

the religious intercourse of kindred minds. By this means, languishing piety is revived, and decaying zeal excited into flame. And so momentous are those principles, that we would not consider ourselves to have written to you in vain, if by means of this correspondence, we may inhale a larger portion of holy zeal and ardent devotion. We have heard of the delightful events which are taking place in your happy land; of revivals of religion, almost every where experienced; and of the examples of ministerial fidelity and success, which in many places present themselves. We cannot contemplate these things with indifference. We hail with joy the news of your visitation from above; and congratulate you as our dear Christian brethren on the signal display of Almighty power and grace with which you have been favoured by such revivals. But we are not forgetful of the blessings which we enjoy in our own beloved country. She has been, and we hope, still is one of the favorites of Heaven. The ministers of religion, are, we think, increasing in zeal, and evangelical sentiment. A numerous portion of our countrymen are decidedly religious, and by their preponderating influence give a healthy feeling to the morality of our country.

Our Societies for benevolent and religious purposes are numerous, and gain a laudable degree of support. Our Sabbath evening schools are numerous, and in general well attended. Institutions are established among us for encouraging social prayer among the young, and we are happy to say, that in our town, juvenile prayer meetings are by no means unfrequent. There are several city missions, who employ agents to perambulate the dwellings of the poor and profligate, and to invite their attention to their eternal interests. There are several city missions of this description in London, in Edinburgh, in Glasgow, and in Paisley. The Glasgow city mission has been maintained for more than two years. It employed ten agents during the last year, and at present employs nearly twenty. The discoveries made by these missionaries, of ignorance and irreligion, are truly lamentable, and furnish a powerful stimulus to increased exertion.

We have several Societies for the instruction and improvement of our Celtic countrymen. Education is making progress in the romantic glen, and in the rude and rocky islands of the North.

There exists in this town one of these societies. Its object is to promote the preaching of the gospel. It employs eight agents, most of them occasional, who have itinerated in an extent of country containing 416,000 inhabitants. They have done much good, and awakened the attention of their hearers to the gospel. At first their message was slighted, but now it is eagerly listened to. In one island, (the Lewis) the gospel too has a powerful influence. The Sabbath has been restored to its formerly decayed honours, the tone of morality raised, and it is believed, many sinners converted. But in no part of the world do the principles of the gospel reign with more uncontrolled sway than in your happy country. It is there that we behold religion and the church unmanacled by the shackles of secular power, and uninjured by the influence of priestly domination. We consider ourselves more closely allied to the Presbyterian church in America than to any other. And we feel satisfied, that though between us the Atlantic roars, and the wide chasm of distance effects a person's separation, yet you will extend to us, as we extend to you, the arm of fraternal affection, and welcome us as your humble brethren in Christ.

W. DUNNIE, Secretary.

DEATH OF MR. TYERMAN.—The cause of missions has met with a severe loss in the death of the Rev. Daniel Tyerman, an agent of the London Missionary Society, who has been employed for several years in visiting the missions of that Society. He died at Madagascar, on his return to England from the South Sea Islands, China and Hindostan. The results of his labours are preserved in a journal forwarded to the Society, and partly published. But the Society and the general cause of missions lament, in his death, the loss of one more devoted servant and martyr in their service.

The death of the King of Madagascar, Radama, is contained in the same intelligence. A man who has distinguished his reign, by his efforts to advance his kingdom in civilization—by his friendship to

missionaries and their views. He is said to have sent two of his sons to England to be educated.

Religious Intelligencer.

Extract from a Letter from Mr. McKenny, dated Caltura, April 21st, 1827.

On Sunday, the 11th ult. we witnessed an exceedingly interesting scene in our Chapel here, during the English service. Wallegedde Piddassi Terrannase, the learned High Priest of the Buddhist temple of Wissidugamma, in the Roygam Korle, took his seat in his robes, in front of the pulpit, with the intention of publicly renouncing idolatry, of making a profession of his belief in Christianity, and of laying aside his priestly vestments. The Chapel was well filled, and the virandas crowded with natives, whom curiosity had brought together. The collector and family, and assistant collector, the head modeliar of the district, and Petrus Panditti Sekera, (the first Buddhist priest converted in the island, and now a government native preacher of this district,) were present, and felt a lively interest in the service; indeed I ought to mention, that the collector, C. E. Layard, Esq. came from Colombo on purpose to be present on this occasion. Brother Roberts preached a very appropriate sermon, and immediately after, the priest stood up, and facing the people, read an address in Singhaliese, drawn up by himself; and immediately after, Mr. Poulter, our Assistant Brother, read a correct translation of the priest's paper, from which the following are selections:—

"My dear friends,—It is now fifteen years since I was constituted a priest of Budhu. For four years I held the office of Sumenets, or assistant: after which I was elevated to that of Upasampade, by which I was invested with all the honours and powers of the priesthood. During this long period I was diligently employed in reading the sacred books of the religion in which I had been educated, in order to my being well informed on the subjects on which they treat, and to my obtaining the salvation of my soul. In addition to my own researches I had the counsel and instructions of several learned priests: but from all I have read and heard I can derive no comfort to my soul,—the statements of the books in general being of a kind which I could not believe, because I could not reconcile them with reason.

"While suffering under these distracting circumstances, I thought of speaking to a friend of mine, named Don Pav de Alwis Wikkramasinha Gunescou Appohany, schoolmaster of the Wesleyan Mission School in Wissidugamma, who I understood had some knowledge of the Christian religion; and while conversing with him on the subject of both religions in friendly but free debate for many days, I was at last fully convinced in myself that there must be a Creator of the world, a Saviour, and forgiveness of sin; and came to the conclusion, that there was no salvation for my soul in any other religion that is professed in these countries but the Christian. With this persuasion I went to the house of the Rev. J. McKenny, in Caltura, and got a tract, containing the history of the creation of the world, &c. which I carefully read; and after it a book called the Gospels. I was truly convinced that these writings were not of men, because wicked men would not write the good things which are therein contained, and good men, if written by themselves, would not have said that they were of God: from which I am led to believe that they are the holy Scriptures.

"It is also very evident to me, from many considerations, that the visible world could never have come into existence of itself, and that the God of heaven is the author of it, and not any other being.

"To what I have already stated I wish to add, that I have a hope of pardon for all the sins I have committed during the time of my ignorance, from the Almighty God the Father, through the Saviour Jesus Christ; and that I shall get to heaven and enjoy all happiness there through the same Lord.

"It is only a few weeks since I took my leave of my temple for ever; and since then, still wearing my robes, I have resided with Mr. Poulter, the Assistant Missionary, with whom I have daily united in Christian worship; and I now come openly, in the presence of this Congregation, and declare all these things. I lay aside my robes, and as an humble learner of the right way, take my place among you; and the prayer of my heart to the God Omnipotent is, that as I rejoice in embracing this faith, that all other heathens also may be brought to this knowledge through this Saviour."

The priest then retired, and in a short time returned to the Chapel and took his seat, dressed as a respectable Singhaliese man. Brother Roberts then closed the service with a short address to this new convert, and to the Singhaliese people present; and such was the effect produced, that, long as I have been in the country, I have seen nothing to exceed this service.

The Terrannase is of the highest caste, and well learned; he is about thirty years of age, and a little above the middle size. He is now employed as the Singhaliese teacher of our Caltura School, which appointment is an excellent test of his humility; and I am glad to see that he enters properly into his Work, without any reference to his former priestly honours.

After he had left his temple, and placed himself under our protection against the insults of the enraged Buddhists, his sincerity and decision were put to a severe test. In the first place he was waited on by a deputation of priests, with the aged high priest at their head, who had been his former master and instructor, and for whom he has always had a great esteem. They made use of every inducement and argument they could possibly think of, to prevail upon him to return to his temple, but all was in vain! He assured them that he had from conviction taken the step he had taken, and that he was immovably fixed in his resolution to persevere. When importunity could not prevail, his old acquaintance endeavoured to frighten him into a compliance with their wishes, and intimated that if he persevered in his determination of leaving them they would take his life. But all these things had only the effects of showing him more clearly the unsoundness of the system he had abandoned. Some of the people of this village said, that if they had him in their power they would kill him by scraping him in pieces with their nails! But why do the heathen so furiously rage and the people imagine a vain thing? for the glorious Gospel of God our Saviour must and will prevail.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—It is stated in the last report of the society, that in Great Britain alone, there are auxiliaries, branches, and associations, to the amount of 2,103. To the praise of that fair portion of our species, whose "clothing is strength and honour, and who shall rejoice in time to come," 609 of these associations are conducted by ladies. In the colonies and dependencies 87 are flourishing, and 591 of these benevolent and sacred confederacies are connected with the Hibernian Bible Society. Fifty three prime societies around which are revolving numerous auxiliaries, are found in the principal cities of Europe. The printing of the Turkish Bible has been completed, and it is hoped that the glimmer of the crescent will soon disappear in the superior splendours of the cross. Several societies have been formed in Asia, and have received the most friendly assistance from the common parent. The society has expended, in the course of 24 years, no less than six millions seven hundred and sixteen thousand six hundred and twelve dollars.

DIVINITY.

BY J. EDMONSON.

Prov. xv. 7.—The lips of the wise disperse knowledge.

To do good, in every possible way, is the constant practice of pious men. In this they imitate the sovereign Ruler of the universe, whose goodness flows in copious and perpetual streams, to all the children of men; so that the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. Ps. xxxiii. 5. There are various ways of doing good: one of the most important is that of dispersing knowledge, whereby a rational foundation is laid, both for the discharge of necessary duties, and the enjoyment of high and valuable privileges. Knowledge, in the estimation of Solomon, and of all wise men, is more valuable than silver, gold, or rubies. Receive my instruction, says he, and not silver: and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies: and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. Prov. viii. 10, 11. In the blessed work of dispersing knowledge, a wise man may find constant employment; and he may reasonably hope for considerable success. Surrounded with those who need instruction, whatever way he turns, he may communicate useful information. Happy is the man who is thus employed! His conversation