

Missionary Intelligence.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL.

Report of the Proceedings of the Society for the year 1854.

Income and Expenditure.—The Receipts of the Society for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1853, amounted to £48,967. A large portion of this, viz. £27,520, consisted of Special Funds appropriated to distinct objects by the donors, and therefore not at the disposal of the Society. The remaining £21,447 constituted the General Fund; and the Society has much reason to record its gratitude to the Giver of all good, for the increase in its income under this head of £8,854 above the income of the preceding year.

The Expenditure amounted to £104,512. A large portion, £40,837, consisted of Special Funds, which the Society was enabled to apply this year to the purposes for which they were intended by the donors. The remainder (£63,674) was met, partly by the General Fund, specified above, and partly by a balance from the collection under authority of the Queen's Letter.

MISSIONARIES.—The total number of ordained Missionaries at present maintained wholly, or in part, by the Society, is 479; of whom 416 are stationed among Colonists, and 63 labour among the heathen. There are also above 700 Divinity Students and Lay Teachers maintained by the Society.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.—Population, 2,600,000.—In the seven Dioceses of British North America, viz. Nova Scotia, Fredericton, Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Rupert's Land, and Newfoundland, the Society maintains wholly or in part, 237 Missionaries, at an expense of £24,000 from its General Fund. A few brief extracts from the Reports of the Missionaries will attest both the hardships and the encouragements connected with their work.

The Rev. C. Lloyd, of P. E. Island, writes:—

"The winter has been marked by vicissitudes of almost unexampled cold, and warm thaws. The roads consequently have been, for the most part, in a state to render travelling both dangerous and difficult. I had, however, the pleasure of witnessing some examples of particular fortitude and self-denial in persons desirous of attending Divine worship. On the 22d January, I observed at Rustico church two young men, who had walked some miles through the driving snow to attend church, although it was one of the most dangerously freezing days I was ever out in—a fierce wind and drift raging, with the thermometer at 7° below zero. I found, a few days after, on inquiring, that both the young men were frozen on their return, though they went into the houses on their way, to warm themselves. Almost all the French who attended their chapel on that day were more or less touched with the frost. On the following Sunday, the thermometer was 11° below zero at the time of my leaving home for church. With my face covered with a buffalo-skin, and with thick wrappings, I found it difficult to preserve the requisite amount of heat.

The Rev. D. Lindsay, of Montreal, writes of one of his stations:—

"The roads are so bad that I am obliged to leave my horse a mile and a half from the place where we assemble for worship, and walk as best I can. I often muse as I take my lonely way, about those with whom I was, in former times, wont to go up to the house of God; and though under vastly different circumstances, I rejoice that I am allowed to declare the Gospel of Christ amongst the scattered ones of His flock. We have an attentive congregation, coming together under circumstances apparently little calculated to promote reverence. A small table serves as pulpit and desk, planks placed upon inverted buckets serve as seats, and the wooden building in which we meet is as yet unfinished. I feel that these services are being blessed; and it proves that the Church does care for the souls of those who have been obliged to settle in the wilderness. Many other Missionaries might be employed, for there are numerous settlements like these, of the inhabitants of which it may be truly said, 'No man careth for their soul.'"

WEST INDIES AND GUIANA.—Population 963,000.—Society's Missionaries in Jamaica, Barbados, Antigua, and Guiana, 38. Expenditure, £2,700.

Sickness, in its severest form, has added to the difficulties which the Missionaries in these countries have to contend with. During the past year, in which a fever of extraordinary malignancy had followed closely on the track of another devastating epidemic, no less than eleven of the Clergy of Jamaica, (i.e.

one-tenth of the whole body), including two of the Society's Missionaries, have been removed by death. The Bishop wrote to the Society on April 2nd:—

"On Sunday, I completed my visitation tour at Anatto Bay, in the parish of Metcalfe, where I regret to say that the cholera is fearfully prevailing, ten persons having fallen victims to it the night before my arrival, and many, as I fear since. Among the number who died on Saturday, was one poor girl, Miss Horton, of excellent character, exemplary for her moral and religious conduct, who had come to Anatto Bay on the previous Thursday for the purpose of being confirmed. The sudden and premature access of 'the season,' as they are called, hindered me from getting to Metcalfe on the first day which I had appointed, and the list of candidates for confirmation was much thinned by the prevalence of the pestilence, in the interval between Thursday and Sunday. The church was, however, crowded with a congregation apparently most devout; and penetrated by the awful circumstances under which they were assembled, I, of course, addressed them on the occasion, and trust that, by God's grace, I did not leave them without some consolation under this heavy calamity. Within the last four years, there have been no less than four visitations of epidemics of a most destructive character."

SOUTH AFRICA.—Population, 700,000.—Society's Missionaries in Capetown, Grahamstown and Natal, 28. Expenditure, £2,500.

A Missionary lately sent the Society an account of his first Sunday in his Mission. The afternoon service was thus described:—

"The Bishop of Capetown came to Papendrop, and we assembled in a room, for want of a more fitting place for worship. It was crowded, at least four-fifths of the congregation being coloured people. They chanted the doxology as often as it occurred in the service, and sang with correctness the Magnificat, and a selection from the New Version of the Psalms.

"After the Second Lesson, four adult candidates who had been prepared for baptism, three young women and one young man, all of colour, arranged themselves before the communion-table. The service was performed by the Bishop most impressively:—all were moved,—one or two of the candidates to tears. The Bishop then addressed himself successively to those who had been baptized in infancy, to the newly baptized, to the catechumens, and to those who had not as yet been moved to seek Christian instruction. When the service was over, it was truly gratifying to see the friends of those who had been baptized running up and cordially shaking them by the hand. There was the usual collection of alms at the door, which, although composed almost entirely of pence, yet amounted to several shillings."

MAURITIUS.—Population, 190,000.—The Society has great satisfaction in announcing the erection of a Bishopric of Mauritius and its dependencies. Engraving represents Port Louis, the chief town of Mauritius.

AUSTRALASIA.—Population, 530,000.—Society's Missionaries in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Newcastle, Tasmania, and New Zealand, 63. Expenditure, £3,000. A clergyman, stationed in one of the least favourable parts of the gold-diggings, writes:—"About two months ago, my tent was erected here. I repaired hither alone, as I assure you it is no place for a wife and family. Here I had to cook and do all other kitchen-work, clean my boots, saddle and bridle, look after my horse, cart my own water from a hole, and do a multiplicity of other little matters which a clergyman is rarely seen to do, but I could not help it.

"In the discharge of my work, many discouragements arise. A short time since, I asked a man who professed to belong to our Church, if he would come to worship. He replied, 'I have something else to do; on inquiry, I found it was to bale water out of his gold-hole. I quoted, 'What shall a man be profited if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?' He said, 'he must risk it.'"

PROGRESS AND LIBERALITY.—The direct tendency of true religion is to make men more like God; and the chief end of the true believer is to seek conformity to his Lord in all things. The methods in which man can imitate are few; but, in proportion to the depth of religious life within, will be his efforts to improve these to the utmost; and will therefore be found that the closest followers and imitators of Him whose diffusive benevolence causeth His sun to shine on the evil and the good, and His rain to fall on the just and the unjust, will be the least likely to indulge in a spirit of selfishness.

Sketches.

DEATH OF THE REV. JAMES HALDANE STEWART.

The death of this eminent servant of the Lord will be felt as a loss to the whole Church. Few clergymen were better known, and none more universally beloved. He has fallen asleep in a good old age, gathered into the heavenly garner as a shock of corn fully ripe; but he was one of those whose steadfast faith, holy life, serene piety, and persuasive example diffused an influence around him, of which it was impossible to measure the importance. His annual call to united prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was characteristic of the man, and found a cordial response in the hearts of thousands, both of the lay and clerical members of the Church of England. For many years he was the minister of Percy Chapel, and drew around him an attached congregation, composed of many of the most eminent and devoted Christians in the metropolis. It was with regret that connexion was severed, but he was called to fill another station in Liverpool, where he was equally beloved and honoured; and where he left behind him a name and an example which will ever be remembered with reverence.

The evening of his useful life was spent in the beautiful rural parish of Limpfield, where, amidst the Surrey hills, he faithfully discharged his duties as Rector, and was near enough to the metropolis to be enabled to favour his numerous friends, as well as some of our most important Committees, with the advantage of his presence, his exhortations, and his prayers. He was pre-eminently a man of God; there was "an unction from the Holy One" that seemed to shine on his beaming countenance; and it was impossible for any one to enjoy the delightful privilege of being admitted to his society without thinking of him in sentiments akin to those so beautifully expressed by Cowper:—

"When one that holds communion with the skies,
Has filled his horn where these pure waters rise,
And once more mingles with us meaner things,
'Tis e'en as if an angel shook his wings:
Immortal fragrance fills the circuit wide,
That tells us whence his treasures are supplied."

He was in his 79th year, but he continued in the enjoyment of health till within a short time of his removal. Two months ago, he was in town, when the eldest son, the Rev. D. Stewart, of Maidstone, was married to the daughter of the Venerable Chancellor Raikes, and the good Primate officiated at the ceremony, at St. George's, Hanover-square. At that period Mr. Stewart's friends had reason to hope that his valuable life would still be spared for some years to the Church. He was then, as usual, full of active benevolence; and his influence as a peace-maker was judiciously, and to an important extent, successfully exerted in a case which has painfully attracted much public notice. But his work was done; and this good man, full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, peacefully fell asleep in Jesus, last Lord's day, in the sure and certain hope of a blessed resurrection to eternal life.

CHILDREN.—I remember (observes Bishop Hall) a great man coming into my house, at Waltham, and seeing all my children standing in the order of their age and stature, said, 'These are they that make rich men poor.' But he straight received this answer, 'Nay, my lord, these are they that make a poor man rich; for there is not one of those whom we would part with for all your wealth.' It is easy to observe that none are so grapple and hard-fisted as the children; whereas those who, for the maintenance of large families, are insured to frequent disbursements, find such experience of Divine Providence in the faithful management of their affairs, as that they lay out with more cheerfulness than they receive. Wherein their care must be abated when God takes it off from them to Himself; and, if they be not wanting to themselves, their faith gives them ease in casting their burden upon Him, who hath more power, and more, right to it, since our children are more His than our own. He that feedeth the young ravens, (Psalm cxlvii. 9.) can He fail the best of His creatures? Worthy Master Greenham tells us of a gentleman who coming into the cottage of a poor neighbor, and seeing it furnished with a store of children, could say, 'Here are the mouths, but where is the meat?' But not long after she was paid in her own coin; for the poor woman coming to her after the burial of her last and only child, inverted the question upon her, 'Here is the meat, but where are the mouths?'

UNIVERSALISM CHANGING ITS TUNE.—Universalism, by its own papers, is said to be assuming somewhat of a new type. The New York Universalist