

BREAD.

There is one fact which we have seen mentioned that perhaps has a very essential bearing upon its increased value. It is said that one hundred thousand bushels of grain are consumed monthly, in this city, in the manufacture of whiskey. One hundred thousand bushels of grain will make twenty thousand barrels of flour or meal; and twenty thousand barrels per month give two hundred and forty thousand barrels per annum, that might be converted into nourishing food, but are converted into destroying poison. We are not advised what is the annual consumption of flour in New-York, but let it be what it may, two hundred and forty thousand barrels taken out of the hands of the bakers and put into those of the distillers must make an immense difference, they must bear a very large proportion to the entire consumption of bread and other preparations of flour.

We are perfectly aware that the investigation of this fact, if it is a fact, and of its consequences, would involve a discussion of the broadest and most important principles of political economy, for which we have neither time nor the requisite knowledge of that very dubious science. But we may venture to ask whether the diversion of so vast a quantity of flour from its legitimate destination, to wit, the ovens of the bakers, has not some effect in creating the scarcity which causes the high price; and whether, if the two hundred and forty thousand barrels were not made into whiskey, the barrel would not be sold at five or six dollars, instead of the nine or ten at which we believe, it is now held by the dealers.

We do not enter, at present, upon the consideration of various other highly important topics connected with the serious fact to which we have adverted; such as the fatal influence upon society and upon individuals, exerted by these twelve hundred thousand bushels of grain, after their submission to the worm of the still—the horrors of intemperance—the corrupted degraded frames of its victims—the wretchedness of their families—the crowded state of our penitentiaries, state prisons and hospitals, mainly imputable to that terrible vice—or the numberless offences against the laws of God and man, of which it is the remote or immediate cause. We are endeavouring to consider the matter simply as one of dollars and cents; and in doing so, we would ask if there is any sufficient or practicable remedy? Can any body suggest a mode, within the compass of legislation, by which, without producing other as great mischiefs, these two hundred and forty thousand barrels of flour can be rescued from the mash tub and brought into the oven? If such a mode can be devised, it would prove a blessing, not only to this city, but to the whole country, and perhaps to the world itself.

The question may be worth asking, by the way, what becomes of all the whiskey, distilled from these twelve hundred thousand bushels? We have a suspicion that much the larger portion of it is converted, by an easy but efficient chemical process, into good French brandy, and sold at something like four times its market value as the product of rye or corn. We have seen a glass of whiskey, fresh from the still, transmuted in half a minute, by the addition of eight or ten drops from one phial, and twice as many from another, into a high-coloured, high-flavoured liquid, at which many a veteran toper would smack his lips, in the honest belief that it was genuine Cognac. Ah! chemistry, chemistry! what an arrant deceiver art thou; playing more tricks than a whole company of magicians, and enacting changes as great and as puzzling to all but the initiated, as those of the best conjuror in the land.—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

The readers of the Spirit of Missions will peruse with pleasure, the following extract of a letter from the Rev. Wm. Parker, secretary of the society, in England, for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, not only as manifesting a kindly spirit toward the missionary operations of our Church generally, but when taken in connexion with the Rev. Mr. Hill's letter from Athens, as proving that the spirit of Christian love exists when our mutual operations abroad are found to meet. One lot in Athens is now to sustain an American Episcopal mission school building, and a chapel of the Church of England, in part reared by the venerable society above alluded to; and provision is made for mutual ministerial labour in the chapel.

Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, May 1836.

I was exceedingly rejoiced on learning that a domestic and Foreign Missionary Society had been formed under the immediate sanction and superintendence of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and I doubt not that this institution will prove a real blessing both to the inhabitants of the new settlements in America, and to our fellow men in many distant regions of the world. The establishment of such an institution does, in my opinion, redound greatly to the honour of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States; and the consecration of a missionary bishop, whose field of usefulness will be so extensive, is an event of singular interest and importance.

One of your missionary stations, I observe, is at Athens. It affords me much pleasure to inform you that the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has recently granted the sum of £100 toward the erection of a Protestant Episcopal chapel in that city. A proper site for the chapel has been provided by the Rev. Mr. Leeves, and I have reason to hope that the British government will contribute liberally to the building fund. The whole of the contributions raised for this laudable undertaking will be placed at the disposal of Sir Edmund Lyon, the British Minister plenipotentiary in Greece.

You may perhaps be aware that the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has transferred the missions in Southern India, which flourished for so many years under its superintendence, to the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts. This transfer was made because the incorporated society is strictly a missionary institution, in connexion with the Church of England; and because it has been enabled, by the extension of its charter, to turn its attention to the British possessions in the East. The Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, however, still continues to render most efficient aid to the missions and missionary establishments in the southern provinces of India.

The River Nile.—In a distance of 1300 nautical miles from the mouth of the Tacazze to the Delta, this river does not receive a single tributary stream, which, as remarked by Humboldt, "is a solitary instance in the hydrographic history of the globe." At the season of the annual inundation, the water of the Nile is received into vast canals and trenches, cut at great expense in all directions throughout the whole extent of the land; these trenches are closed so soon as the river begins to subside, and gradually opened again in the autumn, allowing the water to pass on to contribute to the irrigation of the Delta. The distribution of the Nile water has always been subject to distinct and minute regulations, the necessity for which may be estimated from the common statement, that scarcely a tenth part of the water of the Nile reaches the sea in the first three months of the inundation.

It is a fact worthy of notice, that the soil of Egypt, which was no doubt originally formed by the earth brought down during the annual rise in the Nile from Abyssinia and the interior of Africa, has increased in elevation through successive ages. The bed of the river, rising in the ratio, still keeps up the necessary inundation, otherwise the whole of Lower Egypt would long since have become infertile, as there is not sufficient rain to make it productive.—*Chr. Wit.*

From the British Magazine for September last.

HEREFORDSHIRE.—*Noble Bequest.*—Mr. James Barker, who recently died at Islington, was a native of Ross, Herefordshire, which he left nearly sixty years ago. He had accumulated a handsome fortune, and has bequeathed £20,000 to the Churchwardens and overseers of Ross, the interest of which is to be applied by them, after the death of a few aged annuitants, to the purchase of clothes, fuel and food for the poor.—*Watchman.*

STAFFORDSHIRE.—*Monument to the late Bishop Ryder.*—The committee for erecting a monument in Lichfield Cathedral, to the memory of the late excellent bishop of this diocese, have by the advice of Sir F. Chantrey, abandoned the idea they originally entertained, of having the venerable prelate represented as engaged in the solemn act of confirmation, and have resolved upon employing that eminent sculptor to execute a simple statue of the bishop. The cost will be £2000. Toward this sum £200 has been subscribed.

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

LUNENBURG, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1836.

In presenting to our readers the first number of the second volume of the COLONIAL CHURCHMAN, we crave their permission to offer a few remarks, which the occasion would seem naturally to call forth.—And first, we must express our cordial thanks for the support which has been extended, we will not say to us, (for in a pecuniary point of view we are not interested) but to the work under our management. That support has exceeded the expectations of our less sanguine friends, but has not come up to our own.—When we consider the numbers that belong to the Church of England in this province alone, we cannot doubt their ability to afford still greater encouragement to a journal devoted more especially to the interests of the Church and of religion in general. We trust that we do not regard our humble labours for the past year with undue complacency, when we presume to rest upon them a plea for continued patronage. We are not insensible to the defects which have marked our progress, but we think that if reference be had to our professions at the outset, it will not be found that we have come short of them in the pages which followed. Those pages contain a large amount of original matter, on subjects connected with the doctrines and discipline of the Church, and with practical religion. And in our extracts from other sources, we have endeavoured always to keep in view, as our grand object, the edification of our readers in sound knowledge and right practice. That some success has attended these endeavours, we are not without cheering evidence from those whose judgment we esteem. That satisfaction has not been afforded to all, is matter of regret rather than of surprise. We commenced our editorial labours with the determination, by God's help, to pursue a straight forward course, with His blessed word, and the doctrines and order of the Church for our guide; and we laid out our accounts for occasional collisions, and for encountering the rod of correction on the right and left. Nor have we been disappointed. We have had the pleasure on one hand, of witnessing what is called the 'manifestation of the spirit,' in sundry hard sounding epithets, crowned by not-to-be-mistaken wishes for the speedy death and burial of the Colonial Churchman. We had scarce recovered from the shock thus given to our editorial nerves, when there came hard knocks from other quarters, where we looked for the voice of encouragement alone. *Et tu Brute!*—we exclaimed, when these thrusts came upon us, and passed on to our humble labours with a wounded spirit. Then came complainings from some, that we had in our columns too much of this, or too little of that;—that we were too high church, or too low. From some, that our face was always too much the same; from others, that it displayed too many spots of various colours. In short, we have had the winds blowing upon us from all parts of the compass at the same time;—but notwithstanding, we have so far weathered the gale, and have derived some courage from the fact, that our subscription list has not materially felt its ruinous effects.—But to assume a graver tone, we have reason to believe that one conclusion may be drawn from these opposing animadversions, namely that the Colonial Churchman speaks not the language of PARTY—Such we desire to be its character. We would call no man master, and wish to be called by no other names ourselves than churchmen and christians, terms which ought to be synonymous. We hope to continue our course 'speaking concerning Christ and the church,' and diffusing scriptural instruction, and advancing the interests of our beloved church, as widely as we are allowed to travel.

We respectfully repeat our call upon our clerical brethren, to help us in a two-fold way, by the productions of their pens, and by the recommendation of the paper to their respective congregations. In regard to the former, we have had less assistance than we ought, when the ability and leisure of many are considered. How easily might