

Wesleyan Missions.

Home Proceedings.

Proposed deputation to Australasia; especially with the view of facilitating the introduction of a new arrangement for the management and support of the Society's Missions in Australia and Van-Diemen's Land.

At a Meeting of the General Committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, held at the Mission-House, Bishopsgate-Street-Within, on December 3d, 1851, and by adjournment on the 5th of the same month, a Report of the Sub-Committee of Reference was taken into consideration. This Sub-Committee, to which had been remitted questions relating to the Society's Missions in Australasia and Polynesia, in reporting upon those matters, recommended, that a deputation should be sent to visit Australia and New-Zealand, principally with the view of making arrangements by which the Australia and Van-Diemen's Land District may be left to manage, under the general supervision of the Committee, its own local affairs, and provide the pecuniary means requisite for its support. After much deliberation, the Committee unanimously adopted the following Resolutions, embodying their views and conclusions respecting the proposed Deputation:—

1. The Committee recognise as a principle, that as foreign Missions cannot, in the nature of things, always be maintained in a state of dependence upon Home-Societies, they ought, in many cases, as soon as they may have attained sufficient maturity, to be placed in a position in which they will be able to discharge the common obligation resting upon all the churches of Christ, to provide for their own support and perpetuation, and contribute their endeavours to disseminate the Gospel throughout the world; and the Committee are further persuaded that, if many foreign Missions are not in due time thrown, in a great measure, upon their own resources, they will be exposed to the temptation of leaning unduly upon the Home-Societies for support, instead of making those efforts to provide for themselves, which, in other circumstances, they would easily put forth.

2. The Committee are deeply impressed with the consideration, that the plan hitherto pursued of examining minutely at home all the accounts of the several Mission-Districts with all the details of their Circuit-expenditure, and of preparing specific instructions at the Mission-House for the arrangement and settlement of all the local affairs of the several Stations,—however proper this might be in the infancy of the Society,—requires now that the Society's scale of operations has become so widely-extended, such an amount of time and labour, as to make it difficult, if not altogether impracticable, to subject the whole to an efficient annual review; and that it has, therefore, become necessary, on this ground alone, that some of the older Colonial Missions of the Society should, as early as possible, be placed on such a footing as will relieve the Committee from all the details involved in their management; in order that a much larger portion of time may be left at the command of the Committee for the effective management of Missions in Heathen countries.

3. The Committee are fully convinced that the Society's Missions in Australia and Van-Diemen's Land have so greatly risen in importance, that they cannot longer be advantageously comprised in one District; and that some important alteration is urgently required for the ecclesiastical and general management of these interesting Missions. They further advert with great satisfaction to the fact, that the instructions which they have from year to year sent out, for the special purpose of preparing the District or such a change as is now proposed, have been so faithfully attended to by the Missionaries in the District, under the able superintendence of the Rev. William B. Joyce, that a Contingent-Fund, Chapel-Fund, and other Connexional Funds, have been instituted, and placed, as at home, under the direction of Mixed Committees; and that, in all respects, the District has for some time been worked with the special view of its being placed, at an early period,

in such circumstances as will very much relieve the Committee from that pressure which necessarily results from the present mode of management. And looking at these two circumstances in combination,—the difficulty now experienced in advantageously managing the District in its present form, and the preparation which has been made for the introduction of an improved state of things,—the Committee are decidedly of opinion, that the time has come for placing the Australia and Van-Diemen's Land District in a position to act, to a great extent, for itself, and provide for its own support, on such a plan, however, as will afford a guarantee for the maintenance of the great doctrinal and disciplinary principles of our Connexional Union, and for the faithful approbation of such pecuniary aid from our General Fund as may for a time be found necessary for the successful accomplishment of the plan.

4. As it is manifest that it will not be practicable to secure the introduction and well-working of a suitable plan merely by means of epistolary correspondence, but that consultation must be had with the Missionaries and friends upon the spot, with the view of securing their hearty co-operation, and of obtaining the local information requisite for the adjustment of a variety of details which the plan must include, the Committee resolve that two competent individuals be engaged to visit Australia and Van-Diemen's Land, with full instructions as to the main principles and leading features of a plan which shall secure the union of the Society's extensive Mission in those Colonies with the Conference and the Committee, as an affiliated branch of the Wesleyan Connexion; but shall, at the same time, leave to it free and separate action, under the obligation to provide for its own perpetuity and support.

5. In the further proposal of the Sub-Committee of Reference, that the Deputation shall also visit New-Zealand, the Committee entirely concur. Although the affairs of that District have recently been carefully examined, and such measures have been adopted as circumstances appeared to require, the Committee deem it very desirable that sufficient time should be allowed for the Deputation to Australia to visit New-Zealand, with power to inquire into any matters which may require further consideration, and especially to consult with the General Superintendent, and the other Missionaries and friends, with the view of ascertaining whether more convenient District arrangements could be adopted for the prompt and efficient transaction of the greatly increased business of this important Mission.—*Wesleyan Notices, Jan., 1852*

Family Circle.

The Bird and the Child.

"Cherry is dead, father," said a little prattler to us the other morning, with a tear in her eye, and sorrow in her tone. "Ain't you sorry Cherry is dead? He will never sing for us any more."

The favourite bird that we had nurtured for many a year, that was ours before it began to sing, and whose sweet notes had enlivened the house and filled our hearts with sympathetic music, was indeed dead. Sincere mourners were their children, and they hid away the little senseless creature in some by-place of their own, where no living thing might molest it, and as they expressed their regrets that they could no longer share with Cherry their daily food, and with their sorrow came the questions of a child's philosophy, as to whether the bird had gone, and whether they should ever see it again.

Our thought flowed deeper, and took a wider range. In the chamber where the little bird had died, lay a sick and suffering child, and to the heart that yearned over that little one, there was unspeakable relief in the thought that the bird and not the child was dead. Never did the compassionate interest of the Saviour in little children appear to us so lovely and consoling. Indeed, God careth for the little bird, and not a sparrow falleth to the ground without Him; but for children he has covenanted

grace and mercy, and has said, "Suffer them to come to me."

You have a favourite bird that relieves your solitude by his merry song, that feeds from your hand, perches on your shoulder, and gambols on the carpet at your feet. You are conscious of a warm attachment to the little creature, which he seems to appreciate and to return. Some morning you miss his cheerful note; his matin warblings do not greet the rising sun; and going to his cage, you find him dead.

A feeling of sadness comes over you. You grieve at the extinction of life in a creature to which life was all enjoyment; you grieve at the loss of a companion upon which you had become more dependent for your enjoyment than you were before aware. And yet you do not once think of that bird as living still in other climes. You do not imagine that you shall ever see it again, nor think it strange that its existence has come to an end. For affection's sake you may bury it in your garden, instead of throwing it into the street, or may have it embalmed for preservation. More than this would be a profane burlesque upon the most solemn and tender rites. It gives you no shudder to think that the being of that bird is annihilated. Neither the exquisiteness of its structure, nor the softness and richness of its plumage, nor the melody of its song that enlivened your dwelling, suggests to you the thought that it cannot be utterly and forever dead.

But God has given you another favourite, dearer far than bird of richest plumage and sweetest song; a prattling child, that breaks your morning slumbers with its happy voice attempting to speak your name; that tries to win your notice by a thousand pretty arts; that climbs upon your knee, or totters by your side, or gambols at your feet in bosomous glee. That child hath not yet lived so long as your bird, nor has it made any like progress towards its maturity, yet hath that child a hold upon your heart that no other creature can ever gain.

Some morning you awake, but not at its call you listen for its voice, but hear it not; you go to its cradle to find it dead. Perhaps you had watched over it in sickness, and had seen it fall into its last sleep, and having lain down to rest, had awoke from a dream, forgetting for the instant that the child was dead; or perhaps some sudden and unknown cause had terminated its life when you knew it not. But ah! what grief and anguish now come over you! No song of bird can now relieve your aching heart. A sweeter voice is hushed in death; a brighter, sunnier life has been extinguished. And yet you cannot for one moment feel that your child is utterly and forever gone. You seem to see his spirit hovering nigh. You know he is not dead. You call your friends and neighbours, and with solemn and decent rites commit his body to the dust—not for affection's sake alone, but for hope's sake also; for a voice without you says, I shall see him yet again. And has God implanted in us these unnumberable yearnings of affection, only to be crushed and disappointed for ever? Nay; the fond hopes that gush out with our tears, and so relieve our loss, and make us serene in sorrow, are angel voices, whispering to us of immortality in the mansions of the blessed. Weep not, fond heart, for the child departed; "he is not dead, but sleepeth;" "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." The voice of nature teacheth thee what God had forbidden to reveal in his Word. It needs no revelation to assure thee that thy child hath not met the fate of thy bird, but hath soared to the empyrean of the blessed, which wing of bird essays in vain.—*Independent.*

The Shoe Ties.

"Mother, Mr. Kidd has come to measure me for my new shoes." May I not have ties to them like cousin Lucy's? They only cost sixpence."

"Why, my child, I think they will look quite as well without ties."

"But, mother, when they cost so little, I should think you might gratify me."

"Well, dear, we will let Mr. Kidd make them without, and they can be just as well put on when the shoes come home."

At night little Caroline was walking out with the servant, when a shower of rain

came on, which obliged them to enter a poor-looking cottage. A venerable old man, who seemed to have been confined to the house for some time, was propped up in a great arm-chair, against the chimney corner. A sickly-looking child was crouching over the dying embers, vainly endeavouring to rekindle them; a young woman, with an infant in her arms, was hushing its little murmurs. Caroline was struck with the general view of the objects around her, but principally concerned when she saw that the little girl was without shoes or stockings. The servant made many inquiries, which Caroline repeated to her mother, not forgetting the little barefooted child.

Mrs. Mosely went the next morning to the cottage, and having satisfied herself that the tale of distress was really true, she proceeded to do what she could for the relief of the cottagers. But first of all she called her children together, and asked what each of them could afford to give on the occasion. Caroline was the youngest, and unhappily had nothing to offer; but she very prettily said, "Mother, I shall be quite contented without bows to my shoes, if you will be kind enough to add that sixpence to the money which my brothers and sisters are going to give. I thought sixpence was very little, but now I see how much some poor people suffer for the want of it."

The Little Boy and the Rose.

A little boy was allowed one day to ramble about a garden, in which were many choice flowers; but he was desired not to touch any of them. He, however, soon forgot what was said to him; and seeing a pretty rose, he ventured to pluck it. In a few minutes his finger streamed with blood, for it was severely scratched, and he cried bitterly, and ran to his sister. She bound up the wound but reproved him. "Ah, brother, if you had minded what was said to you, and not gathered the rose, you would not have been wounded by the thorn."

Forbidden pleasures always lead to pain. If children will be satisfied with the indulgences given to them, they will be safe from the consequences of wilfulness or disobedience; but when they think they are wiser than their parents, they are sure afterwards to have reason to be sorry. Children suffer in the end more pain from reproval, chastisement and shame, when they do things forbidden by their parents, than they enjoy pleasure in the performance of them.

Obituary Notices.

For the Wesleyan

Mrs. Sarah Cann, of Yarmouth.

Died at Yarmouth, on the 21st of December. Mrs. SARAH CANN, wife of Mr. Lyman Cann, aged 47 years.

Mrs. Cann, whose maiden name was Bane, was brought to God when about seventeen years of age; soon after which she joined our Society, and was one of the first Wesleyans in Yarmouth. For the space of thirty years she was a consistent member, regularly attending all our religious ordinances; her heart was ever open to all good, and her hand ever stretched out to supply the wants of the needy. Her religious experience was clear and satisfactory, and her walk before the world irreproachable. In her death, her husband has lost a kind partner; her children an affectionate parent; her neighbours a generous friend; and the Church a faithful member.

Her last illness was only about four days.—She bore her affliction with christian fortitude, and assured her weeping family, that she was happy in God, and had a well-founded hope of everlasting life. Her end was peace.

Mrs. Bethia Bane, of Yarmouth.

Mrs. BETHIA BANE, mother of Mrs. Cann departed this life, Feb. 16th. On Sabbath, Feb. 1st, Mrs. Bane, who was aged 72 years, was at the Milton Chapel. She came in while I was addressing the Sunday School—and several persons remarked the quickness of her step, and her healthy appearance. During singing and prayer, she appeared perfectly well; but soon after I had announced my text, she was suddenly seized with palsy, and carried out of the chapel.—She was heard indistinctly to say to those, who removed her, the word, "Palsy." Her speech shortly afterwards left her, and yesterday morning she died. W. WILSON.

Yarmouth, Feb. 11, 1852.