

the ordinary receipts of £2,219, 5s. 5d. The sales for the year reached the sum of £167,101, 12s. 8d., being an increase of £3,700, 17s. 7d. The total receipts amounted to £86,200, 10s. 10d., being an increase of £2,787, 9s. 1d. The number of publications circulated in the year was 28,292,194, showing an increase of 915,619, and making the entire issues of the society, in 112 languages and dialects, including the issues of foreign and affiliated societies sustained or nourished by the parent institution, about 673,000,000.

The meeting was addressed by the chairman, Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., Rev. W. Gill, from Raratonga, Rev. Dr. Baylee, Rev. F. Monod, &c. Mr. Gill adduced a number of interesting illustrations of the manner in which the Tract Society lent its very efficient aid to the work of Christian missions abroad. He had himself been honored to take out the first grant of tracts from the society's house to Raratonga, which were received with inexpressible joy by the people of that island. This led the way to the establishment of a mission press there; and the first book printed was James' "Church Member's Guide," to which Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," and other works, succeeded; and it was a most interesting fact, that the press-work was done entirely by native young men, of the first generation after the overthrow of idolatry in those islands. The effect of these tracts and books, of the Bible, and of the oral teaching of the missionaries, was the total moral revolution of the people of Raratonga. They delighted now in reading religious books and hearing the gospel; and he did not suppose that twenty families could be found upon that island who did not have family prayer morning and evening; and yet these were the people who, thirty years ago, were wretched cannibals. To this and kindred societies, under the blessing of God, this great change had to be ascribed. Mr. Gill also referred to the love of singing divine songs which exists among the people, and presented to the chairman, amid the applause of the meeting, a small hymn-book, just issuing from the press, printed in the Raratongan language.

Dr. Baylee said there were many more infidels in England than might be supposed by the circulation of their publications; but, from a very extensive intercourse with working men, he could affirm, that comparatively few of them were speculative infidels, and thousands were ready to receive instruction in the truth, if the ministers of religion would take the trouble to go among them for that purpose. There were some men who had very strange notions about the "dignity" of the clerical office. Sydney Smith once said, that the Established Church was dying of dignity. When he (Professor Baylee) first saw that remark, he was not a clergyman; but he then resolved, if ever he should be, that he, at any rate, would not die of dignity. He had made special efforts to enlighten the working-classes on the subject of the Bible as the Word of God, and the true nature of Christianity; and he had found very few indeed, among those professing to disbelieve the truth of the Bible, who had taken the trouble to examine into the nature of the evidence on which those who believed it to be the truth of God relied. And as the result of an effort which had been made among the working-men of Liverpool, he might mention, that an association had been formed by them for the defence of the Bible. He was most glad to be able to state positively, from the extent of his knowledge of the mind of the working-classes, that infidelity is not progressing among them, but that true religion is. In Liverpool, he might say, there will this year be three thousand families subscribing their farthings, half, and

pence per week, to provide themselves with clergymen.

#### WESTERN MISSION SOCIETY.

This society was instituted for the purpose of affording aid to the missions established amongst Greeks, Turks, and Armenians, in the south-east of Europe and west of Asia. The American Board of Missions is the chief occupant of this field, supporting there at present 136 labourers, and consequently the largest proportion of the society's revenue falls to its share. The receipts for the year were stated in the report to amount to £1,854, 16s. 3d. Of this sum £1,121, 7s. 6d., has been remitted to the American missions in the Turkish empire; and, after paying the necessary expenses of the society, there remains in the treasurer's hands the sum of £200.

The first annual meeting of this society was held on the 19th of April,—the Earl of Shutesbury in the chair. Besides the chairman, the speakers were Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, Sir E. L. Buxton, Bart., the Rev. Dr. Marsh, the Rev. W. Arthur, the Rev. R. Herschell, and the Rev. D. Veitch.

The Rev. Dr. Marsh opened the proceedings with prayer. The Rev. Cuthbert Young read portions of the annual report, which was adopted and ordered to be printed. Two resolutions were unanimously passed. The one, proposed by Lord Robert Grosvenor, was, "That this society be called 'The Turkish Mission Aid Society;' that members of the society should be annual subscribers of half-a-guinea a-year; and donors of ten guineas annually, or donors of £50 or more at one time, shall be designated life-governors, and be entitled to deliberate and vote at all the meetings of the committee." The other, proposed by the Rev. Ridley Herschell, was, "That this meeting, feeling the great importance of missions to nominal Christians, rejoice in the increasing extension of the reformation in the Oriental churches, and the manifest success attending the labours of the missionaries in the Turkish empire, even amidst wars and rumours of wars; and thankfully acknowledge its obligations to the great Head of the church, for the privilege of being connected in any way with this glorious enterprise."

#### FRANCE.

*Annual Meeting of the Bible and Home Missionary Societies—Meeting of the Evangelical Alliance—Opening of the Chapels in Paris.*

PARIS, May 18, 1855.

The annual anniversary meetings of the Paris Religious Societies have been held this year a few days earlier than usual, viz., from the 17th to the 25th of April. They have been attended by few ministers from the country, many having delayed their visit to Paris until the exhibition be opened, and the general meetings of the Evangelical Alliance take place. The meetings were, however, good, and characterised by much zeal and practical earnestness. Most of the societies are progressing as to their work, though the war and consequent slackness of trade have diminished the receipts of some. As I made them known last year, I need only mention this time the principal facts in the reports, and the most striking incidents in the speeches.

Our Bible Societies are highly prosperous. Their sales have largely increased, especially in the provinces, since the proclamation of the dogma of the immaculate conception of Mary, by the holy see. The Protestant Bible Society has placed no less than 3,816