

the arrival of spring, that they may re-ascend the tree and renew their depredations. Various modes of destroying this insect have been tried: domestic fowls devour them in great quantities while they are within their reach; "Hogs," says an American writer, "are stated to be extremely useful in orchards, by devouring at once the fallen fruit and the insect which it contains." Admitting hogs into orchards cannot, I think, be too highly recommended, as it is not only a speedy way of exterminating the insects, but is proved to cause the animals to fatten rapidly. A "Young Farmer" asserts, in a late American paper, that these animals fatten as fast in an orchard, while the fruit is falling, as they will upon corn. This fact alone ought to induce every farmer to have a portion of his ground under fruit trees.

MELVILLE.

January 18, 1836.

PICTOU AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

[On Monday, the 19th Inst. the Annual Meeting of this Society was held in the Court House, which, although the evening was unusually stormy, was numerously attended. The following REPORT was read by the Secretary, and adopted.]

Our operations, since the last Anniversary, have been few and unimportant; and so require only a very cursory notice.

16 Bibles and 14 Testaments have been given gratuitously to persons who were deemed unable to purchase them; and 96 Testaments have been sold, besides a considerable number of copies which have been disposed of by those persons, to whom, as mentioned in last Report, parcels of them had been committed for sale. And there are now in the Depository, including 100 Bibles and 200 Test's. received from the Parent Society, 119 Bibles & 224 Testaments in Gaelic, 226 Bibles & 270 Testaments in English, 2 Bibles and 79 Testaments in French, 3 Danish Bibles, 2 Bibles and 6 Testaments in Irish, 1 Spanish Bible, and 1 Hebrew Testament; in all 353 Bibles, and 550 Testaments.

The sum of £28 15 9 has been received for books sold; £9 5 8 1-2 has been raised by subscription; and the liberal donation of £20 has been contributed to our funds by a benevolent friend of the Bible cause.

Remittances to the amount of £31 14 0 sterling have been made to the Parent Society; and there is now in the hands of the Treasurer, the sum of £41 6 5 1-2 cur'y. which will be forwarded by the first opportunity.

The British and Foreign Bible Society, after their abundant and long continued labours for the good of mankind, are still proceeding in their benevolent course, with undiminished activity and zeal; and their exertions are powerfully supported by the augmented contributions of the friends of the Bible cause. The sums received, into the funds of the Society, during the year preceding the last anniversary, make the unprecedented amount of £107,926 1 9. During the same period, 653,601 copies of the Scriptures have been issued from the depositories: making considerably more than 9,000,000 of copies since the Institution of the Society. The Scriptures are now translated into 153 languages and dialects: and £2,121,640 15s 11 st'g. have been expended.

The operations of the Society in the British Islands, and on the continent of Europe, are prosecuted with unabated liberality and energy. New channels of distribution are anxiously sought for; and, when found, they are promptly improved; and notwithstanding the immense number of the copies which have been already put in circulation, the demand is increased instead of being diminished. They are now to be found in houses and in villages in which they were lately utterly unknown. Old and young peruse them with attention; and they are more extensively put into the hands of the children in the schools. This unexam-

pled diffusion of the lively oracles of God may be reasonably expected to produce, in due time, the most glorious results. The seed may be, for a season, buried under the clods, and impatient observers may conclude that it hath utterly perished; but, through the genial warmth of the sun, and the fertilizing showers of heaven, it will ere long spring up, and cover the fields with verdure, and amply repay the toil, and satisfy the hope, of the husbandman. "As the rain cometh down," says God himself, "and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater; so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

In Asia, Bible distribution is carried on with increased facility, and with growing success. A Missionary at Karass says, "The Mahomedans are peculiarly prejudiced against the Gospel of the grace of God; yet it is encouraging to see that the more they come in contact with the word of truth, their prejudices appear in some measure to be weakened. Although we cannot speak of many conversions having taken place in this station, yet the appearance of things is different from what it formerly was. Many of the Mahomedans around us now begin to hear the Word of God read or spoken, with some degree of patience; whereas formerly the peculiar doctrines of the Gospel irritated their minds to such a degree, that they were ready to throw the New Testament out of their hands while reading it; or if they received a copy, were apt to cut out the pages containing the passage they so much abhorred, if not destroy the book altogether."

In India, the desire of possessing copies of the Scriptures is greatly on the increase; and where they are possessed, they are producing the most excellent effects.

The Rev. Mr. Rhenius, a missionary at Palamcottah, observes, "Among our numerous congregations the word of God is read daily. Many idolaters around hear it; and of them, not a few forsake their idolatry, and begin to learn the way of the Lord, requesting portions of the Gospel."

The Rev. Mr. Mead of Neyoor, says, "Our annual report, ending in October last, shews an increase of nearly 300 families, who have renounced their idols in the course of the year; and subsequently several other heathen families have placed themselves under Christian instruction. In consequence of the interest excited by these circumstances, and the labours of the native readers and schoolmasters, we have increasing calls for the sacred Scriptures."

The Rev. Mr. Spring, one of the Secretaries of the Madras Auxiliary, says, "I believe I have now touched upon the principal points of interest in our proceedings, except, perhaps, that which must now hold the most prominent place, the continued demand from very many quarters, for the word of God. Large calls are especially made on us for schools, which are rising up among us on every side, and bid fair to produce, in the next generation, a competent knowledge at least of the letter of sacred Writ."

Very considerable numbers of persons, in India, are now learning the English language, and are eagerly inquiring for English Bibles. The Secretary of the Calcutta Auxiliary writes, "The calls for English Bibles are more loud and extensive than ever. This arises from the great increase of intelligent native enquirers. If you could look into the schools at Calcutta, and see the number of native youths who are capable of reading and understanding the Bible: if you could see the desire of those youths to obtain copies thereof, and the extreme caution which is adopted in giving them, by the missionaries who are placed over the Schools; you would need no farther arguments to press you to send out as many as you can spare of English Bibles and Testaments: and as English

schools are likely to be extended throughout the whole of the Empire, the demand for them will be greater than ever. The fruits of the former labours of God's servants are becoming more and more manifest; and of numbers who have been prepared by them it may be said, that they are not far from the Kingdom of God."

No direct communications have been received during the preceding year, from Mr. Gutzloff, the zealous and active Missionary in China; but he is still exerting himself for the illumination of that vast and benighted country; and the Parent Institution is taking prompt measures for improving the openings which he has discovered for introducing among its population numerous copies of the Holy Scriptures.

From the Western coast of Africa, the Rev. Mr. Dove says, "I have every reason to think that the system of Mahometanism is (here) rapidly on the decline, and must ere long fall before the light and force of truth. I have distributed several copies of the Arabic Scriptures, which were kindly furnished by the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Incalculable good is likely to result therefrom, for the people who can read appear anxious to obtain a copy. I believe that some of the Bibles, Testaments, and Psalters, have been carried hundreds of miles into the interior of the country.—Of late, I have had many interviews with the priests of Mahomet, and some have, with no small degree of candour, said, that the white man's religion must prevail, and overthrow their system."

But in no country does the Bible cause seem to advance so triumphantly as in the great African Island of Madagascar. In the latest communication received from that Island, one of the Missionaries expresses himself thus, "I entertain the expectation that the whole of the population in this part of the Island will become, within a very short time, a reading population. The thirst for learning to read, at the present time, is not merely gratifying, it is surprising. The desire has increased so rapidly and so extensively, that we have not been prepared to meet it; nor is the desire confined to any particular class of the people. There are persons of all ranks and of all ages busily learning to read. I had, this very afternoon, on returning from our (Thursday's) public worship, not less than forty young persons soliciting spelling-books. There were as many yesterday. I expect three times as many to-morrow; and it is like this almost every day, beside, applications from those who can read, who come for tracts, reading lessons, portions of Scripture, &c. We are sowing and reaping almost at the same moment. We have abundant encouragement in our work; but we are craving for more copies of the Scriptures; seed to sow; that the harvest may yet be more abundant, and the Lord of the harvest be magnified from north to south in Madagascar."

The emancipation of the negroes in the Brit. Colonies caused great joy in every quarter; and it is pleasant to observe, that the measure was carried into effect, without any of those dismal consequences which its enemies predicted with so much confidence. A letter from Antigua says, "The day of wonders, of anticipated confusion, riot, and bloodshed, has passed by; and all is peace, and quietness, and order: no ebullition of any kind, no martial law, no ostentatious display of power. The Churches and Chapels of all denominations were thronged to excess; and the day was more like a Christmas holiday than any thing else."

The resolution of the Parent Society to give a copy of the New Testament, together with the book of Psalms, to every emancipated negro who should be found able to read, caused a thrill of approbation and delight in every corner of the empire, and produced a powerful sensation in the negro population. Their hearts were filled with gratitude, and their mouths with thanksgivings; and great numbers of them, who had never thought of it before, were stirred up to com-