

under their charge, it was not wonderful that new arrangements should be made. The society would now be organised in three different departments—one to attend to the diffusion of information and the collection of contributions at home; a second to have the supervision of the different dioceses; and a third to advise generally and specially as to new fields of labour. He wished to explain with regard to a letter of the four Archbishops, which had been supposed to urge the claims of this society to the detriment of the Church Missionary Society, that the letter had emanated from a meeting of this body, and there was therefore no allusion to the other society. There was room enough for both to work, and he hoped there was enough to be obtained to support them efficiently. The present joint incomes of the two societies were far below what might be obtained for the objects which they had in view.—*London Guardian.*

THE annual festival of the *Choirs of Buckingham* and its neighbourhood was held at Buckingham, on Thursday 11th May. Divine service was celebrated in the parish church, the prayers being intoned by the Rev. W. Foxley Norris, vicar of Buckingham. The number of voices was 200. Venite and Psalms were sung to Anglican chants, the *Te Deum* and *Benedictus* to Gregorians harmonised by Monk. The Anthem, "Come unto Me all ye that labour," was well rendered by the united choir, and not only this but the whole service bore a marked improvement on the singing of last year. The Hymn, "Praise the Lord," (4 Hymns Ancient and Modern.) was followed by a thoughtful and able sermon upon Psalm lxxxvii, 2, upon the due worship of Almighty God, as to the place and manner, the preacher being the Venerable E. Bickersteth, D.D., Archdeacon of Buckingham. The gleban hymn, 145 "The Strain uprising," after the sermon, was followed by the Benediction, which closed the service. An ample luncheon was served in the Town-hall, and a few hearty speeches by the Archdeacon, the Rural Deans, Vicar, and others, concluded a very happy day. The choirs which took part were those of Buckingham and Gawcott, Shelstone, Great Horwood, Leckhamstead, Maids Moreton, Akeley, Westbury, and Tingewick.—*Ibid.*

THE annual meeting of the *Church Missionary Society* was held at Exeter Hall. The Earl of Chichester presided, and was supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of London, Ripon, Grahamstown, Huron, and Anderson (late of Rupert's Land,) the Dean of Melbourne, Sir Brook Bridges, Bart., M. P., Mr. A. Smith, M. P., and other gentlemen. The noble *Chairman* having briefly opened the proceedings, the *Rev. J. Venn* read the report, which stated the following results.

Income for the year.—General fund—Associations, benefactions, legacies, &c., £142,833 4s. 5d.; fund for disabled missionaries, &c., £1,631 18s. 4d.; total ordinary income, £144,464 18s. 9d.

Expenditure.—On account of the general expenses of the Society at home and abroad, £16,106 5s. 1d.; on account of disabled missionaries, &c., £3,275 2s. 2d.; total ordinary expenditure, £148,381 7s. 3d.

Special India Fund.—Balance last year, £10,750 7s. 5d.; receipts of the year, £2,712 8s. 5d.—£13,462 15s. 10d.; appropriated, but not paid, £4,000; transferred to general fund, £9,462 15s. 10d.

Ordinary income of the year, £144,464 18s. 9d.; grant from China Fund, £3,919 8s. 4d.; from India Fund, as above, £9,462 15s. 10d.—£157,847 2s. 11d.; deficit, 1863-4, £3,539 16s. 6d.; ordinary expenditure, £148,381 7s. 3d.—£151,921 3s. 9d.; surplus

transferred to capital fund, £5,925 19s. 2d. The local funds raised in the missions, and expended there upon the operations of the society, but independently of the general fund, are not included in the foregoing statement. They amount to about £20,000, making a grand total from all sources of £161,461.

The *Archbishop of Canterbury* moved the adoption of the report, and expressed his deep sympathy with the objects of the society. He hoped that the attention of the society would be devoted to native agency, and that a strong effort would be made to increase the funds. The *Rev. Canon M'Neale*, the *Bishop of London*, and others, also addressed the meeting.—*Guardian.*

AFTER a very prolonged debate on the complaints raised respecting the Court of Ecclesiastical Appeal, the Lower House of Convocation have arrived at a purely negative conclusion. They agree that the constitution of the present Court "is open to grave objections, and that its working is unsatisfactory," but decline to sanction any of the various plans, definite and indefinite, suggested for amending it. They reject the scheme for a new Court with fixed numbers of prelates, civilians, and judges. They reject a resolution which asserting that the right of ultimate determination rests in the spirituality, proceeded to express a "hope" that her Majesty would be "advised," in the exercise of her supremacy, to take counsel of persons qualified to judge by "spiritual knowledge and ecclesiastical dignity"—the climax surely of all that is vague, incoherent and unreal. They reject, lastly, Archdeacon Denison's scheme for removing "spiritual persons" from the tribunal altogether, and establishing a "board of reference." As we foresaw, the question, when canvassed in earnest and under the necessity for facing its practical details, is found to be surrounded with difficulties not seen, or not rightly estimated, at first; and the amount of substantial concurrence about it proves to be less than was supposed. It is not surprising, this being so, that Lord Lyttelton, who had given notice in the House of Lords of a motion for a select committee, defers the subject till next session. At present, he has the fact of dissatisfaction to go upon, but that is all. Both Houses have readily agreed to ask the Crown for leave to make a new Canon on clerical subscriptions, acquiescing, with hardly any demur, in the recommendations of the Royal Commission on this head.—*Ibid.*

THE annual general meeting of the *Irish auxiliaries of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel* was held in the Rotunda, Dublin. The chair was taken by Viscount Powerscourt. The report announced the contributions from Ireland during 1864 at two thousand six hundred and fifty-four pounds, being an increase of some three hundred pounds over the preceding year. The meeting was then addressed by the Bishop of Huron, the Dean of Melbourne, Archdeacon Jermyn, Right Hon. Joseph Napier, the Dean of Emly, and the Archdeacon of Dublin. Sermons were preached in several of the parish churches of Dublin on the next day, and collections made, amounting to about eighty pounds. A Missionary Studentship Association has just been founded in the diocese of Dublin, for the purpose of sending Irish students to St. Augustine's; subscriptions to the amount of "hirty pounds a-year have been already promised. A similar association has also been established in the diocese of Armagh.—*Ibid.*