

Missionary Record.

SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

DECEMBER, 1852.

The Ven. ARCHDEACON ROBINSON in the Chair.

AFTER the reading of several communications from the Bishops of Calcutta, Colombo, Montreal, Melbourne, &c., and the voting of several grants in aid of objects specified and recommended by their Lordships, the Standing Committee called the attention of the Board to the case of Pitcairn's Island and its inhabitants.

The following particulars, in the form of an Address from the Committee of the Pitcairn's Island Fund, were brought under the notice of the Board:—

"The eventful history of the 'Bounty,' which led to the occupation of Pitcairn's Island by part of the mutineers, with some men and women of Tahiti, in 1789, is well known. After a few years spent in violence and unbridled licence, the Tahitian men, and seven of the nine mutineers, including Fletcher Christian, the leader of the mutiny, came to an untimely end; one of the remaining two died of consumption; and within ten years of their landing, John Adams remained the single survivor of the men who had taken possession of the Island. This remarkable man became impressed with the solemn responsibility of his position, when he found himself surrounded with a number of young persons, all children of the mutineers, between the ages of five and fifteen, ignorant of God, and likely, under the influence of their Tahitian mothers, to become idolaters. About the same time he bathought him of the Bible, which had been much used by Christian, and also by Young in his last illness. On finding this, as well as a Prayer Book, which had also been saved from the 'Bounty,' he set himself to read their contents, which at first he was scarcely able to do from his imperfect scholarship. Still he persevered, so that he was shortly able to instruct the young people to read; and he became so impressed and imbued with the Gospel lessons of salvation, that he undertook the regular religious instruction of the inhabitants. From this time peace and contentment pervaded this small Christian community. Early in 1829 John Adams died, at the age of sixty-five years.

"Five months before his death, a young man, moved with a desire of assisting him in his work, arrived at the island, and being kindly received by the inhabitants was, immediately on the death of Adams, appointed to the office of schoolmaster and pastor. In these capacities, as well as that of their medical adviser, Mr. Nobbs, has almost uninterruptedly continued ever since among them. During that period, now between twenty-four and twenty-five years, several ships have visited the Island; and the accounts brought back by the visitors of the singular innocence and simplicity of manners that prevail among the inhabitants, have from time to time excited great interest in the public mind.

"In the month of August last, Admiral Moresby, Commander-in-chief in the Pacific, visited Pitcairn; and he has strongly confirmed, in his despatches, all the favourable accounts previously received of its inhabitants. In compliance with their wishes, he received Mr. Nobbs on board the Portland, and provided him with an immediate passage to England, with the view to the fulfilment of their long cherished desire of having a regularly ordained pastor in the island.

"Under the authority of the Bishop of London, Mr. Nobbs was admitted to Deacon's Orders by the Bishop of Sierra Leone on the 24th of October, 1852. He received Priests' Orders at the hands of the Lord Bishop of London on the 30th of November, and hopes to leave England for Valparaiso, on his way to Pitcairn's Island, about the middle of December.

"The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, has placed Mr. Nobbs on its list of missionaries, with a salary of 50*l.* per annum.

"The very scanty resources of Pitcairn's Island, containing a population of one hundred and seventy persons, within a circuit of four miles and a half, with limited extent and imperfect means of cultivation, and the great need that exists of many articles of daily use, which they cannot at present obtain, induced some friends of Mr. Nobbs, and of this interesting community on the recommendation of Admiral Moresby, to raise a fund of moderate amount for the passage and outfit of Mr. Nobbs, and for the supply of such things as are most pressing required by the inhabitants. Labourers' and carpenters' tools, a proper bell for the small wooden church, communion plate, medicines, two or three clocks, besides clothing of various sorts; some simple articles of household furniture, and cooking utensils, together with stores of provisions, are imme-

diately needed, and further supplies of these are likely to be required for some years to come.

"It may be right to add, that the Admiral has most liberally followed up his recommendation by offering £100 to the fund that may be raised for the above purposes."

It was agreed that £100 be granted towards the Pitcairn's Island Fund.

In communicating to Mr. Nobbs this unanimous vote of the Board, the Chairman expressed to him the warm interest felt by the Society, and by members of the Church generally, in the spiritual welfare of the inhabitants of Pitcairn. He had noticed with much satisfaction the friendly reception given to their pastor in this country; and now that he was about to revisit them as a clergyman, in Priests' Orders, he wished him a safe and happy return.

Sir Thos. D. Acland, Bart., M. P., after expressing his entire concurrence in the part taken by Admiral Moresby, as detailed in the statement laid before the Board, observed that it was important to have the testimony of the Rev. W. Holman, who has been left at Pitcairn during the temporary absence of Mr. Nobbs. The following extract from a letter addressed by Mr. Holman to his father, Captain Holman, in Devonshire, was read to the meeting:—

"The accounts of the virtue and piety of these people are by no means exaggerated. I have no doubt they are the most religious and virtuous community in the world; and during the month I have been here, I have seen nothing approaching a quarrel, but perfect peace and good will amongst all."

The Rev. G. H. Nobbs acknowledged the Society's grant which had just been voted, as well as grants of Bibles, Prayer Books, and Books and Tracts sent out on former occasions for the benefit of his fellow-islanders. These had proved most useful and acceptable.—He had been more than once round the world; and in various places, at Valparaiso, Panama, the West Indies, and other parts, he had met with books bearing the Society's stamp, and found them much esteemed.

A letter was read from the Lord Bishop of London, regretting that an important engagement had prevented his being present at the meeting.

Several letters of acknowledgment, &c. were laid before the Meeting. Some grants, to a very considerable amount, were made in aid of Schools, Lending Libraries, &c.

Donations to the amount of £232 1*s.* 5*d.*, and Legacies to the amount of £275 were announced. Twenty six new Members were elected.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

79, Pall Mall, Dec. 11, 1852.

THE Society has recently received a letter from the Bishop of Newfoundland, dated Nov. 17th, from which the following extract is taken:—

"I do not know how to be sufficiently thankful to the Committee of the venerable Society for the late valuable and seasonable supply of the most needful and most needed of all commodities (far beyond gold dust, or gold coin), good men, as I trust, and true; ready and able, with God's grace and blessing, to do the work of missionaries.

"The good ship 'Queen' arrived with her precious freight, sound and safe, two days after I last wrote, and, as far as I may venture to speak upon a fortnight's acquaintance, Messrs. Crouch and Phelps are most exactly suitable for the places I intended them for.—I am greatly pleased with the training Mr. Phelps has received at St. Augustine's, and I propose to profit by it, and retain him as Vice-Principal in my little college, with the Society's approbation.

"The ensuing Ordination will leave two vacancies in the College, which I shall be glad to have filled up. It seems to me very strange that there should be so much difficulty in finding men willing to be fed, body and mind, on the Society's bounty; and to be prepared so easily and pleasantly for the work of the sacred ministry. It is a great delight to me to have the little establishment full, as at present, and with promising men. You are aware, I believe, that I am still residing in college as Pro-Vice-Principal, and very pleasant the life is to me; and I am really sorry to thin the already and always thin ranks. I wish instead of seven students, we had always seventeen, or seventy in residence."

"It is to a Christian consideration one of God's greatest mercies, that this world is full of troubles: for if we so much court her now she is foul, what would we do if she were beautiful? If we take such pains to gather thorns and thistles, what would we do for figs and grapes?"

Fouth's Department.

THE FIRST BABY.

My old schoolfellow, Mary Thornley, had been married nearly two years, when I made my first call on her in her capacity of a mother.

'Did you ever see such a darling?' she exclaimed, tossing the infant up and down in her arms. 'There, baby, that's ma's old friend, Jane. He knows you already, I declare,' said the delighted parent, as it smiled at a bright ring which I held up to it. 'You never saw such a quick child. He follows me with his eyes all about the room. Notice what pretty little feet he has, the darling footsy-tootsies; and taking both feet in one hand, the mother fondly kissed them.

'It certainly is very pretty,' said I, trying to be polite, though I could not perceive that the infant was more beautiful than a dozen others I had seen. 'It has your eyes exactly, Mary.'

'Yes, and da-da's mouth and chin,' said my friend, apostrophising the child, 'hasn't it, precious?' And she almost smothered it with kisses.

As I walked slowly homeward, I said to myself, 'I wonder if, when I marry, I shall ever be so foolish.—Mary used to be a sensible girl.' In a fortnight afterwards I called on my friend again.

'How baby grows,' she said, 'don't you see it? I never know a child grow so fast. Grandma says it's the healthiest child she ever knew.'

To me it seemed that the babe had not grown an inch; and to avoid the contradiction, I changed the theme. But, in a moment the doting mother was back to her infant again.

'I do believe it's beginning to cut its teeth,' she said, putting her finger into the little one's mouth. 'Just feel how hard the gum is there. Surely that's a tooth coming through. Grandmother will be here to-day, and I'll ask her if it isn't so.'

I laughed, as I replied, 'I am entirely ignorant of such matters; but your child really seems a very fine one.'

'Oh! yes; every body says that. Pretty pretty dear!' And she tossed it up and down, till I thought the child would have been shaken to pieces; but the little creature seemed to like the process very much. 'Is it crowing at its mother? It's laughing is it? Tiny, tiny, little dear. What a sweet precious it is! And she finished by almost devouring it with kisses.

When I next called, the baby was still further advanced.

'Only think,' said my friend, when I had made my way to the nursery, where she now kept herself from morning till night, 'baby begins to eat. I gave it a piece of meat to-day—a bit of real broiled beefsteak.'

'What! said I, in my ignorance, for this did look wonderful, 'the child eating beefsteak already?'

'Oh,' laughed my friend, seeing my mistake, 'what a sad dunce you are Jane! But wait till you have babies of your own. She says you eat beefsteak, darling,' added the proud mother addressing the infant, when you only suck the juice. You don't want to choke yourself, do you, baby? Eat a beefsteak! Its funny, baby, isn't it?' And again she laughed—laughing all the more because the child sympathetically crowed in return.

It was not many weeks before the long-expected teeth really appeared.

'Jane, Jane, baby has three teeth! triumphantly cried the mother, as I entered the nursery. 'Three teeth, and he's only nine months old! Did you ever hear of the like?'

I confessed that I had not. The whole thing, in fact, was out of my range of knowledge. I knew all about Dante in the original, and a dozen other fine lady accomplishments; but nothing about babies-teething.

'Just look at the little pearls!' exclaimed my friend, as she opened the child's mouth. 'Are they not beautiful? You never saw anything so pretty—confess that you never did. Precious darling,' continued the mother, rapturously hugging and kissing the child, 'it is worth its weight in gold!'

But the crowning miracle of all was when baby began to walk. Its learning to creep had been duly heralded by me. So also had its being able to stand alone; though this meant, I found, standing with the support of a chair. But when it really walked alone, the important fact was announced to me in a note, for my good friend could not wait till I called.

'Stand there,' she said to me, in an exulting voice, 'No, stoop, I mean; how can you be so stupid?' And as I obeyed, she took her station about a yard off, holding the little one by either arm. 'Now, see him,' she cried, as he tottered towards me, and finally succeeded