

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

Thirty-third Anniversary,—held 3d May.

THE total neat receipts of the Society for the past year amounted to £108,700, or about £21,000 more than last year. The amount of the negro fund, from the period of its opening in 1834 was £16,249 5 9. The expenditure during the past year £103,171 5 2. The issue 541,543 copies. The total issue from commencement 10,293,645 copies. The Society is under engagements to the amount of £40,000 and upwards. The free contributions amounted to £30,633 19 8.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Anniversary held 1st May.

THEY have about 180 Missionary stations in Ireland, Sweden, Germany, France, Spain, the Mediterranean, Continental India, Ceylon, South Sea Islands, South Africa, the West Indies, British America, Australia, &c. Each station being, in general, the head of a circuit of towns and villages around, embracing a numerous population under missionary instruction. The accredited Missionaries of the Methodist connection are about 300, more than 80 of whom are employed in the West Indies. They are assisted by catechists, local preachers, assistants, superintendents of schools, school masters and mistresses, artisans, &c., of whom about 200 are employed at a moderate salary, and 2,600 afford their services gratuitously. The members of societies under the care of the missionaries, exclusive of those in Ireland, are about 62,000, being an increase of 7,157. The members of the mission congregations, not in society, may be fairly estimated at a larger number. To these may be added, those under school instruction, about 43,000; making a total of more than 150,000 individuals, who are directly receiving spiritual advantage by means of the Society's Missions. In Ceylon, in Africa, in the Friendly Islands, and in New Zealand, the society has printing establishments. Valuable translations of the scriptures and of other works have been effected by the missionaries, by whom, in more than 20 different languages, the gospel is preached. It appeared from the cash account, that the total income of last year had been £76,526 11 1, and the expenditure £70,460 9s.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN LADIES' SOCIETY.

Anniversary held 4th May.

THE Report states, that during the past year 206 sermons had been preached to sailors, 48 addresses given, and 163 prayer meetings held. About 22,300 persons besides children attended these services,—nearly 10,000 of the auditors being sailors. The sailor's library, contained 4,000 vols., 20,000 pamphlets, and 100,000 temperance and religious tracts. During the past year 57 ships going to foreign parts had been furnished with loan libraries; 50 libraries had been established in the neighbourhood of Barking, for the benefit of the fishermen and sailors frequenting that place; 6,000 vols. had been lent to persons on board of various ships. A class for the instruction of sailors in navigation was kept open. In the day schools at Wapping there were 165 boys and 96 girls. The Sunday schools connected with the sailor's chapel contained 140 children. By the Thames agency 12 preachers were constantly engaged; 14 to 18 Bethel meetings were held weekly on board ships. During the past year Captain Pryn had visited 4,679 ships, and distributed 70,000 tracts. The receipts of the Society during the past year were £2320 16 4; the balance due the treasurer was £1 13.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Anniversary held 4th May.

THE account of the Society's Missions in the East and West Indies, was exceedingly satisfactory.

The debt of £3,000 owed by the Society at the last Anniversary, had been discharged, and the receipts for the ten months ending on the 31st March, had exceeded the whole income of last year; it amounted

to £11,140. There was, however, a balance of £663 owing by the society, besides bills not yet due to the amount of £2,500.

From a late British paper.

YEARLY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

This meeting commenced its sittings in London on Wednesday week in the usual place of assembly, Devonshire House, Bishopsgate street. The attendance was considered unusually numerous, a circumstance probably in part arising from the importance attached to this meeting, as bearing on the proceedings of the committee appointed to visit Manchester, and on the resignation of a number of Friends there. After some preliminary business, the epistle from the yearly meeting in Ireland was read. It characterized the present as a day of humiliation to the society; which humiliation it is believed, would continue till every thing was removed from amongst them which obstructed the dominion of the Lord. The yearly epistles from America were next read. That from Philadelphia contained writings of Friends, especially those of early date; maintaining that their writings were consistent with the scriptures, and that they were the result of immediate revelation. The New York epistle alluded in terms of regret to the desolation in the borders of the society in England. It is stated that the Society of Friends had always acknowledged the authority of Holy Scriptures; and regretted that there was "no way opened" for their exertions on behalf of the slaves. The epistle from Ohio (within the compasses of which yearly meeting resides Elisha Bates, who, it will be remembered, resigned his membership) alluded to the controversy which it alleged Elisha Bates had provoked, in terms of strong condemnation; expressed its apprehensions lest the valuable testimony of the forefathers of the society should be overturned; and declared that the manifestation of light shining in the heart was the Holy Spirit, by which alone straight steps could be taken to the Father.

After all these yearly epistles had been read, the clerk read the different sums of the value of property belonging to Friends, which had been seized during the past year for tithes and church-rates. It amounted in the whole to upwards of eleven thousand pounds. The meeting then adjourned to the evening, and sat morning and afternoon or evening, during Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Much time was occupied in reading what are called "minutes," and "testimonies of ministers and members." Some discussion arose as to an allegation that the young men of the society were not sufficiently cared for, to keep them from bad company; several members contending that they ought to be formed into Bible classes and instructed in Scripture; while others argued that the means already possessed by the society for caring for them were sufficient, if used.

On Friday evening one or two members complained that the social study of the Scriptures had not only been discouraged and discountenanced, but openly opposed by elders and overseers. This was not denied, and some discussion ensued, but as no votes are taken in the meeting, without any visible result. The meeting, will probably continue its sittings during the greater part of this week. The total number of persons admitted into the society in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, during the past year, is reported to be under fifty.

SCRAPS.

ALL GLORIOUS STILL.—Married on the 12th ult., after a courtship of two hours, by Squire McGuire, Mr John Wilson, a Revolutionary soldier, aged about 85, to Miss Alsey Rockmore, rising 16—both of Bibb Southern (U.S.) paper.

A PRECIOUS LITTLE WIFE.—A gentleman was married lately at Onondago Hollow, to a young lady called Miss Precious Little.

BOASTING.—A man boasting of his honesty, is generally a coward.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE LATE KING WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

King William IV, was born on the 21st of August, 1765. He was consequently, at the time of his death almost 72 years old. He was proclaimed King on the 29th of June, 1830,—two days after the decease of George IV. His reign, says the London Morning Advertiser, "Has been one of great anxiety, and of great difficulty: but, in a national point of view, as a national benefit, and as a national blessing, there is none in the history of England which can be compared to it. What in fact except justice to Ireland, has not been accomplished during it? The Civil List has been reduced, with one exception, within something like proper limits—free trade between this country and all nations of the world has been established, so far as prudence would permit—the criminal code has been stripped of its greatest atrocities—the poor of England have felt the benefit, not only of earning their own independent livelihood, but of finding their way to honest industry and moral conduct; and finally, the African slave had the disgraceful manacles by which he was bound, severed from his wrists, and the certainty given to him that that freedom which he originally enjoyed should again be his birthright. If these be not titles to popular esteem and to popular regret should his Majesty now pay the debt of nature, we know not, as men as Christians, what ought to constitute them. The triumphs in his reign have been triumphs of peace—of additional freedom, civilization, and extension of knowledge—and, farther, these triumphs have been accomplished, not only with the expenditure of a small portion of treasure but without the loss of one drop of blood. What a contrast with the reigns of other monarchs, who, from obstinacy of temper, or perverseness of intellect, have arrayed subject against subject in civil warfare, and, instead of promoting the community of good feelings, which ought to exist between every member of human race, have for the dastardly and selfish purpose of taking care of their own peculiar interests, promoted animosity and warfare among those who, but for them, would have had no contention! We speak this with utmost cordiality and affection; and nothing could gratify us more than to learn that his Majesty is in that state of health which would enable him to appreciate this unbiased expression of the sentiments, not only of an individual, but of a very large proportion of his subjects. If he has not been the author of all the measures, and of all the benefits accruing from a liberal Administration, he has nevertheless most nobly aided and supported them; and we trust that there is not an Englishman living who, if nature shall take its course with Royalty as it does with all others, will not come forward and inscribe upon the pedestal of his monument the ever-glorious and endearing title of 'THE REFORM KING.'"

The London Morning Chronicle has five columns as a biographical sketch of WILLIAM THE FOURTH. He was born on the 21st of August, 1765. At the age of 13 he was a midshipman, and though the son of a king (George the Third), was kept on a footing with the other midshipmen. Under Admiral Rodney, he was in the fleet which, in 1779, captured the whole of a Spanish convoy. Eight days after he was in a serious fight with the Spanish fleet, under the command of Don Juan de Langara. The residue of his time as a midshipman he spent in the West Indies, and off the coasts of Nova Scotia and Canada. On the North American station he served under Lord Keith in the Warwick, when he captured