

WES. MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Annual Meeting.

After some preliminary observations, Mr. C. Cowan, M. P. for Edinburgh said:— The resolution calls upon me to express, what I am most ready to do, my devout gratitude to God, for the great blessings he has continued among us, as members of various Christian communities, and the promoters of Christian Missions; and it ought to fill us with astonishment, that our exertions should not have been paralyzed by a corresponding infirmity upon the means which have been placed at the disposal of the Ministers of these Christian Missions. I rejoice, on the other hand, in the assurance, that not only has there been no diminution, but that a substantial increase has taken place in the revenue of this large body, and I think we are called upon to express our gratitude that such is the case. (Applause.) It would be an awful blot if even one of these associations, which are now in the habit of assembling in the month of May within these hallowed walls,—it would be an awful blot, I say, if their exertions had been paralyzed and crippled. I rejoice, therefore, to be assured,—and all that I have had the privilege of hearing to-day tends to confirm me in the belief,—that this great work will continue to be supported by the contributions and prayers of this large and growing association. (Applause.) It would be presumptuous in me to detain this meeting; but having the honour of being a humble office-bearer of the Free Church of Scotland, I can never forget the kind welcome which I received immediately before our exodus from the Scottish establishment nearly seven years ago; and I can never forget the kind counsel and sympathy expressed by so many of the gentlemen whom I have now the pleasure to see on this platform. There are many points of resemblance amongst us; and, although there are some points of difference, I believe we are substantially united in prosecuting the great work at home and abroad which it is given to us, as a Church, to carry forth. (Hear, hear.) I trust there is some advantage in the members of evangelical denominations meeting on occasions of this kind. We are apt to forget, when carrying on our work entirely by ourselves, the various claims which other sections of the church of Christ have upon us; and we are apt to forget that precept of the gospel by which we are exhorted to "sit one another up to love and to good works." I sincerely hope that we shall be enabled to congratulate each other on the result of this meeting, and on the result of our having undertaken to carry forth, with greater vigour, greater self-denial, those most important operations which God has so signally blessed, and in the carrying on of which we are entitled to expect his blessing. (Hear, hear.) I trust if we are spared to meet together again, we shall be privileged to congratulate one another on a still larger measure of success, for we are not entitled to limit in the measure of blessing which God has promised, the work carried on by those who are fellow-workers with him. (Loud applause.) The resolution which I have the honour to move is,

That this Meeting expresses its devout gratitude to Almighty God for the increased resources placed at the disposal of the Committee, by the augmentation of the Society's Income during the last year; and cherishes the hope that the same spirit of liberality may continue to manifest itself, and speedily render the funds more fully commensurate with the wants of the great work they are intended to promote. The Rev. WM. BEVAN, of Wolverhampton, said—Sir, the reference which this resolution makes to the information that has been laid before this meeting might seem to render it superfluous in me to attempt to offer any reasons for its support. I am sure, that there is no member of this Society, anxious for the advancement of the honour of Christ through its instrumentality, in conjunction with the instrumentality of kindred institutions, who will not give God thanks that he has enlarged, at its disposal, the measure of the silver and the gold which are his. From the favour of which this is one expression—the growing success which aids expression to expression of the favour of him whom you serve, towards the work which you endeavour to do; you may well take up, the observation of my valued friend, Mr. Chalmers, and look upon your present position, not only as a position worth maintaining for the glory of the King of Kings, but a position demanding of you that you send the army in advance, well furnished, going on "conquering and to conquer" yet more. (Hear, hear.) I say this on the ground of your own saticies. They have not been undervalued by the Rev. Doctor who preceded me, although he made a reference but to one of the items. I have compared these items in the report of the last year, with the present; and, from the entire scope, I come to this conclusion, that in every sense in which one can regard prosperity to be desirable,—in every point of view in which you can trace the result of the divine wisdom and blessing, you have reason to rejoice, and take your present position as an omen of better days, and more abundant blessing to come. (Applause.) For, Sir, I find the increase for the year thus—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Circuits 34, Chapels and preaching Stations 699, Missionaries and Assistants 34, Other agents—Stipendiary and unpaid 827, Church members 5,163, Scholars 4,230.

I do not mean—mistake me not—I do not mean that you are to limit the measure of the Holy One of Israel to this arithmetic. You are, rather, to look at it in this point of view:—Here is not only so much ground possessed, here are not only so many focal points of light created,—but here is the vantage ground from which you step forth; and here are the depositories of the influence at once truthful and divine, from which the leaven is now spreading, and from which it will go on to spread,—the progression of intelligence and piety, under the Spirit of God, no man can compute,—while, blessed be his name, your advanced post in this thing, and then you will see, in the work before you, a grandeur ever shed upon the world ever increasingly appreciated,—until you feel that while, with all humility, fellow men. That principle cannot be disputed of the Mighty, the hand of the Mighty has upheld you, and carried you forward to the destined end of your consummation. (Applause.) Your Missionary Society realizes, to my mind, the vast idea of the new dispensation. (Applause.) The gospel not philosophy. (Rejoice.) And knowing that the gospel is the proper idea—that which is the power of God's remedy, and that we possess that which begins at Jerusalem, that which advances to the world: for, on whichever side I turn, I find your communications, in this happy land of ours, ever intent upon Missionary spoil. Look back! sir, with a world before us! Look back, with angels hailing us! Look back, with every circumstance ministering to our growth! Look back, with Christ himself at our head, giving us victory after victory to invite and command us forward! (Applause.) No, sir; if in the day of anxiety! if in the day of depression; if in the day when success seems to flag, we hear the sound, "Christ expects every man to do his duty," how is that sound deepened, and how is its proper conviction in our minds strengthened, when it comes from the fields that are whitening to the harvest. (Loud cheers.) One sentiment more, and I will not further intrude upon the patience of the meeting. (Applause.) Ever carry with you this idea, that you are associated with the work of God's Gospel by no accidental relationship. (Hear, hear.) Your work of Missions; your work of Missions; is no accidental or incidental thing connected with the Kingdom of Christ. It is the thing—the one thing—the only thing. (Loud and vehement applause.) Who can look upon the aspect of the world at this moment, and not see and feel, that Christ is, upon his glorious throne, with his holy catholic church throughout all the world, and with your own institution, which is not the least,—long may it be among the greatest,—of the institutions of the land. (Loud applause.) O, where is the bright sample of philanthropy around which angels gather to behold its glory,—at once the pattern of what human excellence is destined to be, and the glorious hand by which it is to be made such? And where shall we find a philanthropy soft-breathing, world-embracing, wise-devising, mighty-executing to compare with the "love of Christ which constraineth us?" (Hear, hear.) As the eye of piety strains its nerve to catch a glimpse of the promise which assures a waiting church, that the time of God's redeemed is well nigh come; and as the heart of piety, looking upon all the abomination that is done under the sun, lifts up its voice to the Lord God of Sabbath and says, "O Lord, how long, how long? Let not the enemy vaunt himself."—and, as the eye desires to see, and the heart to feel the assurance, that the good time is coming, look at the growth of our Missionary institution, the warm heart of our Missionary churches, the full purpose-bent of our Missionary heralds, and the tokens of Missionary blessing which are accumulating upon the records of every Evangelical Association, and then the heart rejoices, and then the tear is exchanged for the glisten of hope and triumph, and the voice is lifted up;—"Even so, come Lord Jesus; come, and give thy people a willing heart to consecrate yet more to thee." (Loud applause.) Come and give wisdom in a greater measure to them to whom is consigned the direction of thy work. Come and baptize, with a richer unction, all who have gone forth in thy name to do thy battle and win thy victory.

"Come, thou long expected Jesus, Come and set these people free." And let the Church, with one heart, as with one voice, strive, wrestle for this; care for no other striving; enter into no other contest; and then the peaceful kingdom, the radiant glory, and the fulness of that kingdom shall be ours; and we on earth, the representatives of him who is in Heaven, while he is our advocate there, shall take it by force, every nation blessing the hand which smiteth off their fetters, and exalteth their souls to God. (Applause.)

The Rev. PETER MCOWAN, (of Liverpool), said—Sir, and Christian friends, the circumstances through which this great Society has been called to pass during the last twelve months have led myself, and I may say the great body of the Society's friends in the provinces, to review the principles upon which its operations are founded, and the great results that it has wrought out. And it affords me unspeakable pleasure, on this occasion, to say, that that examination of principles and results has issued in the confirmation of our faith, in the exciting of our hopes, and in increase of our zeal. (Hear.) I cannot but feel that I and all who advocate this great cause stand upon firm ground. What are our principles? One of them is, that man where ever he is found is fallen, a sinner, the victim of an influence at once truthful and divine, from which the leaven is now spreading, and from which it will go on to spread,—the progression of intelligence and piety, under the Spirit of God, no man can compute,—while, blessed be his name, your advanced post in this thing, and then you will see, in the work before you, a grandeur ever shed upon the world ever increasingly appreciated,—until you feel that while, with all humility, fellow men. That principle cannot be disputed of the Mighty, the hand of the Mighty has upheld you, and carried you forward to the destined end of your consummation. (Applause.) Your Missionary Society realizes, to my mind, the vast idea of the new dispensation. (Applause.) The gospel not philosophy. (Rejoice.) And knowing that the gospel is the proper idea—that which is the power of God's remedy, and that we possess that which begins at Jerusalem, that which advances to the world: for, on whichever side I turn, I find your communications, in this happy land of ours, ever intent upon Missionary spoil. Look back! sir, with a world before us! Look back, with angels hailing us! Look back, with every circumstance ministering to our growth! Look back, with Christ himself at our head, giving us victory after victory to invite and command us forward! (Applause.) No, sir; if in the day of anxiety! if in the day of depression; if in the day when success seems to flag, we hear the sound, "Christ expects every man to do his duty," how is that sound deepened, and how is its proper conviction in our minds strengthened, when it comes from the fields that are whitening to the harvest. (Loud cheers.) One sentiment more, and I will not further intrude upon the patience of the meeting. (Applause.) Ever carry with you this idea, that you are associated with the work of God's Gospel by no accidental relationship. (Hear, hear.) Your work of Missions; your work of Missions; is no accidental or incidental thing connected with the Kingdom of Christ. It is the thing—the one thing—the only thing. (Loud and vehement applause.) Who can look upon the aspect of the world at this moment, and not see and feel, that Christ is, upon his glorious throne, with his holy catholic church throughout all the world, and with your own institution, which is not the least,—long may it be among the greatest,—of the institutions of the land. (Loud applause.) O, where is the bright sample of philanthropy around which angels gather to behold its glory,—at once the pattern of what human excellence is destined to be, and the glorious hand by which it is to be made such? And where shall we find a philanthropy soft-breathing, world-embracing, wise-devising, mighty-executing to compare with the "love of Christ which constraineth us?" (Hear, hear.) As the eye of piety strains its nerve to catch a glimpse of the promise which assures a waiting church, that the time of God's redeemed is well nigh come; and as the heart of piety, looking upon all the abomination that is done under the sun, lifts up its voice to the Lord God of Sabbath and says, "O Lord, how long, how long? Let not the enemy vaunt himself."—and, as the eye desires to see, and the heart to feel the assurance, that the good time is coming, look at the growth of our Missionary institution, the warm heart of our Missionary churches, the full purpose-bent of our Missionary heralds, and the tokens of Missionary blessing which are accumulating upon the records of every Evangelical Association, and then the heart rejoices, and then the tear is exchanged for the glisten of hope and triumph, and the voice is lifted up;—"Even so, come Lord Jesus; come, and give thy people a willing heart to consecrate yet more to thee." (Loud applause.) Come and give wisdom in a greater measure to them to whom is consigned the direction of thy work. Come and baptize, with a richer unction, all who have gone forth in thy name to do thy battle and win thy victory.

if any of the Lord's followers are for a time opposing you, Christ will shed light on their hearts and minds. (Hear, hear.) They cannot continue enemies of this cause. (Hear, hear.) They must apostatise from Christ, before they can become confirmed opponents of the great Missionary cause. (Repeated plaudits.) We pray God, that every vestige of prejudice, and every cloud of mistake, which makes any one of Christ's followers an opponent, less or more, of this cause, may be dissipated. For we know that, as the true light shineth, as the hallowing dews of heaven descend, and as the shadow of the cross of Christ comes over each of them, they will vow allegiance to the cause like us, they will emulate us in zeal and in effort, and "crown Emmanuel Lord of all." (Applause.) Let us but have the "love of God abroad in every man, and child," I do rejoice that the children of our Christian our children have raised about £70 for your Juvenile Offering. (Applause.) The zeal with which many of them went about their work was honourable to Methodism; for that zeal was great indeed. (Hear, hear.) But I beg pardon for occupying so much of your time. I can only say, that I have been led to make these remarks about principles, because ever since I entered this room, I have felt that we were standing on a rock, under the banner of the King of Kings, and that all opposition to this cause must be just like that which is offered by the pebble which meets the ocean wave as it comes with the swelling tide. (Reiterated plaudits.) I feel that all opposition to this cause must be just like the rising sun. (More applause.) God is with us! God is with us, I say. (Great plaudits.) But not one vaunting word shall I utter. The dust is my place. And I believe the directors of this great Missionary Society, and those who are most zealous in supporting it lie deepest in the dust. (Hear, hear.) Not unto us—not unto us; but unto thee, O Emmanuel, be the praise and the glory of every atom of success, for which we give thanks this day! (Applause.) With these remarks I beg to second the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN put the resolution to the meeting, and it was agreed to unanimously. (To be Continued.)

GENERAL MISCELLANY.

Central America.

That Central America possesses inherently all the essentials to attract a dense and vigorous population, is a fact that has rarely been doubted by those Europeans or Americans who have visited the country, and all the publications before us tend to confirm it. The researches of Mr. Stephens showed that it had been largely peopled by an aboriginal race of a remarkable character, and the size of its towns and its architectural remains give evidence of comparative prosperity under the old Spanish dominion. Leon, the principal city of Nicaragua, was formerly noted for its opulence, and once contained 50,000 inhabitants, who were among the most peaceful and industrious people in the country; while it has now, it is said by Mr. Bailey, not more than one-third of that number, and half the place is in ruins. This is simply owing to the wretched revolutionary contests that have gone on without intermission since the declaration of independence. If the reign of peace were established, the progress of the country, apart from the effects of a large European immigration, would of itself be steady and considerable. With regard to health, the varied productions of Central America give the best evidence that whenever the country shall be opened up by roads and steam-boats, and all the locomotive appliances of modern science, there will be no condition of person who may not, by ordinary attention to the natural laws, enjoy in this territory all the physical power of which his constitution is capable. On the banks of the St. Juan, and in other parts of Nicaragua, there are elevations that would afford the most beneficial sites for farms and residences; while in Costa Rica, San Salvador, and indeed in all the states, table lands more or less abundant, where any condition of climate may be obtained in a few hours. In Guatemala may be seen fields of wheat and peach trees, and large districts "resembling the finest part of England on a magnificent scale." Valuable mineral and thermal springs are likewise distributed over the various localities, and there are other adjuncts of a creative kind, which may possibly be found to yield extensive results, and to present even a temptation to some classes of invalids. Amongst these is an animal called the *marmalee*, between a quadruped and a fish, about ten feet long, weighing from 500 to 800 lbs., affording a quality of food, and possessing a medicinal quality apparently analogous to the cod-liver oil, it being alleged to be strikingly effective as a speedy cure for scorbutic or scrofulous disorders. In point of natural riches, Nicaragua and Costa Rica have usually been spoken of amongst

the various States as possessing the most abundant resources. In the plain of Nicaragua fields are covered with high grass, sturdy noble trees and herds of cattle. Corn, rice, Indian corn, bananas, yuca, and cotton, are produced, and mahogany, cedar, abound in the forests. On the eastern shore of the lake there are cattle farms on which herds of from 10,000 to 40,000 oxen, horses, mules and asses are bred, and for burden. Sheep are reared in plains, and swine are kept for exportation from one of the West India Islands his conviction, in reference to the round Lake Leon, that provided he had the same amount of labour, he could produce sugar at one-fourth its cost in the West Indies. At present it is sold in Nicaragua three half-pence per pound. Each banana San Juan is covered with valuable woods and descriptions, and the land is fertile. With regard to the wealth of Nicaragua, Mr. Byam made interesting observations. Amongst the products which Mr. Bailey points out as temptations to the cultivator, are fruit of various kinds, indigo, and the mulberry worm.—Agricultural implements are wholly wanting. The hoe and the mat are the only substitutes for the plough, the scythe, the sickle. From the distance of the markets, a good bullock worth from four to six dollars.—*British Westminister Review.*

Influence of Colds on Health.

A week or two since we addressed long articles to our readers, under the title of Colds. A portion of those were taken from the American Phre Journal, the editors of which have pressed the opinion that colds were two of the most prolific causes of sickness and premature death. The son he predisposed ever so much more, as long as he can keep from his consumptive tendency will I will be old; yet even those who often induce this disease by severe colds. Those who are afflicted with rheumatism, if they from taking colds, get along until the moment they get a cold, they torture them in exact proportion to the duration.—Those who teeth ache, at times, suffer only have taken a cold, and to break is to kill such a toothache. Cold the bowels, and all its evils, are by colds. So are palpitations of indigestion, boils, and sores, in species of disease. And what are forms of fevers but colds? No yet occurred not in nature, directly cold. Not but that other causes are. Indeed, fevers are kindle burn up morbid matters in the are friends to life, and hence broken up, but allowed to unfold of disease; yet as long as the popen, such morbid matter is as fast as it accumulates, who soon as this avenue of escape colds—and in what else do you closing such a vein?—this it accumulates to such a degree as to interfere with, if not threaten, er which kindles up this feverish this rubbish.—Fevers always gr the respiration, or amount of air oxygen inhaled, which is and this theory. What does the c haled do but combine with the ealed by the stomach? Nothing of course, whatever increases oxygen, thereby proportionally consumption of carbon, which the editors give it as their the that almost all forms of disease are the superabundance of system, and hence that the two disease are colds and over-acti aracting the evacuation of through the skin, and thus system, and the latter supplies this element.—*Fitzgerald's G.*

Changes in the earth's

One of the most interesting modern research, is the fact of Lyell, Darwin and others, a continuous upheaving or depression of land in different parts resulting from the progress of changes. Between the latitude Upar, and of a line drawn through Sweden from the Baltic to the land is gradually rising, at the about four feet in a century, that southern limit there is a and gradually sinking, and the land towards the level sea. From the fact that the rising of each part of South and other parts of the land