

This petition was signed by more than 2,100 names, among whom are several persons who are justices of the peace. A few Mohammedans signed it, but, the great body were Hindoos and Parsees.

The answer of Government was not what the petitioners requested, nor what they expected. The petition has been sent by the Bombay Government to the Legislative Council of India for consideration. Whether any thing further will be heard of it remains to be seen. But in the present state of public opinion in this country and in England, we do not apprehend that Government will interpose any obstacles to the progress of Christian knowledge in places which are entirely subject to their control.

These events show the effects which the progress of the truth is adapted to produce on the conduct and feeling of the native population of different classes. When missionaries first arrived in India, considerable excitement was produced by the novelty of the work in which they engaged, and of the doctrines they inculcated. But the native population seeing no marked effects immediately following such labors, soon began to regard all means to convert the people of the country to the Christian religion as unavailing, and many believed that such means would soon be relinquished. For a few years past, however, this subject has been assuming a more important aspect in the minds of intelligent natives. They saw that these means were not wholly unavailing, but were attended by some success in the conversion of individuals and families. They saw these efforts persevered in, and missionaries not only increasing in number, but locating themselves in other places. They saw that the professedly religious part of the European community regarded the conversion of natives to the Christian religion with feelings of deep interest, and in various ways encouraged those engaged in this cause. They also saw in some places a decreasing regard to the rites and ceremonies of their own worship. The apprehensions of such persons have been greatly increased by the events of the past year. Painful as it is to see many of them engaged in opposing the progress of truth, endeavouring to take away the keys of knowledge, not entering into the kingdom of heaven themselves, and striving to prevent others from entering in, reviling the only way of salvation, and blaspheming the only name given under heaven, whereby men can be saved; we would yet, in view of what has occurred, rejoice and take courage.—*American Missionary Herald.*

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?”

## BIBLE TRANSLATION SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the London Baptist Magazine.

MY DEAR SIR,—I wish time permitted me to address you more at length than I can now upon the claims and the prospects of the Bible Translation Society. The few days I have been at home since my return from the missionary deputation to Ireland and South Wales, have been so fully occupied as to afford me no opportunity of preparing such a communication as I should have liked, through your medium, to have laid before our friends. I must not, however, suffer the Magazine to appear without expressing the grateful satisfaction of the Committee in the generous contributions they have received from various parts, but especially from the north. It is a prerogative of Infinite Wisdom to overrule disastrous events for the greatest good. Such seems likely to be the case in the present instance, since, if our churches only proceed as they have commenced, much more will be raised by them for the support of our Oriental Versions of the Word of God, than we should have received from the Bible Society, had they continued their grants. The consequence, of course, will be a more plentiful supply of the scriptures to the heathen, and a wider diffusion of truth in relation to baptism.

I send you extracts from two letters recently received from our valuable missionary, the Rev. J. Wenger, which will be read with lively interest. They describe the delight of our Calcutta brethren on receiving the intelligence of the formation of our new Society, and give an account of the progress of the translations.

In a letter, the date of which is May 23, Mr. Wenger writes thus:

“The April mail, which came in three days ago (with an unprecedented rapidity,) may have brought cheering intelligence to many an inhabitant of this city and country, but the news which we received by it were of such a nature as to call forth our heartfelt gratitude to God. Blessed be our heavenly Father, that he has put it into the hearts of his servants in England, so nobly to support the work of Bible Translation, and Bible Distribution, in this land! But who are we that we should be permitted to be the instruments through which these operations are to be conducted? I have no doubt that as we were wondering, and looking in silence what things were going on in England, so you, on the other side of the ocean, must have been astonished, when one of our communications after another reached you, each furnishing you exactly with that information which was calculated to be most useful to you. I allude chiefly to the two reports of our operations, published this spring. When brother Thomas