

Missionary Record.

The Calendar of the Missionary College of St. Augustine, Canterbury, for 1853. London: Rivingtons.

This small, but interesting volume, cannot be better introduced than in the words of the Preface.—“The Calendar has been printed entirely by students of the College, during the hours which could be allotted for this branch of preparation for Missionary service. The Almanac furnishes, besides the usual information, a record of the most important events connected with the extension of the English Church, and of men who ought to be esteemed very highly in love for their works sake.”

The Calendar contains, also, a brief historical account of the ancient abbey, and full details respecting the present foundation, the exhibitions, and course of study. In the appendix are added Examination Papers, extracts from the letters of Colonial Bishops respecting the qualifications of Missionaries, a syllabus of a course of Medical Lectures, and a list of works on Christian Missions.

The volume will be found full of interest to all who are helping to fulfil the Missionary duties of the Church in England. And we are assured that there are many throughout our empire, in whose thoughts and prayers St. Augustine's is constantly remembered, as a central spot from whence the duly authorised Missionaries of the Church shall hereafter issue, armed for their holy warfare.

The appearance of the work is, on the whole, very creditable to the diligence, accuracy, and taste of its printers. From the List of Students we learn that the College has already sent forth six labourers into foreign lands; and that it now contains eighteen students and three probationers, among whom we are pleased to observe natives of Guiana, Antigua, Greenland, and Bengal. The annual Collegiate expenses of each student are 35*l.*; so that a hundred guineas would pay those expenses for a student during his entire course, without aid from Exhibitions. Ought not many wealthy parishes, many wealthy laymen of our Church, to have their Missionary students in training at St. Augustine's?

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The field of this Society (as many of our readers probably are aware) is Lower Canada. The objects of its benevolent exertions are our Roman Catholic countrymen there. Its purpose is to ameliorate their spiritual and temporal condition. Finding them ignorant, it designs to educate them. Finding them the slaves of superstition, it designs to emancipate them.

It has an Institute to train the youth for becoming missionaries and teachers to their brethren according to the flesh, as well as to fit them for the various professions of life. It has Evangelists and Colporteurs to disseminate the pure Gospel—to visit, converse with, and preach to the benighted *habitans*—and to scatter broad cast over a soil that has grown fallow under Rome's blighting influence, the incorruptible seed.

There are at present 85 children boarding within the walls of the Seminary in the neighborhood of Montreal, and 20 applicants for admission. About fifteen agents are steadily employed; of these 4 are ordained ministers. During the past year 8 of the pupils have given evidence of a change of heart, 2 have engaged themselves as teachers in the country districts. Since the formation of the Society, 13 years ago, close upon 1,000 have been converted, not merely from Rome, but to the saving reception of the truth as it is in Jesus. Not fewer than 500 have either abandoned the errors of Popery or been more or less benefited. The work goes silently, though surely, forward. The Anniversary of this Society from the interest of the object and its winding up the series, is generally the largest in point of attendance. Last Friday night there was certainly no falling off. The Hall was packed—in every corner—numbers were standing, and several, we believe, had to leave, unable to secure admission. Capt. Wright occupied the chair. The Rev. Messrs. Mulkins, Rogers, Fenwick and Burns, and Messrs. Innis and Taylor, took part in the proceedings. The utmost enthusiasm was evinced and maintained to the last. The speakers endeavoured to act on the apostolic principle, “Speak the truth in love.” Fidelity was displayed in exposing the errors of Romanism, and the perilous position of its victims, while all the wrath and clamor and evil speaking were put away with all malice. A collection in aid of the Society's funds was taken up.—*Daily News.*

ROMANISM DECLINING IN IRELAND.—The *Dublin Nation*, a Roman Catholic journal, holds the following language.—“There can no longer be any question that

the systematic proselytism has met with an immense success in Connaught and Kerry. It is true that the altars of the Catholic Church have been deserted by thousands born and baptized in the ancient faith of Ireland. Travellers, who have recently visited the counties of Galway and Mayo, report that the agents of that foul and abominable traffic are every day opening new schools of perversion, and are founding churches for the accommodation of their purchased congregations. Witnesses more trustworthy than Sir Francis Head, Catholic Irishmen, who grieved to behold the spread and success of the apostasy, tell us that the West of Ireland is deserting the ancient fold, and that a class of protestants, more bigoted and anti-Irish, if possible, than the followers of the old establishment, is growing up from the recreant peasantry and their children. How is it to be met and counteracted is the problem. How is it to be arrested? is a solemn question, which priest and layman, which citizen and politician, should seriously consider.”

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE.—We understand that Bishop McIlvaine of Ohio, will sail for England in the part of April to represent the American Bible Society, at the Jubilee of the British and Foreign Bible Society in London. This interesting occasion will bring together many choice spirits of the Church from distant lands. The Catholic character of the Society, the influence it has exerted in softening sectarian animosity, and leading Christians to love each other, together with the vast benefits it has conferred upon the world at large, will conspire to make this Jubilee the noblest and most memorable of all that have been celebrated in modern times. May the blessing of Him who dwelt in the bush be given in large measure to this noble Institution, and its powers of usefulness increased a thousand fold.

SUPPLY OF MISSIONARIES FOR INDIA.—In the British possessions in India containing 94,500,000 inhabitants, are 337 missionaries; which is the same, says an exchange paper, as if Massachusetts had only three ministers of the gospel, or New York city two only. In the states tributary to Great Britain are 40,500,000 inhabitants, with only two missionaries; which is the same as if there was only one minister of the Gospel to the whole United States. And yet all these persons are open for the Church to go up and take possession of them for its Redeemer. When will it awake to its duty and its privileges?

Selections.

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN AND THE EXPEDITION IN HIS BEHALF.

Sir John Franklin sailed from England in May, 1845, with the ‘Erebus’ and ‘Terror,’ having on board 133 persons, and arrived at the Whalefish Islands in July. The ‘Erebus’ was spoken in the same month by whaler ‘Enterprise,’ and the whaler ‘Prince of Wales’ reported that, on the 26th of the same month, she saw Franklin's vessel in lat. 70° 48' and lon. 66° 13' W. This would place the vessel not far from the middle of Baffin's Bay, and opposite Lancaster Sound. They were then moored to an iceberg, and waiting a favorable opportunity to enter this sound. From this last named date, (July 25, 1845) till Aug. 23, 1850, a period of five years and one month, no traces and no intelligence of any kind, direct or indirect, was received from the expedition. At this latter date, traces of the ships were discovered at Cape Riley, by Captain Ommanney. Four days after, (Aug. 27.) unmistakable evidence, such as fragments of iron, empty tin meat cans, pieces of cloth, ropes, wood and paper, both written and printed, with the dates of 1844, '45—that Franklin had spent the winter of 1845, '46, at Beechy Island, were discovered by Capt. Penny. Upon this island also were discovered some sad memorials of the missing ships, which united with the intense dreariness of those regions, must have deeply stirred the feelings of those brave hearted seamen by whom the discovery was made—the graves of three of Franklin's men who died in January and April, 1846. But it is remarkable that no papers of any kind were found on this island, deposited as is often the case in those Northern explorations, for mariners who might afterwards visit the spot, though a cairn, or rounded heap of stones, built upon a bluff point, seemed to indicate that it was Franklin's intention to have left such papers. One of the records, deposited in a cairn by Capt. Parry, on Melville Island, in 1819, was found to be in a state of perfect preservation when opened thirty years after by a party from Captain Austin's expedition.

It appears to be the opinion, from several reasons, of

almost all engaged in the search for Franklin, that he passed up Wellington Channel. This channel leads North from Barrow's Straits, in 50° lat., and 92° lon. west; and his instructions received from the Admiralty were to proceed up this channel, and, if possible, through it. And Franklin and his officers expressed their determination, both before and after leaving England, to carry out the wishes of the Admiralty.—Franklin's winter quarters at Beechy Island in 1845-6, were, no doubt, selected to favour this object. This island lies at the south-eastern extremity of Wellington Channel, just at its entrance into Barrow's Straits; and his situation at this point would enable him to take advantage of the first opening of the ice to proceed up this channel, which is now pretty clearly ascertained to be a communication leading into the great polar basin, and at times to be free from ice. When it was discovered by Penny, in 1850, it was clear of ice as far as could be discerned with a telescope; and Captain Penny's sledge, in the Spring of 1851, was stopped by open water in it. Whales in great numbers have been seen running southward from this channel, and the fact that they generally swim at the rate of five or six miles an hour, and can live under water only fifteen or twenty minutes at a time without rising, proves that open water exists at intervals the length of the passage;—and everything now seems to point to it as the one by which Franklin must be sought, upon the supposition that he did not attempt to regain his steps eastward after leaving Beechy Island.

An account of one of the principal researches which have been made for Franklin's vessels will be given, merely premising that it will be as short as is consistent with intelligibility.

Early in 1850, the Admiralty, after despatching an expedition by the way of Behring's Straits, sent four ships under command of Captain Austin, who had served in an exploring squadron under Captain Parry, with instructions to examine carefully Barrow's Straits. This squadron consisted of two sailing vessels and two steam tenders. In company with Captain Austin's vessels, Captain Penny, a Captain of many years' experience in the northern whale fishery, was despatched by the Admiralty in command of two small sailing vessels.—It will be recollected that it was Capt. Penny who first discovered the traces of Franklin's encampment at Beechy Island. In the season of 1850, these two expeditions thoroughly examined Barrow's Straits, and the adjacent waters, and then took up winter quarters at the Southern extremity of Wellington Channel. In the spring of 1851, parties in boats and sledges explored in every direction to an amount; in the aggregate, of over two thousand miles. Capt. Ommanney, the commander of one of the sledges parties whose instructions were to search to the southward between Cape Walker and Banks' Land, was gone from his vessel sixty days. During some of this time the thermometer indicated a temperature of 71 deg. below the freezing point. Captain Ommanney gives his decided opinion that vessels would be unable to navigate along the coast he explored, from the appearance of fixed ice, and shoals, and from the southerly turning of the land where it was supposed to lie in a westerly direction. Another sledge party travelled along the eastern shore of the land explored on the west side by Ommanney's party. The mercury in the thermometer carried by this party was frequently frozen, and their chronometer was stopped from excessive cold. Another party examined Cornwallis Island, which lies on the western side of Wellington Channel, Bathurst Island, Byam Martin Island and Straits, and the coast north-west of Bathurst Island to the 76th lat. Another party penetrated as far west as the Western coast of Melville Island, in about 112 West long., and visited the spot where Parry encamped in June, 1820, no Arctic explorer having since that time got so far to the west. This party met with bears, foxes, musk-oxen, deer and birds, in great abundance.—They travelled when the cold was so intense that loaves of water-carried by the men in their breasts froze after an hour or so; salt pork broke like suet, and rum thickened. The intrepid commander of this expedition is certain that Franklin never visited Melville Island. Other sledge parties examined the Islands lying east of Melville Island, but discovered no trace of the object of their search.

Sledge parties from Capt. Penny's vessels proceeded up Wellington Channel to examine both its sides. On the 3rd of May, Captain Stewart, commanding one of these parties, arrived at North Channel, which leads from Wellington into Queen's Channel. Here to his great astonishment, he found an open sea, but most unluckily, his want of a boat, stopped his further progress. Ducks and sea fowl of various kinds were swimming in