

"The Standing Committee, feeling the importance of this subject, have judged it right to consult the Archbishops and Bishops in Ireland, and to request their opinions as to the best mode of proceeding, with a view of advancing the Society's objects in Ireland.

"The letters received from the Prelates who wrote in reply, and the suggestions of those persons with whom personal conferences were held, have proved valuable.

"The Standing Committee have also directed a communication to be made to the Rev. Secretary of 'The Incorporated Society for discountenancing vice, and promoting the knowledge and practice of the christian religion, Dublin;' an institution with which the Society has long been in friendly correspondence, and whose objects are of a kindred character to its own, in the cheap issue and gratuitous distribution of Bibles and Prayer Books, as well as books and tracts on religious subjects, and works of a generally instructive and interesting kind.

"The particulars furnished by the Secretary serve to shew that the Association is carrying on an important work; and they exhibit a progressive increase, both in its operations, and the amount of support which it receives.

"With an excess of issue of 10,878 books and tracts in 1859 beyond the returns for the year 1858, and an increase also in the circulation of Bibles, New Testaments, and Common Prayer Books during the same period, it appears that the Association is adopting measures to diffuse more widely a taste for reading among the people of Ireland, by the encouragement of lending libraries, and the establishment of depots in the leading towns, for the cheap supply of the publications on its catalogue.

"To these exertions of the Association reference is made in the answers with which the Standing Committee have been favoured; and it appears from the letters of the Bishops and Clergy who have expressed their opinions on this subject, that the ground is pre-occupied by a National Institution, which was incorporated by a Royal Charter sixty years since, and is fulfilling its own proper and appointed work in Ireland.

"Under these circumstances, the Standing Committee do not think it expedient to propose the employment of any fresh machinery for the execution of the good design suggested in the reference of December last.

"The Committee are, at the same time, most anxious to forward all suitable methods, and avail themselves of all occasions of co operating in the cause, in behalf of which the reference was made.

"They recommend that steps be taken for making the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, its proceedings and its publications, more extensively known in Ireland; and that all duly-sanctioned applications from that country for grants of books for lending libraries be liberally met; each case standing on its own merits; and it being generally expected that some portion of the cost of the supply should be defrayed by the applicants."

It was agreed that the consideration of this report be deferred to the first meeting of the Society after the vacation.

Many grants of books for distribution in destitute parishes and for lending libraries, in instances approved by the Bishops in Ireland, have been voted in the course of the year.

Many grants of Prayer Books, books and tracts for schools, lending libraries, and distribution, have been voted, on the application of clergymen in behalf of necessitous parishes in Scotland.

Missionary at Secundra, near Agra, having lost the whole of his private and missionary library at that place during the great mutiny in 1857, applied for a grant of maps and prints, which he specified, as well as for some Common Prayer Books, for the use of native christians. His letter was accompanied by one of the Society's large Scripture prints, to which he had attached a translation of the text, illustrative of the subject in Hindustani and Hindi, as a specimen of other similar translations for use in the Indian native schools.

The Prayer Books and maps, to the value of £10, were granted from the Special Indian Fund. The specimen of the translation having been approved, other like translations, with the prints, have been added.

The following are extracts from Mr. Höernlé's letter:—

"Our accounts of the progress, knowledge, and kingdom of Christ in Northern India are becoming daily more cheering. The Lord has been, and still is, overruling the calamities and losses of the mutiny to the furtherance of His cause. It is a most remarkable fact, that in towns where the fury of the enemy raged most violently, such as Meerut, Delhi, Agra, Cawnpore, Furruttabád, Lucknow, &c., a spirit of earnest inquiry into the christian truth and faith is spreading among the natives. As in some of these places, e. g. in Agra, Delhi, Meerut, &c., where small branch depôts of your Society existed before the mutiny, your books were extensively read, and your maps, &c. used in our English and vernacular schools, you will be glad to know that though a severe and calamitous storm passed over the country, the good seed sown before has not been destroyed, but is beginning to spring up in a measure never experienced before the mutiny.

"Of the new conversions in the neighbourhood of Meerut, brought about under the most remarkable circumstances, you will have read in the Church Missionary Society's publications. In Agra, too, several Hindus and Mahomedans were lately baptised by the missionaries. Among them are a native assistant surgeon and a Mahomedan of Delhi, who now acts as a teacher of the Persian language in our missionary college there. On his side is a converted Hindu who teaches Hindi and Sanscrit. A few more natives are under instruction, and in a few neighbouring villages others are inquiring after salvation by Christ. In Delhi, as the Rev. Mr. Schneider reports there is a great stir among the natives, both Mahomedans and Hindus. Several hundreds of inquirers have lately come forward, applying for instruction to the missionaries. These are most remarkable facts, if contrasted with the ravages of the mutiny at this place. Delhi was the chief stronghold of the mutineers. Here the new king was proclaimed, of whom, a Moslem, an enemy of christianity and its professors, it was expected that he would, as a matter of course, erase the christian faith from India, and make Islam once more triumphant over the country. And lo! all these attempts of Satan and his hosts have passed away; the standard of Christ is exalted higher than it was before, and hundreds of natives are gathering round about it, ready to do homage to the King of kings, whose reign was to have been abolished!

"At Umritsir, Peshawar, and other stations in the Punjab, many native soldiers have embraced the christian faith."

## MADRAS.

The communications made from time to time during the year by the Rev. David Simpson, the energetic and efficient Secretary of the Madras

Diocesan Committee, have been of a very interesting character. In one of his letters he sent the names of forty-five gentlemen of that Presidency who were desirous of becoming members of the Parent Society. He said:—

"I am very glad to be able to inform you, on behalf of the Committee, that the native female boarding schools, established by the aid of the special grant of £1000 made to us by the Parent Society, are progressing favourably. There is no occasion for me at present to enter into any details of the working of these schools, as the half-yearly reports have been published in full in the Madras Committee's 'Intelligencer,' from time to time."

The following is a list of the Institutions supported by the Parent Society and the Madras Committee, viz.:

- I. The Vepery Mission Seminary, Madras.
- II. The Sawyerpuram Seminary, Tinnevely.
- III. The Vedarapuram Seminary, Tanjore.
- IV. The Native Female Boarding Schools:—
  1. Edeyenkoody, 2. Christianagram, 3. Nazareth, 4. Moodaloor, 5. Puthiamputher, Tinnevely; under the Rev. R. Caldwell, LL.D., Rev. C. E. Kennet, Rev. T. Brotherton, M.A., Rev. J. Seller, and Rev. J. F. Kearns; 6. Erungalore, 7. Combaconum, Tanjore; under the Rev. C. S. Kohlhoff and Rev. W. Hickey.

- V. The Society's Tanjore Catechists:—
  - 1 at Combaconum, under the Rev. W. Hickey;
  - 2 at Nangoor, under the Rev. A. Johnson.

It appeared that the Diocesan Committee had been enabled to make liberal grants of books to missions and schools during the year. Mr. Simpson said they had also applied portions of their subscriptions to vernacular publications and grants of school apparatus for schools.

"By the terms of the Parent Society's grant to us of £1000 from the Special Indian Fund, for Native Female education, we were allowed to draw on you in 1859 for £500, in 1860 for £300, and in 1861 for £200. I must earnestly ask, on behalf of the Madras Committee, that the grant for 1860 be increased. It is impossible to keep up efficiently the schools we have established on £300 per annum. Our own resources are already stretched to the utmost. Demands are made on us for fresh schools, and the only answer we can give is, 'We cannot aid you; the Parent Society's grant is much less than we had hoped for.'

"You will remember that our scheme required for its full carrying out a sum of £650 a year.

"I am desired to ask the aid of the Parent Society towards the publication of a quarto edition of the Tamil Common Prayer Book, for use in the reading-desks of the mission churches and chapels. It is proposed that the Prayer Book shall undergo careful correction, by a committee appointed by the Diocesan Committee and the Lord Bishop; that 800 copies shall be printed, the type to be bold and clear, the paper stout and good. We cannot expect that the work can be got up at a less cost than 3000 rupees, or £300; that is, £1 a copy. Each missionary will gladly purchase single copies at that price; but unless we can reduce it very considerably, there is no chance of its being introduced for use in the smaller places of worship."

The Standing Committee stated, that they had assigned, from the Special Indian Fund, £200 for the present year, in addition to the £300 for Native Female Education; and £100 towards a quarto edition of the Tamil Common Prayer Book.

The Madras Committee having requested some other grants, it was agreed to grant—

Books for soldiers invalided, and others.  
One hundred long primer Prayer Books; 100

CALCUTTA.

The Rev. T. Höernlé, eighteen years Church