

MISCELLANEOUS.

From 'Recent Journeys in Scotland' in the (Boston) Christian Witness of April 1st.

After our visit to Holy Rood and Moray's House, we closed the day by dining with the Rev. Mr. R., (Ramsay) Rector of St. John's Chapel. I have no skill in describing either the ceremonies or the mixed conversations which belong to an *à la mode* dinner. Suffice it to say—the present was a very modest one, and like all others, given in well-bred and well-ordered families. I have never yet seen much difference between either an *English*, or a *Scotch* and an *American* dinner. The guests, on the present occasion, were few and select; and among them, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart from Nova Scotia, and Rev. Mr. Craig of Edinburgh. Mrs. R., our hostess, was a Miss Cochrane, sister to the wife of Dr. Inglis, the present Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia, and once a resident in our own Boston. We were of course delighted to find that while there, she had been a worshipper in the same parish and congregation with ourselves. Mr. R. appears to be associated, through the medium of his parish and his own connections with the highest classes of Scottish society, as he showed us a splendid piece of silver plate, which was presented to him by the Duke of Buccleugh, on occasion of the baptism, by Mr. R., of one of his children. Happy the servant of Christ, who can minister the Gospel to the great, the wealthy, or the fashionable, without a compromise of its high and heavenly truths, and with such a constant and consistent manifestation of its humble and world-renouncing spirit, as to become the instrument of that most difficult work, the salvation of those who have riches, or the things of which riches are the usual accompaniment, rank, or fashion.

We left our kind host and his pleasant circle before dark; but on looking at the watch as we were returning home, we found that it wanted but a few minutes of ten o'clock, P. M. This lingering of day, so long after sunset, was nothing more than the strong twilight of a northern latitude; Edinburgh being near the fifty-sixth degree, and the day being the 25th of June.

Gipsy Orphans.—In the proceedings of the British and Foreign Bible Society, we find the following account of the refuge which has been established for Gipsy orphans.

In the beautiful valley of Shepscombe, a few miles from Stroud, a benevolent lady has opened a Refuge for Gipsy Orphans. Great numbers of this wandering and singular tribe have, for many years, frequented the sequestered vales and woods of this 'English Switzerland,' as it has been termed; and my valued friend has had ample opportunity of witnessing the deplorable state, both bodily and spiritual, to which they were reduced by ignorance and sin. This misery was, as you will readily believe, most conspicuous among the numerous orphans, left totally destitute by the early death of their wretched parents; and it was for this class, more especially, that the Christian sympathy of my friend was awakened. She has engaged a pious and judicious governess; and, although the 'Refuge' has been opened little more than a year, thirty-six children have been admitted, from six to eighteen years of age, and from sixteen different counties of England. They are lodged, boarded, and clothed; and carefully instructed in reading, knitting, sewing, and household work, with the view of qualifying them for domestic servitude. The divine blessing has evidently descended on this interesting establishment. The expenses are defrayed by the subscriptions of a few friends, and the profits of the sale of two or three useful publications; but the means are still inadequate.

Overworking—a Word to Ministers.—Dr. Clark delivered this playful admonition, in reference to his son's close application, and too great disregard of suitable attention to his health.

'By such means you will shorten your life, and under such circumstances, I am not quite sure, had of your favourable reception at the gate of heaven; for if Peter watched there, when you knocked at its portal, he might say, 'Who are you? why are you here at this time? You were not sent for, and need not have come hither for several years.' And it will be well for you if he does not add, 'Get along with you.'

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

A presbyter of this diocese who has recently visited Great-Britain, thus states in a letter recently received, his impressions of the present character and condition of our venerable 'nursing mother.'

My visit to England, although short, was most deeply interesting; and as I stood beneath the venerable and magnificent arches which have echoed for so many centuries the praises of Almighty God, I could not repress the thrilling feeling of exultation and gratitude that I was a member of that Church which has stood so nobly the bulwark of truth and order. I felt no longer a stranger, when that ritual which in my own home had been associated with all that is tender and sacred, met my ear in a foreign land. An electric chain was touched, which seemed to connect me with all around, and even the high fretted arches and the retiring aisles were as things familiar.—One thing especially struck me. The order, solemnity, and attention which every where pervaded the worshipping congregations. The old man of many winters, whose failing eye could scarcely distinguish the sacred pages, known from his childhood, the young with attentive thoughtfulness, the rich, the poor, the high and low, all were mingled together, filling pew and aisle with a decorum and reverence which struck me as new and delightful. Of course I cannot speak of all England, nor can I say that in every part of the country the same attachment is manifested to the established Church; but as far as my knowledge extends, I can testify not only to crowded Churches, but likewise to faithful preaching. There may doubtless be among the many who minister at the altar, those who lift not up 'clean hands' unto the Lord; but here on earth 'the fine gold' is ever mingled with alloy. It may have its defects, but what would England be now, had she never known the purity, the energy, and breathing piety of her Bishops and Clergy? Green and flourishing yet is that tree, planted by God's providence, which for centuries has borne such rich and precious fruit. May God still guard it from the axe of the destroyer! —*Missionary.*

Pious Mother.—We are not warranted to conclude, that early religious instruction is all lost, even when it seems so. The precious seed often lies long hid underground, but springs up at last. One of the most touching passages in the confession of the celebrated Augustine, is that in which he speaks of the solicitude of his devout mother, and owns the influence which her prayers and tears had in checking his licentious course, and changing his views and pursuits. The late venerable John Newton, in the narrative of his eventful life, expresses the most ardent regard for his reverend mother. She made it her chief business and pleasure to instruct her only child in the elements of religious knowledge. She stored his memory with whole chapters of Scripture, with catechisms and hymns, and left no means untried to impress upon his mind the truths of christianity. This excellent parent he lost when he was seven years old. Plunged into a wicked world, his youth and mature years were given up to almost every kind of vice and profligacy; and he acknowledges, that after he was reclaimed by the grace of God, the instructions given in his childhood vividly recurred to his recollection, and were of considerable use to him. Gilbert West was at one time drawn into the labyrinth of infidelity. But he did not feel at ease in his unbelief. The lingering impressions of reverence made by maternal tuition, could never be quite effaced. In a letter to Dr. Doddridge, he says, 'I cannot help noticing, on this occasion, your remarks on the advantage of an early education in the principles of religion, because I have myself happily experienced it; since I owe to the care of a most excellent woman, my mother, that bent and bias to religion, which, with the cooperating grace of God, hath at length brought me back to those paths of peace from which I might have otherwise been in danger of deviating for ever. The parallel betwixt me and Colonel Gardner was, in this instance, too striking not to affect me exceedingly.'

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

LUNENBURG, THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1836.

In consequence of the unusual delay in the arrival of the spring ships from Great Britain, and a disappointment at Halifax, our stock of paper is so low, that we are obliged to issue to-day but half a sheet. The remainder shall accompany our next number, if we are unable to forward it sooner. Under these circumstances, we shall not occupy more space than is required to offer this explanation to our subscribers.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.—It is highly satisfactory to learn from the following brief notice, that the present condition of this venerable Institution, (the oldest of all now engaged in the good work of spreading christianity through the world) is so flourishing. Long may it continue to be upheld by the contributions of the Church! We hope soon to be in possession of the annual Report, from which we shall make extracts for the information of our readers.

'During the past year, the extent to which its operations have been carried far exceeds that of any other period of its history. The circulation of books and tracts has amounted to two millions two hundred and seventy-eight thousand and forty-eight, being an increase of 116,855 upon the circulation of the year preceding; in addition to which, the Committee of General Literature and Education has circulated, including the Saturday Magazine, 4,747,187. The receipts of the Society during the year, including £605 on account of the special fund for the Foreign Transaction Committee, have amounted to £73,236.

'The Society glories in having been the first body in the kingdom which came forward to promote the education of the poor upon Christian principles. And though it is no longer directly engaged in the establishment of schools, it continues to supply all the religious books used in the National schools, and probably, the Report states, in the greater part of all the Charity schools in the kingdom which are in connection with the Established Church. We believe, however, that a large number of these do not confine themselves exclusively to the Society's list.'

REV. THOMAS HARTWELL HORNE.—In an American paper we are happy to find the following account of an appropriate, though, as it is called 'trivial,' mark of respect to this eminent clergyman, so well known as the author of the valuable Introduction to the Study of the Holy Scriptures.

'The Clergy of Birmingham (many of whom have long known Mr. H.'s unwearied efforts in defence of the holy Protestant faith) have presented to this gentleman, a specimen in silver of each medal published in that town in commemoration of the first publishing of the Bible in the English language, by the venerable confessor, Myles Coverdale, the printing of which was completed, on the 4th day of October, 1535. The medals are six in number, and are deposited in a case lined with crimson velvet. The medal in the centre is of the largest size, and mounted in a silver rim, with a glass on each side, for the convenience of wearing round the neck, if required. On the outside of the case is the following inscription in gold letters:—'This case of medals being a specimen of those which were struck in Birmingham to commemorate on Sunday, the 4th of October, 1835, the third centenary of the publication of the Protestant English Bible, by Myles Coverdale, some time Bishop of Exeter, is presented by the clergy of Birmingham to the Rev. Thomas Hartwell Horne, B. D. Rector of St. Edmund's the Martyr and St. Nicholas Acons, London, as a trivial acknowledgment of his great services to the christian cause, and especially of his zealous exertions in directing the attention of Protestants to the propriety of the devout public observance of an event so important to the establishment of pure scriptural religion.'