

THE GUARDIAN.

"HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

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HALIFAX, N. S. WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1889.

POETRY.

EVENING HYMN BY MOONLIGHT.

FROM THE GERMAN.

The fair moon hath ascended,
With golden stars attended,
Bright glittering in the skies;
Black stands the forest, sleeping
In silence; and, soft creeping,
The white mists from the meadows rise.

How still the world is resting,
With twilight's veil investing
Its half-hid loveliness!
Like some still room, where sorrow,
And cares, until the morrow,
Ye lose in sleep's forgetfulness.

See ye yon moon to-night?
There is but half in sight,
Yet she is round and fair;
Thus many things there be
Which in our boldness we
Scoff at, unknowing what they are.

O lofty human kind!
O boundless reach of mind!
Poor sinners are we all;
Our airy projects spinning
Still seeking, never winning,
We nothing know—we climb to fall.

Let us, Lord, know thy love,
And trust not what will prove
But fleeting vanity;
With single heart adore thee,
And here on earth before thee
Like children good and joyous be.

Then by a painless death
May we resign our breath,
When our fit time shall be;
And, this world overpast,
Make us to come at last
To heaven, O Lord our God, to thee.

In God's name let us then
Lie down to rest again;
This night thy judgments spare:
O Lord, in mercy tend us,
With peaceful sleep befriend us,
And our sick brethren everywhere.

Religious Societies.

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

H. Hoare, Esq. presided. The reduction of one-sixth in the price of the Society's tracts has led to an increase in the sales during the past year of 1,253,787. Thirty-two circulating libraries, 367,347 tracts have been granted to Ireland. Grants of tracts to the extent of 1,800,000 have been made for British emigrants, soldiers, sailors, foreigners in England, prisons, hospitals, railwaymen, Sabbath-day circulation, fairs, races, &c. The publications circulated during the year amount to 12,042,639, being an increase on the preceding year of 2,102,972. The total benevolent indications, paper, and money, amount to £7740 4s 3d being £2257 18s. 1d. beyond such benevolent income. The sales have been £50,447 1s. 4d. and the total income of the Institution £62,219 7s. 3d being an increase of £164 18s. 1d.

PRAYER BOOK AND HOMILY SOCIETY.

Lord Bexley presided. It appeared from the report, since the year 1824, and up to the 21st of March 1839, 27,963 ships had been visited in the London river and at Gravesend; 16,040 Prayer-books, 203 copies of Family Prayers and 257 Homilies had been sold at reduced prices, and 19,910 selections of the Homilies, for the use of seamen had been distributed gratuitously. The grand total of the issue of books by the Society was 365,973 copies, besides 2,226,337 tracts. The total revenue for the past year was audited at £3,532 11s. 6d. and the expenditure at £3,588 11s. 3d, leaving a balance due to the Treasurer, and it was also stated, that there were debts due last Christmas to tradesmen to the amount of £2218 3s. 1d.

LONDON HIBERNIAN SOCIETY.

Marquis of Cholmondeley in the Chair. The report stated, that the finances of the Society during the past year, had been in a painfully embarrassed state, but that, through the blessing of Divine Providence, the Society was now in a more flourishing condition than it had ever been before. The total receipts for the year were £11,702 8s 8½d. those of last year having been £9991 10s. 9d. showing an increase in the present year of upwards of £1700. But there was a debt of £1000 still pressing upon the finances of the Society. A comparison of the expenses of this Institution with that of the Government Board of Education would produce a result highly in favour of the Hibernian Society, as it would appear that with 1384 day-schools the Government Institution kept up an establishment in Dublin consisting of 19 persons; while with 1157 day-schools in connection with this Society their establishment amounted to only five persons in Dublin not including, indeed, the London establishment, which however, would only add four persons more to the number, two of whom were Travelling Secretaries employed in forming Auxiliaries and raising funds. There were 5539 more scholars this year than last, the total number being 91,074—the average attendance in each school was greater, and of the additional number, more than half were Roman Catholics, 2715 being Protestants and 2786 Roman Catholics. The schools opened on Sabbaths during the past year were 817, containing 45,000 scholars; 550 were exclusively Sabbath-schools, and 18,224 exclusively Sabbath-scholars. There are 511 adult schools; 7779 Irish schools. The statistics of the Society in relation to the four provinces, are as follows:—Munster, 86 day-schools, and 2643 scholars; 2426 being Roman Catholics, and 218 Protestants; Sabbath and adult schools, 18, having 218 scholars; total, 104 schools, 5287 scholars. Leinster, 144 day-schools, and 8525 scholars; 3821 being Roman Catholics, and 4703 Protestants; Sabbath and adult schools, 151, having 2902 scholars; total, 275 schools, 11,427 scholars. Connaught, 176 day-schools, 13,035 scholars; 9025 being Roman Catholics, and 4010 Protestants; Sabbath and adult schools, 46, —scholars; total, 222 schools, 13,611 scholars. Ulster, 751 day-schools, and 64,445 scholars; 18,796 being Roman Catholics, and 45,649 Protestants; Sabbath and adult schools, 863, having 86,797 scholars.—The grand totals are, of day-schools, 1157; of scholars, 91,074; of Roman Catholics, 31,061; of Protestants, 57,006; of Sabbath and adult schools, 1084; of scholars in them, 26,048. Total number of schools of scholars in them, 26,048. During the past year 2241; of scholars, 117,122. Total number of schools forty-nine Scripture-readers had been employed. A thirty of whom were also teachers of schools. A Sub-Committee, which had been appointed to look into the expenses, had recommended the gradually doing away with Scripture-readers. 5279 Testaments and 20,561 Bibles, had been distributed during the year, and 445,449 in all since the commencement of the Society.

NAVAL AND MILITARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

Marquis of Cholmondeley presided. In reference to the army, 3944 Bibles had been forwarded to 51 different regiments; of these 357 had been afforded gratuitously. The total number of the Hon. East India Company, was 67,794. 500 copies had been sent to troops in the service of the Hon. East India Company, for distribution among the troops sent to Bombay for distribution among the troops there; 50 to the Wesleyan Missionary at Madras; 50 to the British subjects in Canada.—1400 had been sold to various pensioners in London only. In the naval department, the demand for Bibles and Testaments was increasing, and there was reason to believe that the books were read and valued. The Committee indulged the hope that, on their arrival on foreign shores, British seamen would no longer be dreaded by the natives, but become the heralds and ensamples of the gospel of the Saviour. Pleasing accounts had been received from the agents at the various ports. At Portsmouth, 282 Bibles and 563 Testaments had been circulated; at Plymouth, 638; and at Falmouth, 1178. The total number distributed among seamen, including fishermen, canal boatmen, &c. was 7431; about one half gratuitously, the remainder at reduced prices. A great improvement was evident in the general manners and conduct of the men; and many, it was hoped, were looking to Christ as their only saviour of sinners. It was stated that the various Auxiliaries were effective, and that some new Associations had been formed. 12,553 Bibles and Testaments had been distributed during the past year; and

844,186 from the formation of the Society. The receipts had amounted to £2804 0s. 3d. the expenditure to £2822 15s. 6d. There was a balance in hand, including a balance of last year, of £22 0s. 7d. Various bequests amounted to £560.

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE MISSIONS BELONGING TO THE GLASGOW MISSIONARY SOCIETY, ADHERING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

The following brief but interesting abstract of the Society's Report we have taken from the Scottish Guardian, and we sincerely hope that our readers will be aroused to assist in carrying forward the good work which the Society have at heart.—*Scottish Christian Herald.*

The Society have at present in the missionary field five missionaries from this country—Messrs Ross, Bennie, Laing, M'Dermid, and Weir; three native assistants—Robert Balfour, Charles Henry, and Joseph Williams; and two native schoolmasters—Zente and Vimbe, besides interpreters. Messrs Ross and Bennie preach to the natives directly in Caffre; the other three from this country, who have more recently gone out, are still partly dependant on interpreters. There are three separate missionary stations,—Lovedale, Pirrie, and Burnhill, and a fourth is in progress of being formed. At each of these three stations there is a church, and with it, as in our own country, a school house. Religious services are regularly observed at each of these several times every Lord's day, and frequently on week-days. School operations go on during the week, and large classes assemble on the Lord's day for religious instruction. And to complete the description, we must add that there is at each of these also a little native church, consisting of converted Caffres, who stately partake of the sacred symbols of reconciliation with God, fellowship with one another, and general communion with the church everywhere. At Lovedale the number of day scholars is considerably upwards of one hundred; the number of Sabbath scholars about eighty. There is a small week-day congregation, and a congregation on Sabbath of about sixty or seventy Caffres, who meet twice; and there is a Dutch congregation of about thirty. And around Lovedale there is a native population of two hundred and twenty hamlets, containing an estimated population of one thousand five hundred and forty families, among whom Mr. Bennie and his native assistant, Joseph Williams, are, as circumstances permit, labouring from house to house, or rather from bush to bush, and from kraal to kraal. School operations have also increased at Pirrie, and the number of worshippers on the Lord's day has of late amounted to upwards of an hundred; while around the station there are one hundred and sixty-five native hamlets, estimated at one thousand one hundred and fifty-five families, among whom Mr. Ross and his native assistant, Joseph Williams, are employed, making known the truth as they have opportunity. And at Burnhill the number of week-day scholars on the list is eighty; the average attendance forty-five; and the attendance on church is on some occasions upwards of two hundred; and around this station there are not fewer than two hundred and seventy hamlets, which are reckoned to contain about one thousand eight hundred and ninety families, among whom Messrs Laing and M'Dermid, with Charles Henry, native assistant, are accustomed to itinerate. It is in an outskirt of this large and scattered population that Mr. Weir has been for some time employed attempting to form a fourth station. To these we must add the operations of the two native schoolmasters, Zente and Vimbe, who teach at some distance from the missionaries, and have between them not fewer than ninety scholars, who, like those attending the Irish hedge schools, assemble in the open air, and have only the shade of some tree to shelter them from the heat of the sun. And as a proof of the industry of the teachers, they are erecting houses to themselves when their school hours are over; and yet they are both but young men, and lately converted from a state of heathenism.

The friends of the Society will be also glad to learn that God has been pleased to bless the means so employed for the hopeful conversion of several during the year, some of whom have been admitted to sealing ordinances, and are now as one with the brethren.

A missionary institution in Caffraria for educating native schoolmasters and preachers has been fully resolved upon—a plan of education which was sent out to the missionaries for their consideration is expected to be returned immediately—the missionaries have