

PICPOU AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of this Institution was held in the Court House, on the 21th ult. George Smith, Esq. President, in the Chair. The Report for the past year, and the Account current, being read and adopted, it was then moved by Mr James Primrose, seconded by the Rev. John McKinlay, "That this Society deeply appreciate the benefits which arise from the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, and invite the cordial co-operation of all classes, in the promotion of so good a cause." After which a list of Office-Bearers for the present year, was moved by Mr R. Dawson, seconded by Mr James Fogo, junior, and agreed to.

REPORT.

The operations of the Society during the year past, have been but limited; but they have been of sufficient importance to encourage our hearts and strengthen our hands in the glorious work in which we are engaged.

Thirteen Bibles and seven Testaments have been given gratis, or at reduced prices, to the needy and destitute; and 25 Bibles and 30 Testaments have been sold; in addition to which further sales have been reported by some of the persons to whom books were entrusted in 1834. There have been no books received from the Parent Society during the past year, and there are now in the Depository 114 Bibles, and 233 Testaments in Gaelic; 195 Bibles and 184 Testaments in English; 2 Bibles and 19 Testaments in French; 3 Danish Bibles; 2 Bibles and 6 Testaments in Irish; 1 Spanish Bible, and 1 Hebrew Testament, making in all 317 Bibles, and 503 Testaments.

The sum of £34 3 6, has been obtained for Books sold; £10 sterling has been contributed to the Negro Fund, by the East River Evangelical Society; a benevolent individual has given a donation of One Pound, through the hands of Mr James Crerar of Mergomish, and the people of Little Harbor have contributed £1 to our Funds. The collection in this Town is in progress of being made, but not being finished, the amount cannot be embodied in the present Account.

Remittances to the amount of £45 sterling, have been made to the Parent Society during the year, and there is now in the hands of the Treasurer, the sum of £36 5 8, which will be remitted, together with the amount of the Town Collection, when read.

The progress of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to which the Society stands in the relation of an humble Auxiliary, resembles that of the great luminary that enlightens the world, whose beams, at early dawn, are scarcely discernable, but, gradually increasing in splendor, pour down, in due time, on mortals, their full meridian blaze. Every year that has elapsed since the formation of the Society, has seen its operations more widely extended, new channels and new facilities for the dissemination of the Scriptures discovered and improved, and more satisfactory evidence afforded that its labours have not been in vain in the Lord. And as it still betrays no symptoms of fatigue or languor, and is still favored with the unvarying confidence, and the liberal support of the friends of religion, and has, by its example and influence, called into existence, in different countries, many other Societies, to co-operate with it in its benevolent designs, we are encouraged to hope that the work, which hath been so auspiciously begun, will be perseveringly prosecuted, till the earth be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

The sums received into the funds of the Society, during the year that preceded the last anniversary, amount to £68,819 8 7, and, during the same period, 355,842 copies of the Scriptures have been issued from the depositories. Ninety five new Societies have been established; and the whole number of the Societies, in Great Britain and Ireland, at present in connection with the parent Institution, is 2,259. Since the commencement of the Institution, £2,197,660 2 3 sterling, has been expended, and 9,731,792 copies of the Scriptures have been put in circulation.

The distribution of the Scriptures in the British Islands is carried on with liberality and diligence, and still the wants of the people are by no means adequately supplied. Nearly 60,000 copies have been issued for the use of Sunday Schools, and upwards of 50,000 copies have been granted to different Societies for the benefit of Ireland; and evidence is not wanting, that the blessing of God accompanies the dissemination of his word.

About 80,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures have been circulated by the Society's Agent in France, the greater part of which have been distributed by Colporteurs, who, influenced by the love of God, and of souls, travel through the country in every direction,

visiting sequestered villages and hamlets, amid scoffing and reproach and abuse; and decline not to revisit the places in which they have been so unworthily treated. Appearances in France are very encouraging. A correspondent at Paris says, "I seize this opportunity to mention, that, thanks be to God, the zeal of Christians at Paris, for the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, seems to increase from year to year; and that they embrace, in their pious solicitude, the whole extent of their country. Hence, all those among them, who are in circumstances to do so, consecrate the summer to traverse the country, in order to become acquainted with its situation, and apply the remedy, as far as the ability is granted to them. All the information thus obtained, is communicated to the Committee of the Evangelical Society of France, to which the Lord gives a growth increasingly delightful."

The same correspondent observes, "Two friends of the Gospel, in the course of a perambulation, with a view to circulate the word of God, entered an Inn, in order to rest themselves. They were shown into a private room, where a large Bible was spread out on a table, and bearing marks of having been much read. They expressed their satisfaction at this discovery, to the landlady. She informed them that she had purchased it of a colporteur, adding, that as they seemed to be versant in the Holy Scriptures, she hoped, after taking some refreshment, they would have no objection to read and expound a portion of the word of God. 'I will call together the servants,' she proceeded, 'before they go out into the fields again, and we shall all profit by your welcome visit.' Her request was cheerfully complied with; and, in a short time, the little apartment was turned into a place of meeting, where the gospel was preached to a dozen attentive hearers."

The Society's Agent at Frankfort, the Rev. Dr. Pinkerton, has travelled, during the year, three thousand miles, in Germany and the neighbouring countries, and has distributed 50,926 copies of the Scriptures, among Protestants, Roman Catholics, and Jews.

In Greece, the distribution of the Scriptures is conducted with diligence, and with considerable success. Mr Leves, the Society's Agent in that country, has put in circulation during the year, 8,735 copies, being 5,665 more than in the year preceding. And, although considerable opposition to the work has been manifested in some quarters, from the Archbishop downwards, the government is not unfavourable, and the young king has expressed himself friendly to the cause, and deeply interested in the system of Scriptural education now carrying on in his dominions.

Mr Leves, in one of his communications, says,—"There is, in many parts of Greece, a ferment going forward on the subject of religion. Through the midst of opposition and evil speaking, our translation is growing more into notice, and, with God's blessing, will be a great instrument of good in this land."

But a very foul attempt has been made by the enemies of religion, to obstruct, or to destroy, the Bible cause in Greece. A pamphlet, printed at Paris, appeared last spring, at Syra, full of malicious and artful misrepresentations, assailing the operations of Protestant Missionaries in Greece, but directed more particularly against those settled at Syra. "For several months," says the Rev Mr Leves, "before this firebrand was thrown among us, we had enjoyed a season of unusual quiet, which we had often remarked on, without suspecting that it was a prelude to a storm. Among other columns adapted to the capacities of the vulgar, the report was spread abroad, that it was the intention of the Missionaries, on a certain day, to make all the children of the schools free masons, by sealing them on the forehead and in four other parts of the body. These things had been at work since the 12th of April, the day on which the book before mentioned first made its appearance; when, on the morning of the 28th, a serious riot was produced in Mr Hildner's school, at which about 500 children were, as usual, assembled, by a number of ipsiote women violently rushing in, demanding their children with loud cries, and exclaiming that they should not be sealed, and made freemasons. The children were seized with a general panic, and fled out of the school with those which were taken away by their parents and friends; and a large crowd of people was very soon assembled, some seeking their children, others brought by curiosity, and some others, no doubt, with malicious intentions; so that all the rooms of the school were filled, and confusion was complete. The infant schools were entirely broken up; the girls' schools nearly so; only the boys' schools could be kept together. Notwithstanding the tumult of the morning, Mr Hildner's school was, in the afternoon, attended by 150 children, which the next day increased to 200, and subsequently to above 300. Many children, however, from that time, withdrawn from the school. A painful feature of the proceedings of the 28th of April, was that a copy of

the Pentateuch was torn in pieces, and the fragments strewn before the door of Mr Hildner's school. The next morning, a New Testament was openly burned, by a party of the populace, close to the public bazaar. There were numbers of well-disposed citizens, who, of course, were shocked at such proceedings.—But of the blood of the Martyrs has proved the rich increase of the church, why should not the burning of the Bible in Greece be an omen of its approaching triumph?"

In Turkey, 5574 copies have been issued from the depositories at Constantinople and Smyrna, being 998 more than during the preceding year. The Rev Mr Schneider, an American Missionary, thus writes,—"Within the last few months a very perceptible change has been brought about. We are gaining the confidence of the people. They are not so suspicious of us as formerly, and are beginning to feel that we are not quite so bad a sort of people as we had been represented to be. So great has been the change, that I have been able to distribute many books recently. What is remarkable, is the fact, that these books have mostly been solicited. Indeed I have not been able to meet all the demands."

The following letter, dated Silingsmk, Dec. 24th, 1835, addressed to Rev Mr Swan, was written by Shagdur, a converted Mongol Tartar: "My Dear Sir, While you and I are, by the merciful providence of our Lord Jesus, alive and in health, I desire to lay a little matter before you. It pleased God to give me a little Son; and it has now pleased him to remove the child from me. Every day I think that one member of my body has been taken to heaven, and this thought is like a sweet savour to my heart. And when I think of my dear child as one of the countless assembly who are singing the praises of Christ in heaven, my heart longs to go up and join them. Now Sir, when my little William was born, the neighbours came in, bearing to it gifts, some gave one cock, some two, in all forty cockles. When the child died, I did not know what to do with this money; but at length a thought came to me, which gave joy to my heart; and about this I write these few lines. Amongst the many letters which go to make up the words contained in the New Testament, printed for the Heathen Nations *Zouligashis* is often repeated. Now although these forty cockles may not suffice to pay for more than the dot over the letter in the word *Zouligashis*, I beg of you to accept of my 14 to William's money for that purpose. Dear Sir, do not refuse it. I have not given it for you; but I have given it to print a dot over a letter in the name of my Saviour; and may this be a little memorial of my infant, for the benefit of my dear friends who are yet without Christ.

I remain your Scholar,

SHAGDUR, the son of Kenuah."

Mr Swan, communicating the foregoing letter to the Society, says, "Perhaps the reading of this simple effusion of a heart, but lately emerged from the degradation of a heathen state, and which has found a sweet solace, under its bereavement, in devoting the child's mite to the Lord, may induce some to go and do likewise. Some may be able far to surpass this offering; some parents may present, as having belonged to some dear departed infant, what may be enough to print not only the dots over a letter, but the whole of the Saviour's precious name in some heathen language, others a whole verse, others an entire book, others an edition of the New Testament, or of the whole Bible."

The foregoing communications were printed in the Monthly Extracts for last March; and in the number of the same publication for the following month of August, appeared a letter from the Rev. Mr. Preston, of Chestnut, of which the following is an extract. "I have the melancholy satisfaction of transmitting to you the inclosed offering to the British and Foreign Bible Society, from a beloved son, who terminated his short, but interesting earthly pilgrimage, on the 5th of April, 1836, in thirteenth year of his age. A short time before he died, when it became manifest that his end was near, he was asked,—'Matthew, have you any fears now?' 'No,' he replied softly, but without hesitation. 'On what is your hope founded?' 'On Christ my Saviour.' Shortly afterwards, he was asked whether he had any request to make. He turned his eyes to his father and said: 'Papa, you will please dispose of the things that belong to me; but let my money be given to the Bible Society.' In compliance with this request, I have forwarded to you what was found in his purse—the sum of thirteen shillings. It was made up principally of little sums given in exchange for marks of diligence and success in his school exercises. To the little peculium of my son, I beg leave to add a Thank offering to the God of the Bible, (£50) I would almost wish that this communication might meet the eye of the Rev. Mr. Swan, who transmitted to you the offering of the Mongol convert Shagdur. It might be interesting to that Missionary of the cross to learn, that Shagdur's letter, with his comment upon it, met my eyes while my boy was lying on the bed, from which he never