

## INTELLIGENCE.

## PROCEEDINGS OF ENGLISH SOCIETIES.

## SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

During the quarter ending July 28, donations have been made to the society amounting to 261*l.* 15*s.*; parochial collections, 15*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*; legacies, 119*l.* 19*s.*; foreign translation fund, 199*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* One hundred and eighty-seven new members have been admitted within the same period.

A vacancy having been occasioned by the retirement of the Ven. Archdeacon Cambridge from the joint treasurership of the general funds, the committee recommended William Cotton, Esq. for the vacant office, who was elected accordingly.

A letter was read at the meeting in May, from the Rev. A. Denny, secretary to the district committee at Port Louis, Mauritius, mentioning the religious destitution of the negro population of that colony. It appeared from this letter, that the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts had recently placed at Mr. Denny's disposal one thousand pounds towards the erection of four schools, for the education of the apprenticed negroes in the principles of the Church of England. Other assistance had also been obtained; but, as it is desirable that each of these schools should serve as a place of worship, where churches are few, the sum of 720*l.* is still required to complete the buildings, supposing that each should cost 500*l.* The committee at Port Louis having, through their secretary, solicited the society to aid them in this work, it was agreed to grant 500*l.* towards the erection of the schools.

Mr. John Alston, who has recently prepared books, printed in embossed types, for the use of blind persons, requested a grant from the society towards the extension of his plan. It appeared from a very interesting communication laid before the meeting, that Mr. Alston has added to the other improvements of the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, of which he is the treasurer, a beautiful font of types, and a printing press; and that he will thus soon supply that and kindred institutions with the Scriptures and other books in a character which can be read by the touch of the blind with little less fluency than by the eyes of the seeing. He has already put forth the book of Ruth and the epistle of St. James; and expects to finish the whole of the New Testament at the price of about 1*l.* 11*s.* per copy. Great success is stated to have attended this system, which is simply to print, in relief, the capitals of the ordinary Roman character, without any arbitrary mark whatever. The board agreed to grant 50*l.* in aid of this object.

A letter was read at the June meeting, from the Bishop of Nova Scotia, dated Halifax, March 10th, 1837, acknowledging the society's grant of 50*l.* towards the rebuilding of the African school-house in that town, which, it is hoped, will be recommenced very soon. His lordship also repeated his application in behalf of the divinity scholarships at King's College, Windsor, Nova Scotia, the need of some assistance towards these having become most urgent. In this letter the Bishop states that he has now several pressing applications for missionaries, but has not one to send; and he is left with scarcely one candidate for holy orders in times of great trouble and embarrassment, when clergymen duly qualified for the missionary work are especially required. The society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts has agreed to make an annual grant of 200*l.* for this purpose. The Bishop adds, "If the board of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge could be induced to provide a similar sum, it would be a great benefit indeed to us."—The Rev. C. A. Ogilvie having informed the society that his grace the president, whose opinion had been asked on this subject, thought that a grant towards the object recommended in the bishop's letter would be well bestowed, the board agreed to grant 200*l.* towards these scholarships for the present year, and to entertain a further application for assistance to the same amount for the year ensuing.

The following grants have also been made during the quarter:—To the Gibraltar district committee, in aid of the religious instruction of the Protestant congregation, and of the inhabitants generally, 200*l.*

for the present year, and for the two following years if required; to the Irish Association for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 250*l.*; for distribution among the boys in the Marine Society, 100 Bibles, 100 Testaments, and 200 Prayer-books; towards the erection of a church in the York district on the Avon, Western Australia, 100*l.*; towards the erection of a new church at Harbour-Grace, Newfoundland, 100*l.*; besides the usual grants of books to libraries, schools, &c.

At the meeting in July it was agreed, on the motion of John Poynder, Esq., "That, adverting to the despatch of the directors of the East India Company, dated the 20th of February, 1833, expressly directing the withdrawal of British patronage and support from the worship and service of idolatry, and also the extinction of all taxation arising from the superstitions of heathenism; and further observing, that in the course of the last four years no efficient measures have been taken for carrying such despatch into effect,—a memorial be presented by this society to her Majesty, the hon. Court of Proprietors of the East India House, the hon. Board of Control, and the First Lord of the Treasury, requesting attention to the subject in question, and praying relief in consequence." A form of memorial which had been drawn up was laid before the meeting, and, with certain alterations, approved and adopted. This memorial will be inserted in the appendix to the annual report for 1837.

A letter was received from the Lord Bishop of Australia, dated Sydney, Dec. 27, 1836, acknowledging the society's grant of 1000*l.* for the institution and maintenance of schools in connexion with the Church of England in New South Wales. His lordship hopes soon to be enabled to furnish a detailed account of his proceedings, and of the success which has attended the measures undertaken for the welfare of the church and the promotion of Christian knowledge in his diocese.

Inquiry having been made at this meeting relative to the progress which had been made in the Bible commentary, it was stated that the work has now advanced to the end of the Gospel of St. Luke, and has been executed in a manner entirely satisfactory to the Bishops of London and Lincoln, the episcopal referees, and also to the three other referees, the Dean of Chichester, Dr. Dealtry, and Mr. Ogilvie. Its progress has been slower than was anticipated, owing to the circumstance of the editors having been unable to avail themselves of the assistance of other persons, and been obliged to take upon themselves the whole labor of composing the annotations.

At a special general meeting held July 25, an address to her majesty the queen, on her accession to the throne, and an address of condolence to the queen dowager, were read and adopted.

The secretary has reported that the auditors appointed by the board had met and examined the accounts of the treasurers to the general designs of the society, by which it appeared that between the audit of April 1836 and April 1837, the receipts of the society had amounted to 80,542*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, and its expenditure to 109,446*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* The following is an account of Bibles, Common Prayer-books, tracts, &c. issued by the society since the audit, April 1836:—Bibles, 100,436; Testaments, 87,279; Common Prayer-books, 192,444; Psalters, 11,671; other bound books, 136,233; Tracts, 1,707,551: total, 2,235,614.—*Epis. Res.*

## SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

The Rev. A. F. Cammerer, missionary at Vepery, reports that six heathens, one man and five women, have been received into the church during the last six months. Mr. Irion had prepared them for the due reception of the rite of baptism; and after he left us I admitted them. Notwithstanding the acknowledged difficulty of ascertaining the sincerity of converts, I trust I may say with regard to these, that they walk honestly and circumspectly in the truth. In the congregation forty-five children have been baptized. There have been eight marriages and twenty-five deaths. The Lord's supper has been administered three times in the Mission Church; the number of communicants on the 20th Sept., 1835, was 47; on the 20th December, 66; and on the 27th March, 1836,

no less than 156. This was a memorable day, being the only occasion on which so many have been known to have crowded round the table of the Lord here without any distinction of caste. We bless God that we have good ground for believing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord."

**Tamil School.**—The establishment of schools has been found, without any exception, the surest and most effectual mode of promoting the missionary object. The Tamil schools supported by the venerable society in this presidency are fifteen, of which eight are for boys, and the other seven for girls; and the whole number of native children, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and heathen, now under instruction in these schools, may be computed at 664; boys, 400; and girls, 264. Besides these, many have left the schools with the first rudiments of learning and the first principles of the oracles of God.

**English Schools.**—In the English boys' school there are 95 boys; but the average attendance is about 60. They are divided into five classes. Mr. Howel, who acted as schoolmaster for some time, left us in December last, since when caterhist Heyne, educated at Bishop's College, has been placed in charge of the school. He is assisted by Samuel Thomson, who had been in the seminary before. The English Boys' school increases daily, and promises daily.

**English Girls' Schools.**—In the English girls' school there are 30 girls, who are divided into four classes.—*Ch. Eng. Mag.*

## CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY.

Five deacons and two priests of the number ordained by the bishop of Chester at Durham, on the 30th July, are supported by stipends from the Church Pastoral-Aid Society. The districts in which they are to minister contain on an average full 7,000 persons each. There 50,000 souls had before the assistance of seven clergy. That number is now doubled, and fourteen are labouring among them. The united incomes of the seven benefices do not amount to 1000*l.*; so that but for the aid afforded by this society it would have been impossible for them to have employed curates.—*Ibid.*

## SUSSEX.

A new church at Goring was opened on Sunday, the 12th of November. The Bishop of Chichester preached the sermon. The edifice has been erected on the site of the old church, at the sole cost of David Lyon, Esq., who has a seat in the neighbourhood. The outlay, including a peal of six bells, exceeds 6,000*l.*—*Brighton Gazette.*

## WORCESTERSHIRE.

Nearly 1000*l.* was raised by the sale of fancy articles made by the ladies of the neighbourhood of Dudley, at a bazaar in that town. The money is to build a new church on the Cleehill.—*Worcester Journal.*

## YORKSHIRE.

The Bishop of Ripon has just completed his confirmation in the manufacturing districts of the West Riding, where, from residing two or three weeks in the neighbourhood of Leeds, Halifax, Bradford, Wakefield, and Huddersfield, he has become personally acquainted with the clergy of his diocese. His lordship has confirmed between three and four thousand young people in his circuit through the diocese of Ripon.—*Leeds's Intel.*

## CHURCHES AND MINISTERS.

London contained, (A. D. 1805,) 352 places of worship. It then had a million of inhabitants, being 2,845 souls for each place of worship.

New-York, with about 300,000 inhabitants, has 141 churches, that is, about 2100 persons to each church.

Boston, with 78,600 inhabitant, and 57 churches has 1,379 persons to each place of worship.

There were in Boston, A. D. 1837, 53 officiating Ministers. Of these 26 were Congregationalists, 3 Episcopalians, 9 Baptists, 5 Methodists, 4 Universalists, 1 Swedenborgian, and 5 Roman Catholics.