

again rose, and drew from them the tears of christian sympathy. I will not say that the inclosed addition from the father to the son's offering is to be attributed solely to Mr Swan's suggestion, but I think it probable that both Shagdur, and his commentators, have contributed to the result."

In India, more than 24,000 copies of the Scriptures have been distributed within the year; and calls for a more abundant supply are numerous and pressing. The parent Institution, however, have taken vigorous measures for providing a supply in some measure proportioned to the continually increasing demand.

It is encouraging to find, that copies of the Scriptures are more highly prized than tracts of human composition. The Rev. Mr Stone says: "As to the manner in which the Scriptures I have given away have been received, I can more fully say that they have been given mostly to adults, and to those who asked for and promised to read them. I have found an increasing desire, among the better informed of the natives, for the word of God. Not unfrequently have I been addressed by Brahmins and others, when I have offered them Tracts to read, in language like this, 'Who wrote these books?' 'Good men,' I replied. 'Then we do not want them—we do not want books of man's making. If you will give us the Christian Scriptures, which you say were given by God, and designed for all men, to instruct them in the knowledge of the true God, and only way of salvation through a Saviour, we will receive them, read them, and see what they teach,—but what do we want with books made by your Padres?'"

The good effects resulting from persevering Bible distribution are becoming more and more apparent. The Rev. Mr Rennie, at Palamcottah, says: "No fewer than 221 families, containing 892 souls, have, during the last six months, been added to the Christian Church. They are now being instructed in the wholesome word of God, having cast their idols to the moles and to the bats. Six families, in another heathen place, left the worldly advantages of their village, and have settled on our mission lands, in order to hear and learn the word of God in quietness, and not to be exposed to the temptations which their idolatrous neighbours gave them."

In the last quarter of the year, two men came from a village near a large idolatrous town, and asked, in the name of nine families, for a christian teacher. They had heard the truths of the word of God from various persons, but particularly from a christian woman of another place. A catechist is now instructing them. Forty seven families in a second village, and forty two families in a third, have cleansed their heathen temples, and are now under regular instruction. They seem to delight in the word of God. In these days I was informed of twenty families in a fourth village, who have done the same, and I am just sending a teacher to them—Let the Bible society rejoice, that, by its labours, more than 14,000 people, in this province, are sitting under the shadow of the tree of life, and learn to enjoy the fruit thereof."

Leangafa, the zealous Chinese evangelist, under the patronage of the parent Institution, has been unhappily stopped in his work; and the little band of native christians, who laboured with him, broken up by persecution. Leangafa, himself, and his family, have taken refuge in Malacca, — where he is employed in connection with the Anglo-Chinese College. The Rev. Mr Evans of Malacca in allusion to this matter says: "I have no doubt such a circumstance will be overruled for the general benefit of the Chinese. The people have since become more earnest in their solicitations for christian books; and it is our intention, at once, to put as many copies of the New Testament into their hands, as we possibly can. During the late persecutions, the native Christians behaved with great constancy and firmness: Some were beaten, others imprisoned, and, their goods confiscated; part made their escape, but were obliged to wander about, seeking obscure retreats, destitute of the necessities of life, and almost of clothing. But the great Head of the Church interfered speedily, for the liberation and relief of his afflicted children. Since the arrival of Leangafa, we have persevered, in spite of every obstacle; and find in all our movements, that our God is with us—I trust you will forward to me another resolution, as early as possible, authorizing me to print an additional supply to the 10,000 already granted; as I feel persuaded that long before its arrival here, we shall be quite destitute. There seems to be a wide and effectual door opened in China, so that thousands and millions of the New Testament will ere long be wanted. Indeed, at this time, we could easily dispose of 50,000, yea, 100,000, if we had them to distribute."

On the receipt of this communication, the committee of the parent institution, who had previously sent out instructions for a farther supply of 5,000 copies, proceeded to authorize the missionaries at Malacca, to print successive editions of the New Testament, to the extent of 10,000 more; at the same time encourag-

ing them to advance still further without waiting to hear from home, should circumstances, in their judgment seem to justify it.

The Rev. Mr Medhurst, having made an exploratory voyage, along the coasts of China, in company with the Rev. Mr Stevens, visited various parts of the provinces of Shan Tung, Keang Soo, Che Keang and Fokeen; and notwithstanding the prohibitions of the Mandarins, persisted in walking about and distributing tracts; which the people were so eager to receive, that it was out of the power of the mandarins to prevent their being circulated. In no instance were they insulted or injured. The officers of Government invariably treated them with civility, only displaying a great anxiety to get them away as soon as possible. They distributed about 6,000 volumes of different parts of the Scriptures, and 12,000 tracts.

The prospects which were opening so brightly on Madagascar, have been suddenly and unhappily clouded. The government of the country has interposed, in the most peremptory manner, and utterly proscribed Christianity. The party at present in power, who were always favourable to Idolatry, and opposed to the improvements of the late King Radama, have urged on this measure, and with the concurrence of the reigning Queen, have at length accomplished it. The immediate effects produced are thus described by the Rev. Mr Freeman; "at present the scene around us is distressing, all public worship is forbidden, the copies of the scriptures have all been collected, by order of the Government, and delivered back to us, as things that the natives no more dare be in the possession of. Our tracts, catechisms, and hymns have all shared the same fate. The triumph of the Government is that christianity is utterly abolished, and so effectually that it can rise no more."

The committee of the parent Institution observe, with regard to these melancholy occurrences:—"Yet under this dispensation of Providence, there are some intimations that the mercies of the Lord are not clean gone for ever. Though not a native has been allowed to work at the Press, the Missionaries have succeeded in bringing to a close the printing of the Old Testament; so that the entire Bible now exists in the language of the country. Portions of it had been widely circulated and read, before these late enactments took place; and though the volume has been wrenched from their hands, its contents are, it is believed, lodged in the memories and hearts of many; where, by the grace of God, the seed will germinate, and who can say what fruit may yet be seen."

The distribution of the word of God, is still carried on in various parts of Africa, and it is hoped, not without advantage to considerable numbers. And gratifying accounts continue to be received, of the good effects resulting from the Society's bounty to the emancipated Negroes.

From the cursory view which has been given, of the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society, it appears, that though powerful opposition is manifested in different quarters, there is much ground for thankfulness, and no room for despondency. We may warrantably cherish the hope that God will, in his own good time and way, frustrate the designs of the enemies of his holy word, and remove every obstruction to its universal circulation. "The wrath of man shall praise him, and the remainder of the wrath he will restrain."

In the mean time, it becomes the friends of the Bible to thank God and take courage; and all who have any regard to the glory of God, and to the temporal and eternal welfare of their fellow creatures, should feel themselves constrained to contribute, as the Lord hath prospered them, to the furtherance of this glorious cause.

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#### GLEANNINGS.

##### DISTRESSING SHIPWRECKS.

*Extract of a Letter from Marie Joseph, dated January 12, 1837.*—"It becomes my painful duty to inform you of the loss of the Brigantine Gratitude, from St. John's, N.F. bound to Halifax, and that five of the crew and two passengers perished—indeed the only person saved was the Captain. From him I learn that the Gratitude sailed from St. John's, Dec. 25—on the 30th and 31st ult. experienced hard gales from N. W. and severe frost—and that three of the crew became frost bitten in both feet and hands; the vessel sprung a leak and was embodied in ice. The weather soon after became fine, and she shaped her course for Halifax; but on the 2d inst., in the evening, she struck on some ledges at the S. E. end of Crook Island, at the entrance of Liscomb Harbor, and was soon a total wreck. Her cargo consisted of 1250 qtls. Fish. The bodies of those who perished have been found and buried."

The new brig Maria, owned by S. G. Archibald & Co., from Sydney, C. B., with coal—bound to St. John's, N. F. lost her mainmast, and went ashore in a gale of wind, at Seatarie, C. B., about the 5th January. — Vessel and cargo a total loss—crew saved.

The brig Liverpool, London, from Miramichi, for Liverpool, was driven on the Bar of Inch, Dingle Bay, on the night of the 14th Dec. and immediately became a total wreck. On the vessel first striking, the Captain and Mrs. Louden (who unfortunately accompanied her husband on the voyage,) were washed overboard. Mrs Louden was never seen. The Captain gained the shore by laying hold of a rope, but died very shortly after of grief, cold, and fatigue. The remainder of the crew, 15 in number, were saved.

ON THE CULTIVATION OF THE MENTAL FACULTIES.—"One cause which limits the cultivation of the mental powers, is the total absence of religious dissent in the country. A difference of opinion upon religious doctrines among a people, is the most powerful stimulus to the human mind to investigate, to obtain knowledge, to exert the mental powers. The spirit of religious controversy adds nothing certainly to their intelligence, acuteness, desire for education, and value of religion. Scotland and England without their Seceders and Dissenters, would have been countries in which the human mind slumbered. A land of universal conformity is necessarily one of universal apathy as to religious matters, or else of gross superstition. It is to expect effect without cause, to expect zeal or enlightened belief without inquiry and opposition, and the collision of mind against mind. There is something of this apathy and of this superstition observable in Norway: there is no stimulus awakening men from the passive state of mind produced by uninquiring conformity. Those who maintain that a nation should have but one religious Code fixed by law, to the exclusion of all dissent, should look and see whether there is a sound and true sense of religion in those countries, whether Catholic or Protestant, where the public mind has remained in this state. 'If ignorance be bliss,' it has been said, 'tis folly to be wise.' It is this bias and this wisdom which universal conformity to the doctrines of an Established Church, either in a nation or parish, will produce."—*Laing's Norway*. p. 417.

Intelligence has been received in Paris of the defeat of the French Army in an attack upon Constantine, in Africa, with considerable loss.

Modesty is the only bait used with success when fishing for applause.