

sent so many points of general interest and utility, an acquaintance with which would be adapted to exercise the most desirable influence on the various classes of our colonial population.

The part the British Wesleyans have taken in the evangelisation of Pagan nations, has been very considerable. Besides their missions in Canada, they have ordained ministers and other agencies in various countries of Europe, Asia, Polynesia, and in the West Indies; where, every year, by the grace divine, thousands of souls are converted to God. Some of the most savage and sanguinary tribes of mankind have been brought, by their instrumentality, to become lovely and spiritual Christians. The wilderness and solitary place are literally glad for them, through the transforming influence of the Gospel which they preach; and civilisation and Christianisation are going on hand in hand. Such facts, Mr. Editor, cannot but enlarge the mind, while they gladden the heart; they also tend to endear to our hearts the glorious Gospel and the adorable Saviour, at the same time that our attachment to our own connexional church becomes the more abundantly confirmed, when we thus see that the pleasure of the Lord prospers in her hands.

The doings, also, of the Wesleyan Methodists "at home" are full of interest, and have ever, from the beginning, exercised a beneficial influence on the national well-being; and though, as a religious body, they never move in agitation on any public questions which are purely political, yet are they most tenderly alive to any subject of a national character which involves any of the vital principles of our common Christianity. To instance the abolition of British Colonial Slavery, a transaction of which the *British Wesleyans* were neither unconcerned spectators, nor unsuccessful or unimportant auxiliaries,—their petitions and signatures to the Imperial Parliament outnumbered those of all the other churches and religious communities of the empire put together. On this subject, should you, Mr. Editor, wish the details, I can, I believe, procure them for you.

The late decided and not unsuccessful movement of the *British Wesleyans* against the anti-British proposal of establishing a national system of schools in the parent country, from which the Word of God should either be absolutely excluded, or into which only mutilated Scriptures should be deemed admissible, warmed my heart with increased attachment to the people of my preference. I trust, dear Sir, you will favour us with information on all similar topics of public interest, at once for our guidance, and for our comfort as to the Divine blessing upon our national affairs. Every British subject has an unspeakable interest in the maintenance, in all our public proceedings, of the old British character of a Christian nation; and I wish never to forget that one of her most ancient symbols was "the Bible—the Crown—and the Constitution."

But I find I am unwarily encroaching too far on your limited space, and shall forbear. Yet, if my communication should not be altogether unacceptable, I think I might be able to furnish another of equal length, in a similar strain—for it is one very dear to my heart, as you perceive. At present I only add, that I am a most sincere well-wisher to the success of your proposed Journal, and not, I assure you, by any means the less so, since we have had the happiness to ascertain with whose valuable services we are to be favoured in its management.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very respectfully,
A BRITISH CANADIAN WESLEYAN.

WESLEYAN INTELLIGENCE.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, HELD IN LONDON, MAY 4, 1840.

The Annual Meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary Society was held, on Monday last, at Exeter Hall—every part of which was crowded to excess long before the hour appointed for the commencement of business.

The Rev. Dr. BUNTING commenced the proceedings by giving out the first two verses of the hymn commencing, "From all that dwell below the skies:" after which he offered up a prayer from the Liturgy.

The Rev. Doctor then said—I have the greatest personal satisfaction in announcing to the meeting,

that, at the earnest and respectful request of the Committee, Sir Peter Laurie, Knight and Alderman, has consented to do us the honour of presiding on this occasion. (Cheers.)

Sir PETER LAURIE presented himself to the meeting, and was received with enthusiastic applause. He said,—Ladies and gentlemen: perhaps it may be necessary, in opening the business of this day, that I should state, in a very few words, the circumstances which have led to my occupying this honourable and distinguished station. It may be in the recollection of some gentlemen near me that, about the close of the last year, I was called upon, in my corporate capacity, to pass a vote of thanks to a gentleman, for a sermon preached before the corporation. In that measure I could not agree; and I most expressly stated my disapproval of the attack made, in that discourse, upon (in my opinion) two of the best men that ever lived in this country. (Loud applause.) I had no intention that this expression of my opinion should find its way into the public prints; but that was the case, and a correspondence, which some of you, I have no doubt, have read, was the result. I rejoice that this circumstance afforded me the opportunity of stating publicly what is my sincere conviction—that a better man than your Founder never lived. (Loud applause.) I have long been an observer of the religious communities of this metropolis, but this is the first occasion on which I have ever raised my voice in one of their assemblies; nor should I have entertained the idea of doing so now, had not the Committee of your worthy and excellent society solicited me to take the chair—a request with which, regarding, as I do, your exertions as beyond all praise, I could not hesitate to comply. How little was it in the anticipation of the five or six students of Oxford, who, upwards of a century ago, met together for prayer and the study of the Scriptures, that the little seed sown by them would become a mighty tree, and throw its shadow over every clime and country of the world: for, I believe, in every country where civilised man has set his foot, have the missionaries of your denomination endeavoured to propagate the truths of Christianity. (Applause.) I have read your laws and regulations; I am well acquainted with the organisation of your societies; I highly approve of your tenets; and I glory in thinking, with you, that man is a free agent, and that he is a responsible being. (Applause.) I have been censured for calling your great Founder an Apostle. (Hear.) I here repeat the term. (Applause.) He was an Apostle to the miner and manufacturer. (Loud applause.) Wherever you see the enterprise of our countrymen establishing mines and manufactories, there you find the unobtrusive, diligent Wesleyans following in the track, and supplying those miners and new settlers with religious instruction, by raising tabernacles for the worship of God, and endeavouring to lead souls to heaven. What is the object which you have today met to promote? It is not to aggrandize one party over another; neither is it to swell out lawn sleeves at the expense of the Wesleyans. You do not wish to bring down the National Establishment of this country. (The speaker was here interrupted for some minutes by general cries of "No, no," and three distinct and enthusiastic rounds of applause.) That long and loud expression of your approbation proves to me that my opinion is right. (Applause.) No; you wish to support a tolerant church—(renewed applause)—and when that church becomes intolerant, then desert her. Oh, how mistaken are some of our dissenting brethren, who make common cause with the Roman Catholics, for the purpose of uprooting our national church! (Applause.) Little do they consider the effect which must be produced by the predominance of Roman Catholicism!—make that system triumphant, and it would soon put a padlock on their mouths. (Laughter and cheers.) They would soon be told, there is but one visible church, and if you are not with us you are nobody. (Cheers.) But they will not succeed while there is so formidable, so well organised a body as the Wesleyans. I rejoice that I have had the satisfaction of witnessing, after one century, Wesleyan Methodism in its present state of prosperity; and I am most happy to learn that, in the city with which I am connected, you are now erecting a temple to show to posterity that, though your Founder has gone to his reward, the spirit that was in his bosom still animates a Bunt-

ing and others. (Cheers.) I hope you will still go on through the length and breadth of the land. Wherever you go, you labour to make people happy here—and that is important; but you go further, and you seek to impart to them that which will bring them to glory, and render them happy for ever and for ever. (Sir Peter then took the chair amidst universal expressions of applause.)

(To be continued.)

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting of the members and friends of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held on Wednesday the 6th May, in the Great Room, Exeter Hall, which, long before the time of commencing business, was crowded by a respectable assembly, chiefly ladies. Upon the platform, which was exclusively appropriated to gentlemen, amongst others, were the Bishops of Chester, Chichester, Ripon, Norwich, Rev. Chancellor Haikes, the Marquis of Cholmondeley, Earl of Chichester, Lord Mountsandsford, Lord Teignmouth, Sir Thos. D. Acland, Bart., Admiral Sir James Hillyar, Rev. Messrs. J. W. Cunningham, Pratt, S. C. Wilks, Monro, W. M. Bunting, Sherman, and several other clergymen and dissenting ministers.

Lord BEXLEY, the President of the Society, on taking the chair, said, that in opening the proceedings of the thirty-sixth anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, it was with great pleasure he had to announce that the report for the present year contained matter for much congratulation. The funds had this year exceeded those of any former year, and the operations of the Society had been extended beyond all former precedent. The meeting, he rejoiced to say, would find in the report much to excite their gratitude and thankfulness, and to induce them to lift up their hearts and voices to the Almighty Being who had prospered the good work of extending to their fellow-creatures in foreign lands the blessings of the word of God, and enabled them to fulfil the last command of Christ to his disciples, when about to leave them after having redeemed the whole world with his blood, to "Go forth into the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." For years—he might say for ages—the Christian community had been extremely supine in the execution of this last command; but he trusted they were now fully awakened to its importance, and that the spirit of the Gospel would now go forth generally to enlighten all nations, and to bring them to Christ. (Applause.) Much, indeed, had this nation to answer for, for having so neglected its duty in this respect. From its extensive commerce and abounding wealth, this country was bound more than any other to take a prominent part in this great work, and still more so, because England enjoyed a religion founded upon the Gospel. (Hear, hear.) The want of the diffusion of the Scriptures, not only in foreign lands, but even in this country, had led to the formation of this Society; and after the labours of upwards of thirty years, much still remained to be done at home, and much more was required in a large portion of the globe. What had been done during the last year the meeting would learn from the report, which he desired should now be read.

The Report commenced by stating that in no former year had the Society's revenue been so large, nor its distribution of the Scriptures so great, and that perfect harmony had characterised all the proceedings of the Committee-room during the past year. The persecution of the Christians in Madagascar still continued, and prevented the circulation of the word of God. A letter transmitted from some of the sufferers concealed in caves and dens there, says, "We are in great jeopardy; men are sent to search for us and to put us to death wherever they find us, being commanded not to take us into the towns lest we should pollute them with the sorceries which we have learned from the whites. They are commanded to throw us into holes dug for the purpose, head downwards, and then to pour boiling water upon us." The receipts of the year amounted to £111,449 13s 1d, exceeding last year by £6,200. The sum of the engagements of the Society was £80,000; the issues of bibles and testaments 776,310, exceeding those of last year by 118,142, and making the total issues in thirty-six years, 12,322,471.