

## Trans-Atlantic Retrospect.

The return of the great religious Anniversaries is as welcome to those whom distance prevents joining other than in spirit, as to those who are privileged to take part in them, and hear the living voice pleading the cause of the Master in the various fields where His servants work. For ourselves, we always look with deep interest for the report of the "Missionary Meetings," sure to find in them something that will encourage and strengthen us, and will give us wider, larger, and more Catholic views as to the work and workmen of the one Master. Generally, the meetings appear to have been very well attended this year, better than usual, and to increased numbers there was added a deeper interest and profounder sympathy in the work of the Churches. We can only, as usual, give the briefest sketch possible of the meetings of the principal societies, omitting altogether many which are doing a most useful if a humbler work. We take them just as they appear in the order of the reports. First in order is the BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY, the income of which for the year has reached £34,419, changing a balance against the treasurer of £1,176 at the last Annual Meeting into one of £2,723 in his favour this year. The Rev. J. Evans, of Delhi, detailed the great difficulties with which Missionaries had to contend in India, arising from the extreme selfishness of the people, who were unable to conceive of anything being done except from mercenary motives, and who often asked, "Sir, how much do you get for every Christian you make?" "The people's idea is that the Missionary is a good servant, and that, in addition to his regular salary, he receives a handsome bonus for every convert that he makes." "Hence the great difficulty of touching the heart of a people, and gaining their affection, who are so entirely engrossed by selfishness." Among the speakers were Dr. Angus and the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. The latter of whom, while advocating strongly the claims of the Society, pressed upon his hearers the sense of individual responsibility to work for Christ. "To whom did Christ give His commission? Not to a society but to individuals."

"We gain immensely for God and His cause when we make every believer begin to cry over souls, and to say, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" If the society helps you to serve God, as I believe it does, remember it does not take from you your individual responsibility. I wonder that more Christians of private income do not devote themselves to the missionary work. I think it would be a blessed thing to do so. Or you may know a young man, that is suitable, and, after consulting others whose judgment is better than your own, you say to him, 'Go and preach; our business or our family keeps us at home, but it shall be our part to keep you; we will stint ourselves sooner than you should want; only you go and preach Christ for us. Mind you preach Him faithfully and preach the whole truth, depending on the support of Christ, and we will never leave you.' I cannot see why the association should not thus multiply, or why, instead of having an income of 30,000*l.*, it should not have an income of 100,000*l.*"

A deeper sense of individual responsibility would no doubt greatly enlarge the scope of missionary work, and would send thousands of labourers into the field.

THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY continues its course of extensive usefulness, its income augmenting year by year. This anniversary the Committee are able to report receipts to the amount of £134,258 7*s.*, a sum amounting to nearly \$700,000 currency—a magnificent offering to God's