sacrifice of that amiable victim, the Duke of Newcastle, to whom Lord Panmure succeeds as Minister of War; and thirdly, the catastrophe of Lord Aberdeen. The compulsory retirement of the Chief of the late Administration introduced another short series of changes, which were effected, not by the introduction of new men into the present Cabinet, but by a mere transposition of parts, Viscount Palmerston became First Lord of the Treasury, thus leaving open the Home Department, to which Sir George Grey succeeded, but hereby vacated his former post at the Colonial Office, which is occupied by Mr. Sydney Herbert, whose prior charge—the Secretaryship-at-War,—is abolished. These are the principal changes, but it was supposed that an Under-Secretaryship for War would be offered, to prove whether the business-ability of Mr. Layard was equal to his acknowledged talent for fault-finding. That arrangement, however, has failed for the present, and Mr. F. Peel passes on from the Under-Secretaryship of the Colonies to that of the War Department. Viscount Canning, who continues as Post-Master General, will take a seat in the Cabinet. Several subordinate displacements and replacements are noticed elsewhere.

Thus the *dramatis personæ* on the national stage are still predominantly Peelite, with two actors disgraced and dismissed by the same censure which has raised a third to a still higher walk. That Mr. Sydney Herbert elects to have the seals of the Colonial Office instead of those of the Home Department though the worse for the Colonial Bishoprics, may be the better for affairs ecclesiastical here; but the rudiment—if one ought not rather to say the "Rump"—of an unsatisfactory Convocation has been sitting with the good leave of Lord Palmerston, as it did with Lord Aberdeen's,—as it did before, and would again, with that of the Earl of Derby. In the present Coalition the Whigs lose incomparably more by the absence of Lord John Russell than the Peelites by that of Lord Aberdeen, whose gartered ghost still haunts the Cabinet. And indeed Earl Granville tells us at once, and with all the emphasis of tautology, that the governing principles of this Administration will be "identically the same," in respect to all internal matters, as those which guided the late Cabinet. Lord Palmerston has had such difficulty in organizing his Government that its members, like gentlemen volunteers, have rather consented to take him as their Commander than been by him appointed as his officers.

In everything, except perchance the direction of the war, he must be their organ instead of their head. Lord John Russell has promised to support this Government, and at present he sincerely means it: so did Benedict to die a bachelor, as long as he thought he should never live to be married. To secure the permanent alliance of the Whig leader, who cannot long be kept out of the way at Vienna, it would be needful to include him in the Coalition.

The Earl of Derby in one of his best orations,—dashing, high-mettled, fiery and fast as one of his own stud—has justified to the great Conservative party the failure of his recent attempt to form an Administration. He could have succeeded if Lord Palmerston's friends had not dissuaded the noble Viscount from consenting to accept the Leadership of the House of Commons without a Department. Lord Palmerston was neither to have been Premier nor War Minister, but to have served the Derby Cabinet as its challenger to all comers in the lists; and on those terms Mr. Disraeli would have served under him. Such an overture, though contemplated for a moment could not have been accepted. Lord Derby boasts that he has still 280 attached clients in the House of Commons, which is a nobler pomp than ever preceded a Patrician through the streets of ancient Rome. Still this number would leave him, as he himself says, in an "assured minority" whenever there should be a combination against his government. We wonder it does not occur to think, whether it might not be possible to increase that band to an absolute majority in the House of Commons, now that the old stumbling blocks are removed out of the way. Where are the leaders of the Protestant party, which has a majority in the nation, but is ever in a minority in Parliament? Those who should have been such, have been hesitating over an Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, offering the Sabbath *gratis* to make the fortune of the Crystal Palace Company, or merely holding ambidextrous correspondence like that of Mr. Disraeli, with Protestant Associations. Do our readers wonder that we so seldom confess to an enthusiasm on behalf of such defenders of the faith? Look at the most notable of them all in the House of Commons, and consider what confidence one can place in the best cause when so championed—

Hoc, hoc Tribuno multum!

Lord Panmure has entered on his unspeakably important office with modest and fair proposals. The Earl of Malmesbury has undertaken to prove that our army is not officered by the aristocracy, and Lord John Russel, with equal gallantry, has defended the Commander-in-Chief from his assailants from what Lord John boldly called "a ribald press." Whether the number of the army consisted a fortnight ago of 28,000 men, or of only 14,000, depends upon the method of calculation. The explanation is given by his lordship thus:—

"The statement usually put forward is, that we have only 14,000 or 12,000 men before Sebastopol; and as it is admitted that 54,000 were sent out, it is asked how it is possible that the loss of our army should amount to 40,000 or 42,000 men? The House should know that this is not a fair comparison; for if, on the one hand, they took the estimate at 54,000 men, then, on the other hand, they ought not to state the result at 14,000 or 12,000 men. The 54,000 men sent out included artillery, cavalry, every officer, commissioned and non-commissioned—in short, every man under arms, reckoning those who were employed as orderlies and in the hospitals. When you have taken away all the cavalry and all the artillery, and every commissioned and non-commissioned officer, and those employed on other duties, the residue may be 14,000 or 12,000 men under arms, but that evidently is not a fair comparison of the amount left of the 54,000 men originally sent out. If you add all those men—all those officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, you will find that, instead of 14,000 or 12,000 men, you have a force of some 28,000 or 30,000 men; and adding 14,000 for sick and wounded, the number of 44,000 was accounted for."

—leaving only 10,000 as the total mortality from the sword, the pestilence, the misery and the famine in the Army. To this explanation Mr. Gladstone adheres, but he does not assure us that it brings the representation of the case down to the last advices. Lord Lyndhurst has withdrawn his motion in the House of Lords for inquiry into the conduct of the war; whether Mr. Roebuck will be prevailed upon to follow this example in the House of Commons is not yet ascertained. As to the navy, Admiral Berkeley has contradicted every statement made by Sir Charles Napier at the Mansion House yesterday sennight.—Had the gallant veteran only bombarded Sweaborg as he did the Admiralty, he would not have returned an unlaurelled malcontent.

European Intelligence.

The arrival of the Steamship *Canada* at this port on Thursday last made no material addition to the intelligence received by previous advices.

The price of grain is on the decline in France.

Lord John Russell as a private member, but doubtless with the concurrence of Government, has produced his Bill for the furtherance of Education, which has been read a first time and printed.

Lord John Russell has been appointed British Plenipotentiary to the Conference at Vienna. His Lordship is accompanied by Mr. Hammond the permanent under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. The *Watchman* says:—The intentions with which Lord John Russell is sent out by Government are perhaps represented by a ministerial journal, which remarks that he goes to Vienna "not so much to negociate, as to present the calm resolve of his countrymen. Malicious rumour has insinuated, indeed, that the noble lord was, in one sense, disqualified for the office of Foreign Minister, in that he possessed not the gift of tongues. This, if true, will be a small matter, productive of more inconvenience to himself than others. For all details, he has an invaluable aid in Lord Westmoreland; and for the rest, he is accompanied (as if to indicate some necessity) by a sort of diplomatic dragoman in the person of Mr. Hammond. As a Minister Plenipotentiary to treat of a peace, Lord John Russell will be Janus-faced. He will represent at the same time the reluctance and the resolution—the determination to triumph and the readiness to treat—manifested by his countrymen." There is in this language a Peelite's supercilious sneer at the Whig leader, and at the same time at the chilly *aura* of the Aberdeen policy. Lord John Russell has bravely taken upon himself the chances of an extreme unpopularity. Will he return from Vienna, whither the anxious eye of his country and of Europe follow him, to receive out thanks for the priceless service of having an honourable peace, or to hear the murmurs of our disappointment?

The following items we take from the *Christian News*.

A great mistake has been corrected at last. It is all but inconceivable, indeed, how it could have occurred, unless on the principle that the wrong thing was more *easily effected* than the right. The mouth of the Danube has been rigorously blockaded, and the Russian Black Sea ports, properly so called, left all but free. A deputation of Russian merchants, who waited on Lord Clarendon on Tuesday, were assured that the mouth of the Danube will be free forthwith, and the Black Sea ports of Russia rigidly closed.—By this means, we shall probably be favoured with a considerable supply of grain, which has been shut up hitherto in the higher quarters of the river—that is if steps are taked to secure the traffic against the Russian force still on the bosom or shores of this important stream.

Spain is affording an example of the extreme difficulty of supporting a constitutional form of Government, where the instinct of order is weak in a nation. While the Cortes are discussing, and divided about the theory of popular sovereignty, and similar abstract points, and rejecting every motion for the toleration of any church but that of Rome, the elements of a serious insurrection are showing themselves in the north of the country, and indications of unsoundness are not wanting even in the army itself. It seems all but certain that the popular rule which has been set up, well depend for its duration on the firm will of Napoleon.

The King of Sardinia has suffered a third bereavement in the death of his brother, the Duke of Genoa. In the meantime the Pope has issued his *monitoria* to be read to the churches, warning the nation against the suppression of convents sought by Government. At first this document was laughed at, but now the ministry have issued orders bringing the priest who reads it from the pulpit under an act which consigns him to prison for two years if he persists. Rome talks of placing an *interdict* on public worship and the dispensing of "sacraments," and the people speak pretty plainly