

VI.—GENERAL MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

EDITED BY REV. D. L. LEONARD.

Extracts and Translations from Foreign Periodicals.

BY REV. C. C. STARBUCK, ANDOVER, MASS.

THE UNITED KINGDOM.

—"The policy, recently adopted, of giving to the world before the anniversary the financial statement, robs the annual meeting of what used at one time to be an element of surprise. Those who have attended the meetings for many years will remember occasions on which ringing cheers greeted the announcement that a dreaded deficit had given place to a handsome balance in hands. Sometimes the reverse has been the case. A solemn, subdued, but by no means unwholesome sensation has passed through many hearts when it has seemed as if the Lord's work must languish because the Lord's people had failed to give, or stir up others to give, what was needful to sustain and extend the work. But I for one entirely approve the present plan. The Society's friends ought not to be kept in the dark a day longer than necessary as to its position in a pecuniary point of view. There have been speeches delivered on the Church Missionary platform which for impassioned eloquence, wide intellectual range, and what is still better, profound spiritual power, could not be surpassed. Hugh McNeile, Hugh Stowell, and Francis Close were wont in their day to rouse their hearers to a fever-heat of enthusiasm; but not always were such speeches calculated to inform the mind on the matter in hand or to give practical direction to missionary zeal. It is interesting to notice how gradually there grew a desire on the part of the audience to hear speeches which should keep well in view the special work of the Church Missionary Society rather than those which, able, interesting, and sometimes

of great value in their own way, might as well have been delivered at the anniversary of any other society, so little had they to do directly with the cause of missions. Perhaps the first man—certainly one of the first men—to realize this fact was Canon Miller, Rector of Greenwich. I well remember dear Samuel Hasell telling me, with intense delight, that Canon Miller had asked to be put in possession of the most important incidents in the recent history of the Society, because he wished not to make a great speech, but to impress on his audience facts which would stimulate missionary zeal. Perhaps today the danger is lest men should forget that eloquence is a mighty power, and also lest some, at any rate, should look upon the platform as a pulpit. In a meeting which lasts from eleven to two there is absolute need of variety, and in my humble opinion those to whom God has given the gift of humor, though they must keep it well within bounds, are doing good service to religion when they allow its pleasant influence to relieve the tension of mind which is the inevitable result of speeches that tax the mind, the memory, and the feelings. Of appeals to the eye, none, perhaps, was more telling than that of the three chiefs from Uganda. I, for one, have always felt that I know more of the physical and mental characteristics of the Waganda, than I would ever have done had I not seen those fine, tall men, beside whom most Englishmen looked small."—HENRY STOROX, in *Church Missionary Intelligencer*.

—"The triennial return compiled for the Society of Friends shows that the membership of that body has appreciably increased in the London and Middlesex district, which is numerically the largest denominational district in the country."—*Bombay Guardian*.