

cauted in openly taking away the life of a fellow being. We sincerely pity the man who can take advantage of a high and responsible position in society, for the purpose of showing his hatred to every thing solemn and sacred.

In alluding to this circumstance, the *Christian Guardian* expresses the following sentiments, in which we cordially concur:—"We cannot, with justice, repress an expression of our surprise and sorrow on reading remarks which fell from one of the members in the House of Assembly, on the 15th inst., during the debate on the Game bill, and to learn that what it contained on the subject of Lord's Day prohibition was considered *objectionable*, and therefore expunged; and our surprise and sorrow are increased to find that when, on the 16th, Mr. Murney moved for a reinsertion of the expunged portion, the House decided against him. Mr. Aylwin, the leading objector to what has been thrown out, may object on the ground of the Sabbath-breaking propensities of his constituents, and others, and may *covert* at the scriptural strictness of persons who honour that Day; but he places himself in opposition to the authority of God, who commands us to keep it "holy," and in our opinion, which we fear not to express, renders himself unworthy of a place in the House; while the Assembly in this instance has lamentably failed to sustain its character for consistency. In vain do Ministers of religion enforce the sacredness of the Day, if the Representatives of the people set at nought one of the most plain and binding of God's precepts; and if they do it, it would excite no astonishment in us were the sin of Sabbath-breaking after this to become prevalent. If Sabbath-breaking be French *morality*, it is the morality of Satan, and not of Christ and the Protestant's bible."

We learn from the *Christian Guardian*, that at the second General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland lately held, "a Committee was appointed to consider the relations of the Church in Canada with the Free Church."

At the present season of the year more especially, the condition of the poor demands the attention and sympathy of all whom Providence has blessed with the means of alleviating the sufferings of their fellow-men; and we offer no apology for the space we have devoted to the following Report of the Montreal "Strangers' Friend Society," which we earnestly recommend to the attention of the reader:—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STRANGERS' FRIEND SOCIETY.

"To consider the case of the poor and needy, is a duty binding on all professing Christians,—that this duty must be performed in the spirit of cheerful obedience,—that, by so doing, God is honoured, and his cause and glory advanced in the world,—are truths clearly revealed in his blessed Word.

About a year ago, a few of the professed people of God were led to ask themselves whether they sufficiently considered the poor; when they were constrained to confess themselves to be verily guilty in this matter; at least, that there was great need of more systematic and efficient ef-

fort in this work. In order to this, a society was then formed, to which the appellation of the Strangers' Friend Society was given. The object intended was, to "visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction," "the stranger in a strange land," "the poor and he that has no helper,"—and, as far as the funds of the society would allow, to afford relief in the most judicious and economical manner. It was also understood that no distinctions of religion or country should prove any obstacle to the obtaining of relief. The necessary officers for the year were then chosen, and funds were collected in order to commence operations.

This society has now been in being for one year, and your Committee having fulfilled their term of service, hasten to lay before you a plain and succinct statement of their doings in connection with the Society during that time.

They regret to say that their operations have been necessarily limited, arising from the small amount of aid that the funds have received; but at this they are not discouraged. They are well aware that no scheme, however good in its object, has any proper claim on public support, until, after being some time in existence, evidence has been elicited, and facts exhibited, to prove, that it is not merely excellent in theory, but effective in practice. A year having now elapsed since the rise of this Society, your Committee are prepared to substantiate the claim of this Institution to be so, viz: excellent in theory, and effective in practice, as having fully answered the design intended, and as having established beyond question the necessity for its continuance and support. They, therefore, solicit your attention to the following statement:—

There has been received in aid of the funds during the past year £51 11s., and there has been expended £50 13s. 11d.; leaving a balance in hand of 17s. 1d. The number of cases relieved amount to 230; some of these pressed long and heavily upon the Society, while others, being of a lighter character, required but temporary and slight relief. Your attention is here called to the large number of persons relieved, when contrasted with the slender means at the disposal of the managers, showing that the utmost care has been used to render the Society as general a benefit to the public as possible, by the diffusion of its bounty. In hearing and answering applications for relief, your Committee have, in accordance with the rule of the Society, considered distress, when proved, the only condition to the obtaining of aid; and have consequently dispensed assistance to persons of various countries, and of different religious belief. They have also been attentive in desiring the visitors to call at the houses of the parties, before making even any promise of help, to examine narrowly as to whether the alleged distress was real or feigned; and, in short, to use every precaution to prevent imposition being practised. Your Committee, in meeting the wants of the poor, have bestowed oatmeal, herrings, potatoes, clothes, firewood, stoves and stove pipes, and various other necessary articles, but have carefully avoided the giving of money, well knowing the evil that has often resulted from that practice. In short, they have given food to the hungry, clothes to the naked, firewood and stoves to those suffering from cold; they have also paid house rent in some instances—cases having been brought to their notice of parties who had no home. A few cases of total destitution they will here mention:—About the latter part of November, as two of the visitors were on their way to the emigrant sheds, they discovered a family of persons huddled together in what seemed to be a pigstye, suffering severely from the cold, and they gave them some relief. In a few days afterwards they understood that they were still there, and, as the winter was setting in, it became absolutely necessary to remove the poor creatures to a dwelling-house, which was at once done, and the rent paid one month in advance. It was truly providential that such dispatch was used in removing them, as the cold set in with such severity the subsequent night that it is probable some of them might have perished before morning had they not been removed. This case alone is worth all the money expended during the past year.

In the month of December, two families of coloured people appealed to the Society for relief; they had a short time previous arrived in this

country from the United States, and were utterly destitute. Lodgings, furniture, and food had to be provided. One of the men a short time subsequent to this died in the hospital, giving every evidence of sound conversion. Another case of a man in dying circumstances, being, with his family, (consisting of a wife and three children) in extreme want, drew largely on the funds, as the case presented features calling for great commiseration. The committee continued to aid the family until the man's death, which happened in about four months from the time the case was made known.

If the limits of this Report allowed, other cases of great distress could be detailed; but these will suffice. In a few instances your Committee loaned small sums of money to deserving individuals, who were suffering under temporary poverty; and they are happy to be able to say, that, in every instance, the money was returned with thanks. They have also done their utmost to discourage pauperism and idleness, by finding employment for those who were able to work.

Your Committee gratefully record the valuable professional services of Dr. Slade Robinson, who devoted much of his time in attending on such of the poor as were sick, dispensing advice and medicine gratuitously.

And now, your Committee, in resigning their charge, would press on you the interests of this Society. It has worked well; it may yet work better. With small means much good has been done; with greater means much more may be accomplished. They would also, from a real regard to the interests of the Church of Christ, beseech you to give it your steady and persevering support; thus your light will shine before men, and others seeing your good works will glorify your Father who is in heaven; thus you will show an exemplification of pure and undefiled religion, by visiting the poor and needy, by dealing out your bread to the hungry, and by clothing the naked. These duties, when performed in godly simplicity, afford pleasing and incontrovertible evidence of the power, influence and spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and the performance of such duties is loudly called for at the present day. It is absolutely necessary to the well-being of the Church, that our faith should be proved by works of charity and mercy, and that the world should thus understand the nature of that faith which purifies the heart and works by love.

Your Committee fear that during the approaching winter, numerous and lamentable cases of distress may be presented; they are, therefore, anxious that their successors may be more amply enabled to meet the probable emergency than they have been during the past year. They now place the preceding statements before you, and entreat that you may do your duty to your suffering fellow-creatures; yea, even to your blessed Lord our Saviour. Hear his words:—"Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of my servants, ye have done it unto me."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CONVERSION OF THE JEWS.

LETTER VIII.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

SIR,—The prophecy of St. Paul's in Rom. xi. 24, "And so all Israel shall be saved," your respected correspondent declares cannot be applicable to the Jews "as a nation," but must be regarded as spoken in reference to all true believers in Christ—"the spiritual Israel"—whose salvation he considers the Apostle was here inspired to foretell shall take place, when "the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." Until which event shall occur, he does not perhaps perceive his argument involves that all "the spiritual Israel" shall remain in a state of spiritual "blindness," and in utmost peril of "the perdition of ungodly men."

In our last letter we adduced some considerations to show his interpretation of this interesting Scripture is unsound: others yet remain to be suggested. Still we invited him to prove, from the chapter in which the text is found, that he had correctly apprehended its real signification; and should have been glad had he made the attempt, and still more had he been successful therein: since our only design in our