

Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

ENGLAND.—THIRD LONDON CIRCUIT.

On Monday last, the Annual Meeting of the Northampton Missionary Society was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, which was densely crowded soon after six o'clock. At half-past six, the time appointed for commencing the meeting, the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and other friends, made their appearance upon the platform. The Rev. Thomas Martin, the Superintendent of the Circuit, commenced the service by giving out, "Before Jehovah's awful throne," after which he engaged in prayer. The Lord Mayor then took the chair, and opened the business of the meeting by a truly catholic speech, which was received with very great and very deserved applause. His lordship called upon the Rev. W. P. Burgess, the Secretary, to read the report. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Atherton, Pengelly, and R. Young, the deputation from the parent society; also by the Rev. Messrs. Thomas Martin, F. J. Jobson, John Vane, and E. Evans, of Canada, and Mr. Thomas Tagg, the Treasurer, Mr. G. F. Urlich, and D. W. Wire, Esq., late Under-Sheriff. Throughout the whole of the proceedings, the most delightful feeling prevailed, and although, at ten o'clock, the chair was vacated by the Lord Mayor, (who, at that hour, with the Lady Mayoress, &c., left the chapel), the business of the meeting was resumed, and continued with unabated interest until eleven o'clock. It will be gratifying to the friends of missions to learn, that the collection exceeded that of last year by nearly seven pounds, although the amount collected at the last year's meeting was considerably larger than that of any previous anniversary; and also that this branch has come to the resolution of taking its share in raising whatever may be necessary to relieve the funds of the general society.—*Watchman of Oct. 27.*

MADELEY.—On Sunday, Oct. 3, Missionary Sermons were preached at *Coal Brook Dale, Little Dale, and Horsehay* in this Circuit, by the Rev. Ephraim Evans, from Canada, and the Rev. Robert Leake, from Wednesbury. On the three following evenings Missionary Meetings were held at the same places, when addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Evans and Leake, and the Ministers on the Circuit. At Coal Brook Dale and Little Dale the collections were more than double those of last year, and at Horsehay there was an increase.—*London Watchman.*

WESLEYAN MISSIONS.—Letter to the Editor of the *London Watchman*:—"GENTLEMEN,—As the period is approaching when it is usual for the Annual Subscribers to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, to pay their contributions, may I crave a part of your columns, in order to bring before the Wesleyan community a few hints relative to that noble institution?"

Most of your readers will agree in considering the Wesleyan Missions as our chief glory. Their influence has been felt in almost every part of the world, civilization has been extended, people have been converted and saved, and more than one instance, "a nation has been almost literally, 'born in a day.'" By God's blessing on the labours of this society, from a small and apparently contemptible beginning, there are now three hundred and sixty-seven ordained Ministers, having the charge of more than eighty-four thousand communicants, besides three hundred and thirty-six salaried teachers, who educate upon Christian principles more than fifty-six thousand scholars.

We have all heard, repeatedly of late, of the great and growing increase in the debt of the Society—a debt arising entirely from the great extension of the work, and not from any falling-off in the receipts. But something must really now be done. Every Wesleyan ought (and I doubt not will) exert himself, so that the society may at least retain its present position.

Cannot the great majority of those who have been accustomed to subscribe £1 1s. per annum at once, without any serious inconvenience, double their subscriptions? Many of this class, it is well known, commenced subscribing some years since, when

the sum of one guinea was then of greater importance to them than ten pounds are now, and it is through pure inadvertence that their names are still standing opposite to the single guinea. Besides, the society, with nearly four hundred Missionaries to support now, has far greater claims on their liberality than when it only maintained a hundred and fifty Missionaries. And no one looking at late events can have the face to declare, that the doings of the Wesleyans in 1841 are to be regulated by those of 1831. If the subscribers to the society, and the members of the Wesleyan Connection generally, will only consider, that it is the bounden duty of every Christian either to go and preach the Gospel, or—if that is impossible—in part or wholly to provide a substitute, there will be no lack of money as it will of necessity be given freely.

Another means of greatly increasing the amounts obtained by the indefatigable exertions of the collectors may be adopted, I think, with great advantage. The plan is very simple; and has been repeatedly recommended by the General Secretaries; although in too many places it has not been attended to. It is this—that every town, parish or district, in which there is a branch society, should be regularly and systematically divided into several sub-districts, and that one or two collectors be appointed to each division, who will engage to call and solicit subscriptions from the inhabitants of every house. If this plan were well followed up by annually canvassing all the districts, many subscribers who are now lost through removals would be retained; and others, to whom it might not have been convenient at one time to subscribe, would thus have an opportunity of giving. There are many other advantages which will at once be obvious to those who are conversant with the subject. In many places, I believe that the sum obtained for the society may be easily doubled, if the labours of the collectors were properly regulated and diffused. I believe too, that there are hundreds of persons belonging to other churches, but who have been in some way or other connected with Methodism or benefitted by its ministry, who would gladly show their good will by giving something. A great deal of money is lost, just because it is never asked for.

I have every hope, that the serious attention of the Wesleyans will be excited to the subject, and the noble examples already shown by some of the branch societies will be speedily followed by all. The gloom and depression which has for some time rested upon the country seems now happily to be removing, and public confidence is increasing. Let us then heartily and vigorously set to work. The great object of this society—that of "preaching the Gospel to every creature"—is, without doubt, of infinitely more moment than the objects of nine-tenths of the other religious and benevolent institutions; ought not then our givings and exertions to be proportioned to the importance of the work?

I am, gentlemen, yours faithfully,
J. C."

Islington, Oct. 22, 1841.

BAPTISM OF A JEW.—A very interesting ceremony took place in Sunderland church, on the evening of Wednesday last, when a young man, a converted Jew, from the neighbourhood of Hamburg, but who understands the English language, received Christian baptism according to the order of the Established Church. The young convert, who seemed most serious, received the Christian name of Paul. He is about twenty-seven years of age, very intelligent, and well acquainted with the Scriptures.—*Newcastle Journal.*

BAPTISM OF A POLISH JEW.—Last Sabbath afternoon, a Polish Jew was baptized in Hucheston town parish church, by the Rev. A. S. Patterson. After a brief address by the minister, informing the congregation of what was about to take place, and after he had minutely examined the Jew as to his belief in Christian doctrines, and the Jew having answered satisfactorily the questions put to him, he was, after prayer, baptized, and received into the communion of the Church. After which, the minister delivered to him a very impressive address as to his future conduct. The congregation were much affected with the solemnity of the service.—*Watchman of Oct. 27.*

THE PRIZE ESSAY ON MISSIONS.—We understand that the first prize of 200 guineas has been awarded to the Rev. Dr. Harris, author of "Mammon," and the second of 100 guineas, to the Rev. R. W. Hamilton, of Leeds.—*Watchman.*

Mrs. Fry.—This lady (whose efforts in the cause of humanity, have rendered her well known over the civilized world,) accompanied by her brother Joseph John Gurney, Esq., has just paid Dover a visit, on her way home from her mission to the Continent, with the view of administering temporal and spiritual comfort to "those that are in bonds." Having expressed a wish to meet some of the inhabitants of Dover at the Friends' Meeting-house, Queen-street, that place was crowded on Sunday afternoon by a respectable audience, four-fifths of which were ladies. Mr. Gurney, after a long pause, rose and opened the meeting in a simple, pious, and instructive address. His sister, Mrs. Fry, after another pause, followed in a similar strain, and delivered an eloquent and impressive discourse, and a no less impressive exhortation; after which the company separated.—*Ibid.*

BISHOP OF JERUSALEM.—We doubt not that some of our readers have already heard that a Protestant bishopric is about to be established at Jerusalem. . . . In this good work the King of Prussia, who takes a deep interest in the Jewish people, cordially concurs with our Church, and the expense of the undertaking is to be borne, in no considerable degree, by that admirable Prince. . . . The bishopric was first tendered to Dr. M'Cauley, the well-known Hebrew scholar; but he declined, simply on the plea that, in his judgment, a Jew ought to be raised to the Episcopate. In conformity with this view of the subject, the office was proposed to, and has been accepted by, Mr. Alexander, the well-known Hebrew Professor in King's College. Our readers are aware that Mr. Alexander is a converted Jew; that for many years he has borne a consistent Christian character, vindicating the integrity of his conversion to the Christian faith, and that he is highly esteemed for his literary acquirements as well as his high-toned piety. The choice is one fitted to give universal satisfaction. . . . Mr. Alexander, we understand, will be consecrated to his high and most interesting office by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The present emoluments of the see will be £1,200 a year. And it has been arranged that, in the progress and furtherance of the work, not only shall the Bishop of Jerusalem consecrate English clergymen, duly qualified, but also Germans who subscribe, as the confession of their faith, the Augsburg Confession. In short, it would appear the whole enterprise has been conceived of and advanced in a true spirit of enlarged Christian charity and brotherly love, the further extension of which is greatly to be desired. . . . We must confess we contemplate this event with very great satisfaction, not only as one of very high interest and import simply considered, but also, as may be hoped, as the harbinger of more Christian union, and of the interchange of Christian sympathy and good offices among the orthodox Protestant Churches of Europe. . . . Rome is raising herself up not only in every part of Europe, but in every part of the world, with the highest aspirations after, and expectations of, an universal empire. Her hateful and ruinous dominion, she boldly asserts, though for a time in abeyance, is now to shine out with greater splendour than ever. The quiet of the kingdom of Prussia has been in no slight degree disturbed by her unjust pretensions, and this country, on the side of Ireland, suffers not a little from her ruthless aggressions. May Protestants unite against their common foe. May we unite, as brethren, without any regard to enemies, to carry forward in blessed harmony the triumphs of the cross. Outward differences, considered in the light of Scripture, give just occasion, not for division and contention, but for the exercise of mutual forbearance and Christian charity. May this spirit be shed more abundantly upon the orthodox churches, proving them to be but different members of that one great mystical body, the universal Church of Christ. And where orthodoxy of faith and devotedness of heart prevail in the churches of the saints, though they differ in outward things, more experience of one another will show to all, that "the kingdom of God is not meat and drink"—consists not in the form of the casket

but in the quality of the jewels which it contains. If these be "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost," we know with whom those graces originate, we know how they ought to be prized by us, and what thanks ought to be rendered to Him who is their sole author, and to whose glory they shall shine for evermore.—*Record.*

THE PUSEYITE COLLEGE AT PERTH, SCOTLAND.—The following is a list of the larger subscriptions, given in the order they were made, and a munificent list all must admit it to be:—Old Mr. Gladstone, £1,000; Bishop of Ross and Argyll, £1,000; Duke of Buccleugh, £1,000; Marquis of Lothian, £500; Mr. W. E. Gladstone, £500. To these are to be added a great many smaller subscriptions varying from £5 to £100, which it is unnecessary to specify. The theology to be taught in the intended University is to be Puseyism in its rankest form. It is, in other words, to be downright Popery under the guise of Episcopacy. To satisfy you that this is no mere surmise or random assertion of mine, allow me to mention that one of the parties, taking a most active part in the promotion of the project, has, to my certain knowledge, made use of this expression—"We shall thus soon have our Scottish Maynooth."—*Correspondent of Dundee Warder.*

FRANCE.—PARIS.—On Sunday and Monday, the 17th and 18th inst., the Wesleyan Missionary Society for the city of Paris, held its anniversary meetings. The preparatory sermons were preached by the Rev. R. Young, of London. Although the weather was not favourable, the Sabbath services were well attended, and the judicious and touching discourses of the preacher were listened to with the deepest interest, as was evident by the amount of the collections made after each sermon. . . . On Monday evening the chair was taken by the Rev. William Toase. The meeting was well attended and although we had no strong outward expression of ardent feeling, yet such a feeling did exist in no ordinary degree. If the most profound silence, and the most fixed attention to the speakers, can be regarded as marks of pious and strong feeling in behalf of a lost world, we had such a feeling. If a very liberal collection be proof that people felt strongly, they did feel strongly. The discourses and addresses of L. C. Young will not soon be forgotten in Paris. The collections amounted to about 700 francs—that is £28. The other speakers were the Rev. P. Lucas, and the Rev. J. C. Belfour. Other gentlemen would have addressed the meeting, had we not been anxious to allow as much time as possible to the deputation. We cannot as yet boast of large and commodious chapels in Paris, but we can say we have done what we could to support a cause which lies near our hearts. The collections and subscriptions connected with our Missionary Anniversary last year, amounted for Paris alone to £140 5s. 7d., and this year we hope to exceed that sum.—*Watchman of Oct. 27.*

THE MISSIONARY GUTZLAFF.—The Institute of Missions in Berlin has received tidings of the celebrated German missionary, Gutzlaff, dated from Peking, 20th Nov. last. At that period he was aided in his apostolic labours by seventeen Chinese, (to whom six others were shortly about to be added.) Two of his pupils, of Japan origin, were teaching Christianity to their countrymen, and to the Chinese at Macao; and his two nieces, resident also in the latter place, had converted upwards of 140 Chinese women, all belonging to the higher classes. Here Gutzlaff has addressed to the Missionaries' Institute, 38 volumes in the Chinese tongue, and the Royal Library of Berlin has received from him manuscript copies of nine very rare Chinese works, giving the description of a great number of monuments anciently existing in the celestial Empire, but of which few or no traces remain.—*Watchman.*

UNITED STATES.—THE NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE closed a harmonious session of nine days, on the morning of Thursday, the 4th of the present month. Owing to the affliction of Bishop Andrew's family, he was prevented from attending. The Rev. Moses Brock was elected President. The Rev. Dr. Capers, Missionary Secretary for the South, and the Rev. John Seys, Superintendent of