

NEW-BRUNSWICK

RELIGIOUS AND LITERARY JOURNAL.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will towards men."

VOLUME I.

SAINT JOHN, SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1850.

NO. 52.

ANNIVERSARY.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIANITY AMONG THE JEWS.

[This society, established in London in 1803, only differs from the Philo-Judean Society (noticed in page 48) by its efforts being solely directed to the conversion of the Jews to Christianity. The means adopted are the establishment of schools for the children born of Jewish parents, and the circulation of the Old and New Testament in Hebrew, and in the languages of foreign countries, where Jews are resident.]

21st Anniversary.—Friday, May 8.

This meeting was one of the most numerous and respectable of the religious anniversaries. It was held in Freeman's Hall, which was completely filled soon after eleven o'clock. The Jewish children from the Bethnal-green school, forty boys and forty-three girls, were in the end gallery; and before the meeting was opened, they sang several hymns, accompanied by a lady on the organ. At twelve o'clock, Sir Thomas Baring took the chair; and round him on the platform were a number of distinguished friends and supporters of the institution.

The Rev. C. S. Hawtrey, chaplain to the society, offered up an appropriate prayer for the conversion of Israel and the salvation of the world.

Sir Thomas Baring, before proceeding to the immediate business of the day, informed the assembly, that the building projected about four years ago, for the accommodation of meetings like this, was at length about to be commenced. A proper site had been found for the erection of a hall capable of holding three thousand persons. The 21,000*l.* raised in 50*l.* shares, had been redeemed, by the payment of interest, to 20,000*l.* in consequence of the delay. As the building would cost some twenty or five-and-twenty thousand pounds more, he hoped all the friends of the societies would assist the undertaking, as by that means more than twice the number of persons than present might be accommodated. The Christian then addressed himself to the object for which the meeting was assembled, and entreated that they would give a patient hearing to all who might be called upon by the secretary to address them. He would not, however, as the chairman of a meeting assembled for a charitable object, permit any attempt to impugn the great truths of the Gospel. If there were any differences amongst them as to those parts of the Scriptures which yet remain to be fulfilled (and he thought they ought to receive a free interpretation), let those differences be expressed in the spirit of peace and humility; for though on minor and speculative points they might have separate opinions, yet in one great and essential point they were united—that of belief in one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all. Sir Thomas Baring then commended the society, the proceedings of which became every day more interesting, to the attention of all present, and called upon the Rev. Basil Wood to address the children. [This the reverend gentleman did in a most impressive manner. The children, after singing "Hosanna to the Son of David," retired, and their places were instantly occupied by ladies and gentlemen who could not find room in the body of the hall.]

In their report, the committee stated their belief, that there was a decidedly increasing interest in the cause of Israel. So far as that was proved by the amount of contributions, they referred to the fact, that besides those which actually passed into the hands of the treasurer, nearly 1000*l.* had been raised for the support of the institution at Warsaw, for the temporary relief of Jewish converts and inquirers after truth. During the past year, no new auxiliary societies had been actually formed, although meetings had been held in several places, where little or no effort had been previously made in behalf of the society. Chiefly for want of the active co-operation of the clergy, there were many counties in England, and several of them amongst the most extensive, in which no Christian effort whatever had been pub-

licly made for the promotion of the cause. The committee had the satisfaction of reporting, that the fourteen houses erected on the ground belonging to the society, adjoining the episcopal chapel and schools, at Cambridge Heath, had been finished by the assistance of a friend. During the past year there had been issued from the depository 2,020 complete copies, and 20,327 portions of the Old Testament Scriptures in Hebrew, 519 copies of the Pentateuch, in Judeo-Polish, 27 of the prophets in German Hebrew, and 127 of the New Testament in Hebrew and German Hebrew. The missionaries at Warsaw were at present proceeding with the translation of the Judeo-Polish version of the Old Testament Scriptures, of which the Pentateuch had an extensive circulation, as mentioned in a former report. The committee were anxiously looking for the completion of a translation of the Scriptures into Jewish Spanish, which was the language spoken by the Jews of Spain and Portugal, Turkey, and around the shores of the Mediterranean. The translation of the New Testament had been nearly completed at Corfu; and the revision of the Hebrew New Testament by Dr. Neuman a learned Christian Jew of Breslaw, had almost arrived at its completion. During the past year, about 14,000 tracts, in various languages, had been issued from the depository for circulation amongst the Jews, besides a much greater number published on the Continent, under the superintendance of the missionaries, in German, French, Italian, and other languages. In addition to the Schools at Hainburgh, Posen, Pinne, Dresden, Madras, and Bombay in the East Indies, mentioned in the last report, others had since been established at Dautsch, Margonin, Schlichtensheim, and Warsaw. The number of missionary agents in connection with the society was thirty-six, of whom twelve were of the Jewish nation, besides subordinate teachers, employed in the various schools. In the course of the year, ten students had been appointed to the seminary, of whom four had been admitted since the last anniversary, and three more were shortly expected to arrive from Berlin. At home, new efforts had been made to bring the great truths of Christianity before the Jews in various parts of England, and that not without success. The report then took a review of the foreign work of the society, and concluded by urging British Christians to increased exertions on behalf of the Jewish people.

It appears from the report of the treasurer (Sir R. H. Inglis) that the contributions for the year ending March 31st, amounted to 13,120*l.* 15*l.* 2*d.* of which sum the auxiliary associations had produced 10,468*l.* This was an increase of upwards of 100*l.* beyond the receipts of the previous year, which increase chiefly arose from legacies. 1,454*l.* had been received from Ireland. The expenditure was 13,319*l.* 6*l.* 5*d.* of which 5,553*l.* was in payments to foreign missions and schools.

The Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry came forward to move a resolution for receiving the report; and expressive of thankfulness to the Almighty for the blessings experienced by the society during the year. Indisposition would have induced him to remain silent on this occasion, were he not anxious, on account of his station, to assure them, that he still continued the steady supporter of the holy cause, in which so many of them had been for a long time engaged. "And when we consider," said his lordship, "the destitute condition of Zion, and that there is no sorrow like unto her sorrow"—when we see that the situation of the singular people had not improved for a long period that attention which its importance demanded, I think we must admit that such an institution as this is necessary, and highly deserving of our most cordial support. The general increase of the society's exertions is extremely gratifying, but more particularly the progress which has been made in the home missionary department. The condition of the Jews in this country deserves our serious attention—not so much with

a view to their conversion, as to their due preparation for the coming of Him in whose time the prophecies will be fulfilled with respect to them. In this point of view, the society may consider itself as the herald or pioneer in this great work, or like St. John in the wilderness—the voice of one preparing the way of the Lord.—(Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Wm. Jowett, missionary of Malta—"Feeling the duty of those who have witnessed the operation of your society abroad, I shall bear my testimony to what I have had opportunities of seeing as to their extent and importance in Malta. Some few years ago, when the Rev. Mr. Way came out to us, we were indeed in a very low situation, and one individual (not a missionary) proposed that we should break up the society. What! break up a missionary society? we exclaimed. That would indeed be to place no reliance on the promise of God, or on his command to teach all nations. No, however adverse things may appear, let us persevere, and leave the result to Heaven. We did go on. We translated the Testament into the modern Greek, and into that dialect of the Hebrew, which is the vernacular tongue of the Jews of the south of Spain, of Greece, of Asia Minor, and south Africa. There were also many useful and important tracts translated into that same tongue, and I am happy to say, that the result of these exertions was considerable, and many were induced by them to embrace the true faith. I have received the most encouraging account from the Jews at Constantinople, and one friend who is proceeding from thence into Asia Minor, writes to me that he has the highest expectation of the success of the mission, under the blessing of God, of the individual to whom I allude. I will not now say more. There is no doubt that God is able to work out his own ends by individuals of the most opposite dispositions. You all know Wolff, and the great ardour and zeal that he has shown in this holy cause, and of his earnest desire to penetrate the city of his people; having failed in that object by the ordinary route, he is now endeavouring to penetrate thither through the desert of Gaza—that route by which the people of old roached the promised land. Let us humbly hope that God will bless his endeavours—that he will prosper the ardent zeal of him and others who are equally ardent, as well as that of the more cold and phlegmatic. There may be amongst us differences of opinion as to certain points, but in one point, I trust, we shall be all agreed—in our exertions for promoting the objects of this society. In that hope, I conclude by cordially seconding the motion."

The resolution was then put and carried.

To be concluded.

PARENTS' DEPARTMENT.

FREEDOM BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

According to the wise provision of Providence, the fond endearment of parental love, produces an attachment in the breast of the child. A judicious parent will take advantage of this circumstance, to lay a foundation for that entire freedom, which ought ever to exist between parents and children. If confidence has been early invited by endearing affability, and established by prudence, reserve in the child will seldom have place in maturer years.

When children are accustomed freely to unbosom themselves, and unreservedly to reveal their wishes, to the parental friend, who is most interested in their welfare, what advantages must result to them, and what pleasure to the mind of an affectionate parent. When parents thus become to their children, the familiar friends, the unreserved confidants, the sympathizing partners in their joys and sorrows, hopes and disappointments; an influence over their minds is obtained which will continue when authority ceases; and will prove a safeguard through the most critical period of life.

Young people who are treated as companions by judicious parents, are seldom addicted to degrading practices. They will even forego many indulgences