

than fare sumptuously every day, and have your table made a snare, and a trap, and a recompence? Then be watchful to guard against the baits of sensu.

Beware of the snares of worldly mindedness. How many wretched captives are caught with a golden lure. The love of money is the root of all evil. They that will be rich fall into temptation, and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts.

3. I exhort you to think of the necessity of living daily in the fear of God.

Respect for your superiors, reverence for your parents, and regard to your own characters, may restrain you from the most gross and shameful vice, and with this some of you probably rest satisfied. But a principle of godly fear only, can bridle the wandering thoughts of fancy, and ballast the fluctuating affections of the heart; can purify your conversations, and govern your conduct: can render sin odious, and holiness amiable in your eyes. And are you yet destitute of the fear of God? I beg you will this day set yourselves seriously to consider your state. Do not trifle with things of eternal moment. Retire, at least for once, from the tumults of the world without, to look into the world within, and see what has passed, or is passing there. Cry to God for pardon through the blood of Christ. Pray for the unction of the divine Spirit, to enlighten your minds, and renew your souls, that you may continually live in the fear of God. Let each one for himself the prayer of the Psalmist, "Lord, unite my heart to fear thy name."

Does this principle of godly fear already influence any of you, let it be cherished in every devotional exercise, and manifested in every active duty. But ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, unto eternal life.

#### ANNIVERSARY.

#### RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

Thursday, May 15.

The Religious Tract Society celebrated its anniversary by a public breakfast at the City of London Tavern, at half-past six in the morning. THOMAS PELLATT, Esq. treasurer to the society presided.

After prayer, Mr. Jones read an abstract of the report of the society's transactions for the past year.

"The report commenced by noticing the foreign operations of the institution, and presented a most favourable account of the advancement of the translation of tracts into various languages. It appeared from the outline given of the domestic proceedings, that the following tracts and hand-bills have been circulated: 21,000 tracts and 72,000 hand-bills to the Christian Instruction Society; 30,000 Bristol City Mission; 60,000 in the courts and alleys of London, in prisons, hospitals, and work-houses;—243,000 at the pleasure fairs in London and its vicinity; 26,000 among the crowds attending the execution of criminals, and the same number at different horse races; 4,500 to the committee for the houseless poor; 6,000 Portuguese tracts to the emigrants at Plymouth. In addition to 118,000 tracts sent to Ireland, supplies have also been sent to convict ships, and numerous other important objects attended to. The total circulation of publications during the year amounts to ten millions one hundred and thirteen thousand four hundred and sixty-three, being an increase of 463,956, without including any of the tracts published at the society's expense in foreign countries. The new publications during the year amounted to 182. The total amount of benevolent income last year, not including sales, was £3,320 19s. 11d.; for the present year, it is £3,451 3s. 19d. being an increase of £123 3s. 11d. The gratuitous issues and money grants to foreign societies, amounted to £3,248 18s. 3d. Considerable amounts have also been granted to various foreign societies, which will be payable in the course of a few months. The sums received for sales during past year, including the gratuitous issues, amounted to £14,441 14s. 6d.; for the present year they have risen to £17,244 5s. 7d., being an increase of £2,802 11s. 1d. The total of the society's receipts last year was £18,417 2s. 3d.; for the present year it is £22,731 7s. 1d. being an increase of £4,314 4s.—

During the year our ministers have been made life members of the society, by sums raised for that purpose by persons belonging to their congregations.—The committee again recommended to all auxiliaries the plan of lending the publications of the society in their districts."

The Rev. Mr. Marks (vicar of Great Missenden) rose to move that the report be received. He would mention one circumstance as a proof of the truth of a statement contained in the report, namely, that much of the society's success must remain for a future day to develop. As a proof of that, he would inform the meeting of the formation of a tract society upon the bosom of the great ship. When it pleased God to give him some little knowledge of his own soul, he could not but look with compassion on six hundred men with whom he associated, not one of whom but exhibited a shadow of piety during the period they had been in the ship. Divine Providence directed a part of a report of the Religious Tract Society in his way. It was torn, but there was sufficient left to inform him of the institution, and that Mr. Mims, who was then a resident minister at Plymouth, was its agent. He embraced the earliest opportunity of calling upon that gentleman, and requesting him to explain the nature and objects of the society. Mr. Mims did so, adding that he had no tracts by him, but he would easily procure some. He wrote for large portions of tracts himself, circulated them among the decks, and eventually it led to the formation of a Religious Tract Society on board the ship. This was immediately succeeded by the circulation of a library of 400 volumes, together with a circulation of sixty or seventy copies of the Word of God. Before those tracts had been in circulation in the ship three months, there was every reason to believe that some of them had been owned by God, and certainly in one case he trusted to the real conversion of a seaman. As a minister of a large parish, he felt under particular obligations to the Tract Society. Now that he was absent from his people he knew that there was scarcely a cottage in which was not found some of the publications of the Religious Tract Society. (Applause.)

The Rev. Dr. Phillip said he would bring before the meeting some interesting information respecting what he had seen on the Continent. He was fully persuaded that the Society was rising into very great importance, and he had no doubt it would, from time to time receive the most pleasing intimations with regard to the measure of its success. The following fact had been related to him, as illustrative of the society's usefulness, by two ladies of high rank. Happening to be on a visit to a watering place, before undertaking their tour, they provided themselves with a large number of Bibles and tracts. They visited several fashionable places in the neighbourhood of Paris, and found, in the highest part of the mountains of the Auvergne, where nature there shows herself under the boldest forms; a venerable minister of the Gospel; his simplicity, his mildness, and his virtues made him beloved by his parishioners. The good man told them an anecdote of his life, which he was permitted by them to mention. Dr. Phillip here described, in affecting language, the incident he had alluded to. Towards the end of one December, when the cold was never more rigorous, the priest set off on the duties of his ministry, towards the village of Tour. He was leading his horse over the steepest part of the mountain, but had not walked far before he slipped, broke his leg, and was instantly buried in the snow. In this situation he remained throughout the night, and next morning, with the dawn of the sun, having for hours given up all hope, he sought comfort in a copy of the Holy Scriptures, which he always carried with him. He found comfort; the fervour of prayer surmounted the feeling of pain, and he resigned himself to God, fully convinced of the imperfectness of works, and the efficacy of faith for justification.—Another night passed; the sun re-appeared; and sudden cries startled him. Christmas-day had arrived, and the mountaineers of the village missing their beloved pastor, had set off in search of him.—A litter of pine branches was formed, and he soon found himself in the village. His convalescence (continued the reverend doctor) was long and painful; but he never ceased to return fervent thanks to God for the manner in which he had designed to draw him to himself, making him feel his spiritual wretchedness, and that "Jesus is the end of the law to justify those that believe in him; and that not by

works of righteousness that we have done, but according to his mercy he has saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit." for there is no safety in any other, and no other name given under Heaven whereby we can be saved." The lady and her daughters who had mentioned the circumstance, stepping in another village, left a Bible or a tract in every house, and from their high rank they commanded the most respectful attention. The priest from his pulpit next Sabbath morning, when the ladies were present, denounced it as a most indecorous act for them to come into his parish, and declared them to be enemies of God and his church. He also declared, that unless his parishioners brought him the Bibles and tracts they should be excommunicated. The ladies had an interview with him, and finding him determined, thought they would get the tracts in, to prevent them from being burned. They employed three days in going from house to house, and to their surprise there was not a single parishioner who would give them up. (Cheers.) He felt it to be one of the most delightful facts that had ever come under his observation. He must mention, with regard to the foreign operations of the society, that he was introduced to a French nobleman, who told him, that there was a day coming when it would be known that France owed more to Mr. Wilks than to any other man upon the face of the earth. He recollected being introduced by Mr. Wilks to two young men who had lately been brought to a knowledge of the truth. They were possessed of large fortunes, attended by their livery servants, with a bundle of tracts, and every day made it a practice of giving away 500 tracts. After noticing the society's operations in China, the reverend gentlemen adverted to the £10,000 appropriated by the East India Company to revive the ancient Hindoo Literature; and to a statement made by a gentleman, who said it could be of no use to appropriate the money, unless the people were taught to read the Scriptures. He was happy to say, that the sentiment was prevailing to a great extent in India; that the friends of education were rising up in that country, and were found in every part of the empire. He would not have addressed the meeting at such length, but he had come to take his leave of the friends of the Religious Tract Society, and he hoped he should thank them for their supplies of tracts when he arrived in Africa. He could not, however take his leave of the assembly, without requesting their prayers in his behalf. (Cheers.)

The Chairman put the motion, remarking that the ship which had been referred to as the one into which the first tract was thrown, was named the Conqueror.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

#### RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The following article, being the Annual Address of the Wesleyan Conference at its last Sitting, to the Methodist Societies in Great Britain, demands the particular attention of every member of that Body, in every part of the world. It may at the same time gratify an innocent and laudable curiosity, which sometimes exists in the minds of other persons, who wish to understand the nature of the intercourse which takes place between the Wesleyan Conference, and the Societies under its pastoral care. While therefore, it has a peculiar claim upon the attention of Methodists, it may not be altogether without use to others. Perhaps the reading of it by Ministers and Christians of other denominations, may be a means under the Divine Blessing, of "stirring up their pure minds also, by way of remembrance."

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST SOCIETIES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Dearly Beloved Brethren,

The intimate relation which subsists between you and you, encourages us to address you in the most unreserved and confidential manner. Assembled as we now are in our Annual Conference, and employed in striving by deliberation and prayer to advance the prosperity of our extensive Connexion, we wish again to declare our fraternal and pastoral affection for you; to renew our fellowship with you in the Lord; and to suggest such counsels and directions