

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

At a meeting of the S. P. C. K.

"The Secretary laid before the Board a letter received from Admiral Sir Fairfax Moresby, accompanied by a copy of a statement addressed by the Admiral to the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reference to the removal of the Pitcairn Islanders, and their settlement in Norfolk Island, with extracts from various official correspondence, and letters from the Rev. George Nobbs, the Chaplain of Norfolk Island. As the early friend and adviser of the Pitcairn Islanders, Sir Fairfax Moresby has not ceased to be true to the commission they pressed on him, to care for their welfare. It appeared that they had complained of what they conceived to be certain needless and unjustifiable deviations from the promised isolation and continued domesticity under the simple laws and polity which they enjoyed as denizens of Pitcairn and of interference with the regulations for the allotment and appropriation of land, which they conceived to have been guaranteed to them; and that Sir Fairfax Moresby had interposed successfully in their behalf. He drew attention particularly to a copy of a letter of Mr. Cardwell's to Sir George Young, the Governor of Australia, dated May 25, 1866, which letter, he said, appeared to him to be very satisfactory, as it did also equally to Sir Thomas Acland and others who were members of the Pitcairn Committee." In this letter Mr. Cardwell wrote 'I entertain no objection to the establishment of a Melanesian Mission on the island which you advocate. . . I can readily believe the step may be of great advantage to the islanders, by placing them within reach of good clerical superintendence, and by bringing them periodically under the eye of Bishop Patteson, from whom you will doubtless receive from time to time, trustworthy information respecting their wants and their progress; nor do I object to the proposal, that a few selected settlers, of a class likely to live in harmony with these islanders, shall be allowed to establish themselves at Norfolk Island. I think it, however, unadvisable to commence any system of indiscriminate land-sale, or to adopt any step which the islanders might deem at variance with the pledge held out to them when they left Pitcairn Island.'

"Sir Fairfax Moresby requested that these particulars might be 'communicated to the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, who have so generously interested themselves from the earliest period in the welfare of the Pitcairn community.'"

S. P. C. K.

THE following prospectus of a periodical to be published at the commencement of the ensuing year has been issued by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge:

"A NEW MAGAZINE," an illustrated Miscellany of instructive and amusing Literature, for all classes, containing—*Original Stories* of striking interest, and characterized by purity of sentiment, by eminent popular writers. *Historical and Biographical Papers*, describing the memorable events of history, or portraying the lives and characters of distinguished men and women. *Sketches of Life and Manners*, in all parts of the world. *Review of Current Events* interesting to the working classes. *Records of Enterprise and Adventure* by land and sea. *Information on Science and Art. Notices of Inventions and Discoveries*, especially such as have a practical application to industrial and domestic purposes. *Papers*