

of men, are beautiful and complete; and that no work of this nature can be promoted without effects resulting from it beyond the contemplation of those who undertook them. Thus your Missionaries are furnishing the most useful information respecting various branches of the family of mankind, which the merchant, the warrior, or the traveller, could not have afforded. With respect to the New-Zealanders, great interest exists with regard to them, as a distinguished branch of that South-Sea family, if not miraculously, at least wonderfully, spread over a vast extent of ocean. The character of their superstitions had been softened before religion was introduced; but the key to them was never found, till it was obtained by the Church and the Wesleyan Missionary Societies: and it is only now that an opening appears to be made among that furious, energetic, and able people to introduce among them the knowledge of the Redeemer of mankind. Nothing can more prove the spirit which the Lord is pleased to put into the hearts of the Missionaries in that country, than the heroism with which those pious men have exposed themselves to the extremest dangers, and even to martyrdom itself, in their endeavours to render to those misguided savages the most important services for this world and for that which is to come. After anxiously looking forward from one number of the Notices to the next, during that period when we could scarcely hope but to hear that they had furnished a horrid meal to those cannibals whom they were endeavouring to instruct, I could not but admire the dispensations of God's providence, whereby these very savages were involved in such circumstances, that their only means of escaping a bloody war, which they were desirous of avoiding, were to beseech these very Missionaries whom they had driven away, that they would mediate between the two parties, and prevent the effusion of blood. With respect to the east coast of Africa, I shall merely allude to the knowledge which your are giving to mankind of a nation which has been long sought after, but of which we had no knowledge, except from the imperfect accounts of the Mission of the Jesuits to Abyssinia, many years back. And not only have we gained an accurate knowledge of the people, but there is at this day a great triumph of the faith; for some of them are so desirous of receiving Christian instruction, that there is now contention between this marked and peculiar people to which nation the pious Missionary shall belong,—not how he shall be got rid of; and some of them are gravely and ably arguing who has the best claim to those strange white men whom the sea had cast up among them but a short time before. Another instance of God's special mercy to you has been, that, when those desolating tribes of barbarians, the people of Chaka,—who when they make war, spare neither man, nor woman, nor child,—were pouring down in thousands on your Stations, the hand of God interposed; the danger was averted; and now an opening is made among that people for the introduction of the Gospel. I beg pardon for adverting to one more topic, which I cannot pass over: I refer to a country in which you early laboured, and where you have been so abundantly successful,—which first took my attention and led me into that relation in which I now happily stand to you. I ardently felt the necessity of the object you have in view, before I stood, as I now do, connected with property in the West Indies, unsought for on my part and unalienable. I always was impressed with the great necessity and importance of meliorating the condition of the slaves in the West Indies, and of raising them from their degraded situation in civil society: to say nothing of the duty of bringing them to a knowledge of the Gospel. It is needless to mention the opinions I might form as to the political measures to be taken with respect to the slaves; as, when I came back to my native country, after many years' absence, I found that the question was in a state of extreme agitation; and I determined not to engage myself on either side, so as to be led to abandon those feelings which I had relative to the West Indies. But whatever may be done politically, or not done, the extreme importance of your Missions there must be acknowledged, not only in respect to the spiritual benefit of those for whom they were first designed, but even with a view to the quiet and benefit of the state itself. Because, supposing that extreme measures were taken for their freedom, there can be no doubt but that the

Slaves ought to go forth so instructed as to enjoy, without injuring others, whatever degree of freedom they might have conferred upon them; and supposing that moderate measures should be adopted, still it could be only Christianity which would qualify them for the blessings of final emancipation. I do feel that the nation would have much to answer for, should our West India Colonies be placed in the situation to have power entrusted to the Slaves, without their being previously qualified for it by education, and, still more, by religious instruction. It is perfectly clear to me, that the knowledge of God should be extended over the West Indies; by which means you will afford facility to any plan for the benefit of the Negro population: and, after much inquiry and reflection, I am well convinced of the benefit of your Missions in the West Indies, even in a temporal point of view, by hallowing marriage, and by giving some respectability even to the slaves themselves; so that it will be impossible to keep them in such a degraded situation as they now are in. This will be the most powerful means of bettering their condition, and of hastening their final emancipation, which must take place as a measure consequent upon the communication of Christianity; which having destroyed slavery in the old world, will eventually do the same in the new. I have said thus much, at greater length than I intended, in order that you may be sure I am not without feeling a deep interest in the concerns of this Society; and I most earnestly implore God's effectual blessing, through Jesus Christ our Lord, upon an undertaking so holy, and tending so much to the glory of God, and to the best interests of our fellow-men.

#### THE BURMAN MISSION.

The Rev. Mr. Boardman, in a part of his journal of last summer, published in the American Baptist Magazine, states, that a Burman by the name of Moung Bo, and a Chinese named Keo Keang, give strong indications in their conduct and conversation, of genuine piety. Several others appear so far seriously impressed, as to make them desirous to listen to the preaching of the Gospel. Mr. Boardman represented to them the importance of considering the evils and persecutions to which a profession of faith in Christ would expose them, assuring them that "he is no disciple, who believes to-day and denies to-morrow!"—The genuine friend of Christ embarks his all, when he enters on the Christian voyage; and he makes no provision for a retreat. In conversation with the Burman, he exhorted him, before he considered himself a Christian, to examine the subject with deep attention. He replied, "I have examined, and my mind is decided. I will no longer worship the pagodas or the images; and if my countrymen, my neighbors, my relations, revile me, let them revile; if they kill me, let them kill. I shall go to God, and be with Jesus forever. The present life is short, the future is eternal." A spirit of inquiry is prevailing amongst the people; and the conviction is obtaining, that the religion of Gaudama, or idolatry, is a deception. Some of the Burmans, however, are violent opposers; and they seem incensed against those of their countrymen, who listen to the preaching of the Gospel and renounce idolatry.—*Christian Watchman.*

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—From the Minutes of the several Annual Conferences for 1829, just published, it appears that the total number of Members is 447,743, being an increase above the number of last year, of 29,305; Whites, 322,679, Colored 62,814, Indians 2,226.

The number of travelling Preachers is 1,697, Supernumeraries 120—total 1,817. Last year the total was 1,642, making the increase since last year 175.

#### TEMPERANCE.

##### ADDRESS ON ARDENT SPIRIT,

Before the New-Hampshire Medical Society. By R. D. MURRELL, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in Dartmouth College.

CONTINUED.

The stomach and liver of drunkards are generally found to be disordered, the stomach frequently contracted, and the liver much harder than natural, exhibiting an unnatural colour both upon its surface, and throughout its interior. This, perhaps,

is what might be expected. The stomach receives the liquor, in the most concentrated and active form, in which it is taken into the body. From the stomach and the alimentary canal below, most, if not all of it, is probably carried through the liver in a state less dilute than when distributed among the remaining organs of the body. The texture of the liver too, which consists merely of vessels and nerves with enough cellular membrane to hold them together, may perhaps serve to show why it is more obviously affected than the alimentary canal, inasmuch as this canal has a distinct, and in some places, a thick muscular coat, independently of its vessels. The skin of the inebriate is always more or less affected. Its fair colour soon fades under the withering influence of ardent spirit; and from being smooth, soft and elastic, it becomes uneven, wrinkled and flabby, if the subject be somewhat advanced in life; or if young, the skin of the face is bloated, uneven, and frequently purple, and very often in middle life and after, a large crop of red pimples is the only ornament the face exhibits.

The eye, that window of the mind, loses its pearly whiteness, its sparkling transparency, its quick and significant motions, and becomes dim, sluggish and unmoaning.

The various phenomena exhibited in the different stages of alcoholic influence, including its immediate and more permanent effects, and modified by age and constitutional temperament, would occupy more time in the enumeration, than can be spared on the present occasion. The case of him who has made free with his cups, till they have produced the following train of symptoms, is not unfrequently submitted to the consideration of a physician. The forehead and cheeks are swollen, pale and slightly tinged with yellow, the lips leaden coloured or pale, the eye yellow, dim and vacant, the lower eyelid loose and hanging, the upper lid several times its natural thickness, diaphanous and drooping, the body twice its natural circumference, the limbs tottering and swollen, the breath insupportably foetid, respiration difficult and wheezing, accompanied with a short dry cough. "Throw medicine to the dogs" in such a case.

The bodies of some few drinkers have been so thoroughly steeped in spirit, as literally to take fire and consume to ashes. It is said that no case of this spontaneous combustion has ever occurred, except among hard drinkers, and it is altogether probable that in every such case, an inflammable air has exhaled from the lungs or skin, or both, and has been kindled by the too near approach of a lighter taper, or some ignited substance.\* A French Chemist, it is said, after drinking a pint of ether during the day, used to amuse himself in the evening, by lighting up his breath, directed in a very small stream upon the flame of a lamp. Alcohol taken in large quantities, would probably in some constitutions at least occasion a similar vapour to be thrown from the lungs! and there is doubtless more danger than has been imagined, in a deep drinker's bringing his mouth or nose close to a lighted taper at evening.

The numerous and weighty considerations, some of which have been hinted at, and which a reflecting man must surmount, before he can make up his mind to be regarded as a drunkard, place in a striking view the strength of the appetite, which is created by a long and habitual use of spirit. Instances might be referred to, which set this in a painfully strong light.

A few years ago, a tippler was put into an alms house in a populous town in Massachusetts. Within a few days he had devised various expedients to procure rum, but failed. At length however, he hit upon one which proved successful. He went into the wood yard of the establishment, placed his hand upon a block, and with an axe in the other, struck it off at a single blow. With the stump raised and streaming, he ran into the house, crying, "get some rum, get some rum, my hand is off!" In the confusion and bustle of the occasion, a bowl of rum was brought, into which he plunged the bleeding member of his body, then raising the bowl to his

\* As Alcohol is strongly allied to ether in its chemical relations, and as it is capable of passing from the stomach into other organs without having its inflammability destroyed, as in the case mentioned in a preceding paragraph, where diluted gun was found in the brain, the wonder is, that instances of spontaneous human combustion should so rarely have occurred. Prouquet mentions twenty eight cases.