

## Wesleyan Missions.

(From the London Watchman, May 7th.)

The Annual Meeting of the Parent Society.

(Continued.)

The Rev. Dr. CANDLISH, who was received with great applause, said—Mr. Chairman, I did not expect to have the pleasure of being present on this occasion, but being detained in London an additional day, I could not deny myself that satisfaction. By your kindness, and the kindness of those who have had to conduct these arrangements, I have been allowed to take an early part, and it will be a very short part, in the proceedings, as I am very much occupied otherwise. I have very great pleasure in being with you again for the second time. (Cheers.) I have very great satisfaction in this kind of Evangelical Alliance—(hear, hear)—in this sort of manifested union among the different branches of the Church of Christ. Certainly if in any department of our labour we can cordially sympathise with one another, it is with reference to Missionary operations among the heathen. There we do not meet with occasions of division, and occasions of strife;—there we meet only with what is fitted to unite us all with one heart and one soul, in advancing the cause of the Redeemer, and in seeking also the salvation of souls; and we cannot for a moment entertain a doubt that in proportion as the different branches of the Church of Christ come to sympathise with one another in their Missionary operations, they will be drawn closer together, at home as well as abroad, and thus the way may be prepared for a far higher and more spiritual manifestation of a Christian union among Protestants than the world has ever yet seen. On this ground I rejoice in the interchange of friendship, in connection especially with the Missionary cause. It is not for me to go over the details of the very interesting report, which has just been read. I doubt not you will be addressed by those who can speak from their own knowledge and experience as to the progress of the missionary cause; and in the presence of many who have manifested their willingness to spend and be spent in this cause, in the presence of many who came from bearing the very burden and heat of the day, and who are ready to tell you their experience, it would be altogether out of place and out of time were I to detain you at any length. I would just take this opportunity however, in seconding the resolution, of entreating your sympathy on behalf of our missions in those parts of the world in which we have been enabled to establish them. We have not as yet been able thoroughly to fulfil, in all its extent, the commandment of the Lord, "Go ye into all the world and teach all nations"—You, I think, may be said to be fulfilling that command almost literally. You seem to regard the world as, in the literal sense, your field of missions; for everywhere, over all the earth, you have your missionaries labouring, and, by the blessing of God, labouring with a large measure of success. No portion of the habitable globe, I might almost say, is ignorant of your labours.—We, on the other hand, have our missions to a far more limited extent, and upon a far more limited scale. At the same time we do claim your sympathy when there is any occasion of anxiety,—any occasion of distress, on the principle that "when one member suffers all the members suffer with it." (Applause.) I think that your missions, so far as I can learn, are at present undisturbed by any hostile operations in any part of the world. It is otherwise, however, with one branch of the missions connected with our church. The Kaffir war has not, so far as I learn, materially interfered with any of your missionary operations; but it has, in former times, interfered with our missions to the extent of breaking them up altogether—the buildings being occupied as places of resort for the soldiers in the army. When, however, we had a time of peace we instantly resumed our labours, re-established our missions, and reinforced our missionaries. We reckoned of course upon a long period of undisturbed tranquillity. God has seen good

to order it otherwise; and now the breaking-out, for the second time of an unhappy war, threatens to interrupt, if not destroy, our missions. The Rev. M. Nevin, one of our missionaries labouring in that portion of the seat of war, has been compelled to flee for his life; and his adventures in making his escape, are of most thrilling interest. Once and again he was in danger of his life, and only with the utmost difficulty, and with the loss of all he possessed, did he make his escape with his wife and little ones. This is the position of one of the missionaries connected with our church. I mention it just because, while I have nothing particular to say regarding the extent of our missionary operations entitling them to your consideration, I wish to awaken your sympathies, and call forth your prayers on our behalf. (Applause.) Whatsoever may be necessary to be added with regard to missionary operations in India, will, I have no doubt, be afforded by one far better competent to speak on the subject than I am. I have discharged the duty entrusted to me with very great pleasure. I am not here so much with the view of addressing you at length, as with the view of expressing my sympathies with your labours. I beg leave, with those remarks, to second the resolution which has been read. (Loud Applause.)

The Rev. and learned Doctor left the hall almost immediately.

The resolution was then put from the chair, and was carried unanimously.

Mr. COWAN, M. P. for the city of Edinburgh, was received with loud cheers. He said,—Mr. Chairman, the resolution which I have the honour to propose to you, is in these terms:—

"That this meeting offers its grateful acknowledgements to Almighty God for the success with which he graciously continues to crown the efforts of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, in common with other similar Protestant and Evangelical Institutions; and regards that success as affording additional encouragement to renewed endeavours to promote the spread of Christianity in heathen lands."

In addressing a few words to this great meeting, I could have wished that your committee had made another choice. I have had the honour, on more than one previous occasion to be called upon to take a part in the proceedings of your anniversaries. I could have wished for your own sake, and for the sake of a little variety, that the committee had passed me over, and selected, as they easily could have done, a more able and attractive speaker. But, sir, I cannot forbear expressing my great satisfaction and gratification at the encouraging report which has been read, and in seeing so very large an attendance, notwithstanding the attractions which exist in another part of this great metropolis. (Hear, hear.) As reference has been made, *en passant*, to the noble fabric reared in this city, I cannot but express my hope and conviction that what has occurred in London these last few days, may be the means of affording greater facilities to the Christian Missionary as well as to the English merchant and gentleman, in traversing the whole length and breadth of the habitable world, for the sake of promoting the cause of civilization, of commerce, and of Christianity, linked, as they must be, inseparably together.—(Cheers.) Sir, nothing has delighted me more in the report which has been read, and to which my hon friend, Mr. Plumptre, who has left the meeting, has referred, than what we have heard of more than one of your distant stations—namely, that wherever Popery had not already obtained a footing, there was presented to your labours the utmost facility and encouragement for spreading the good seed of the word among those ignorant, but at the same time, most interesting nations amidst whom they have laboured. The same thing, I am sure, may be said of our country at this moment, notwithstanding the vaunted progress of Popery, and notwithstanding the many secessions that are taking place from the high Church of England to the Church of Rome, I am persuaded from what I know of the demand for the Scriptures throughout the northern part of this island, and I believe the same may be said of the southern king-

dom of England, that there is a demand at this moment for the pure work of God among the community greater than has obtained at any former period of our history, and with which—(I speak from the very best authority,)—it is almost impossible for the printing press to keep pace. (Hear.) Having had no intention of addressing you on this occasion, I will only advert to one other subject. I had the honour, the last time I was in the house of Commons, on Friday evening, of presenting a considerable number of petitions. One of them was sent back to me in the course of Saturday afternoon, enclosed in an envelope, with an intimation that as the petition prayed for a grant of public money it could not be received. The prayer of that petition, which was unfortunately rejected, was in these words—"May it therefore please your honourable house, to take the premises into your consideration, and to authorise an increased grant to the Board of Ordnance, whereby the survey of Scotland may be more rapidly prosecuted." I am very glad indeed, to be able, in this place, to plead a privilege which I think is not likely to meet with such a repulse as I received elsewhere. (A laugh.) I think I may present a petition to this large assembly—I think I may ask this "honourable house" (laughter) to take the premises—all they have heard and all they shall hear this day—into their most serious and prayerful consideration, and to authorise an increased grant—not to the Board of Ordnance, (a laugh.) but to the Board of Peace—your board of Missions—(cheers and laughter,) whereby, not the survey of Scotland, but the missionary survey of the world may be more rapidly prosecuted, (cheers,) and whereby the great consummation "of peace on earth and good will" among the whole family of man may be more speedily accomplished. (Hear, hear.) Reference has been made to my own beloved church—the Free Church of Scotland, and I may observe that it is not yet eight years since we were driven out—as I always held we were—from the establishment, an establishment which we loved and prized so much. The very first duty to which the 500 Ministers of the Church of Scotland betook themselves, before they knew whither they were going, or where they were to derive means for the support of themselves and their families, was to offer up prayers to Almighty God that he would continue, as he had hitherto done, to bless the missionary efforts of that church. (Hear, hear.) We have to acknowledge with gratitude that our prayers have not been unheard or unanswered, and I doubt not you will hear to-day from my beloved friend, Dr. Duff, (Applause.) what God has been pleased to do with the limited means at our disposal among the benighted millions of India. (Hear, hear.) Let me say, in conclusion, that we are engaged, I trust, in an honourable rivalry with you.—Our object is precisely the same. I believe that our funds will, during the present year receive a considerable increase, owing to the unremitting advocacy of the Rev. Doctor to whom I have referred, who has been stirring up not a few of the parishes and counties of Scotland, and who I have no doubt will to-day stir up this large meeting to greater devotedness and determination in maintaining those interesting enterprises in which the Wesleyan Missionary Society has now for so long a time been engaged.—(Cheers.) I beg to move the resolution.

Dr. BUNTING: I venture to say that this society at large, and especially that large meeting which represents it in this hall to-day, feels itself most happy and honoured in the presence of Dr. Duff—(loud cheers) and I call upon him to second the resolution. (Renewed applause.)

The Rev. Dr. DUFF, Missionary of the Free Church of Scotland in India, said—Mr. Chairman, some of the friends who have preceded me have suggested various topics. Many of these topics, however, may be reserved, for I do not feel that this is the time for entering upon many of the subjects which have been suggested. I trust that, within the course of the next ten days, on one occasion or another, one and all of those topics will be brought before bodies meeting in this place. I desire this day simply to confine myself to some par-

ticular point. There is one sentiment in the report which came home with great power to my mind. It is this—the thorough adaptation of the Gospel to all the wants of heathenism, and the faithfulness of Jehovah's promises in realising success wherever the proper efforts have been put forth. I confess that in listening to a report which has made the circumnavigation of the globe, and has carried us all round the world, from the sun rising to the sun setting twice over, in a manner, when there is brought before us one station after another in goodly array, the unpractised mind is apt to fix upon this one and upon that one, and upon yet another, until the whole appears like a huge assemblage before the eye, covering the whole world, and to adopt an opinion than which no greater delusion exists under the sun. Allow me to address this great meeting as christian friends, and to tell you that I do not come here to-day to be the instrument of cherishing any delusion that would lull you asleep under the supposition that you have done what you could, or that you have done what you should. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) I have been confounded since I returned to this land at what I have heard on this subject. I have seen people folding their hands, and wondering at their own doings, and thinking the world is almost evangelised. I always tell them we are just beginning, and we are only beginning; (hear, hear;) that we have perhaps just got within sight of the threshold. Ah! there is more meaning in this than many here present know, or can realise. The report read to you to-day alluded to instances of the crumbling down of temples of heathenism. I do not doubt that there are lands where, thank God! temples of heathenism have crumbled down before the power of Christianity; but I must testify with reference to that land which is more overshadowed by huge temples of idolatry, than any other under the sun, that the crumbling down of a temple of heathenism is no necessary evidence of the existence of Christianity in that region. In the last few years, in traversing many unfrequented and unvisited regions of India I have fallen in with enormous ruins of temples, and masses of crumbling idols, of the very existence of which I had never heard before, nor had any one else with whom I met within the Presidency. If I had more waggons than Joseph took into Egypt to bring down the patriarch, multiplied a hundred fold, I could have filled them all with remnants of idols crumbling into pieces there in the midst of the jungle and the forest. I could have loaded four ships with the decaying relics. But what would this indicate with regard to the progress of Christianity? I should be dealing out foul delusion if I connected the two together. They are not necessarily connected, and I cannot be a party to any delusion. Now, with reference to the agency of this society, it is a perfect fact, that wherever men have laboured in faith—and the agents of this society have so laboured within the sphere of their operations—there has, I believe, been success proportioned to those labours by God's blessing upon them. There are men, agents of this society, who are men of learning, and men of note in the east. I might mention Mr. Garrett, who labours in the Mysore district—one of the most learned men in India.—Then there is Mr. Percival, of Jaffna, in North Ceylon, who is rendering immense service in the cause of Bible translation, by a full revision of the Tamul translation. Then, again, in South Ceylon, you have Mr. Gogerly, who is, by universal repute, a man the most conversant with Buddhistical learning in all the East. You have, then, agents, and agents of note, and it becomes us to ask why are not those agents multiplied? Allusion has been made to Madras—to the station at Royapettah. I have seen that there the work is going on as far as two agents can carry it on. Allusion has been made to Negapatam—the city of serpents—a city full of the venomous serpents of Brahminism, and also of the venomous serpents of the Papacy, for that place is the head quarters of Jesuitism in India. Let me ask you, in order to illustrate the inadequacy of the means employed, to cast your eye over oceans and continents. Go to Madras, and travel southward along the

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