

Mr. Pearson, the Lord Mayor, and from several other Noblemen and Gentlemen, expressive of their regret that they could not attend, and of their anxious solicitude for the welfare of the Society.

Before the Chair was taken, The Rev. G. C. Smith of Penzance, addressed the Meeting, and stated that they had received the most kind and warm assurances from the Earl of Mountcashell, of his anxiety for the success of the Society, and his intention to preside that evening as Chairman, but he regretted to state, that in consequence of some pressing and urgent circumstances his Lordship was obliged to leave town. He would, however, propose that the Chair should be taken by the Hon. Captain Frederick Noel, of the Royal Navy. (Cheers.)

The Hon. Captain Noel expressed his deep sense of the gratitude he owed the Meeting, for the readiness with which they had accepted him as their Chairman. Before they proceeded any further, let them beseech the Almighty to bless them, for it was under his guidance and protection alone, that success was to be expected.

Mr. Smith then offered up a prayer.

The Report was then read by the Secretary. It took a retrospective view of the labours of the past year, and detailed under their separate heads, the nature and operations of the different missions. The naval missions had been most successful in promoting Christian instruction, among 30,000 seamen and mariners in the ports of Deptford, Woolwich, Chatham, Portsmouth, &c. and the most beneficial effects were anticipated, from the powerful religious influence, evidently operating through all ranks of His Majesty's Navy.

The United States Navy had also caught the religious flame of holy zeal and love to God, and through the instrumentality of this Society, a tone of religious feeling had gone abroad that could not fail of producing the most beneficial results among seamen. The merchant-seamen's mission stood next in rank to these naval arrangements, and had extensively promoted the cause of religion. The mariner's church, situated between Tower Hill and Limehouse, was constantly attended by large congregations of merchant captains, mates, seamen and boys, who in their momentous voyage to eternity, had heard the word of eternal life in this place of divine worship.

The Report then went on to point out the different parts of London where auxiliary stations were established, and detailed at great length the great benefits arising from their establishment, in the promotion of the objects of the Society.

After the Secretary had finished,

The Rev. Mr. Smith addressed the Meeting. He said, that as there were many matters connected with the labours of the Society for the past year, not touched upon in the Report just read, he would take the liberty of trespassing on their attention for a short time, while he briefly glanced at them. Among many useful institutions arising from the Society, the Mariners' Girls' School was one particularly deserving of their attention. It would not be necessary for him to say much in praise of it, for he was confident he need only direct the attention of the Meeting to the 30 little girls who then stood before them, to convince them of the fact. It must indeed be truly gratifying to every feeling heart in that room, to know that so many little innocents were rescued and collected from the haunts of infamy and vice. He knew not who the friends were that clothed them, but their neat appearance that day bespoke the kind attention of some charitable being, and he would say, whoever they were, may God reward them. Some two or three years back, there existed no establishment similar to this; the sailor's child had no asylum to afford it shelter from wretchedness and want; but now the poor sailor might look with heartfelt comfort, at the certainty of protection afforded to his offspring by this establishment. (Cheers.)—The Rev. Speaker here was so affected that he shed tears.—He then requested the attention of the Meeting, while the little girls sang two verses of a hymn.

They presented a pleasing appearance of health and cleanliness, and got through their task with great accuracy.

Mr. Smith then resumed. He said, that the operations of the Society were not confined to London alone, but extended throughout all the out-ports, and it was intended also to send agents to New South

Wales and other parts of the world. Ireland, too, would occupy a great portion of their attention, and should be visited by ministers of the Gospel, to ascertain what has been done in that hitherto unhappy country for the spiritual welfare of sailors. He was happy to have it also in his power to state, that the watermen, barge-men, and others employed on the river, were joining the Society in great numbers, and had experienced from it some of the benefits that it was so well calculated to bestow. At Leeds the cause was prospering, and some hundreds were in the habit of assembling to hear the sermons of the Rev. Mr. Careless. He some little time back, attended a Meeting at Nottingham, and a Rev. Gentleman, whose exertions to forward the object of the Society in that part were great, told him that they had divided the town into districts, and established a very admirable system of persons going about and impressing the poor deluded souls that have strayed from the truth. There were but two poor families in that town that did not frequent their chapel, and to them they paid daily visits, and were determined to do so until they succeeded in changing them from the ways of Satan. Happy indeed would it be if London followed this example. It was contemplated that the formation of a body, or a sort of Police, that should extend from London Bridge to Blackwall, would be the means of effecting great good, by being continually on the alert in the neighbourhood where the object of the Society was most likely to be advanced. Another object was to send missionaries to the different inland towns to establish Branch Societies. In several of the chief towns there were already Auxiliaries. In Birmingham, they subscribed annually £300, at Sheffield £100, at Leicester £100, and at Bath the Society excited the greatest interest. With regard to the demands against the Society, it is impossible that, professing as it did to do much good, it can be without many applications for relief. There was not a month passed that a sailor was not drowned, and surely we cannot refuse our assistance to the widow and the orphan that are thus deprived of their provider.—There were circumstances that the people of London know nothing of. There was an individual now dependent on the bounty of the Society, to whose case he wished to call the attention of the Meeting, as it forcibly illustrated the wisdom and goodness of Divine Providence, which turned circumstances apparently the most adverse, to our own eventual good. This young lad was with his vessel in the harbour at Sierra Leone, and having accidentally fallen overboard, was instantly seized by a shark, which tore off one of his arms, and dreadfully lacerated other parts of his body. His struggle, however, saved him, for as the monster had opened his mouth to seize the other, the young man, by a desperate effort, which only such a deadly struggle could urge, grasped at part of the monster's gills, and succeeded in tearing a portion of them away. Before the voracious animal could renew the attack, assistance was at hand and he was relieved. This dreadful state of suffering rendered him unable to return to this country in the ship which had taken him out; and happily for him, as far as the saving of his life was concerned, that it was so; for in her voyage homewards, the ship encountered a tempest, in which she perished, with every soul on board. The young man, as he had before remarked, was a dependent on the bounty of the Society. He mentioned these circumstances, for the purpose of illustrating the nature of the demands which were occasionally made on its funds, and to point out the necessity of having those funds ample, and he trusted that this appeal on their behalf, as it shewed the value of the Institution, would not be made in vain. He then adverted to the intended Meeting to be held on Thursday, for the purpose of taking measures to put down the "crimping" system, which had been carried to an extent so ruinous, as well to the morals as the finances of the unguarded and unsuspecting seaman. He would not dwell on that point further at present than to say, that the more attention was paid to the religious instruction of sailors, the less they would be exposed to the infamous and oppressive practices of those unfeeling land sharks, for so he might call the "crimps." If he wanted to adduce any proof of this, he could not cite a better, than that which was witnessed in the sort of asylum opened for the reception of sailors, and procuring them employment. That Institution since its establishment, had sent upwards of two

thousand seamen to sea completely clothed, and what was better, he hoped, strongly impressed with the religious instruction they had received while attending the asylum. There were at present a hundred and twenty sailors in the asylum. He was happy to state, that the building for the reception of sailors, was in a state of forwardness. It was originally intended for the reception of 127 boys and ten girls, but when completed, he hoped they would be enabled to put on the establishment, fifty boys and fifty girls. These important establishments, to which he was alluding, had all emanated from this Society.

He would now call on the Treasurer to read the account of the Society's Finances.

This statement was read, from which it appeared that the receipts for the year amounted to £3462 : 10 : 6; the disbursements were £3397 : 10 : 3; leaving a balance in hand of £14 : 10 : 6; but it appeared that the debts due from the Society to different tradesmen, amounted to £1500.

Mr. Smith here observed, that this large amount of debt ought not to surprise any, when it was known that up to the last year, the income of the Society was seldom more than £800 or £900, and never exceeded £1000. The Rev. Gentleman concluded by enumerating the various items of the Society's income and expenditure since its formation.

The Rev. Richard Marks moved the first Resolution. In presenting himself to the Meeting, he felt he needed their indulgence; but was conscious, however, that he was addressing warm hearts, in which a plain and simple detail would be sufficient to excite their kindest feelings. They had heard cases of premature death related to them by the Rev. Gentleman who preceded him; but there was none more distressing than that of shipwreck, when we reflect that the sufferers are deprived of Gospel light. It was his chance, early in life, to have witnessed two shipwrecks in one year; and on board one of the vessels, he had seen fifteen men frozen to death in one hour. Under such circumstances, in the darkness of a winter night, and no prospect of escape, not a heart seemed to throb with the least feeling of religion; nor was there a single prayer addressed to the Almighty. Part of the crew, possessing more of the feelings of the brute than of the human character, broke open the spirit room and got stupidly drunk. There were some who appeared to possess strong nerves; but on the approach of death became stupid and careless; even himself, at the time, had not a particle of christian feeling about him. A vessel having come in sight, a boat was lowered for the purpose of approaching it, and he, amongst others, volunteered to go, and jumped into the boat, but was recalled on account of his youth. After this he became discontented and sullen, and retired from the deck, but was scarcely below when he heard that the boat had been struck by a wave on the quarter and went down. This providential interference made no other impression on him at the time than that he was a lucky fellow. Shipwreck was at all times an awful thing; but when sailors were deprived of the comforts of the Gospel, it increased its horrors a hundredfold. With regard to the Society, they were bound, for two reasons, to support its interests; first, because they had encouragement to go on, and next, because it was necessary and had done much good. He was not accustomed to flatter any one, but, under Divine Providence, the Society had prospered through the exertions of their Rev. friend, Mr. Smith. Many things had been said of him; and he himself had several inquiries from his correspondents in the country, to know what he thought of Mr. Smith, for that they had heard strange accounts of him: he answered, that he believed his friend, Mr. Smith, to be one of the most persecuted men in the kingdom. He (Mr. M.) was not concerned in the Society, and had no motive for speaking thus of Mr. Smith; for if he thought he deserved censure, he would be one of the first to bestow it.—The Rev. Gentleman concluded by imploring the Divine blessing on the endeavours of the Society, and moved the first Resolution to the effect, "That the numerous disasters to which seamen were liable, should excite the most ardent desire to give them such religious instruction as might prepare them, by faith in Christ, for the sudden and violent deaths to which they were exposed."

The Rev. J. B. Shenstone seconded this Resolution. He did not intend to have addressed the Meeting, but feared if he did not that he would be con-