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Poetry.

The three Sons.

By JOHN MOUTRIER.

I have a son, a little son, a boy just five years old,
With eyes of thoughtful earnestness, and mind
Of gentle mould;
They tell me that unusual grace in all his ways
appears,
That my child is grave and wise of heart be-
yond his childish years,
I cannot say how this may be—I know his face
is fair,
And yet his chiefest comeliness is his sweet
and serious air,
I know his heart is kind and fond, I know he
loves me;
But lovest he his mother more with grateful
fervency,
But that which others most admire is the
thought which fills his mind;
The foot for grave inquiring speech he every-
where doth find;
Strange questions doth he ask of me, when we
together walk;
He scarcely thinks of children's talk, or talks
as children talk;
Nor cares he for childish sports, does not
run on his feet,
But looks on manhood's ways and works, and
aptly mimics all,
His little heart is busy still, and oftentimes per-
plexed,
With thoughts about this world of ours, and
thoughts about the next;
He kneels at his dear mother's knee, and
teaches him to pray,
And strange, and sweet, and solemn then are
the words which he will say,
O, should my gentle child be spared to man-
hood's years like me,
A holier and a wiser man I trust that he
will be;
And when I look into his eyes, and stroke his
thoughtful brow,
I dare not think what I should feel, were I to
lose him now.

I have a son, a second son, a simple child of
three;
I'll not declare how bright and fair his little
features be,
How sweetly sound those tones of his, when he
prattles on my knee.
I do not think his light-blue eye, is like his
brother's, keen,
Nor his brow so full of childish thought as his
brother's, low;
But his little heart's a fountain pure of kind
and tender feeling,
And his every look's a gleam of light, rich
as the sun's rays,
When he walks with me, the country folk, who
pass in the street,
Will shout with joy, and bless my boy, he looks
so mild and sweet.
A playfellow is he to all, and yet with cheerful
tones,
Will sing his little song of love, when left
alone,
His presence is like sunshine sent to gladden
home and heart,
To comfort us in all our griefs, and sweeten all
our mirth,
Should he grow up to riper years, God grant
his heart may prove
As sweet a heart for heavenly grace as now for
earthly love.
And if, beside his grave, the tears our aching
eyes must dim,
God comfort us for all the love which we shall
lose in him.

I have a son, a third sweet son; his age I can-
not tell,
For they reckon not by years or months where
he has come to dwell,
To us, for fourteen anxious months, his infant
smiles were given,
And then he bade farewell to earth, and went
to live in heaven.
I cannot tell what form is his, what looks he
wears on high,
Nor guess how bright a glory crowns his shining
scepter bow,
The thoughts that fill his sinless soul, the bliss
which he doth feel,
Are numbered with the secret things which
God will not reveal,
But I know—for God hath told me this—that
he is now at rest,
Where other blessed infants be, on their Sa-
viour's loving breast,
I know his spirit feels no more this weary load
of flesh,
But his sleep is blest with endless dreams of
joy forever,
I know the angels fold him close beneath their
glittering wings,
And soothe him with a song that breathes of
heaven's divinest things,
I know that I shall meet our babe—his mother
dear and I—
When God for aye shall wipe away all tears
from every eye,
Whatever befalls his brethren true, his bliss
can never cease;
Their lot may here be brief and fair, but his is
perfect peace,
It may be that the tempter's wiles their souls
from him may sever,
But if our own poor faith fail not, he must be
ours forever,
When we think of what our darling is, and
what we still must be—
When we muse on that world's perfect bliss,
and the world's misery—
When we groan beneath this load of sin, and
its hateful grief and pain—
O, we'd rather lose our other two than have
him here again.

Religious Intelligence.

Wesleyan Missionary Society.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING, MAY, 1858.
(From the London Wesleyan.)

The Rev. GEORGE OSBORN read the Report of the Society's operations, beginning with the Missions under the immediate direction of the British Conference.

GERMANY.—A few weeks since the venerable founder of these Missions departed to his eternal rest, after a painful and protracted illness. For many years Mr. Müller laboured with great zeal, fidelity, and prudence, for the salvation of his countrymen; and had gathered around him a large company of his children in the faith who sin-

provide for their spiritual necessities will prove a trying and difficult task; and in order to aid them in the discharge of it, the Committee have requested the Rev. W. H. Pope to visit the Mission in the course of the year, and report on its state and prospects. All such further information as Divine providence may enable them to obtain, make the best arrangements in their power for the preservation of these highly interesting Societies in the position which they have hitherto occupied, and for their education and increase.

SPAIN.—In the judgment of Mr. Allen, the state of the Mission is now more gratifying than it has been since the Crimean war.

MALTA.—Mr. Allen reports most cheerfully of the prospects of the work of God. During the year they have been favored with frequent manifestations of God's presence and blessing in their Class and Prayer Meetings. In one regiment alone, in which, on its arrival from England, there was not so far as could be ascertained, a single professing Christian, there are now more than thirty under religious impressions, and many of their consistent followers of Christ. But not only have soldiers benefited by Mr. Allen's efforts, but also sailors, and some few of the inhabitants. A Watch-night held on Christmas Day, and a Watch-night service at the close of the year, were special seasons of the work on the several stations, and the souls of the year. There are thirty-four full and accredited members, and four on trial for membership, being a net increase of twenty-two, after making good numerous losses by removals, &c.

CYLON AND CONTINENTAL INDIA.—Passing by the Singapore District, it is remarked on that of Tamil.—The past year has been rich in proofs of the divine guardianship and blessing. While the adjoining continent has been the scene of unparalleled calamities and sufferings, our island has been preserved in peace, and the various evangelical agencies have suffered no interruption. Both with regard to the health of the brethren, and the condition and prospects of the work on the several stations, we have special cause for unfeigned gratitude and renewed devotedness. While we are cheered by many tokens of the gradual accomplishment of the gracious purposes of God respecting the people of this land, we would consecrate ourselves anew to our work, and again solicit a continuance of your fervent sympathy and prayers.

MADRAS.—The general aspect of the work in this District is thus described:—We cannot more appropriately commence our annual record of Mission operations than by offering our unfeigned thanks to Almighty God for his mercies to us during a most eventful period. The wide spread revolt that has desolated the plains of Northern India, though not directed against Christianity and our Ministers, has with a ruthless hand bereaved many a peaceful Missionary community. Perhaps there is not in this country a single Protestant station, except our own, that is not called upon at the present season, to mourn over some of its gentle victims to Hindu and Mussulman barbarity. But we confined to Southern India, where happily incense and cruelty have been restrained and moderated through the benign influence of Christianity, we have laboured on in uninterrupted security. Not one of our stations has been, even for a moment, disturbed; not one of our brethren has been cut off, nor has any unusual opposition been manifested to the preaching of the Cross.

We desire, as a section of the Christian Church, to give our unqualified contradiction to the statements indiscreetly circulated in some quarters, that Missionary operations have mainly or partially contributed to the disastrous events that have recently been enacted in this land. Nay, we go farther, we assert that Christianity, small as its root in India, has been the salvation of our empire. Our convictions are founded not upon theory, but on an intimate acquaintance with natives of all classes, their habits and views. It is with great satisfaction and gratitude to the Almighty that we learn a similar persuasion has possessed the public mind in England.

Mr. Stephenson, referring to his work among the English soldiers, says—In March last the left wing of the 33rd Light Infantry, in which we had a small society, was detached from Bangalore to Madras. We had looked forward to the arrival of our military friends with much pleasure, hoping that they would form a valuable accession to our strength. Our hopes, however, were doomed to sad disappointment. During the march our troops were attacked by cholera; many of them died on the road, and more reached Madras in a dying state. Among these were John Coles, a pious Class Leader, who in his last hour expressed himself as full of peace, trusting in the Lord. Three of the members of our Society were also removed to hospitals in which the sick and dying soldiers were lying, and met with several who had been connected with our church at home, or in this country. Nearly all of them appeared much affected by the presence of death, and thankfully listened to the words of exhortation and prayer. Some of them, before the regiment was, in consequence of the insurrection in the North, employed in almost incessant duty, and then removed from Madras. . . . In the native work there has been little numerical increase, but no declension.

A mere allusion was made to CHINA, which had received special attention on Saturday.

SOUTHERN AFRICA.—Caps of Good Hope.—Soon after the last Anniversary the venerable Barnabas Shaw entered into his everlasting rest. In him the Society has everlastingly lost a highly valued, and very successful Missionary, whose name and labors have been associated with it in the memories of many of its supporters "from their youth up;" and whose Christian simplicity, diligence, meekness, and love, won the hearts of men, whether in England or in Africa. He was very pleasingly remembered at the funeral. Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Independents, seemed to give each other the right hand of fellowship over the remains of one who loved them all.

gionistic to none but the enemies of the cross of Christ."

The Graham's Town English Circuit has more than a hundred candidates on trial for membership, (including not a few of the divine favour in a few weeks. In the Native Department there has been progress. . . . A new Chapel is now becoming imperative necessity, and a piece of ground on which it may be built has been given by the Government. Nine adults have been baptized during the year.

In the Natal District, Palmerton is spoken of as being the influence of the Gospel, the large tribe of Kaku has been saved from the infatuation which has spread through Kafirland like an epidemic. Every effort has been made to induce them to follow the advice of Umhlabana, but in vain. The chief and people have replied, "Let us hear a time when we appeared favorable by reason of the aggressive and irritating conduct of the neighbouring class; but hitherto peace has been preserved. The Chapel is crowded, and might be enlarged with advantage; a gracious influence attends the ordinances, and twenty adults have, after due preparation, been baptized during the year."

The Missions in WESTERN AFRICA, and the List of those under the British Conference.

FRENCH CONFERENCE.—The invaluable agency of Dr. Cook has this year been blessed with a course of joy—a course of almost uninterrupted and very successful labour, prolonged through more than forty years. This removal is sincerely lamented by the Committee, who held him in high esteem, and by the brethren, who have been benefited by his untiring devotion and consistency to the close of his days. . . . Amid many difficulties and discouragements the work in France goes steadily forward. A small increase in the number of members in the South District is by no means the most hopeful sign.

EASTERN BRITISH AMERICAN CONFERENCE.—The present year surpasses all previous ones in the history of Methodism in these Colonies in the number, extent, and power of the Revivals of the work of God. These gracious visitations of the blessed spirit of God, have, during the progress of the year, developed themselves at so many points as to form an almost unbroken chain, from the centre to the circumference of the Conference. At several places in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, copious showers of blessings have come down, like rain upon the mown grass, making the wilderness to rejoice and blossom as the rose.

CANADA.—The Canada Conference has Missions among the Indians which report an increase of 146, during the year, and Missions among the French Canadians. Of the last named, they report that two Missions have suffered publicly from the attacks of the devotees of Rome, and all have been threatened; but the wrath of man has been made to praise God; and instances of true repentance are not isolated but sufficiently numerous to encourage persevering effort. It is satisfactory that among the points are mentioned ardent promoters of the African cause. The Domestic Missions are largely increased and increasing.

AUSTRALASIA.—The Missions of this Conference in New Zealand, the Friendly Islands, and Feejee exhibit an increase of 2,321 members, with 3,222 on trial; for a meeting at which the total number was 29 in number, 7 of whom are in full connection. The native contributions in the Friendly Islands have reached the gross total of £1,591 18s.

Referring to the printed Report for fuller information, the Committee concluded with the following observations:—

The Society's last Report closed with a communication from a large body of Missions in India, containing a very powerful appeal in favour of the extension of Missions to that country. Before the month of May closed, that document received a commentary which the writers, and many readers could have calculated, and a series of events had begun which has made India the prominent topic of thought and conversation in England during the greater part of the year. To detail these events, or to discuss their causes, would be out of place in this summary; but the writers, and many readers could have calculated, and a series of events had begun which has made India the prominent topic of thought and conversation in England during the greater part of the year. 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