

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE THIRTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF THE
BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

FRANCE.—Mr. De Pressensé, the Society's Agent, furnishes the following extract from the journal of a fellow-labourer:—

"A source of great inconvenience to us at the present season is the miserable state of the roads. Without exaggeration, I may say that, for days together, we have gone from one place to another up to our knees in snow and water. One day in particular, I was twice obliged to carry my companion through the deep miry roads, in consequence of his wearing shoes, while I had boots on; and the water penetrated through our clothes, and we were completely drenched. Nothing, however, has tended to discourage us. What has grieved us the most is, that we have been prevented from doing so much for the poor people who are ignorant of the truth, as we might have done had the weather been more favourable; for as to ourselves, we can say, as in the presence of God, that the more we suffer for the name of Christ, the more we believe that we are his disciples. When we take a view of the wretched state of the country which we are now visiting, we ask ourselves how it can be possible that we should turn back to our homes for the sake of a few bodily inconveniences! Yes, my dear sir, by the grace of God, we shall continue in the work as long as it is your pleasure, and as long as our legs can support us. I am now more fully convinced of the importance of our labours as colporteurs than I once was. And oh! may the Lord qualify us more and more for the work, that we may have no other desire than to devote ourselves to His service to the end of our lives!"

GERMANY.—The correspondence addressed to the Rev. Dr. Pinkerton (the Agent) during the past year has been singularly interesting. The following is an extract:—

"I am penetrated with feelings of joy and of gratitude towards the Lord, for the manifold instances of His mercy and love, when I take a review of the goodness and faithfulness with which he has protected and blessed the dissemination of His Holy Word in this country. * * * 'And was this the land,' I am disposed to exclaim, 'which so long remained inaccessible to the operations of the children of God—to the labours of Societies composed of friends of Gospel truth! It is the King of Glory, beloved brethren, who has opened to you the lofty gates, and He is, himself, now entering in amidst the triumphant sounds of His Divine word! Truly this has been for us a year of unexampled blessing! The Word of life and light has penetrated into the remotest corners of —, and has visited the loneliest cottages of the poor! * * * I can joyfully declare that, on all sides, the people in the country, and the inhabitants of the towns also, are reaching out their hands to obtain the treasure of the Divine word."

BELGIUM.—The Society's Agent, Mr. Tiddy, speaking of a person once a zealous Roman Catholic priest, but now a no less zealous Protestant minister, gives the following interesting account of his conversion, as related by himself at a meeting of a Bible Association:—

"The day was fixed for my entering into a convent, the strictest of convents, that of the Trappists. I suffered great agony of mind. I was about to shut out for ever even the light. I cast myself on my knees, and gave myself up to God. I earnestly implored him to direct me. If it were his pleasure for me thus to sacrifice myself, I begged him to enable me to do it; if not, to plainly show it me. I felt that I entirely gave myself up to Him. I arose from my knees, I took the Bible from my table, and opened it at the 51st Psalm; I knew it well in Latin, and had often repeated it, but now it was fixed on my mind in a manner that I shall never forget: it will be ever precious to me. My eyes lighted on this verse: 'Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.' The truth flashed across my mind—I understood it all. It

was not by my inflicting on my poor, sinful, and weak body, pain and sufferings, that I could be delivered from my sins; I saw that was to be done by a nobler sacrifice: I must be washed in the blood of Christ, which cleanseth from all sin. The 16th and 17th verses of the same Psalm determined me what to do; from that moment I have had a peace and joy which surpass all knowledge. I found rest for my soul; I find it still, amidst all the trials and temptations to which the Christian is subject in this vale of tears. Attach yourselves to the word of God, and not to the traditions of men: that alone can lead you aright."

PRUSSIA.—Your President, Lord Bexley, (says the Report,) having, at the request of the Committee, addressed a letter of condolence to His Majesty Frederick William IV., King of Prussia, on the occasion of the decease of his royal father, who had ever proved himself a warm friend of the Bible Society, His Majesty was pleased to send the following letter in reply:—

"Highly esteeming the British and Foreign Bible Society, as an institution whose truly beneficial influence extends to all the nations of the earth, I sincerely thank its Committee for the expression of their sympathy, and for their pious wishes contained in their letter of the 4th of last month; and I rejoice in the further assurance that the Society bears in grateful remembrance what the King my father, now with God, did towards promoting the circulation of the Divine word. I should regard the advancement of the cause of the Bible as a valuable legacy bequeathed to me, were it not already an object of my warm affection and duty; and it is gratifying to me to know, that in this respect the Committee place confidence in me. May a God of infinite goodness continue, as heretofore, to accompany the pious endeavours of the Bible Society with his rich blessings!"

"FREDERICK WILLIAM."

Sans-Souci, Oct. 25, 1840."

INDIA.

THE Rev. E. NOYES, Baptist Missionary in Balasore, in a letter to the American Tract Society, dated July 9, 1841, gives the following cheering account of the success attending the distribution of religious tracts in India:—

DELIGHTFUL NARRATIVE OF THE HINDOO AKUNA.

ONE circumstance I will mention, which will not fail to cheer the hearts of all engaged in this glorious cause. A few months ago I went with two native preachers to the mountains, about ten miles west of this. While my tent was pitched at a village called Katapal, one of the native preachers fell in with a man, who told him that he had for many years been seeking salvation without success. That a year ago he had received a paper Tract, in which very strange things were written of God, and Jesus Christ his Son. That he had just been listening to our preaching in the village, and had perceived that we taught the same that was contained in that Tract. He then requested the native preacher to invite me to come in the evening, and expound the holy book, and pray in his house.

When I first heard this request, I was quite at a loss to know "what the vision could mean." To be invited to enter the house of a Hindoo, especially for such a purpose, appeared like a new thing under the sun. But seeing the man he had sent to conduct me with the two native preachers, I went on "nothing doubting." As soon as we entered the door, he fell down at my feet, but was raised, receiving the same reproof Peter gave to Cornelius. In a neat little cottage were seated his aged mother, three brothers, and two of their wives. In one end of the apartment was a folded blanket, designed for a seat, and a lamp, for my accommodation, on each side of which were mats for the native preachers. As soon as we had become seated, Akuna, (for that was the man's name who called me,) said, "Now we have all met for the purpose of hearing you declare the word of God, and of praying to the Most High."

You can judge how much I was reminded of Cornelius, and I should have been sure that this man was endeavouring to imitate him, had he been acquainted with the New Testament; but we ob-

tained clear evidence that the sacred volume had never saluted his eyes. I cannot here give a full account of our remarks and prayers; suffice it to say, that we pointed him to "the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world," during which all listened with profound attention.

When I returned to Balasore, Akuna and a brother-in-law of his accompanied me, and spent several days at my house, attending with apparent delight upon all the means of grace. He has since met with much opposition from his village people; but I trust, in the end, he will have strength to burst through all opposition, and find that Saviour who has died for sinners.

CONVERSION OF THE JEWS.

At length we are able to announce, that, under most encouraging circumstances, our Missionaries have entered upon their work. Messrs. Edward and Philip, it will be seen from the subjoined correspondence, have reached Jassy, the appointed scene of their future labours. We daily expect to hear of Dr. Duncan's arrival at Pesth, where, from the interesting statement of Mr. Edward, and the valuable remarks with which the Rev. Dr. Keith has kindly prefaced his letter, it will be seen a most delightful field of usefulness awaits him. More than ever, by the friends of Israel, let prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, be offered up, that the tribes of the dispersion may learn to bow at the name of Jesus, and that those dear servants of Christ who have gone out from amongst us, may, through the working of the Holy Spirit in their own hearts, and amongst those whose salvation they seek, be made helpful in bringing on that day of enlargement and gladness, when "ten men shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you; for we have heard that God is with you."—*Home & Foreign Missionary Record.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROCESSION IN LIVERPOOL.

THE Sunday Schools connected with the Established Church in Liverpool, lately held their anniversary meeting. There were twenty-eight schools in attendance, accompanied by their teachers, each having appropriate banners. One of the Liverpool journals gives a list of the schools with the number of pupils attached to each, and the total in the procession. The number is represented at 10,700, all of them neatly dressed, and forming a body never surpassed in interest and beauty as a moral spectacle. They filled the immense Liverpool Town Hall, and 500 of them sang impressive and beautiful airs, at intervals during the exercises. When this one body of scholars is contemplated, how stupendous must be the influence exerted in the civilised world by Sunday Schools.—*Hal. Guardian.*

WESLEYAN CONNECTION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

ACCORDING to the official report at the late Conference, the number of members in the Wesleyan Connexion are, in Great Britain, 328,762; in Ireland, 27,168; in Foreign Missions, 84,334—Total, 449,264: being an increase of 11,565, compared with the year preceding.—*Id.*

CHURCH MISSIONARIES.

THE Rev. W. H. Hobson, H. Mulkins, John McIntyre, T. Bartlett, and James Coleman, have been placed, by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, on their list of Missionaries, on the recommendation of the Bishop of Toronto. Mr. Coleman is appointed as Missionary to the Indians at Walpole Island, Lake St. Clair.

The same Society has also made the following grants:—To a church at Paris, U.C., £100; to a church at Hamilton, U.C., £150; for the purchase of Land and Parsonage House at Leeds, L.C. £500. The sum of £30, to be expended in the diocese of Toronto, has been remitted to the Society from Oxford.—*Church.*

STREET PREACHING.

By a recent decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, clergymen of all denominations are allowed to preach in the open air whenever they are so disposed.