

of whom 50 were admitted for the first time. Sabbath schools in connexion with the chapel, are attended by 140 children, taught by ten efficient teachers, male and female, who regularly visit the children at their own houses. The minister's class contains 30 young persons, varying from 14 to 20 years of age, from amongst whom will be supplied a most useful and efficient staff of Sabbath school teachers. Considering the multitudes of the outcast and regardless in such a town as Glasgow, it is impossible to over-estimate the importance of these chapels in connexion with the Church of Scotland; and it must have been particularly gratifying to the members of the Church to have observed in the Committee's Report to last Assembly, that, with the view of turning the possession of those chapels to the utmost possible account in behalf of such classes, a large staff of highly educated and pious young men, in communion with the Church, has been formed for the purpose of visiting the obscure and more degraded portions of the city, and of endeavouring, by exhortation and entreaty, and all the appliances of the Gospel, to draw their inhabitants forth to the sanctuary, and to the enjoyment of the ordinances of Religion. Such an agency, heartily furnished and vigorously worked, cannot fail, under the Divine blessing, to issue in widely spread and lasting benefits. The other case to which special allusion has been made, that of Newhaven, has been attended with nearly the same measure of success as the one above described. Here, too, possession of the chapel was retained by the parties who seceded, and was not restored till the autumn of last year. The congregation then left with their minister; and, on the chapel being re-opened by the Presbytery, it was attended by a mere handful of worshippers. In a short time the numbers were so considerably increased that, on the call of the congregation, the Rev. Mr. Graham, an ordained minister, was inducted to the charge; and the appointment has turned out a most satisfactory and happy one. Although the minister has only officiated for a very few months, the congregation has increased to betwixt 400 and 500; the chapel, which is seated for 666, being now more than two-thirds full. The district includes the rapidly increasing villages of Granton and Trinity, and a large proportion of the inhabitants attend the chapel. Of the fishing population of Newhaven considerable numbers also worship in the chapel. In connexion with it a Sabbath school has been established, and is attended by about 120 children, who are instructed by earnest and efficient male and female teachers.

The position and prospects of the other chapels on the Committee's list may be said, in a great measure, to resemble the two cases as to which the foregoing details have been given, than which nothing can prove more conclusively their general prosperity, and their answering and realizing the great ends and purposes for which they were erected. It is necessary, however, to keep prominently in view, that, while the congregations are thus largely increasing in numbers, their claims for assistance from without are not thereby correspondingly diminished. The great object sought to be gained in the erection of these places of worship, was to secure to the poor the blessings of a preached Gospel; and accordingly, in the constitutions which were granted by the General Assembly to such chapels, the rents of by far the larger portion of the sittings are limited to rates all but nominal. The sittings of which the rents are thus restricted are naturally enough first sought after and taken, and therefore this source of revenue, and it is in many instances the only one, amounts, in the aggregate, to a very small sum. It was never contemplated that, except in a very few places in peculiarly favourable situations, the congregations occupying these chapels could maintain the ordinances of Religion from their own resources, and they must therefore continue, as they have been, dependent on aid from the Church at large, until an endowment or some permanent provision shall have been made for them.

In further illustration of the practical results of this great agency, it is proper to state, that two chapels, Calton and Maryhill, in the Barony parish of Glasgow, the congregations of which were in a great measure supported by, and owe their very existence to, the Scheme, have been provided with permanent endowments from the vacant teinds, and have already been erected into separate parishes *quoad omnia*. Other four chapels, the congregations of which in like manner were succoured and kept together by the Committee, have also under the happy auspices of a kindred undertaking by the Church, the Endowment Scheme, been secured in the annual stipend to the amount required by the recent statute, and are now in the course of erection by the Court of Teinds into parishes *quoad sacra*. To the agency of the Home Mission may be traced the erection of five separate and additional parishes; for there can be no doubt that these great and important objects never could be gained, had the Committee not stepped forward in the hour of need to the aid of these congregations, each of which is, or will shortly be, invested with the whole parochial machinery of the National Church. Moreover, within little more than twelve months, three congregations, which, when admitted on the Committee's list, were in a state of great weakness and prostration, have now acquired such numerical strength, and have otherwise so much improved in respect of pecuniary resources as not only to dispense with farther assistance, but to contribute heartily to that fund, to which they gratefully ascribe their present state of prosperity.

While so much, however, has already been accomplished by this truly Christian enterprise, much more still remains to be done. It cannot be denied, that the field of Missionary labour at Home, and under our daily observation, is still very inadequately provided for. What masses of practical heathenism are still to be found in our large towns! How prevailing and appalling is the ignorance among thousands yet living in the midst of Christian light and knowledge! What vast numbers are there, whose feet never cross the threshold of the Sanctuary, but who systematically devote the Sabbath to the indulgence of the most demoralizing vices!

One most sad and pregnant fact needs only be mentioned, to prove in a manner not to be resisted the truly urgent, we may well say *awful*, necessity which exists for more thorough and extended Missionary exertion at home,—a fact which has lately been clearly established,—namely, that the annual issue of immoral and infidel publications circulating, especially among the inhabitants of our large towns, immeasurably exceeds the issue of all regular Religious publications whatever, the former reaching the appalling number of twenty-nine millions!

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the 46th Annual Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society. This Society presents a gratifying instance of the successful operation of a true Evangelical alliance, and presents a platform on which Protestants of every denomination can meet. We learn that during the year the issues have amounted to one million, one hundred and thirty six thousand, six hundred and ninety five copies, being 29,177 more than in the preceding year. The total issues since the commencement of the Society have been twenty three millions, one hundred and ten thousand and fifty copies. May this Great Society proceed in its work of illum-

inating the dark places of the earth with the presence of the Book of Life, and may it be made the instrument of turning many souls from darkness to light. Our space will only admit of our extracting the statement of the Committee regarding their operations in Italy and the conclusion of this interesting Report, both which are well worthy of perusal.

ITALY.—To Italy your Committee turn with feelings deep and sad, but not desponding. A cloud rests at present on their hopes and labours in that country; but your Committee and their valued agents, too, knowing how soon the breath of the Almighty can scatter that cloud, are content to wait His will, and, in the meantime, to continue their work so far as they are able.

Some of the most stirring scenes that enlivened the pages of the last year's Report were, it will be recollected, taken from Italy, but other scenes have now to be presented: may we, in contemplating them, hear the authoritative voice which says, "Have faith in God!"

Your Committee will begin by a reference to that part of Italy to which the efforts of Lieutenant GRAYDON have been directed. The Report of last year left their zealous friend, and your Committee, exulting in the unexpected openings which he had found for the introduction of the Scriptures into Lombardy and Piedmont. He was then just returning from a visit to Turin, and Genoa, and Nice, whence he had been driven by the approach of contending armies; but in each of which places he had succeeded in effecting a considerable sale, and in establishing dépôts from which books might be issued after he had left, and from which very considerable numbers were sent forth, until the authorities interposed, and either wholly or in part stopped the work.

At TURIN the demand for the Scriptures was singularly encouraging, and a colporteur employed in the neighbourhood sold in about two months nearly 500 copies, the people manifesting great eagerness to possess themselves of the Sacred Volume; when the bishop of the diocese interfered, the colporteur was arrested, his copies taken from him, and, after some judicial routine, he was ordered to return to his place of residence until the Minister of the Interior at Turin should pronounce a judgment concerning what he had been doing.

An extract from a circular of the Archbishop of Saluzzo, addressed about this time to the clergy of his diocese, will show the light in which the simple object of your Society continues to be viewed by the Roman Catholic hierarchy; the concession, towards its close, in favour of reading the Scriptures under certain conditions will not mislead those who know that, whatever may be the profession of the Romish church, its practice tends to keep the people lamentably ignorant of the Sacred Volume as well as destitute of it.

CIRCULAR.

"Saluzzo, July 13, 1849.

"Having learned with extreme grief of spirit that also in this diocese Bibles in Italian, and even in the dialect of Piedmont, and more especially New Testaments, have been circulated by certain Bible Societies, who are under the ban of the Church, at low prices and in elegant bindings, I hold it to be my serious duty to appeal to the zeal of my reverend brethren on a subject which so nearly concerns the Catholic faith which we profess.

"Accordingly, I recommend above all things that you should, as much as lies in you, remind the faithful committed to your pastoral care, to guard against being deceived by the emissaries of the enemy, and neither to purchase, nor even to accept as a gift, copies of the Sacred Scriptures in the above-mentioned versions, inasmuch as they are prohibited by the Holy Council of Trent (see Rule IV. of the 'Index Librorum