

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS.

Of the sixty or seventy Societies which hold their Annual Meetings during the month of May, chiefly in Exeter Hall, London, we will enumerate those which belong to the Wesleyan Church.

Missionary Society.—The great hall was crowded long before the appointed hour. The platform was occupied by ministers and laymen from all parts of the country, and several representatives from foreign lands. An hour was occupied with a religious service, which consisted of singing four of Charles Wesley's stirring Missionary hymns, and a selection from Mr. Sankey's most popular songs. Thus the Missionary Meeting was preceded by a good old-fashioned prayer meeting, attended by more than three thousand persons. No wonder that the whole service of five hours was a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

The receipts for the year aggregated over \$920,000. The missionaries labour in Ireland, France, Switzerland, Germany, Bavaria, Austria, Italy, Sicily, Spain, Portugal, South and West Africa, West Indies, China, India and Ceylon, and various parts of Polynesia. In all there are 536 missionaries, 111,000 members, and 134,000 scholars. The meeting is said to have been one of the most cheering ever held. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh presided, and speeches of rare enthusiasm and great power were delivered by Dr. Punshon, the Dean of Canterbury, Professor Smith, M.P., the Revs. O. McCutchen, John Hutcheson, John Bedford, Samuel Coley, and W. O. Simpson.

Four Annual Sermons are preached during the preceding week, and a Missionary breakfast is held on Saturday morning, the proceeds of which always go to the China mission; then

on Sabbath, more than two hundred sermons are preached in various London churches. All the services were accompanied by a large degree of spiritual power, indicative of the pleasing fact that the religious life of London has become much quickened; indeed, a service is seldom held without conversions taking place.

At the Missionary breakfast our own noble Geo. Macdougall occupied no mean position, as he detailed, in his own graphic style, what he had seen effected by the Gospel among the red men of the distant Northwest.

Home Missions.—The object of this society is to aid poor circuits, extend the Gospel among the masses, and especially aid the work of evangelization in the army and navy of England. Rev. C. Prest is Secretary, and pursues his work with an amount of zeal that is truly astonishing, considering that he has been nearly fifty years in the ministry.

From the report we learn that ninety-three home missionary ministers are employed. Twelve ministers are labouring amongst the Wesleyans in the army and navy, and at the garrisons of Dublin and Malta; eighty-five married ministers have been sustained wholly, or in part, during the year by the Home Mission Fund; seventy-five Home Mission stations, having answered their purposes, have been incorporated in the ordinary circuit arrangements; sixty-nine ministers' houses have been provided in connection with the Home Mission stations, and during the last sixteen years grants amounting to \$50,000 have been made from the Home Missionary Fund to aid in furnishing two hundred and thirty-four ministers' houses; the increase of members on the Home Missions is six hundred and twenty-four; six hundred regular services