

WES. MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Annual Meeting.

CONTINUED.

The Rev. E. HOOLE then came forward to announce a number of contributions, already received, in connexion with the present anniversary. The principal amounts are subjoined: T. E. E., £596 3s. 3d. (Cheers.) A. B., (at Smith, Payne, and Co.) an old Subscriber, annually, since 1822, £150. (Cheers.) T. Farmer, Esq., annual, £100. T. Farmer, Esq., 5th annual contribution for China, £100. (Cheers.) Friend to Missions in the Bradford West Circuit, £40. Dr. P. Wood, Manchester, £50. William Shippey, Esq., £50. Mr. and Mrs. John Corderoy, £50. Mr. and Mrs. E. Corderoy, £50. S. H., by Rev. Dr. Alder, annual, £50. John S. Elliott, Esq.—a tribute of cordial and unwavering esteem for Dr. Bunting—(great cheering, with slight dissent)—and his Co-Secretaries, and of Confidence in their Management, £50. (Cheers.) In memory of the late C. Chubb, Esq., by his Son, John Chubb, £20. Dr. Ellis, Sudbrook Park, £20. H. G. Walker, Esq., by Rev. John Scott, £10 10s. M. E., by the same, £10. Messrs. Meek & Co., Manchester, £10 10s. In Memory of a beloved Parent, by Mrs. Kirk, £10 10s. Several other donations were announced, of from five guineas and under, and also several legacies, including one from the late Wm. Ravenscroft, Esq., of Sutton, near Frodsham, of £90.

The Rev. Dr. ALDER announced that several distinguished individuals, whose attendance had been expected, were prevented by duties of a public nature from being present. Sir Emerson Tennent,—who had rendered most valuable services to this Society during his residence in the island of Ceylon, (hear, hear,) where he had filled a high office in connection with the government of that colony,—had authorised him to state that, although unable to be present on this occasion, he hoped to attend the anniversary of the London District Society, at Great Queen-street Chapel, on the 15th May, when he would be happy to bear his testimony in favour of the Society's Mission to Ceylon. (Hear, and cheers.) From the Earl of Mountcashell he (Dr. A.) had received the following note:—"I can assure you most sincerely that few things would have afforded me greater satisfaction than to have had it in my power to be present at the anniversary meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary Society this year. It, however, unfortunately happens that I am engaged on a select committee in the House of Lords, which I ought not to absent myself from, and this will render it impossible for me to attend your meeting. On some other occasion I hope that no impediment will offer to prevent my taking part in the Christian and philanthropic labours of your Society. (Hear, hear, and cheers.)—Mr. Charles Buxton also desired to express his regret that pressing business prevented him from being present; and for the same reason they were deprived of the presence and assistance of their valued friend, Mr. James P. Brown Westhead, M. P. for Knarborough.

Mr. HEALD, M. P., who was loudly cheered, said,—Mr. President—Ladies and Gentlemen—I can scarcely justify to myself, and, therefore, I think it will be very difficult to justify to you, my acceptance of the first resolution, which I have been called upon to submit for your consideration and for your adoption. In submitting my own judgment and feeling to the judgment of men, whom I have from my youth up been taught to respect, I am giving what I consider a personal illustration of that submission which is due to authority. (Hear, hear.) I have not had one moment's personal communication with any gentleman on this subject. I have not asked for their reasons to be assigned which have induced the Secretaries or Committee to place me in this highly honourable position. I received, late on Saturday evening, a request that I would undertake this duty; and being perfectly satisfied that no such request would have been preferred to me, or any other gentleman, but under the influence of reasons convincing to the minds of the officers of the Society—I felt it my duty as a humble member of the Society—but one so sincerely attached to it as any of its most honoured members—to accept this office, and to render the best service in my power on an occasion which I regard to be one of the most interesting in its nature, and the most important in its results to our section of the Christian Church, and to the common interests of that world which our Saviour Christ has given to us to bring under the saving power of Gospel truth. (Hear, hear.) Having, therefore, accepted this post, I should feel it a violation of all propriety if I were to presume to occupy much of your attention; and as a reason to justify my craving your indulgence, I will promise not to abuse it. I will at once proceed, therefore, without wasting your time in making anything like an apology or useless preface. I am satisfied that I shall fully express your sentiments and feelings when I convey to our right hon. Chairman the sense of obligation under which he has placed us, as your cordial and

hearty cheers have testified, by the honour and service he has done us in accepting the office of our President on this occasion. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) I trust I may also venture to express on your behalf, as well as on my own, that I think it a matter of no small importance that we are favoured with the presence of a member of the Free Church of Scotland in our chair to-day. (Renewed cheers.) I can most cordially reciprocate the sentiments which he has so kindly and generously uttered in reference to the Wesleyan Body, with sentiments of regard and affection for that most interesting section of the Christian Church, of which our Chairman is so worthy a member. I have always considered, from the first separation of the Free Church from the Mother Church, that there was a peculiar similarity and analogy between the circumstances of that Church and the rise, progress, and present position of the section of the Christian Church to which it is my privilege and honour to be attached; (hear, hear;) and I may venture to say, that if it shall please a gracious Providence to swell the amount of success and prosperity by which hitherto the first efforts of that Church have been distinguished—to swell the stream into a full flood-tide of success—we shall not be vexed on that account. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) We trust, also, that if similar distinguishing tokens of the favour of our Heavenly Father continue to be vouchsafed towards our section of the church, our friends of the Free Church of Scotland will retain towards us all those feelings of common and Christian brotherhood which we now so cordially reciprocate. (Hear, hear.) I am always anxious when I attend meetings of this nature, and in the country it is frequently my privilege to occupy one post or another; I am always anxious that they should in the very outset be marked by an earnest and clearly expressed desire to supplicate and obtain the blessing of God on every part of their proceedings. But, Sir, you have justly called our attention to the fact, as I ventured to do two years ago, when I had the honour of occupying that chair on a similar occasion, that it is most important in this great metropolis, and at the first of a series of meetings which follow in rapid succession every day—yea, at night as well as day—of the present month, that the first key-note sounded in this hall should be eminently one of profound homage to Almighty God, (hear, hear,) that our proceedings should begin under a simple and supreme conviction that we are his servants, in his presence, engaged in his work,—that there is no influencing that is adequate to sustain, to control, to guide, and to succeed us, but that which the baptism of his own Spirit supplies. I conceive that on an occasion of this kind we should meet in that spirit which actuated the disciples in the city of Jerusalem, when they came together looking out for, and waiting for, and earnestly supplicating, in all the strength and confidence of faith, for the influence of the Spirit which alone can give life, power, and success to our efforts. I trust that such have been our convictions and feelings on this occasion; and I congratulate you, Sir, I congratulate this Society, and I congratulate all those great interests of our common race which are so much depending upon the result, that the deliberations and discussions of such assemblies as this are characterised by so much earnest and devout attention as we have witnessed hitherto to-day. (Hear, hear.) The resolution I am called upon to move is—

That the Report, of which an Abstract has been read, be received and published; and that this Meeting offers its grateful acknowledgments to Almighty God for his continued sanction and blessing vouchsafed to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and other similar Protestant and Evangelical Institutions.

Any man is safe who commits himself to such a resolution. I never felt a moment's hesitation, after perusing the abstract of the report which has been read, and a copy of which one of the Secretaries did me the honour of sending down to me on Saturday night. I never felt a moment's hesitation in undertaking to submit to you this resolution. Sir, our Society is not receding; (cheers) its influence is not diminishing; (cheers) its friends are not withdrawing. (Renewed cheering.) The evidence of that is to be found in the fact that its funds are increasing. (Cries of "Hear, hear," and cheers.) But, more than that, Sir,—survey the entire Missionary map, proceed from Europe to the East; take a circuit embracing Australia, Polynesia, and the Friendly Islands; visit the continent of Africa, and examine the state of the Missions in the south and west of that continent, take into view, too, those important and growingly interesting Missions in the British North American colonies,—and in all you find symptoms of life, of power, and of growth. (Hear, hear.) You see Missionary Stations the centre of a sanctifying and regenerating influence, and the circles over which that influence extends are widening in every direction. But to us it must be a matter of extreme interest to examine what is the Missionary progress reported in all our great colonial possessions. It strikes me as a very singular indication of the guidance and over-ruling providence of Almighty God, that our Missions are just now striking their roots the most widely wherever the great tide of emigration is set-

ting in. Australasia and Polynesia,—the districts of Southern and Western Africa,—that interesting colony especially which is springing up at Natal, which possesses such abundant resources, and from whence specimens of cotton have already been received in Lancashire,—all have been brought under the influence of Missionary operations. We may also look with interest and hope at the Missions at Cape Coast, in Western Africa. I travelled last week with the President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and in talking about the Gold Coast Mission, that gentleman informed me that the first bale of cotton had been received in Lancashire from the kingdom of Dominasi, and he said, "I think we are now learning the secret how the slave trade is to be effectually put down. (Hear, hear.) Teach the rulers of these African kingdoms, that the mechanism of their subjects' hands, and the power and energy of their minds, may be appropriated to useful industrial labour; and conduct that labour in the right direction, and the kings of these countries will then learn that their subjects are more valuable when retained on African soil, producing a raw material, saleable to the manufacturers of Great Britain than sold to slavers." (Hear, hear.)—This may, then, be a part of that instrumentality which, by the blessing and providence of Almighty God, will ultimately lead to the destruction of the slave trade. (Cheers) I wish before I sit down to give expression to another sentiment which has fastened upon my mind, and I have no doubt upon the feelings of the meeting. I have, Sir, endeavoured feebly to express our sense of obligation to you for coming among us and presiding here this day; but I wish to add that you have greatly increased that obligation, by the key-note which you struck in your opening observations. Sir, the time has come when we must make up our minds to this great principle—that it is revelation, and not reason, that is the sufficient and safe guide for the government of the world. (Hear, hear.) I see that a contrary hypothesis is agitating the minds of men. Now, I do not fear the minds of men being agitated, if the moral influence and power which we possess is only made to bear upon the awakened mind of the world, but it would be an awful state of things if the first seed thrown into the opened furrow were anything contrary to the clear and incontrovertible testimony of the Word of God. It is the characteristic of this day, as it has been of all former days, for unsanctified human nature to resist authority. [Cheers, and some hisses from the body of the hall, met by renewed cheers; the interruption preventing Mr. Heald from proceeding for some moments.] Allow me to say that although others may have something in their minds that does not bear upon the direct subject of our Wesleyan Missionary Anniversary, I entertain no feeling of the kind. I have no reference whatever in my mind to any matter that is in dispute. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) It is a fact that you cannot controvert, and I am quite certain, if you will hear me, you will admit it, for there is not an individual present who would think for a moment of attempting to controvert it,—that the unsanctified nature of man is *per se* opposed to divine authority. (Loud cries of "Hear.") The Bible is the book which contains the law, and if you attempt to substitute reason for revelation you attempt the subversion of that law, and as far as you lies, the benevolent and gracious purposes of Almighty God. That is my position. (Hear, hear.) That principle ought to be carried out by societies, and by corporate bodies, as well as by individuals, and in domestic life; and we should be jealous of everything that would prevent its right, proper, and successful maintenance. Our Chairman has indicated that the world is awakening to this conviction,—that governments can never expect to find any permanent basis that does not rest its authority on the Book of God, (hear, hear, my more than churches can, (loud cheers,) or our Societies can, or that individuals can in any relation of life. (Renewed cheers.) I am glad to see such a conviction arising, especially after the examples which have been lately set before us on the continent of Europe. You, Sir, have referred to the state of France. A fortnight ago, in the House of Commons, a nobleman known to most of you, and whose name would honour were I to mention it, read an extract from the last report of the Minister of Education in France, and what is the testimony borne by that minister on this subject? It is that all experience proves this,—and the history of France especially illustrates the principle,—that if knowledge is to benefit the people, if it is not to be merely worthless but dangerous, education must not only be based upon religion, but religion must be the keystone of duration. (Hear and cheers.) Now this and other similar protestant and evangelical societies, wherever they move, are proclaiming this principle. Do you object to it? (Loud cries "No, no," and cheers.) I am certain it is the principle we all acknowledge by our presence in this hall; and it is one which, in every station in which it may please God in his providence to place me, I will endeavour to maintain as faithfully as I trust I have so far shown myself attached member of the Wes-

leyan Missionary Society. (Hear, and cheers.) I beg, Sir, to move the resolution.

The Rev. Dr. HANNAH said: The impression, my mind, and I doubt not on the minds of many others, is that the Wesleyan Missionary Society never enjoyed a larger amount of prosperity than it does at the present moment. (Cheers) To God be ascribed all the glory of this and every good, and if his servants have, on some former occasions, presented their Ebenezer of gratitude to him, they have every reason to do so on the present occasion. I heartily concur in the observations advanced by my excellent friend and neighbour, Mr. Heald, and I cannot but think that this is a truly jubilant occasion,—an occasion on which we ought especially to rejoice in the prosperity which the Lord our God has given us. When were the agencies and operations of the Society more multiplied, more matured, more sustained? Survey the entire Mission field; let the eye fall on Southern and Western Africa, on the Friendly Islands and Feejee, on New Zealand and Australia, on Sierra Leone, and on other stations mentioned in the report which we have listened to. Do we not see our agencies increased,—do we not see our agencies in active and successful operation? Schools are arranged, Christian institutions promulgated, light diffused far and wide, and every motto, every token, given as to the extent and activity of the mighty machinery of this Society. (Cheers.) It is true there are some discouragements, but there is no abandonment of stations, no contraction of the work. There is indeed an earnest endeavour to maintain what is gained, to mature what is already in progress; but there is no relinquishment of anything which the servants of the Lord have been pursuing. Never was such mighty machinery in operation as now, and for this we should "thank God and take courage." When was there such a large amount of truly evangelical success? It is here we most thankfully take our stand. We see the machinery itself is large, and its effects are already most cheering. (Cheers.) You are indeed aware, Sir, that Christianity, as administered by our Missionaries, and by other Protestant Missionaries, in different parts of the earth, has found vice in its most appalling forms. It would be impossible to describe the atrocities which have existed, particularly in some parts of the earth, where God has favoured us with the greatest success. But Christianity, accompanied by divine assistance, has reached those notorious examples of iniquity, and they have yielded evidence of true and scriptural conversion; it has turned darkness into light; it has supplied from "the dark places of the earth, full of the habitations of cruelty," some of the brightest and most beautiful examples that now exist in the earth, of a simple, fervent, and pure Christianity. (Cheers.) I have great satisfaction in learning, by a note just put into my hands, that the increase in the foreign Missionary stations amounts to more than 5,000.—(Cheers.) We thank God that there is no want of a sign of prosperity in this respect,—in the large increase of numbers. But we do not calculate our Christian success by statistics; we are aware of the value of statistics; they assist us in estimating and ascertaining the progress the Society is making, but do we not know that there is a diffusion of light and truth, beyond all that the most carefully prepared statistics can reach. We know that truth is planted in many hearts, and a living feeling awakened in many minds, or perhaps no report at all. We can rejoice in taking up these statistics, and estimating the success which presents itself to us in different forms and degrees; we can rejoice that in this, the very thing which we covet, the very thing for which we pray and labour, God, even our own God, is with us. (Cheers.) Sir, we are not convened on this occasion for the purpose of planning or executing anything merely temporal; we have not met to maintain the defence of personal character; for we merge all those things in maintaining the great cause of our Saviour and the triumphs of his cross; (cheers) utterly forgetting self while we think of the apparatus already prepared, and the manifold success which presents itself to our contemplation everywhere, we should shrink from every feeling which would lead us to impede, or even attempt to impede, that great work which is blessing so many thousands with the light, and life, and power of salvation. (Hear, hear.) It is a consolation to know that this work cannot be checked. (Cheers.) The truth and power of Christianity have gone forth and are achieving their own victories. It shall, it must prevail, (cheers) until the entire world is subjected to the dominion of the Lord's sceptre. (Cheers) When we were favoured with a more encouraging measure of promising liberality than at this moment, I have had some little opportunity, in the northern part of the country, of marking the spirit of different Missionary anniversaries, the promptitude with which people in comparatively humble life came forward, the noble and truly generous contributions of the more wealthy, and various other objects which taken altogether, summed up and combined, present us the encouraging results of this day,—results greater than have ever been reached in any one year since

this Society existed. (Applause.) reason, also, we should rejoice and each other to prosecute our labours. nothing waiting in the completeness of chinery as far as it goes, and we see an to see, that friends in different parts of are more willing to co-operate with heart and hand, that the great design template may be fully accomplished, the kingdoms of this world may become shall become, the kingdoms of our Lord Christ. (Applause.) I was delighted Sir, in the course of your valuable observations that you referred to the spirit of hum in the spirit of humility that we wisecute the work that lies before us; spirit of humility which prostrates man to God, which holds man's wisdom to be efforts to be weakness, man's success unless it please God to assist by his that spirit of humility which is still to wards beyond all the instrumentalities, and owning the hand and agency of high God. I concur most cordially in marks which Mr. Heald so impresses upon this subject. We came to-day our prayers to Almighty God, and to judge our dependence upon him; to say, but to feel, that it is not by any power we can command, but by the the Lord of Hosts, and by him alone can hope to be successful. (Hear, h spirit of faith will also, I trust, sustain spirit of faith which reposes upon th and everlasting truth which we have perishable Book of God. We admit competition or comparison with it. I ture stands alone, the fountain and w—that on which we repose with eidence, because we know that it is truth which is forever settled in H cannot but prevail. Faith reposes in propitiation which Holy Scripture exhibits. We look to the cross, at the cross to triumph. We point to Scripture, which everywhere exhibit ed sign of healing in this wide w the dying and the dead. We depen faith, and we desire this day to ree in the promises which Holy Scrip freely and so fully given of the mo vitation of the Heavenly Spirit, permitted to add that I trust we are of renewing and prosecuting our en; the spirit of charity,—that charity, f faith, which beareth all things, t things, hopeth all things, and, if e self shall expire, endureth all thi hear.) Charity allied to truth, and to charity; truth and charity—char blended harmoniously into one,— which leads us to love all, in hum of the charity which our Lord and effected,—a charity which leads us who first loved us, and in the poss cease of his love to love all others and to proceed in our course, in th ward love, looking for his blessing, ing ourselves and all our come hands. Ephraim shall not envy J shall Judah vex Ephraim in such: It is gratifying to find that, in t in my hand, other Protestant an institutions are connected with (hear, hear.) Peace and prosper all (cheers.) What we want is not sectarianism but Chris tianity. (Cheers.) That was the sp the grave of God we will conti—Christianity in its own free and rit, by whatever agency it may l To all other Protestant and evan tons that are labouring for the of mankind we wish all success. our God grant that the results o in future may be a thousand-fold been in the past. May he be p us also, and grant that amidst t of another year we may pursue c biding in him, and always looki red aid. (Hear, and cheers.) (To be Continued)

FAMILY CIRC

A Piece of Legal Ad

Rennes, the ancient capital o famous place of law. People c the extremities of the country t and ask advice. To visit Ren ting advice appears impossible t was true at the latter end of t just as it is at present, and espe country people.

Now it happened one day th ed Bernard, having come to Re thought himself that as he h ght, it would be well to emp the advice of a good lawyer. He said, "Monsieur Portier, d who was a such high repute d a lawsuit, which when he case. The countryman in qu and proceeded to his house in