

payment for my wife's work," "Wait a little," answered sister Liebisch, "and when my husband returns, he will settle with you, for I am unacquainted with the bargain made between you." "Samuel and William," replied the Esquimaux, "will not return any more to Nain." "How, not return! what makes you say so?" After some pause, the Esquimaux replied in a low tone, "Samuel and William are no more! all their houses are broken, and in the stomachs of the sharks." Terrified at this alarming account, sister Liebisch called in the rest of the family, and the Esquimaux was examined as to his meaning; but his answers were little less obscure. He seemed so certain of the destruction of the missionaries, that he was with difficulty prevailed on to wait some time for their return. He could not believe that they could have escaped the effects of so furious a tempest, considering the course they were taking.

It may easily be conceived, with what gratitude to God the whole family at Nain bid them welcome. During the storm they had considered with some dread, what might be the fate of their brethren, though at Nain its violence was not felt as much as on a coast unprotected by any islands. Added to this, the hints of the Esquimaux had considerably increased their apprehensions for their safety, and their fears began to get the better of their hopes. All, therefore, joined most fervently in praise and thanksgiving to God, for this signal deliverance.

HISTORY OF BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

No. 1.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

"Go thou, and do likewise."

As this Society is the earliest of the kind, and as it may be called the mother of all others of a like nature, which have adopted many of its regulations and principles, we shall commence our intended series with an account of this extensive institution.

"This Society consists partly of subscribing, and partly of corresponding Members.* The former contribute such annual

sums respectively, as each thinks proper, towards supporting the expenses of the Institution. The latter are such persons in Great Britain and Ireland, and other parts of the world, as are recommended or invited to correspond with the Society, for the purpose of acquainting it, from time to time, with the state of religion in their neighbourhood; of suggesting such methods of doing good as occur to them; of distributing Bibles, Prayer-books, or any other books and tracts recommended by the Society, and of remitting such occasional benefactions, as they themselves are pleased to contribute, or are enabled to collect from well-disposed Christians."

"The object of the Society is expressed in its name. It is the promoting of CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE generally throughout the world."

"Early in the year 1699, a few individuals, of elevated station and eminent piety, both among the Clergy and Laity, began to meet together in a voluntary Society; and as such, with unanimity and zeal, and with numbers gradually increasing, they exerted themselves to advance the knowledge of true religion, by such methods as appeared to them most conducive to that end. About the middle of the year 1701, at their instance, a Charter was obtained from his Majesty King William III. by which many of the then subscribing and corresponding Members, with several other persons of distinction in Church and State, were incorporated, by the name of the SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS for the better carrying on of that branch of the Society's designs, which related to the colonies beyond the seas, belonging to the kingdom of England."

"But the Charter of that Corporation being limited to Foreign Parts, the Members of our voluntary Society still continued, in that capacity, to prosecute their benevolent designs at home; and the Incorporated Society, confining itself principally to its British Plantations in America, the proceedings of this Institution were early extended to India, and gradually into other parts of the world. Our's, therefore, is a Society distinct from that Corporation, and

pound, four shillings, and eleven pence sterling, and in one instance, the Society received a legacy (from Lord Vryhouze) of seventy-five thousand three hundred and thirty-one pounds, four shillings, and two pence sterling."

"The first Meeting took place March 5, 1698-9, at which were present the Right Hon. Lord Guildford, Sir Humphry Mackworth, Mr. Justice Hoob, Dr. Bray, and Colonel Celchester."

"* The Society has about ten thousand five hundred subscribers and donors, each of whose subscriptions and benefactions have extended from one pound one shilling, to nine thousand nine hundred and forty six