

## THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN.

### UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION.

The meeting of the American Unitarian Association was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Farley of Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Chairman, the Hon. Stephen Fairbanks, called for the proceedings of the last annual meeting, which the Secretary read.

The numbers soon increased to such a degree that the meeting was adjourned to the Church in Federal street which was densely crowded. Dr. Dewey, as President of the Association (in the place of Judge Story, who declined a re-election) took the chair. An appropriate prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Livermore, of Keene. The annual Report was read by the Secretary, Rev. Charles Briggs. Rev. Mr. Lothrop offered the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, That we regard the publication and distribution of Tracts, faithfully prepared and judiciously selected, of a mingled doctrinal and practical character, as one of the simplest, most direct and efficacious means of diffusing Christian truth and promoting Christian righteousness, and that it is the duty of the Executive Committee to give, as heretofore, special attention to this department of their labors, as one of the most important of the modes of operation originally contemplated by this Association.

*Resolved*, That we regard Theological Education, the raising up from generation to generation of a learned, well-disciplined and thoroughly furnished Clergy to take the charge of our Churches and defend and diffuse the truth as it is in Jesus to be an object of the highest interest and importance, and that we cordially approve of the efforts made and the aid extended by the Executive Committee in establishing a Theological Seminary at Meadville, Penn.

*Resolved*, That we regard missionary efforts, the strengthening of feeble Churches, and establishing new ones, and the sending forth of preachers into the wide waste places of the land, in New England as well as in the west, as an object to which the attention and efforts of this Association, and of all who are interested in the preservation of civil and religious liberty, the moral and social destiny of this nation, and the salvation of souls, should be unceasingly devoted, and that we are encouraged by the result of past labors in this respect, to more zealous and persevering efforts.

The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Farley of Brooklyn, N. Y., Holland of Rochester, N. Y., Bellows of New York city, Harrington of Boston, Whitman of Portland, Bulfinch, formerly of Washington, now of Boston; Fuller, of Belvidere, Illinois, who has also visited Iowa and Wisconsin,—Jones of Manchester, N. H., and the President. It was altogether as interesting and gratifying a meeting of the Association as we have ever attended.

### BERRY STREET CONFERENCE OF UNITARIAN MINISTERS.

In the course of interesting discussions, which on several points, have occupied this body, Dr. Dewey presented a communication accompanied by the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, in answer to a communication received by a member of this Conference, from the Pennsylvania Christian Conference, through Elder J. J. Harvey, on the subject of Christian Union, that the Conference receives with pleasure the hand of fellowship thus stretched out to the religious Body which it represents and expresses in return, its friendly and hearty sympathy with the Pennsylvania Christian Conference, and with that convention in general which denominates itself 'Christian.'

After debate, the resolutions were passed, with a most cordial and grateful unanimity, and we trust that the union and fellowship now formed between us and the great denomination of Christians will be confirmed and perpetuated, and be the harbinger of a general good will and Christian union among all the followers of Christ who call no man master.

Dr. Dewey delivered the annual address at the Berry street Conference, on 'Duty in reference to opinion,' which was one of his greatest productions.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY.

The Seventeenth public Annual Meeting of the Sunday School Society, was held on Wednesday evening, at Rev. Dr. Gannett's Church in Federal Street. The Hon. S. C. Phillips, the President of the Society, in the chair. The services were a Prayer by Rev. Casneau Palfrey of Barnstable; the Annual Report by Rev. R. C. Waterston, and Addresses from Professor Brooks of Boston; Rev. Jason Whitman of Portland, Me., Rev. A. B. Fuller, Belvidere, Ill., Rev. A. P. Peabody, Portsmouth, N. H., Mr. Alger of the Divinity School, Cambridge, Rev. Dr. Dewey of New York, and Hon. S. C. Phillips, who closed the meeting, by paying a truthful, affectionate and eloquent tribute to the memory to Hon. Leverett Saltonstall, having especial reference to his religious character, his services as a Sunday School Teacher, and his parting words,

hallings, and counsels. A choir of children were present, whose artless notes, in the intervals of speaking, were truly delightful and refreshing. The Church was thronged at an early hour; and the whole services were of a character long to be remembered, and left an impression in behalf of the Bible, of sound religious teaching, of practical piety, and the cause of truth and duty in this regard, of a deep and solemn character.

### UNITARIAN CONFERENCE AND PRAYER MEETING,

AT BULFINCH STREET CHURCH VESTRY.

(From the Boston Christian World.)

We have no words, with which to describe the character and excellence of the two meetings, held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, as above. The two vestries, capable of holding from six to seven hundred persons, were crowded, and very many were unable to obtain admittance. Never before, we say it with perfect sincerity, was there manifested at similar meetings, such a spirit of unity, of love, of earnestness, of determined purpose in the great work of religion, as at these. Every heart seemed penetrated by the deepest convictions in behalf of the indescribable value of a more perfect union of the soul with Christ, and of the absolute necessity there is of preaching the doctrine of justification by faith, repentance towards God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and regeneration, or the new birth. The speakers, one and all, gave utterance in unequivocal language to the need of such preaching in our midst, and by the power of which, no more, no less, the world can alone be savingly moved, and brought to a realization of the hopes and joys of a true religious experience.

There were friends present, both clergy and laity, from all parts of the land. And there were also several of our Methodist and Christian brethren who united, with warm and full hearts, in our prayers, exhortations and songs of praise.

Never before was the land of promise and the gate of heaven brought so near to our spiritual vision as on these happy, heaven-gilded mornings. Thanksgiving! O thanksgiving, be rendered unto God for granting unto so many of his children,—servants of Christ,—such precious moments of communion. And we pray that the advent of a still more glorious day, may be presaged for all our churches than has ever yet been enjoyed by them; and that from that humble vestry, where we met, there may go forth a spirit of holiness, humble-mindedness, sublime philanthropy, and entire devotedness to the great cause of the Redeemer, that shall inspire our people thro'gh the length and breadth of the land with new purposes of obedience, and prompt in them an ardent longing for a closer walk with God.

### BRITISH & FOREIGN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION.

The London *Inquirer* of the 17th ult. contains an interesting and detailed account of the Anniversary Meeting of this Association, which was held on Wednesday, the 14th. The proceedings commenced by a religious service in the Essex-street Chapel. The Rev. Jerom Murch, of Bath, read the Liturgy, and the Rev. Benjamin Carpenter, of Nottingham, preached the sermon, from John viii. 31, 32, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed, and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The discourse was heard with interest and attention by a large audience, and was judicious, earnest, and well adapted to the circumstances of the times. At the conclusion of the service, the members and friends of the Society held their Annual Meeting, when Thomas Gibson, Esq. was called to the chair.

The Report of the Treasurer was read and agreed to unanimously.

Rev. Edw. Tagart, Hon. Secretary, read the Report of the Committee for the past year, which was adopted.

A series of Resolutions were severally proposed and carried, and the meeting was addressed by a large number of gentlemen, both lay and clerical.

The entire proceedings were of a very interesting and gratifying character.

### PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Immediately after the conclusion of the meeting, a grand *dejeuner a la fourchette* of the friends and supporters of the Association took place at the Crown and Anchor Tavern. The apartment was filled with ladies and gentlemen; and the tables were well provided with everything that was necessary, as well as beautifully ornamented with flowers,—the appearance of the whole being highly interesting and imposing.

Thomas Gibson, Esq. took the chair. The Divine blessing was invoked by the Rev. B. Carpenter.

The following sentiments among others were proposed:—

### By the Chairman—

Queen Victoria—May the era of her reign be inscribed by the rapid progress of knowledge, truth, and happiness among all descriptions of her subjects—May her reign continue long over a free, a contented, and a united kingdom.

Albert, the Prince; Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal Family.

Civil and religious liberty all the world over.

The British and Foreign Unitarian Association; may its beneficial influence be extended by an active and cordial union of all the brethren throughout the country.

### By the Rev. Dr. Hutton—

The Rev. Benjamin Carpenter, our preacher on this occasion—our best thanks for his services and our best wishes for his happiness.

### By Dr. Bowring, M.P.—

The extension of all civil and municipal rights to the Jews, in common with every class of their fellow-subjects.

### By the Chairman—

Our Brethren who form the Unitarian Churches in the United States of North America, with our warmest acknowledgments to them for their many powerful defences of our common faith, and for their liberal assistance to the cause of Unitarian Christianity in Canada.

The sentiments were severally responded to in speeches replete with interest and fervid eloquence.

### LONDON DOMESTIC MISSION SOCIETY.

The tenth anniversary of this Society took place at Essex-street Chapel, on Wednesday, 23rd April. Among the company present, were most of the ministers and leading members of the different Unitarian congregations of the metropolis. The introductory services were conducted by Rev. A. M. Walker, of Brixton. The Rev. T. Sadler, of Hackney, preached the annual sermon from Psalm viii. 3—5. The Report furnishes a most gratifying account of the proceedings and prospects of the Society. The heads are, cases of destitution relieved, public worship, schools, mutual instruction society and adult classes, minor institutions, meetings, &c.

The following is the concluding paragraph of the Report:—

"In prosecuting their labours, your Committee have been rejoiced to find that every year the cause of Domestic Missions obtains a stronger hold on the sympathies of the public, and especially of the Unitarian body, by whom this work of Christian love was first introduced into this country. And, although they cannot help feeling that, after all, the operations of these Missions are very inadequate to the wants of the community, and can only be considered up to the present time in the nature of an experiment, they are nevertheless impressed with the belief that under proper management and with increased means, these missions are destined, under the guidance of a wise and gracious Providence, to effect great and beneficial changes in the condition of the poor, and industrious and suffering classes of the community. As far as it has been tried it has proved successful; and we may hope that the successes thus obtained, however partial and imperfect, may tend, by increasing men's faith in the efficacy of such efforts, to strengthen many an arm that now shrinks from bearing forth the Cross, and to send forth many upon the all-heavenly errand of the Saviour, 'to seek and to save that which was lost.'"

In the course of the services, the following beautiful hymn, composed for the occasion, was sung:—

### THE DOMESTIC MISSION.

By J. BOWRING, Esq. LL. D. M. P.

'Tis in the soul—the soul alone,  
That God's transcendent power is shown;  
No length of time, nor breadth of space,  
Can bound its onward, upward race.

Whate'er of darkness or of light  
May gloom or gild its earthly flight,  
Nearer, still nearer towards its source  
Unreachable,—it speeds its course.

The shadowing, shifting things of time,  
No more impede its march sublime  
Than mists the earth, or clouds the sun;  
Towards heaven it moves majestic on.

High privilege! to train, to teach,  
In highest efforts, each for each,  
Strength to receive, and strength impart,  
From helping hand and glowing heart.

For this we meet,—for this we blend,  
Neighbour with neighbour, friend with friend;  
And in fraternal union move,  
Blest in our common Father's love.

### LONDON SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of this Association took place on Thursday morning, the 15th ult., the friends breakfasting together previously to the business. It was an interesting and truly gratifying meeting, and the attendance larger than on any previous occasion.

### HEBREW PROPER NAMES.

It may throw some light on certain portions of the Scriptures, to present our readers with a few examples of a certain class of Hebrew proper names. It was a frequent custom of the ancient Hebrew people to designate their children by names expressive of some circumstance connected with their birth or destiny. Thus Hagar, called her son 'Ishmael,'—the meaning of which is 'God hath heard.' The child was called by this name to denote that God had heard the mother's affliction (Gen. xvi. 11.) Almost the whole of that large class of names in the Old Testament which have 'el' in their composition are some combination of the name of God. In those cases where they end in 'jah' they are combinations of God's most sacred name, Jehovah. The name 'Elijah,' for instance, is compounded of both those terms, and signifies 'God, the Lord.' We shall cite a few examples here, and refer the reader who wishes to see them more at length, to any dictionary of Bible names.

Abiel, God my father.  
Ariel, Lion of God.  
Abiah or Abijah, The Lord is my father.  
Benaiah, Son of the Lord.  
Daniel, God is my judge.  
Eli, My God.  
Eliab, God my father.  
Elihu. He is my God himself.  
Gabriel, My strong God.  
Israel, A Prince with God.  
Immanuel, God with us.  
Lemuel, God with them.  
Nathaniel, The gift of God.  
Phanuel, Face of God.  
Uzziel, Strength of God.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

We have several times received communications from distant parts of the country, written by persons with whom we have no personal acquaintance whatever, stating their gratification at meeting with a stray number of our paper. We need scarcely say that we are gratified in return at every such expression of sympathy from isolated friends of our common faith. The following letter has just come to hand, together with a note ordering the *Bible Christian* to be sent to the address of the writer.

### TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN.'

SIR,—I have long desired to see a truly liberal religious paper established in Canada. My wish has now been gratified, by the appearance of the *Bible Christian*, a copy of which has just been put into my hands; and I think, were it generally known, it would receive considerable support from Canada West.

May I not remark here how inconsistent it is for some Denominations to profess to maintain the Right of Private Judgment, whilst, at the same time, if we do not acknowledge certain dogmas which they style "orthodox," we are denounced as heretics, and excluded, in their sentence, even from the mercy of God! Our private judgment must be circumscribed by the opinions of John Calvin, John Wesley, or some other fallible mortals, who have attempted to forge a chain of dogmas wherewith to bind the consciences of their fellow-men. Reason is all divine with such persons as long as it is exercised in support of their own peculiar notions; but as soon as it begins to discover any inconsistency in their system, then reason, the noble gift of the Creator, is immediately denounced as the very handmaid of infidelity itself.

I have heard such people boast of their liberality, and at the same time profess principles that would limit the grace of God to a few, or only to such as could see through the same coloured medium which perverted their own intellectual perceptions. I have no doubt but you have known such too, and the number of them is not small in Canada;—but it is to be hoped the *Bible Christian* will lessen that number, by declaring the Gospel doctrine of "ONE GOD, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for ALL."

Yours respectfully,

ONE OF THE 'ALL.'

Carleton Place, C. W. 13th May, 1845.

### CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

The CANADA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE will meet at WHITBY, (C. W.) on MONDAY, the 7th JULY next.

### NOTICE.

Persons desirous of taking PEWS or SITTINGS in the UNITARIAN CHURCH, will please apply to the Treasurer, JAMES DOUGALL, Esq., William Street.