

the resources placed at their disposal have been inadequate to meet the urgent appeals which have been addressed to them from Australia, the Cape of Good Hope, and British North America. During the past year they have been able to send but two additional agents, and selected two others, who in a few days will depart to their destination. More than 100 brethren are now faithfully laboring in the different colonies of the British crown, the greater part of whom were either sent out by the society from Britain, or trained for the ministry in the country. A large portion of these are now entirely independent of the society, and not a few are zealously laboring with it to extend the gospel to the 'regions beyond.' The income of the society for the past year has amounted to £5353. Though this is a considerable advance on its average income until the last four or five years, it is still far below the necessities of the case. The Committee have, therefore, resolved to exert their utmost energies to raise the income of the society to £10,000, which, with the generous aid of the churches in town and country, they think it may not be difficult to accomplish. The expenditure for the year has amounted to £6060. The Committee felt intensely the disadvantage of commencing another year with a debit balance. They have, however, the utmost confidence in the zeal and liberality of the churches; and feel persuaded that the deep interest universally expressed in the operations of the society will soon relieve them from the anxieties which an exhausted exchequer cannot fail to excite."

The meeting of this society was held at Poultry Chapel,—J. Cheetham, Esq., M.P., in the chair. It was addressed by Edward Baxter, Esq., M.P., Rev. Dr. Archer, Rev. Dr. Brown, Cheltenham, Rev. Andrew Reed, Norwich, and Rev. J. Stoughton. The following appeal and reference to passing events was made by Mr. Reed:—

"One of the ablest ministers in the north, who had recently departed this life, the Rev. John Glyde, of Bradford, said, when reclining on his dying bed, 'Higher! higher!' Those who stood near him, mistaking his expression, raised him higher in the bed. 'No,' said he, faintly, 'Higher! higher! Excelsior! excelsior!' and his spirit winged its way to Heaven. What he said as he died, that he had lived. His constant aspiration while in this world was to ascend higher and higher in spirituality of thought and action; and it was this holy and blessed spirit that was wanted in the churches. Did this spirit prevail, societies like the present would not languish for want of funds. Christian usefulness would be wonderously extended, and those who had cried 'Excelsior!' during life would depart with that word upon their lips. The war in which they were engaged, they were told, would absorb a sum which was estimated as being equivalent to the savings of the nation for a year. This was disheartening. But let not that spirit creep into the Christian world; there was a great danger of its doing so. This war would make us feel more than ever our dependence upon God, who alone could protect us; and he trusted that one of its effects would be to extend the kingdom of Christ in many directions, as it would be sure to extend men's knowledge in a geographical and other points of view. There was something in war which, like other severe operations, overcome obstacles which had previously proved insuperable, and which, in fact, nothing else could have got through. The alliance with France, too, would have good effects. The Napoleons had never been sincere sympathisers with Popery; and they had had too much Huguenot instruction, too much liberty; they were suspected by the Pope. The prospects of Pro-

testantism were therefore hopeful. The events which were now transpiring were doing much to excite thought, and to stimulate inquiry; hence the importance of pouring into our colonial dependencies the blessings of the gospel of Christ. The present race of colonists were anxious for the continuance of those religious privileges they enjoyed in their fatherland; and they ought to be at once attended to; because, if the present generation was neglected, the next would be without the traditions and sympathies of the present, and could have no such desires as those which in the present generation so greatly facilitated the spread of the gospel. He entreated them, therefore, not to let history have to record respecting them, that they had been weighed in the balance and found wanting,—self-indulgent, careless, wanting in God's great day."

## CHURCH COURTS AND UNIONS.

### BAPTIST UNION.

The forty-third annual session of this organization was held on the 20th April,—the Hon. and Rev. Baptist W. Noel in the chair.

The report stated that the whole gain to the Union last year amounted to 23 churches. The total gain of members on 1045 churches had been 1716. This increase afforded an average of 1½—an augmentation, the Committee were happy to say, on the year 1852 and 1853. In addition to the usual analysis of the association returns, the Committee had endeavored to procure from the Churches the triennial returns which, for a considerable period, had been solicited. About 1357 churches had responded to this request, and an analysis of the returns afforded the following facts:—826 churches reported a clear increase, 289 reported the increase and decrease equal, and 242 reported a larger decrease than increase. The clear increase on 826 churches amounted to 5990; but, deducting 1457, the number by which 242 churches had diminished, the total clear increase was 4533, or an average of 3½ on the reporting churches. With respect to the apparent diminution of the churches, it was but just to say, that in several cases this was only apparent, and not real, being occasioned by large draughts for the formation of new churches, and constituting rather a movement of members within the body than a departure of members from it.

After touching on the movements made by the Committee with regard to royal proclamations and abolition of church-rates, the report concludes by noticing the satisfactory financial state of the Union. The cash account showed a balance of £2, 10s., due to the treasurer.

Among the resolutions passed was the following: "That the Union sympathises with the feeling of discomfort and dissatisfaction which has so extensively prevailed among the churches in relation to the recent royal proclamation enjoining a religious observance,—proclamations, by the phraseology of which Nonconformists are so placed as to seem, either by their compliance to recognise in religion an authority which they conscientiously repudiate, or by their non-compliance to treat religion itself with contempt or indifference.

"That the Union therefore declares, that, in common with their fellow-Christians of every denomination, in and out of the Establishment, the Baptist churches maintain the duty and privilege of prayer for kings and all that are in authority, and are always ready to unite with their brethren in special seasons of prayer for the national welfare; but they respectfully entreat the government not to continue