

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM SIERRA LEONE,
WESTERN AFRICA.

For the Wesleyan.

Or three executions which I witnessed in the Colony,—one for kidnapping struck me most forcibly. I had not been made previously acquainted with the details of the crime for which such summary punishment was adjudged necessary, but became acquainted with them in the following manner:—When the executioner had done his office, and the crowd was dispersing, I perceived a knot of four or five negroes in close conversation, and drawing near, found that one of them was the father of the boy who had been stolen. On entering into conversation with him, I learned the particulars. The criminal was a Spaniard of a dark and ferocious disposition, which had been a resident in the colony about nine months. During that time, he had been engaged in no trade, nor had suspicion attached to him of any connection with those who are known in the colony as engaged in this most nefarious inhuman traffic. On this account it was the more difficult to bring the charge home to him; the principal evidence was the boy who had been decoyed away, and the nature of a negro's disposition is so different to that of an English person, that the least attempt at cross-examination, or point blank questioning, entirely defeats its own purpose, and causes the witness to exclaim, "Ah! Massa, you palaver too big for me, me no catch him." When any question is asked connected with the transaction, however simple it may be, the only resource the witness has, is to go over the whole of the narrative again, in his own fashion, without interruption, and the only way in which a questioner can get an answer to his enquiries, is to glean information as he goes along with the witness in his recital. This was the case on the present occasion, yet, with perseverance, the charge was established, and the following narrative elicited. The boy in question was playing in the hills with some of his young companions, and towards dusk, was accosted by a stranger, requesting to be shewn the direct road to Bathurst; not suspecting harm, he ran along with the stranger a mile or two, when, instead of entering the village, the man requested the boy to accompany him down to the river, the boy complied, and for two miles along the river, he was enticed with the vain promise of reward. It was then the cold-blooded purpose of the villain manifested itself: a boat, full of armed men, from the opposite shore, the territory of Bullom, put off to meet them, and to these men the poor boy, (too late made sensible of his situation), was bartered away for a piece of blue and white baid, of the value of about seven shillings. Such deliberate atrocity merited the punishment it met. The boy, of course, was missed by his parents, and, for four weeks, no tidings of him were heard. By chance, a pedlar from Free Town passed through Bullom, and heard tidings of the boy;—on these tidings being brought to his distressed parents, messengers were despatched to recover the lost child,—those messengers were employed by the British Government—the affair was entered into with proper spirit, and was crowned with success, in the recovery of the lad, and the capture of the criminal Spaniard. After a trial, attended with some difficulty, from the circumstances before mentioned, the man was convicted and executed, the execution has been before mentioned, with the circumstances which induced this detail. The superiority of the English trial by Jury merits the high eulogium I myself heard passed upon it in the broken language of the poor father, who said to his neighbours—"When poor pickaninny went away, my heart swell too big, me neber see him more, my word neber would go so far, me neber catch de rogue,—but big big palaver, King's palaver, he catch him."

C. C.

The Treasurers of the Wesleyan Missionary So-

ciety have received, through the Rev. J. Williams, the author of that valuable work entitled "Missionary Enterprise," the sum of Fifty Pounds, from the Right Hon. the Earl Fitzwilliam, for the general objects of the Society. We are happy to learn that the noble Earl has contributed an equal sum to the Church and London Missionary Societies, and also One Hundred and Fifty Pounds to the latter Institution, to assist in purchasing a Missionary Ship for the use of the Missions in the South Seas.

THE MISSIONARY SHIP, &c.

EARL FITZWILLIAM AND THE REV. J. WILLIAMS.
To the Editor of the Patriot.

SIR,—I have much pleasure in communicating the following information, which I have no doubt will afford high gratification to the friends of Missions generally.

A few weeks ago I was honoured by receiving a letter from the Right Hon. Earl Fitzwilliam, in which his lordship was pleased to express the interest with which he had perused the "Missionary Enterprise." In this letter his lordship made a number of inquiries in reference to the mission in the Pacific Ocean. Among these was, as to the sects by which the missions were respectively maintained. In reply to this inquiry, I gave his lordship a faithful account of the devoted and successful labours of the Church Missionary Society in New Zealand, and those of the Wesleyan in the Friendly Islands, as well as those of our own Society in our groups. The result of this communication was, that his lordship desired me to call upon him at his mansion in Halkin-street, when, after conversing with me for about two hours, in the course of which his Lordship sent for Lord Morpeth, and many important enquiries were made, his lordship desired me to call at his banker's, and present a note which he put into my hand. On presenting this at the banker's counter, I was delighted to find that his lordship had ordered that *three hundred pounds* should be paid into my hands, to be devoted to the cause of Christ among the heathen, and to be acknowledged and appropriated as follows:—

£ s. d.

From the Right Hon. the Earl Fitzwilliam and family, for the purchase of the Missionary ship 150 0 0
For the general objects of the London Missionary Society 50 0 0
For the general objects of the Church Missionary Society 50 0 0
For the general objects of the Wesleyan Missionary Society 50 0 0

Praying that a special blessing may accompany this magnificent donation, and that God may smile upon the benevolent nobleman and his family, who have thus testified their interest in this holy cause,
I remain, yours truly,

J. WILLIAMS.

Jan. 19, 1838.

PROGRESS OF METHODISM.

SOME months back I had the curiosity, for my own amusement, to ascertain from the Minutes of Conference, the increase of members in the Methodist Societies in Great Britain for the last eleven years, (having the Minutes by me.) If they will prove entertaining to any of your readers, they are at your service.

At the Conference in 1827, the number of members in Great Britain was 292,693
In 1837 231,045
Increase (about 21 per cent.) . . . 61,648
In the Seven Towns where the Conference has been held, I find the numbers to be—

	1827	1837		1835
London . . .	10,105	11,740	Increase 14 per cent.	1635
Bristol . . .	2,542	3,527	Increase near 28 per cent.	985
Leeds . . .	5,200	6,956	Increase of more than 25 per cent.	1756
Liverpool . .	2,498	3,231	Increase of 5 per cent.	733
Manchester . .	6,722	8,804	Increase 22 per cent.	2082
Sheffield . .	3,140	4,616	Increase more than 31 per cent.	1476
Birmingham .	1,730	2,323	Increase 34 per cent.	593