

## Missionary Intelligence.

From the Wesleyan Missionary Notices, &c. for December, 1842.

**JAMAICA.**—*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Richard Harding, dated Port-Royal Mountains, Jamaica, August 19th, 1842.*

A short time since, in compliance with earnest invitations from persons resident in the neighbourhood, I visited Cocoa-Walk, which is distant from our preaching-place here about ten miles, and is situated on the banks of Yallah's-River, in the parish of St David. After about three hours' ride over narrow mountain-roads, steep and dangerous, I reached the place, and called at one of the first houses I came to on the way-side. The poor man who occupied it kindly received me into his house; and at my request, called his neighbours together, to whom I declared the Gospel of the blessed Jesus, which they heard with considerable attention. On leaving this people, I engaged to be with them again in two weeks' time on the same day (Saturday). In this visit I observed that very few of the inhabitants ever attend a place of worship; that they are extremely immoral, the majority living in open disregard of the seventh commandment, & many unblushingly defend the practice; that the population is dense, and greatly on the increase; and that they have no place of worship within ten or twelve miles. Meeting with several gentlemen of respectability and influence in the neighbourhood, I introduced myself to them, and told them the object of my visit. Most of them not only expressed their entire approval of my proceedings, but seemed grateful that some hope was now presented that they might have a place of worship in their own neighbourhood, at the same time they did not conceal their regret that they had not been thus favoured at an earlier period. One said, "I have not been in a place of worship for four years;" another said, "I have only attended three times since I came to the island;" and a third, an interesting young man, deplored his inability to attend the distant places of worship as often as he would. After giving, as I was able, a word in season to each of these, I proceeded on my way. Some whom I afterwards met and conversed with, spoke in a similar spirit and manner. The next time I visited the place, I had a larger audience; and nearly twenty children, with some adults, were brought, and applied for baptism. There, in consequence of the parents living together in an unmarried state, I was obliged to refuse; at the same time assuring them if they broke off their sins, by marriage, gave their hearts to God, and themselves to his church, I would with pleasure administer the ordinance to their children. The adults I also examined, and promised, if they continued to seek the Lord, to baptize them in the course of two or three "moons."

Having made arrangements for the supply of my Sunday appointment, I visited "Cocoa-Walk" on the Sunday, and preached under a large spreading tree to a respectable and orderly congregation. After the preaching, I invited those "who desired to flee from the wrath to come," to retire with me to a neighbouring house, where I would converse with them individually. Many followed me; and, after some conversation with them, fourteen of the number were formed into a society. These I commended to the blessing of God, and departed. A few days after this I received an invitation from the Honourable J. Leslie, Member of House of Assembly for the parish of St David. As soon as possible I waited on him. After some inquiries respecting my object in visiting that part, my religious connexions, &c., he kindly offered me the use of a large house for preaching, which he holds in the neighbourhood of Cocoa-Walk. I expressed my gratitude, and left him. In a short time after my interview with the Honourable Gentleman, I opened the house for preaching, when a large company was present. On this occasion, I baptized some children and two adults, one of whom is a cripple, and not able to walk, and near eighty years old. The service was interesting and impressive. After the service, more were added to the society; so that now our number is about twenty. To God be all the glory. Amen and amen!

**JAMAICA.**—*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. William Seccombe, dated Southampton, near Drmon's-Town, Jamaica, September 20th, 1842.*

Since I last wrote you, the important question of obtaining another Missionary for the extensive Circuit has been well considered, and frequently discussed, by our leading church officers and members. The question has been taken up in a spirit so Christian, and upon a scale so liberal and extensive, as I never anticipated. It has gone forth to every part of the Circuit, and from every point has been echoed back upon me ANOTHER MISSIONARY; so that, upon this matter we are "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." At our last Quarterly Meeting, composed of Stewards, Leaders, &c., about fifty in number, the question was formally introduced; and, I assure you, excited great interest, and called forth some noble bursts of eloquence; not, indeed, of an artificial and polished description, but, nevertheless, eloquence,—the eloquence of piety, of thought, and feeling—equal to what might have been witnessed at home, had some London or Manchester Quarterly Meeting been about to petition Conference for an additional Preacher. After an hour spent, not in discussing the necessity of an additional Missionary, but the measure or measures to be taken in order to induce the Committee to comply with our request, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted, every person present starting upon his feet to express his hearty concurrence in them.

"Resolved, 1. That this Meeting taking into consideration the number of preaching places in the Circuit, to be supplied every Lord's day, and during the week; the great distances at which these places are situated from each other, the steady numerical increase in our societies and congregations, the prospect of a still more rapid increase, provided further ministerial aid could be obtained; the utter impossibility of our Ministers' performing so much as one-half of the labour this Circuit requires, and the certainty that no further pecuniary assistance from the Mission Fund would be required in consequence of an additional Preacher being sent; earnestly and respectfully implores the Committee to send us another Missionary without delay, so that he may be here in the early part of January, 1843.

"Resolved, 2. That after maturely deliberating upon the numerous and urgent appeals which have been made to the Committee for Missionaries from various parts of the heathen world, but with very partial success, the serious financial difficulties which at present check the progress, and fetter the operations, of the Society; and anticipating the possible, if not the probable, failure of this application in consequence of these financial difficulties, the Meeting resolves to raise from among themselves, and the more affluent members of our societies and congregations, by a special effort, the sum of £50 sterling; the amount they deem requisite to pay the expenses of a single man's voyage from England to Jamaica.

"Signed on behalf of the Meeting,

"WILLIAM SECCOMBE, Minister.

"A. C. MORTICAN, Circuit-Steward."

There are two or three points in these Resolutions upon which I judge it proper to offer a few remarks.

1. The "certainty" expressed "that no further pecuniary assistance would be required from the Mission Fund in consequence of an additional Missionary being sent." Independently of a saving which would be effected in some assistance now rendered me, I am confident, from what I know of the disposition and ability of our people generally, that the circumstance of your sending into the field of promise a second labourer, would so encourage, and under the divine blessing, improve our people in knowledge and grace, that you may most reasonably calculate on such an increase in our Circuit income, as to be more than adequate to meet the increased expenditure. Indeed, I have no doubt, should my life be spared, I shall within a short period have the honour of placing this Circuit, as I had a short time since the Falmouth Circuit, upon the list of independent Circuits.

2. The next point to which I wish to direct attention, is the "special effort" to

raise the £50 sterling. This will be, strictly speaking, a "special effort;" and not at all interfere with our regular Missionary operations. I should inform you, that, within the last month, we have held our three annual Missionary Meetings, at which we were edified and blessed by the speeches of our excellent Chairman, and the brethren Samuel and Randerson. Better Meetings I have not witnessed for the last seven years in Jamaica. The chapels were crowded to excess; scores, if not hundreds had to return home again, not being able to gain admission for the press. Already our Missionary receipts exceed, by several pounds, the receipts of last year, so that, if every Circuit in the Connexion would carry out the same principle of proportionate increase, you would realize, at the end of the year, an addition to the society's annual income of, from £12,000 to £20,000. Our increase will be perfectly independent of our £50 special effort. And is not this the time to make strenuous exertions on behalf of the perishing Heathen? Who can read the eloquent and masterly productions of Drs. Alder, Harris, and others, without resolving to come forth with vastly increased supplies "to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty?" I know the Committee will place confidence in the members of our Quarterly Meeting, that the £50 promised will be forthcoming as soon as the young Minister arrives in this Circuit; otherwise, I should most cheerfully offer to become personally responsible for the amount.

I have already been much engaged, in addition to my usual arduous duties, in holding special services in commemoration of the glorious 1st of August. I held six public services in different parts of the Circuit, all of which were well attended, and of this you may judge, when I tell you, that I took up more than £100 sterling at thank offerings, which we were going to apply to the liquidation of the debts on our chapels. Let who will speak against the lately emancipated population of this island, surely we cannot. They are coming forward every year with increasing support to their own Ministers, towards the enlargement and erection of chapels, and towards the sending the agents of the cross far hence to the Gentiles.

But, what is far better than anything I have yet mentioned, I believe our people generally are growing in the knowledge and grace of Christ. It is no rare thing, during public worship, to see streams of penitence and love running down the cheeks of our members. Often, indeed, does the deep sigh, and the loud groan, indicate, that God is pricking the heart. O, my dear Sirs, God is with us of a truth! Proofs thicken around us, that the great Head of the Church is using even us to feed, guide, and enlarge his church; and thus encouraged by God's good help, "we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." Let me entreat you, with the earnestness of one who feels for the souls of the people committed to his charge, to exert all your influence with the Committee to induce them at once to comply with our urgent request, so shall you make the hearts of many glad.

LIBERALITY OF THE WEST-INDIAN SOCIETIES. GRATEFUL COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST OF AUGUST.

**JAMAICA.**—*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. William Hodgson, dated Bryan's Pen, Lime-Savanna, Clarendon, August 10th, 1842.*

In my last communication I gave you an account of the laying of the foundation-stone of our new chapel in Vere. You will I doubt not, be pleased to learn, that the building is proceeding rapidly. We hope to finish the shingling next week.—By the last packet we received (in answer to a letter written some time since) the liberal and kind donation of £35 sterling, from John Morant, Esq., Lyndhurst. The members of our society have contributed £140. £60 were collected on laying the foundation-stone; thus the total amount collected to the present time is £335 sterling. We hope to increase it to the sum of £600 sterling. The chapel, I suppose, will cost about £900.

We have repaired and beautified our chapel at Lime-Savanna. The repairs have cost £100 sterling. We have also cleared off upwards of £60 of the debt upon the chapel, all of which our people intend to

raise in addition to their ordinary subscriptions.

On the 1st of August we had a very happy day. I preached at James-Place, after which I received from the members their "August offering," (by "August offering," we mean a thank-offering for the blessings of freedom,) amounting to upwards of £30 sterling. As Mr. Armstrong happened to be in this Circuit, he preached at Watson-ton in the morning and in the afternoon held a public examination of our day-school there. His address to parents produced a good effect; many have sent their children to school who formerly neglected that duty.

In other matters, I am happy to say we are doing well. Should we be spared until our annual District-Meeting, we hope to be able to report an increase in the piety, number, and liberality of our people. My new colleague, Mr. Thompson, preached five times a week, besides travelling about sixty miles. If the Committee could send out a third man, for the Circuit, there are four Stations we could cultivate which, under present circumstances, it is quite impossible to attend to as they require. Vere is becoming very important; we have about four hundred members in society, who contribute very liberally according to the means they possess; and could we but attend to the people every Lord's day, we should very soon have a large increase. Some time since we had thoughts of taking up a Station at Milk River, but found it utterly impossible to do so with our present strength. I have no hesitation in saying we could soon collect a very large society there if we had a Missionary located in the parish. The Committee would see from the Minutes of our last District-Meeting, that there was no grant made to this Circuit, and we now pledge ourselves not to ask for any next year, if you will send us out a man for Vere. In conclusion, allow me to urge upon you to send out at once a man, as above requested. England has made the Negroes free men; your Missionaries have assisted to gather them into the Christian church; and now we look to you to assist us that they may receive regular Christian and pastoral care.

**ST. VINCENT'S.**—*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. George Paynell, dated Barrovalle, St Vincent, August 2d, 1842.*

We have just closed the highly interesting anniversary services of the ever-memorable 1st of Aug 1838, when the invaluable boon of freedom was conferred upon all the slaves in these British colonies. The Sunday evening preceding that day was terrific, being accompanied with vivid lightning, and tremendous peals of thunder, succeeded by heavy falls of rain. The morning, too, was quiet unfavourable; so much so, that we were apprehensive our people would be unable to assemble in God's house to return him thanks for their emancipation; but Providence caused the threatening clouds to disperse, and the sun to burst forth with splendour. Our enlarged chapel was densely crowded, with deeply devout and attentive hearers. The words of our Lord selected for meditation and discussion were, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John viii. 36.) A gracious influence and a powerful feeling pervaded the assembly, which we believe will not soon be forgotten; and a tangible proof of their gratitude was manifested by a collection for the chapel, which amounted to £14 11 8 sterling. Immediately after the service, the congregation repaired to the chapel-yard, where refreshments were provided; and here another collection was made, which amounted to £11 0 10 sterling; the overplus of which, after defraying the expenses, will be appropriated for the same purpose as the former. We then concluded by singing the praises of God; and the surrounding country re-echoed from the joyful voices of a free and happy people. "What hath God wrought!"

**ST. VINCENT'S.**—*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. James Banfield, dated Diabou, St. Vincent's, July 12th, 1842.*

It is with feelings of gratitude to the Giver of all good, for his sparing mercy, and for the general prosperity of his work in this Circuit, that I write at this time. Since my last communication, we have had indications of good; and though we cannot report any great increase, as it regards our numbers, during the past quarter, yet we rejoice to witness, in many of our members, a deepening of the work of grace, and a more uniform consistency of conduct.