

JUVENILE MISSIONARY OFFERING

FOR 1852.

ADDRESS TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

Sixty-four Missions are supplied by this Society with faithful and laborious Ministers: fifty-one of these are Domestic, and thirteen Indian Missions. In connection with the Indian Missions, there are sixteen paid Teachers, and nine Interpreters.—Forty thousand immortal beings are regularly supplied with “the word” from the lips of a living, spiritual ministry, eight thousand eight hundred and fifty of whom are members of the Wesleyan Church.

This is truly a great and good work; but necessarily very expensive. Will you, our dear Children and young Friends, assist us in this time of need? You can do it easily and efficiently. Means are adopted for placing in the hands of each of you, this “Address,” on a *Christmas and New-Year’s Donation Card*. Let each of you furnish a small token of your gratitude to your Saviour for his Gospel, for your birth in a Christian land, for your connexion with

Christian parents or teachers, and for your education in Christian truths and privileges, by *giving*, or—if you really cannot give, or save, so much out of your own means—by *collecting* from some *twelve* of your neighbours, friends, or relations, the aggregate sum of at least **ONE SHILLING**, and by paying it, in the ensuing **CHRISTMAS-WEEK**, or in the **FIRST WEEK** of the **NEW-YEAR**. The Blessed God gave his only begotten Son for you, “to take your nature upon him, and, *as at this time*, to be born” into our world, that he might die for your sins, and accomplish the work of your salvation. Love and serve him, in return; pray that all the world may love and serve him too; and show the sincerity of your prayers, by *giving* or *collecting* at least *The Christmas or New-Year’s Missionary Shilling* now requested from you.

It is most desirable that in each successive year our young people should be brought to feel a personal interest in the Missions. This is to a great extent effected by employing them as Collectors during a season of more than ordinary leisure and joy and liberality. No young person thinks it impossible to save or beg a shilling for the Missions at Christmas; many have the will and ability to give and beg many times that amount; and whilst so engaged, they are incited to enquiry and thought on the subject of Missions, as to their nature and extent and operations, and they are led to seek and obtain information which is most suitable to them as junior members of Christ’s church, and which will have a beneficial effect on their own hearts and lives.

The access which is afforded to heathen lands for the teaching of the Gospel, is a

reason why the young should awake to new zeal in behalf of Missions. It was a frequent prayer of our fathers, that doors of entrance for the Gospel might be opened in distant lands. Those prayers have been heard and answered. “Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to the harvest.” “The harvest is great, but the labourers are few.” These are not the times in which a slackened effort will meet the demands of duty and opportunity. God, by his providence, has opened the world before us as a field of labour, and by his grace he has prepared the men for the work; and they who are on the Lord’s side are called to be workers together with him for the world’s salvation.

The success of past efforts is a reason why our young peoples should again put forth their best energies in this cause. Does not the success of the Missions among the Indians of Canada, and the natives of Feejee and Tonga, surpass even the sanguine expectations of our youth?—these more recent Missions having been equally fruitful with those in Ceylon and India, the late st benevolent projects of Dr. Coke, the chief founder of our Missions; whilst the oldest Missions in the West Indies, &c., as well as those in Africa, West and South, should excite our gratitude to God for the immeasurable good which they have effected, under the Divine blessing.

WHY SHOULD WE PRAY.

“O, dear,” thoughtlessly exclaimed a little boy, “I don’t see what’s the use of having *prayers* every morning.” His mother heard him, and sitting down she said: “Put your hand upon your heart. Now what do you feel beating, pit-a-pat, pit-a-pat, just as it was beating last night, and just as it has been beating for years? Who kept that little heart beating all last night? George did not stay awake to do it; for when I went to look at him before I went to bed, he was sound asleep, and he did not wake till morning; and yet it has kept on beating all night: if it had ceased beating, George would have died, and we would have had to put him down in the cold ground as they did little Arthur Green the other day.” “I know who keeps my heart beating, mamma,” said George, “it is God.” “O, it is God, is it?” said his mother; “then it would not be