

THE GUARDIAN.

"HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

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POETRY.

THE DEATH OF THE HINDOO WIDOW.

BY ARCHDEACON SPENCER.

MOURNFUL and slow to the plain of the dead
They bore the Hindoo along;
And I heard but the sound of their measur'd tread,
And the chant of their funeral song:

"The dead and the living, the beauteous and brave,
Dread Seeva! to thee be convey'd;
The pride of our country descends to the grave,
And the widow attends on his shade.

"She is young—she is lovely; her love and her youth
To her lord were devoted and given;
She lov'd him on earth with affection and truth,
And our rites shall unite them in heaven."

I look'd at the victim—she lay on the car,
And the corpse of her husband was near;
They had decked with many a gem and star
The form that seem'd palsied with fear.

The pallid roses that bound her hair
Shone ghastly over her brow;
And her living cheek wax'd coldly there
As the shrouded dead below.

They reach'd the spot where the funeral pyre
Rose high on the dismal plain;
And the songs of the priests, with their torches on fire,
Wait'd "Ashes to ashes again!"

The Rajah was laid on his lofty bier,
His princely trophies beside;
And without a sigh, or a pitying tear,
Was enchain'd his wretched bride!

But when they kindled the sulphurous pile,
And the flames first caught her eye,
Not the barbarous drums that thunder'd the while
Could stifle her wild death-cry!

She died! and the pangs of her cruel death
Were hail'd by the blinded throng
As an offering dearer than prayer's best breath,
Or the saints' thanksgiving song.

England, that boastest thy Christian sway
In this land of guilt abhorr'd,
"Make straight in the desert thy God's high-way;
Prepare ye the path of the Lord."

Thou hast given to India thy commerce and laws—
Thy harbours are fill'd with her stores;
Give of her wealth, in the Christian cause,
Give the Gospel of truth to her shores.

Statistical Information.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS IN ENGLAND.

It appears from a Report recently presented to Parliament, that 114,481 marriages were registered during the year ending June 30th, 1838—21,030 during the first quarter, 34,449 during the second, 23,201 during the third, and 29,801 during the fourth quarter ending June 30th, 1838. Matrimony was at a maximum in the Christmas quarter, at a minimum in the quarter ending March 31st. 15,575 males, & 16,563 females were not of full age. 107,201 marriages were performed according to the rites of the Established Church; and of these it is stated, that nine were by special license, 13,677 by license, 68,410 by banns, 493 by Superintendent Registrar's certificates. The number of marriages solemnized not according to the rites of the Established Church was 4,230—namely, 2,976 in registered places of worship, 1,093 in Superintendent Registrar's offices, 76 between Quakers and 135 between Jews.

The births of 204,863 males and 194,849 females were registered; 74,588 in the first quarter, 89,528 in the second quarter, 113,815 in the third quarter, and 121,781 in the fourth quarter. The register of births is imperfect, as the parties are only compelled to give information when applied to by the Registrars; hence a great number of the children of the poor escaped registration in the first year. It appears, however, that the numbers registered were on the increase; but it can never be complete until the re-

gistration of births is rendered compulsory, as it is in other countries.

The total number of deaths registered in the first year was 335,956—namely, 170,965 males and 164,991 females. The mortality of males is higher than that of females. After a correction for the increase of population, &c. the mortality was nearly 1 in 45. The registration of deaths has therefore been successful beyond all expectation. The probable number of burials registered in the parochial registers is estimable at 291,745; while the number of deaths registered under the new system was 335,956; or adding 2,704 that occurred in the first year, and were registered in the beginning of the second, 338,660; thus exceeding the estimated number in the parochial registers of burials by 46,915. The imperfection of the old system deprived a great proportion of the population of the civil advantages of registration; and rendered all attempts at calculating the mortality of the English population futile. Accurate tables of mortality, and just rates of life assurance, &c. directly applicable to different parts of the population, could not be calculated from the registers of burials. Of the 335,956 deaths, 131,034 were children under 5 years of age; 39,900 males, 31,898 females, died in the first year of life. The deaths are stated at each year of life in 25 different divisions. The deaths in the metropolis were 53,597; in the district of Manchester and Salford, 8,373; in Liverpool and West Derby, 9,042; in Birmingham 3,317.

NEW CHURCHES.

The Nineteenth Report to the House of Commons from Her Majesty's Commissioners for Building New Churches has just been printed. It is dated August the 6th, 1839, and presents abundant evidence of immense extension in the sphere of active operation by the Established Church. Since the Commissioners made their Eighteenth Report, eighteen new churches have been completed, which will afford accommodation for 16,500 persons, including 9,775 free seats for the use of the poor. So that from the commencement of the Commission 243 churches and chapels have been completed, and provision made for accommodating 314,412 persons, including 174,270 free seats for the use of the poor.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

The following is a statement of the total receipts for the past year or some of the leading Societies for the extension of Christianity:—For Promoting Christian Knowledge, 90,363l; for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, 71,308l; Church Missionary, 72,031l; British and Foreign Bible Society, 105,255l; Wesleyan Missionary Society, 84,818l; London Missionary, 65,490l; Baptist Missionary, 22,416l; Hibernian Society, 11,702l; Church Pastoral Aid, 10,423l.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR RELIGION.

The amount annually paid by the British government, as appears from a paper published by order of the House of Commons, for the expenses of ecclesiastical establishments in the Colonies, is £168,242; of which £134,450 is paid to the clergy of the Church of England; £9,967 to those of the Church of Scotland; £6,886 to those of the Dutch Church; £14,763 to those of the Church of Rome, and the rest to Wesleyans, Baptists, and a Jews' Synagogue.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

We understand that the Society of Friends have purchased the large three story brick house belonging to J. R. Armstrong, Esq. M. P. near Picton, Prince Edward District, with 100 acres of land attached, for a manual labour school.—The purchase money is, we believe, £1000, of which the first instalment of £250 was paid by Joseph John Gurney, during his late visit to this part of the province. The Friends have always been zealous in the cause of education and we hail with pleasure this addition to the means of promoting it in this country.—*Kingston, U.C. Herald.*

COMMON SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK.

According to the Report of the Chief Inspector of the common Schools in the State of New York, published in March last, there were, on the 1st of July, 1838, in that state, 9,830 schools, with 529,113 pupils, the total number of children between five and sixteen years old, exceeding that amount by only 10,634. Hence it is evident that, attentive as the Americans are to material interests, still they do not neglect the important subject of public instruction. Schools have already been established here and there for the formation of teachers; popular education is now become a concern of the state, and, carried into effect on a uniform plan, the common school system is con-

sidered as the firmest prop of democracy. At present attention is principally directed to the application of the Smithson bequest of half a million of dollars. The most distinguished persons have been solicited by the Government to furnish plans for an Institution to be founded with this sum: and several have already been submitted. Many wish for a national university, after the best European models. A German has proposed the establishment of a national agricultural Institution at Washington, which, on the ground that cultivation of the soil is the chief interest and principal resource of the American people, he would have carried into effect on a grand scale. What he wants is a tract of land extensive enough to make all sorts of experiments, and to try all systems. His plan seems to be borrowed from that of Fellenberg, but it is on a much larger scale. It is not unlikely that the scheme of a University may be preferred, as the Congress resolved upon such a foundation so long since as December, 1836.—*Foreign Monthly Review.*

POPULATION OF RUSSIA.

A table of the amount of the population of the Russian empire in 1838, prepared from the returns forwarded to the Government by the clergymen of the different religious persuasions, has been published, by order of the Minister of the Interior. The population of the Caucasian and Trans-Caucasian countries is not included in the return.

It appears from this document that the births during that year amounted to 2,333,992, the deaths to 1,963,733, and the marriages to 492,424: and that, according to the data thus furnished, the entire population of Russia on the 1st of January, 1839, was about 60,000,000 of inhabitants.

The mortality lists of 1838 offer many instances of extraordinary longevity. Thus, 858 had reached the age of from 100 to 105; 125 that of 110 to 115; 130 that of 116 to 120; 111 that of 121 to 125; 3 that of 126 to 130; 5 that of 131 to 140; 1 that of 145; 3 that of 150 to 155; 1 that of 160; and 1 that of 165.

Hitherto the title "notable citizen" had not been granted to the Israelites. The Emperor, however, has lately addressed a rescript to the Minister of the Interior, providing that in future that distinction might be conferred on the Jews, who were considered entitled to it, either by their personal merit, or eminent services rendered to the State, in the sciences, arts, manufactures, &c. &c. &c. *Journal des Debats.*

POPULATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

The population of the colony of Newfoundland, by an accurate census taken in 1837, amounts to 75,094. Of these 37,376 are Roman Catholics, 26,748, of the Established Church, and 10,636 Dissenters. The population is spread over a line of coast extending from Cape St. John southward to Cape Ray, a direct distance of about 600 miles, to which may be added 300 or 400 more for bays and sinuosities. There are in the island about forty families of Micmac Indians, amounting to 200, men, women, and children. They subsist principally on venison, which they kill in the neighbourhood of the lakes to the north-east of St. George's Harbour. They employ themselves in hunting the martin, otter, and beavers, and sell the skins sometimes to the establishment of Messrs. Newman, in the Bay of Despair, and sometimes to the traders who occasionally touch at St. Georges Bay and Bay of Islands. They are all of the Roman Catholic persuasion, and are a timid and inoffensive people. They generally pass the winter near the south coast, in the vicinity of Bay Despair; and, in their hunting excursions in the summer, traverse the island between the southern and western shores, and the Bay of Exploits on the northern coast. They thus occasionally pass over the tract of country which was formerly inhabited by the Red Indians, and, as they have not for years seen any trace of them, it seems certain that those unhappy aborigines are extinct. There are about 12,000 acres of land in cultivation, principally producing potatoes, turnips, hay, and oats; barley is grown, and occasionally ripens, but is frequently cut down for fodder, in consequence of the early departure of summer.—*Metropolitan Magazine.*

STATE OF RELIGION IN AUSTRALIA.

Extract from the Report of a Committee on Immigration, of which the Bishop of Australia was Chairman:—

"Your Committee have not felt it necessary to consume much time in inquiring into the state of the religious resources of the country, the fact of their deficiency being notorious to all observers. Its existence has been confirmed by every witness to whom a question relating to the subject has been address-