

The imperfection of translations I admit. Let men deduct whatever they please on this score; I take the remainder, and affirm that no dishonesty has ever been established against any one of the laborers in the one hundred and fifty or more versions issued by the Society: and that all real improvements are admitted with joy in each successive edition.

Our Indian steam mail leaves on Saturday, or I should have waited till after Monday, March 7, when I hope to take the chair at the Auxiliary Society, and begin your jubilee in this land of idolatry and superstition. You have done wonders, my lord, already, under God, in this most magnificent possession of the British Crown. One hundred and fifty millions of the Heathens and Mohammedans, bowed under the grinding yoke of sin and Satan, are beginning to awaken to some faint longings after Western learning and Western usages and habits. Multitudes are going even further, and are filled with a thorough contempt of Brahma and Mahomet. Some, moreover, have come up to the fountains of life, and are quenching their thirst for salvation there.

But India will require your help in a thousand-fold more than you have yet afforded it. Nor India alone: but China and the Isles of the sea.

Africa and the Americans are athirst for God also.—And the work you have accomplished in your first fifty years will, I trust, be forgotten, as it were, in the widened efforts and success of your succeeding labors.

Your only main adversary is the Church and Court of Rome. Her bitter opposition is your highest praise. The signs of the times seem to point to the speedy downfall of that mystery of iniquity. And in the final triumph, the Bible, and the Society diffusing it, will have, under the King of kings, and Lord of lords, to whom alone be all glory ascribed, no mean share.

Go on, my lord, in your vast and inconceivable enterprise. Your work is only begun. But you have God on your side: His own Word as your messenger to mankind: His prophecies to light you on your way: His Spirit to illuminate the dark, and quicken the lifeless souls of men: and the astounding sacrifice of an incarnate Saviour to hold up, as a flaming torch, before the eyes of a guilty world.

Commending myself to your lordship's prayers, and those of all the friends, I am your obedient,
D. CALCUTTA.

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Niagara, July 23.

THE AZTEC LILLIPIUTIANS.—WITHIN the limits of the republic of Mexico there are yet to be distinguished not less than one hundred and fifty-three distinct tribes of Indians, all descendants from as many varied aborigines. Of these the Aztecs, if not the most important, are perhaps the most interesting, seeing that the name has been rendered familiar to us by its being that of the right royal race which, when Cortez invaded the country that was five times the size of Spain, occupied Mexico by right of conquest, and lost it to a foreign foe less by want of power to oppose than by lack of knowledge of the application of means. Such Aztecs as did not submit to the new yoke—and many became wives to the victors while more became their slaves—such as could escape, fled, built themselves homes in the wilderness, lived upon what nature abundantly gave, and worshipped their false gods as before. The Roman Catholic Missions converted many; but these, like the Ceylonese, in accepting Christianity, have never altogether cast off the old abomination of idolatry. To this day, the gods of Montezuma have their followers among even the mass-going Indians—just as in Spain itself, for many a long year, more than one noble who knelt at the "adorable sacrifice" was Jew in blood or Mahometan by descent.

Amid much recounted of the Aztecs that is romantic and equivocal, we may gather a few leading facts which will hardly bear disputing. Among others it would seem that there is somewhere located a tribe of this singular people, living in isolation, admitting no stranger among them, and never marrying out of particular families. One consequence of this latter custom is a degeneracy of race; and one fashion adopted in certain marked cases of degeneracy is that, when individuals are of unusually minute stature, they are received into the family of gods, and are made objects of worship.

Such is said to have been the condition of the two Aztec Lilliputians now exhibited at the Hanover-square Rooms. Their ages may be, the boy's thirteen, the girl's ten. They weigh about two and twenty pounds,

are really Lilliputians, have heads not larger than that of an infant a day or two old, with large, brilliant, and restless eyes. Their arms are rather beyond the usual length, and their legs are somewhat rickety," caused by the position into which they had been early put—that of Mexican idols, seated on the calves of their own legs—a position into which they naturally fall when seated by themselves on the ground. They have superb black curling hair, and are copper-colored.—They have no speech of their own, but they repeat words readily though imperfectly.

Perhaps the most striking trait connected with them is the total disregard which each has for the other.—There is something painful in it. They notice every individual in the room, play with all comers, and are delighted if visitors will draw figures for them, or lend them a pencil that they may attempt the feat themselves. But all intercourse of one with the other seems to be nonexistent: they neither look at, smile at, or make signs between themselves. Each passes the other as if they were mutually invisible; and yet, without much trouble, we induced little "Batti" to kiss "Meximo," who received the salute impassively, as if nothing more than the wind was kissing his cheek, and he glided on his way unconscious or careless of the nymph who sooth to say, seemed as little conscious as himself.

These singular creatures are exciting immense attention—an attention which will be increased ten-fold when the impatient philosophers and the wealthy admirers of phenomena have satiated their curiosity at five shillings or half a crown each, and the price of admission is reduced to the customary and sufficient shilling. Then the "owners" of Aztec Lilliputians will probably reap as rich a harvest as did the hirer of our ancient friend "General Tom Thumb."

THE FOLLOWING CASE, with regard to the enlistment of Lord Ernest Vane, son of the Marquis of Londonderry, is, we believe, substantially true:—"A good deal of surprise was occasioned on Friday by the announcement that Lord Ernest Vane, youngest son of the Marquis of Londonderry, had enlisted in the 4th Royal Irish Dragoons. It appears that the noble lord has been for some time past staying in the neighbourhood of Winchester as a pupil in the house of a clergyman, and on Thursday last, came to town by the South Western Railway, accompanied by his groom, proceeded at once to Charles-street, where he fell in with a recruiting serjeant, with whom he enlisted, and then tried hard to induce the groom to follow his example, but without effect. The serjeant returned to Winchester, and communicated the extraordinary news to the family, and the electric telegraph was resorted to; but the information reached the noble marquis too late. The noble lord and a party of recruits were regularly attested at Rochester-row police-court on Friday; and although some of the authorities at the magistrates' office recognized him, he said his mind was made up. He gave the name of 'Ernest Smith,' and started with his comrades for Dublin. His lordship is in his nineteenth year, about five feet ten inches in height, stout and well made, and appears at present resolved to follow out his newly-adopted career." Since the above was published in the *Observer*, we learn that the fast young lord has been released, and that his father has sent him to a military academy. This case, then, shows that there is a law for the rich, and another for the poor. If "Ernest Smith" had been the only son of a poor widow and had enlisted in a moment of desperation, the widow might have wept till her heart-strings broke before liberty would have been granted to her son. If we remember rightly, a son of the late Sir Bellingham Graham enlisted some years ago in the Life Guards. His wise father did not buy him off; and the son, who also by no means lacked wisdom, proved by his conduct that he was not unworthy of being enrolled among the "Gentlemen of Her Majesty's Royal Guards." The Princes of Prussia begin their military career as private soldiers, and we have seen one of them standing as sentinel in Berlin. A little such preparatory training would have done no harm to Master Ernest Smith. *Church and State Gazette.*

NEW COLONIAL BISHOPRICS.—The arrangements having been completed for establishing two new bishoprics in Southern Africa—one at Natal and one at Graham's town—it is the intention of the Colonial Bishoprics Committee to proceed forthwith with the attempt to establish five additional sees in the colonies and dependencies of the British Crown.

The first in order is that of Christ Church, New Zealand, which has for some time past been in abeyance. Towards the erection of this see the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has granted a sum of £1,000.

The next is the Bishop of Mauritius, at present under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Bishop of Colombo. Towards this see there have been promised £3,000 by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, £2,000 by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and £1,000 by the Christian Faith Society. A third bishopric is that of Borneo, towards which £5,000 has been promised by the Society for Propagation of the Gospel, and £2,000 by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Towards another bishopric in East Canada £2,000 has been promised by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; and towards an additional bishopric in Western Australia £3,000 has been promised by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Negotiations have been opened with Her Majesty's Government for the establishment of the bishopric at the Mauritius, and there is reason to believe that the means of its endowment will be provided from sources independent of the colonial bishoprics fund. The seat of the new bishopric at East Canada will be at Kingston, and that in Western Australia at Perth. The Rev. F. T. McDougall, M. A., will be the first Bishop of Borneo; and the Rev. Phillip Gell, M. A., Curate of St. Mary's Church, Bryanston-square, formerly warden of Christ's College, Van Diemen's Land, will be the first Bishop of Christ Church, New Zealand.

MOURNFUL EVENT.—The Rev. M. M. Mackintosh, of Burton-upon-Trent, son of a clergyman, was in Dublin on a visit to his mother, a widow, and on the 29th ult. was drowned while bathing. He was but 24 years of age.

CHOLERA IN INDIA.—Cholera is at present so rife in Calcutta, owing to the great heat and absence of rain, that no less than eleven hundred persons were carried off in the course of two days only!

Mr. Barklay, prior to his departure for Jamaica, will receive the honour of knighthood, with the decoration of a Civil Knight Commander of the most Honourable Order of the Bath.

The indisposition (measles) under which Her Majesty was suffering when the court left town on Saturday, is happily so far mitigated, that Her Majesty was sufficiently recovered to take an airing with the Prince Consort and the Prince of Wales in the grounds of Osborne on Monday.

Since the arrival of the Princesses Helena and Louisa, Prince Arthur and Leopold, the four youngest children of the Royal Family, who had not then had the measles, two of them have been attacked with the infection—Princesses Helena and Louisa. The Princess Helena is now convalescent, and the Princess Louisa, who fell ill with the complaint on Sunday last, is going through it favourably. The royal children are under the charge of Lady Barrington and Miss Barrington.

LIBERALITY OF MR. CUBITT, M.P.—A new church which has been for some time past in course of erection on the Isle of Dogs, opposite Greenwich Hospital, is approaching completion, and will be consecrated by the Bishop of London. It has been erected at the sole cost of Mr. Alderman Cubitt, M. P., whose extensive workshops it adjoins.

BETHNAL-GREEN SCHOOLS.—On Friday some thousands of children of the various schools connected with Bethnal-green were expected to attend at St. Thomas's Church, but were compelled to assemble under the arches of the Eastern Counties Railway nearly opposite Club-row. Despite the weather the following schools assembled:—St. James the Great, numbering about 400 scholars; St. Matthew, Bethnal-green (the Green Coat School), numbering about 150 children, who are clothed and educated; St. Jude Sunday and National School, about 700 registered pupils; St. Phillip's National and Sunday School; St. Andrew's, St. Thomas's, and St. Matthias's. The rain poured in torrents, and we pitied the poor children of the various schools, many of whom were drenched to the skin. The Bishop of London arrived soon after the children had taken up their position, and addressed them in the most impressive terms. The children then retired to their several school-rooms to enjoy refreshments in the way of tea and cake, &c. Divine service was performed at St. Phillip's Church, and Earl Granville, who had attended the gathering of the children under the arches of the Eastern Counties Railway, was compelled by the pressure of official duties to leave as soon as the service concluded. The Bishop, who preached took for his text the 12th verse, 7th chapter Ecclesiastes. The ceremony of opening St. Phillip's Schools, Bethnal-green, followed.

A great improvement has been introduced in the *Victoria and Albert* royal yacht. By the use of anhracite fuel no smoke or ashes issue from the funnel.