

British Conference.

(From the London Watchman, August 15.)

Recognition of Returned Missionaries.

On Monday evening, August 11th, an interesting Service took place in Sans Street Chapel, Sunderland, namely, the formal Recognition of Six Missionaries, as Members of the British Conference. The Rev. GEORGE MARSDEN was deputed to conduct the proceedings, and among the Preachers in attendance were, the Rev. Dr. ALDER, the Rev. Dr. RICHEY, the Revs. R. NEWSTEAD, T. C. INGLE, W. H. RULE, W. ARTHUR, the Ministers of the Circuit, &c.

The 446th Hymn—"Jesus, the word of mercy give," &c., was sung; after which the Rev. Wm. ARTHUR engaged in prayer, and the Rev. Dr. ALDER read Acts xiv. from the 8th verse. The Hymn, p. 210, "See how great a flame aspires," &c., was also sung.

Dr. ALDER, addressing Mr. Marsden, then said—You, Sir, are deputed by the Conference, now sitting in the neighbouring town of Newcastle, to preside over the present assembly,—an assembly convened for the purpose of receiving communications from several of our brethren, who have been employed, during a long series of years, as Missionaries, in different parts of the world, and all here are to witness, through you, their solemn recognition as members of the British Conference. I have, therefore, much pleasure in presenting to you these brethren, who have earned a good degree in connection with the Missionary department of our work; and some of them will, this evening, furnish to us information which cannot fail to inspire increased confidence as to the success of the great work in which they are engaged—the subjection of the world to the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. As representing the Wesleyan Missionary Committee on this occasion, I beg to introduce to you, and to this assembly, Mr. JOHN THOMAS for upwards of a quarter of a century employed in Missionary work on some of the islands in the Southern Ocean;—Mr. R. D. GRIFFITH, for several years a devoted labourer in India;—Mr. PEARSON, (from the Bahamas);—Mr. FIDLER, (from Antigua);—Mr. HURD and Mr. BIGGS (also from the West Indies.) They have well and faithfully performed the duties to which, in the order of divine Providence, they have been called; and I have great satisfaction in presenting them, because several of them are about to return, and to devote themselves further to missionary service in distant lands. I rejoice in such opportunities as the present, for two reasons—they afford to our friends the means of making themselves acquainted with the great work which God, by the instrumentality of his church, is accomplishing in different parts of the world, and they also furnish us with means of forming a correct judgment of the character of the great enterprise to which we, as the friends of Christian missions have devoted ourselves, and enable us rightly to estimate the amount of success with which our efforts have been crowned. We need encouragements. The same agents and agencies which are assailing our operations at home, are endeavouring to damage our interests abroad: but when you see before you men stationed in different parts of the world, and hear from them the great work which God by their means has accomplished in the places where they have been stationed, you cannot but be gratified to the Father and Giver of all good, for the tokens of favour which he has been pleased to confer on the labour of his servants. Very signal were the interpositions of Jehovah on behalf of his ancient people. "In all their afflictions he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them: and he bare them, and carried them, all the days of old." No method was more frequently employed to preserve the Jews from apostasy, than to cherish in their minds their entire dependence upon God.—than that of reminding them of the great things which the Most High had accomplished on their behalf. The deliverances which he wrought out for them in Egypt, at the Red Sea, in the Wil-

derness and in Canaan, were often set before them, and they were enabled to say—"In God is my salvation and my glory, the rock of my strength, and my refuge is in God." While we, therefore, listen to statements made to us by servants of the Lord, employed as agents of our own Church in distant lands, let us be encouraged to persevere in the work of faith and labour of love, to which we are called; and learning from their testimony, that it pleases God, by the instrumentality of his truth, to turn the hearts of men everywhere, where this truth is proclaimed, to "the obedience of the faith," let us gather motives to devote ourselves more earnestly to the dissemination of that truth, by means of which the hearts of the disobedient may be turned to the wisdom of the just.

The meeting was then addressed in an interesting manner by Messrs Thomas, Griffith, and Hurd, who entered into details of their experience in the Missionary work, describing their trials, and their successes, and pleading in behalf of the Missions in which they had severally been labouring. Our space will not admit the insertion of the addresses of these brethren.

Mr. MARSDEN expressed his regret that, on account of the lateness of the hour, he could not call on the other Missionaries—Messrs. Pearson, Fidler, and Biggs.

Dr. RICHEY, in moving the recognition of the Missionaries—(addressing Mr. Marsden and his Christian brethren)—said, in substance,—He was impressively reminded, on that occasion, of his own ministerial views and obligations. He was reminded, particularly,—by the circumstances in which, through a singular coincidence, he found himself placed,—of the rapid lapse of time, and of the necessity of giving "full proof of his ministry," while health, in any tolerable measure, and energy, in any degree, to do the will of God, were continued to him. Just eleven years had elapsed since he occupied the position in which brethren stood, to receive recognition, in that very place of worship, which he then entered for the first time, and had never again entered till the present hour. They were in the habit, in the Colonies, of speaking of England as "home;" and, when about taking a voyage to England, they said, we are about to visit "home;" but he should, on that occasion, have felt much more at "home," had he stood before the Venerable Chairman and that assemblage to be again recognised rather than to have the honour devolve upon him, unworthy as he was, to request them, in the name of the Conference, to extend the expression of cordial recognition to these noble-hearted men, whom God had animated with the true evangelistic spirit. It might not be out of place, for one moment, to allude to the field from which he came himself;—a field with the important operations of which the name of Mr. Marsden, as President of the Canadian Conference some years ago, and that of his eminent friend Dr. Alder, were and ever would be historically interwoven;—that field, though not presenting some of these attractions and associations which distinguished the return of Missionaries from the more remote parts of the earth, was, nevertheless, one of the most important scenes of Missionary effort under the auspices of their great Institution. It was a land which had already given the most comfortable, happy, independent home to tens of thousands of Englishmen;—a land, the most destitute settlements of which were visited, as evangelical pioneers in the cause of the Redeemer, by their messengers; for scarcely had a tree been levelled by the axe, in the endeavours of the emigrant to penetrate the forest or to rear himself a hut, ere their Ministers came to tell him of the love of Christ, and either to revive the remembrance of better and happier days, or to lead him, amidst the privations of the wilderness, to the consolations of the Gospel. In that land, the work was prospering, he might say, without exaggeration, on a magnificent scale. Only conceive of an augmentation of the funds in Canada, last year, to the amount of £1,000 above any previous year; only think of an increase, by their Missionary exertions, during the last year, of 1,200 souls;—nay more, for

there was that numerical increase when all removals, by death, or otherwise, had been supplied. It must, therefore, be a rich remembrance to the Chairman, as well as his distinguished friend Dr. Alder, to look back upon the troubles and trials of former years, and now to see that with one heart and soul, with concentrated energies, they were carrying out, under the blessing of the Great Head of the Church, this glorious work in Canada. . . . But he must not forget the object for which he had been called to stand before them—the ministry of the word,—the Missionary ministry of the word,—the recognition of these holy men of God, who had already given "full proof of their ministry," and came before them, not as probationers, not as candidates, not as persons of doubtful claims, but to receive spontaneous and cordial recognition as their brethren, as "messengers of the churches and the glory of Christ." He was reminded, that the ministry was the great essential gift of Christ to the church and the world, when he "ascended up on high," and "obtained gifts for men." Conquerors had oftentimes distinguished days of triumph by the distribution of large benevolences; princes had signaled the day of their coronation by distributing among their subjects manifest displays of their generosity; but when the great Head of the Church triumphed, when he was coroneted in the heavens as Prince of Life and Peace, "he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till all came in the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Was it not an impressive view of the dignity and importance of the Christian ministry—(he used these terms in their pure and spiritual import and bearing)—that though the object of Christ's ascension as Mediator after his complete work of atonement, was that he might fill, provide, spiritually enrich, and sanctify all things, yet he chose to do this through the medium principally of the ministry; and, in order to accomplish the work, he gave them, and had given ever since, in uninterrupted succession which should continue to the end of time, men anointed with the spirit of regeneration and then with the spirit of the ministry, to carry in triumph, the banner of the Cross around a redeemed and regenerated world. Those Ministers who had addressed them, and the others who were to be then recognised, were the gift of Christ to the Church,—to the people of God,—to them, his friends in Sunderland,—and to all who were associated with them in the bonds of Christian fellowship. No education could have moulded their minds into their present shape;—no earthly fire could have ignited the flame that burnt in their bosoms for the salvation of souls; no energy but that which was in the arm of God himself could have accompanied their testimony with those "signs and wonders" which they have been enabled to detail, as the fruits of their toil and the seals of their Ministry. They knew nothing of man-made Ministers: they desired none but those that Christ called. If the fountain of his mediatorial bounty was exhausted, the work was exhausted, and the world must perish. He had not trusted to human hand the work of forming, authorising, or creating a ministry. He revealed himself to their hearts, and having given them the grace of salvation, he then imparted to them the grace of the ministry; and, by the intimations of his own Spirit, as well as by the voice of providence and of the church, he pointed out fields which he had selected, saying to them by the voice of the Spirit, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." They had gone;—they had preached that gospel; and now, that they had come back for a season, many of them impatient to return, for they thought of the souls they had left behind ripening for the skies. Now, he could, with a good grace, and without the slightest particle of humiliation or mortification, stand ejected from the pale of the Christian Church,—falsely so-called by Papal and Puseyite heresies,—so long as the hand of the Lord was so signally with them, carrying on his work by their instrumental-

ity, and giving such seals of apostleship. Let him say then, that he felt the most unmingled satisfaction in being the organ of expressing a request, that these brethren might be publicly recognised on behalf of the Conference as associated in that Ministry, now in many respects calumniated; but determined, by the grace of God, through evil report and good report, to prosecute the same career of duty, feeling that "the reproach of Christ" was the highest honour. Nor would he forget, that one great object of this Ministry was to lead to the blessed consummation, when all should "come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God." This unity would be a realization, on an universal scale, of the Saviour's sacrificial prayer. He prayed, that, as Ministers and people, they might keep at the remotest distance from all who were "given to change," or who delighted in hurling the weapons of schism into the fold of Christ; and that they might contribute their efforts to promote that unity which was the object of the Redeemer's highest desire. In conclusion, he proposed that the Brethren be formally recognised as in the Ministry.

Mr. R. NEWSREAD, in briefly receding the proposition adverted, as a characteristic of the "true Church," to the fact, that hitherto all who had engaged in that service had been, as Missionaries, in the field of the world.

Mr. G. MARSDEN then, with great solemnity, addressed a few words to the Brethren before him, and concluded by formally recognising them, as Ministers associated with the Conference, "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

After singing a Hymn, the service was concluded with prayer.

Family Circle.

The Mother's Music.

What is music? I would fain know what music is. I seek it as a man seeks wisdom. I walked late in the moonlight, in the beautiful avenue of lime trees on the banks of the Rhine, and I heard a tapping noise and soft singing. At the door of a cottage, under the blossoming lime tree, sat a mother with her twin babes; the one lay at her breast, the other in a cradle which she rocked at her foot, keeping time to her singing. In the very germ, when the first symptom of life appears, music is the nurse of the soul; it murmurs in the ear, and the child sleeps; the tones are the companions of his dreams, they are the world in which he lives; he has nothing; the babe, although cradled in his mother's arms, is alone in spirit, but tones find entrance into this half-conscious soul, and nourish it as earth nourishes the life of plants. Mother, do you soothe your infant by singing one of the songs of Zion to it? Angels would like to sing to your baby of Him whom they praise in heaven?

Hint for a Prayerless Mother.

As a little boy sat looking at his mother one day, he said, "Grandpapa will be in heaven!—aunt will be in heaven!—Mary will be in heaven!—baby is in heaven!—but mamma!" here the child paused, and looked very solemn. "Well, dear," said the mother, "what about mamma? Will not mamma be in heaven?" The little fellow shook his head very gravely, and replied "Oh, no, no!" "Why do you say so?" asked the mother, deeply affected. "Oh, you do not pray," he replied, "so you will not go to heaven!" "Yes, my dear, I do; I often pray for you when you do not see me, very often indeed!" "Ah, I never saw you then. Kneel down now, and let me hear if you can pray." The mother knelt by her child, and prayed aloud for herself and little one, and that day learned a lesson she will never forget. Mother! are you going to heaven? Do your little ones think you are going, by all they observe in your daily walk and conduct? Are you leading the way to heaven? Do they often hear your voice going up to the throne of God for them? Those who do not pray on earth, may pray when life is