

has greatly increased; and the several congregations every Sabbath number from 1,000 to 1,500 persons. It is not without difficulty in some instances to gain an entrance through the crowd to the place of worship, and hundreds go away from want of room. In the month of October the Lord's Supper was administered to the members of the several native churches, when about 800 intelligent practical believers united in commemorating the dying love of their Redeemer.

In addition to the six missionaries already in Madagascar, who were diligently preparing for their respective spheres of labour, the directors were about to send out four additional missionaries. The appeal for contributions to the proposed memorial churches had been promptly responded to, £9,000 having been subscribed, and £2,200 additional by juvenile friends of the society. Mr. James Cameron, one of the few agents of the society still living who was honoured to introduce Christianity with the arts of civilisation into Madagascar under Radama I., and who has been since engaged for many years in kindred pursuits at Cape Town, has, in accordance with the wishes of the directors, most readily proceeded to Madagascar, to render his valuable assistance in the erection of the memorial churches.—*Nonconformist*.

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THE COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Colonial Missionary Society was held on Monday, May 18, at the Poultry Chapel, under the presidency of John Remington Mills, Esq., M.P. The proceedings were begun with singing, and the Rev. J. Beazley offered prayer.

The Rev. T. James read the report of the committee, which stated that as far as the society's field of operations is occupied a divine blessing appears to rest both upon pastors and churches. Whether attention is directed to the northern or southern hemispheres the scene was alike pleasing and hopeful. Numerous details were given in confirmation of this general statement, having reference to British North America, Vancouver's Island, Port Natal, and various parts of Australia. Deep regret was expressed on account of the deaths of the Rev. Richard Fletcher, Rev. Dr. Ross, Rev. Mr. Miller, Rev. Mr. Roaf, and the Rev. Mr. Stow, and because of the resignation of the pastorate of the church in Pitt-street, Sydney, by the Rev. W. Cuthbertson. Four ministers had been sent out to Australia during the year, but the two most important spheres in Melbourne and in Sydney were vacant owing to Mr. Fletcher's decease and Mr. Cuthbertson's retirement. A minister was required for Halifax, Nova Scotia, and no fewer than fourteen are urgently needed at the present moment for the colonies of Australasia. The total income from all sources during the year, including balance at the banker's, is £5,281 1s. 5d. Of this the sum of £521 10s. had been specially contributed towards the erection of chapels in Canada and Port Natal. The expenditure of the year has been £5,432 2s. 2d.; thus showing a balance of £151 6s. 9d. due to the treasurer. The receipts are equal to the preceding year, but the expenditure had been greater, and would have been still larger but for the liberal terms on which certain shipowners generously arranged for the conveyance of the ministers and their families to the Australian colonies. In conclusion, the committee appealed for £1,000 extra income in the course of the ensuing year.

The Rev. Dr. Vaughan moved the first resolution, nominating the committee.

The Rev. W. H. Parkinson, in seconding the resolution, compared the national life in England to a hothouse or a plantation filled with plants and trees, and the colonies to the open ground whence the flowers and trees had in due time to be transferred. The plants required the moisture and the sunlight in both positions; and those who went forth from our shores needed the same Gospel they did at home, and in many respects all the more, for when living away from old ties and associations they were the more likely to go astray.—*Ibid*.

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THE METHODIST NEW CONNEXION held its 67th annual conference at Leeds, last week. The Rev. Wm. Cocker, of Mossley, is the president for the year. The denomination are erecting a college for training their ministers, at Raunmoor, Sheffield, towards which nearly £10,000 has been subscribed.