

this capacity, and who seems clever and capable of being trusted, is placed under the care of the old Fetishman, and initiated into all the secrets of the system; whilst those of less ability are treated as inferiors, and left upon the surface. Besides their skill in herbs, which enable them to effect cures, and their superior powers of observation, they resort to such measures as the following in order to maintain their influence. They make themselves thoroughly acquainted with all the facts connected with the histories of the leading individuals and families, and by this means they surprise those who apply to them by discovering an intimate acquaintance with their family affairs, and thus prepare them for giving credit to whatever shall be said. They keep up a constant correspondence among themselves and send messengers secretly up and down the country to gather information. Should a fetishman reach a village or town, he goes at once to the house of his resident brother fetishman, and gets from him all the information that he can supply respecting the people; and should any one resolve upon consulting a fetishman at a distance, the priest of the place apprises him of the intended visit, and its object; so that, when the person comes, the fetishman is prepared to tell him what he wants, and all about him. "This knowledge, be it remarked," says our author, "he pretends to have learned from his god, after a special consultation on the subject attended by offering and sacrifices and a great deal of idle mummery, which still further imposes upon his dupes. For the same purpose they study sleight of hand, conjuring, ventriloquism, and have concocted accomplices to assist them in carrying out their deceptions. They generally perform their rites in the recesses of some dark shady grove, apart from the haunts of men, where the solemn stillness which reigns around imparts a character of silent awe to those ceremonies."—*U. P. Missionary Record*.

### TURKEY.

FROM THE REV. H. G. O. DWIGHT.

—CONSTANTINOPLE, June 15, 1853.

The day before yesterday was a day long to be remembered in Turkey. It was the day on which the first public meeting was held in the capital of the Turkish empire, to commemorate the labours of Evangelical Christianity for the conversion of the world. It was the first, but we firmly believe not the last of its kind. Constantinople is geographically so situated, that it must, in the nature of things, one day become a great centre of Christian enterprise; and, as in London, there was a World's Fair, for the exhibition of the industry of all nations, so in Constantinople there will be a World's Anniversary, for the bringing together of the Christian experience of all nations.

The first meeting, however, was merely local, being confined to the residents of the place, with the exception of a few Christian travellers from England and America, who were provisionally present. It was in commemoration of the Jubilee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the honored parent of all the Bible Societies in the world. And if, as I have supposed, this was the only beginning of a long series of meetings in relation to the Christian enterprises of the day, how appropriate to begin with the Bible, the infallible and eternal word of God, to disseminate the truth of which the Missionary, Tract, and other similar Societies have been instituted, and are actually laboring. The time, too, was fully chosen, when the foundations of society around us seemed to be breaking up, and the most malignant politicalism could not tell but that, in the course of a very few weeks, anarchy and bloodshed might prevail throughout the length and breadth of this land. At such a time how blessed the privilege of falling back upon the eternal word of God, the sure foundation, the only light and hope of the world!

The meeting was held in the large saloon of the Hotel d'Angleterre, and there must have been present at least 200 persons, chiefly English and American, of both sexes, and of almost all ages.

Lord Stratford de Redcliff, the distinguished and worthy representative of the British Government at the Porte, took the chair, amid the heartfelt acclamations of those present. Every one knew how incessant, arduous, and perplexing are his public duties at the present moment; and it was a matter of general rejoicing that his Lordship found time to encourage our Jubilee Meeting by his presence and appropriate remarks.

After prayer by the Rev. Mr. Blackstone, Chaplain of the British Embassy, Lord Stratford addressed the Meeting at some length, explaining the objects for which we had come together, and enlarging upon the most encouraging results of the efforts of the Society during the last fifty years. He alluded to the exceeding smallness of the origin of the Institution, and to the fact that its beginning was in the midst of the distractions and calamities of war. It was when Napoleon was near the zenith of his day, and England was at war with almost every nation of Europe, that the thought was first conceived of sending the Bible to every country of the world. He said that he was reminded of the ancient heathen fable of a golden chain suspending the world from the throne of Jupiter. That fable had become realized under the Christian system, for the Bible was the golden chain that bound us to the throne of God. And it is that which enlightens this darkened world. His Lordship referred to the fact that the Roman Church has its regular Jubilee once in fifty years, the idea of which we could not but approve, although we could not sympathize with that church in its views of religion. "But," said he, "with how much greater propriety may we celebrate the Jubilee of the Bible Society, whose objects are far higher, and purer, and more ennobling

than those of the Roman Hierarchy, lending nothing less than to disseminate the knowledge of salvation through the world; and especially when we are so much encouraged by the past progress, as to give us the confident hope of the completion of the work!"

"The country in which we live," said his Lordship, "has afforded a large field for the Society's efforts." He then warmly commended the zeal and discretion that had characterized the agents that had been employed in spreading the Bible in Turkey, and alluded especially to the labours of the American, English, and German Missionaries, who had all acted in beautiful harmony in carrying forward this work. His Lordship sat down amid the reiterated applauses of the Meeting. The Rev. Mr. Blackstone then read an ably digested report of the proceedings of the Society, and those of kindred institutions, during the last fifty years.

Lord Stratford then excused himself from continuing to occupy the chair, as important public business rendered it necessary for him to retire. At his special request, Mr. Brown, the U. S. Charge d'Affaires, presided during the remainder of the Meeting.

It was unanimously agreed to form here an Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society, with a special view of operating with them in the dissemination of the word of God in Turkey.

This interesting Jubilee Meeting was closed by the singing of the Doxology, in which all present joined; and the impression left upon the minds of this small Protestant community was extremely happy, and I hope will be durable and fruitful of good.

### MONTEGO BAY ACADEMY—JAMAICA.

The following laudatory notice of the half-yearly examination of the Montego Bay Academy, is given in the *Cornwall Chronicle* of the 17th June:—

The half-yearly examination of this excellent seminary took place according to previous advertisements, on Tuesday and Wednesday last, in presence of several ministers of different religious denominations, and a number of other persons. The subjects of exercise on Tuesday were confined to Latin and Greek, and embraced, in Latin portions of the *Delectus*, *Cæsar*, and *Virgil*; and, in Greek, portions of *Sandford's Extracts* and the *New Testament*. On Wednesday the classes were examined in the Bible, in geography, in history, in English composition, in the elements of science, and in geometry and arithmetic. Several specimens of recitation were also given. At the close of the proceedings on each day, the ministers who were present expressed their high appreciation of the proficiency manifested by the scholars generally in the different branches of learning on which they had been examined; and we believe it is but simple justice to say that on no former occasion have they acquitted themselves in a more satisfactory and praiseworthy manner. It was remarked as an exceedingly gratifying circumstance, that the attendance during the last session was considerably more numerous than for several sessions previously; and while this result is, doubtless, in some degree owing to the recent reduction of the fees—a measure which the existing commercial depression had rendered expedient, if not necessary—the hope was expressed that it might also, in some degree, be attributed to a more just appreciation, on the part of the public, of the value of "a sound and substantial education." It affords us much pleasure to assure our readers that this estimable boon may be had in the Montego Bay Academy—an institution which we sincerely believe would be a credit to any community, and the continued and increasing prosperity of which we shall always rejoice to record.

### IRELAND.

*Condensed Summary of the Proceedings of the Hibernian Bible Society, for the Year ending 31st March, 1853.*

The Society was formed in the year 1806, for the exclusive purpose of promoting the circulation of the *Authorized Version* of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment, in Ireland, by persons of all denominations favourable to the object.

The business of the Society is conducted by a Committee of twenty-one Members, resident in or near Dublin.

To facilitate a more extended and minute dissemination of the Scriptures, the Society has formed upwards of 500 Auxiliaries in Ireland; and at each of these localities it is understood that there should be, at least, one depository of the Scriptures; while it has been stated, that when the Society was formed, with the exception of the metropolis, there were not twelve shops in the country in which Bibles and Testaments were sold.

The Society is supported exclusively by voluntary contributions. The Society has printed several editions of the Irish Scriptures, of which many thousand copies have been circulated among the Irish-speaking population of this country.

Wherever there is a demand for the Scriptures in Ireland, and local resources fail in supplying such wants, the Society will, on application, gladly continue to meet the deficiency, by making free grants in every case which appears fair and reasonable.

The Society has granted, from the commencement, books to the amount of £64,571 19s. 8d.

The total number of copies issued by the Society since its formation is 2,138,437.