

Missionary Record.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

The Committee of this valuable Society are preparing a report of their operations during the past year. It is not yet ready for publication, but by the kindness of the Rev. T. B. Murray, one of the secretaries, we are enabled to give some important extracts from it. It appears that so many and various have been the forms of applications for assistance, that the report, for a single year may be considered a representation of the Society's operations during the lengthened period of its history. For, although its more immediate and direct connection with schools for the poor, according to the doctrine and discipline of the Church, was resigned in 1811 to the National Society, and the care of its Indian missions passed in 1821 to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the same zeal as heretofore is manifested by the board in the promotion of national education, by large gratuitous supplies of books, whilst the helping hand afforded towards the establishment of colonial bishoprics and the erection of churches in distant places of the earth, attest the desire of the Society permanently to promote Christian knowledge in the colonies and dependencies of the British empire.

One of the most important features in the proceedings of the Society during the last few years, has been the assistance which it has rendered towards the endowment of new bishoprics in the colonies. In the year 1840 it began this good work by a grant of £10,000 to the colonial bishoprics' general fund. Between that year and 1851, grants amounting to £8000 were made towards four colonial bishoprics. And in the past year the sum of £10,000 has been contributed towards the erection of five new sees, namely, Sierra Leone, the Mauritius, Borneo, and two bishoprics in the present diocese of Cape Town. This sum of £10,000 voted for new bishoprics, since the last annual report, makes a total of £28,000 in aid of the endowment of bishoprics in the colonies.

Another great object in which the Society has of late years been willing and glad to co-operate, is the erection of cathedrals in the colonies, upwards of £120,000 having been recently devoted by the board to this excellent design; whilst the efforts of the clergy and their flocks in raising smaller and humbler edifices to God's glory in remote and destitute missions, have been aided and encouraged by the sympathy as well as the substantial help of the Society.

The outlay occasioned by the discharge of the Society's appointed task at home has also been increasingly large.

During the past year more than 247 schools have been assisted with gratuitous supplies of publications, and 150 grants of books and tracts have been voted for parochial distribution.

Within the same period about 245 lending libraries have been established or augmented by donations of books, and upwards of 186 sets of books have been presented by the board for the performance of Divine service in new and additional churches and chapels, and in licensed school-rooms.

Ireland and Scotland have been materially aided with grants.

Many grants of prayer-books and religious books and tracts, from the fund of "Clericus," have been voted for the use of troops: the regulation of these grants having been duly framed in accordance with the will of the late Archdeacon Owen, who, during his life, had frequently under the name of "Clericus," made considerable benefactions to the Society for the promotion of its objects.

It appears by the last return that the total number of books and tracts issued between the audit of April 1851 and April, 1852, has amounted to 4,960,211.

By the report of the foreign translation committee, it appears that the committee have published translations of the Bible in French, Italian, Dutch, and German. The Spanish Bible is in the course of printing.

The New Testament has been published in Spanish, Maltese, and Arabic; and the Ogybwa New Testament is in progress. The Gospel according to St. Matthew has been printed in the language of New Zealand; and the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. John in the language of the Arawak Indians. The New Testament in Coptic and Arabic has been published.

FROM THE FAR NORTH WEST.

From the Lake Superior Journal.

Rev. Peter Jacobs, Ojibwa Missionary, returned to this place yesterday on his way to Montreal, from York Factory situated on Hudson's Bay, a short distance this

side of the North Bay. He came to the Sault on his way to that place on his boat last Spring, and since that time, with the exception of some two weeks spent at the Bay, he has been travelling to and from that truly hyperborean region. During this period of about six months he has traversed the vast extent of country between Lake Superior and Hudson's Bay, a journey going and coming not less than 4000 miles in length, in bark canoes, on foot and in small vessels.

This route lies by the way of the Red River on the north, Lake Winnipeg, Lake of the Woods, and other small lakes in that region; where there was water he travelled in his canoe, where there was none, his canoe was carried over portages on the shoulders of his voyageurs. On his return, in passing across Lake Winnipeg, he had the misfortune to be shipwrecked, in his frail birchen vessel, and of losing five hundred dollars in specie, together with all his clothes, equipment and valuables, his men and himself escaping barely with their lives.

Lake Winnipeg or the "muddy water" is a quiet large sheet of water, being about 300 miles in length and 60 in width, or about as large as Lake Erie. One solitary schooner of some fifty tons but then is all the vessel that sails over its broad surface, if we except the bark canoes of the voyageurs. It is said vessel belongs to the Hudson Bay Fur Company, and is employed in transporting furs and supplies on their way to and from Hudson's Bay, the Chief Factory of this great Company. Little as is known of the great northern lake, with its solitary vessel and its limited business, it is what Lake Superior was to the world twenty-five years ago, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that, as in the case of this lake, unknown resources and unforeseen circumstances, will in twenty-five years more, surround its shores with civilization, and cover its waters with steam and sail vessels. That it is a region rich in minerals there is no doubt from the testimony of many travellers. The time may come when Lake Superior will be but the half way place for business and travel to the North West.

We learn from Mr. Jacobs that Mr. McTavish, chief factor, and formerly stationed at this place, remains at the Bay; that Mr. Callenden, also for several years Agent of the Hudson's Bay's post here, has recovered his health, and has gone this season over the mountains to Columbia on the Pacific, and that the season has been pleasant and a favorable one for the business of the Company. We understand Mr. Jacobs means to give the public an account of his travels through this northern region. From his intelligence, and his long residence in the country, we doubt not his work will be exceedingly interesting, and add much to the present very limited stock of information in regard to this region of the far north west.

Youth's Department.

THE SWEARER REPROVED BY A CHILD.—It was an excursion day, and the cars were nearly full, when a lady, evidently in ill health, entered, leading a little son of four or five years.

She paused, and looked round in vain for a vacant seat. The gentleman by my side, perceiving her embarrassment, sprang to his feet, and politely offered his seat, which was accepted with a graceful acknowledgment.

She was about to take the little boy in her arms, when a gentleman on the opposite side extended his hand, saying with a winning smile, "Come here, my boy, come and sit upon my knee. I am better able to hold you than your mother is."

The child looked up for his mother's consent, and then joyfully sprang to the seat so kindly offered. For some few moments the gentleman amused himself by asking the child all manner of questions, drawing out his curious ideas, and listening with evident satisfaction to his artless replies.

Soon, however, his attention was drawn to an article in the paper he had just laid aside, and, giving the boy some sweetmeats, he entered into an earnest political discussion with another gentleman by his side. At first it seemed they only sought amusement, and jokes and laughter were freely intermingled with argument. But the contest gradually waxed stronger, until at length jokes were exchanged for profanity.

The boy had been very happy with his new friend; but when the first profane word was uttered, he looked up with astonishment. Tears gathered in his eyes, and laying the watch carefully aside, which had been given to him by the gentleman for his amusement, he slipped quietly to the floor, and fled to his mother.

"Where are you going, my dear?" exclaimed the gentleman, as he saw him moving off. "Come back,

my boy, come back. I thought you was very happy a few moments since; what is the matter now? Why do you leave me so suddenly? Come, you are a fine little fellow, come and see what I can find for you in my pocket." But the boy clung to his mother, utterly refusing the extended hand.

"Well now," exclaimed the gentleman, with evident chagrin, "this is very strange. I do not understand it. Come, my boy tell us why you left me."

"Tell the gentleman, my dear," said his mother, encouragingly, "why do you not wish to sit with him?"

"Because," said he, as he straightened himself back, and summoned all his resolution for the effort, "the Bible says we must not sit in the seat of the scorner."

The gentleman looked confounded. For a moment the blood rushed to his high expansive brow, and I thought he was angry. The mother also was surprised. She had not expected such a reply. But the man instantly regained his composure, and pleasantly said, "I hope you do not call me a scorner." The boy leaned his head upon his mother's shoulder, but made no reply. "Come tell me," continued he, "why do you call me a scorner?" The child looked up, and simply, but earnestly said, while a large tear stole quietly down his cheek, "I do not like, sir, to hear you swear so."

"O? Is it it, is it? Well," continued he, as the mother pressed her son to her bosom, and bowed her head to hide the tears which were starting in her own eyes, "come back and sit with me, and I promise you I will never swear again."

"Won't you?" asked the child earnestly; "then I shall love you very much indeed." Saying this he allowed the gentleman again to place him on his knee: but it was plain to be seen he did not go back with the joyful eagerness with which he had at first taken the seat.

The gentleman saw this. He felt that he had lowered himself in the esteem of that innocent and noble minded boy. The thought evidently gave him pain, and he did all he could to efface from his mind the unpleasant impression.

An explanation of this affecting scene, his mother said it was her custom to read a chapter in the Bible every morning to her son, explain it as well as she could, and then pray with him. That morning she had read the first Psalm; and when explaining to him the character of the scorner, among other vices, she had mentioned profanity. Not fully comprehending the subject, but resolved at all events to do right, he thought it was really a sinful act to sit for one moment with a man who had taken God's name in vain.

When, O when will mothers realize the vast amount of influence they are capable of exerting over their children? When will they realize the strength and permanence of those impressions received in childhood?

THIS HAND NEVER STRUCK ME.—We recently heard the following most touching incident. A little boy had died. His body was laid out in a darkened, retired room, waiting to be laid away in the lone, cold grave.

His afflicted mother and bereaved little sister went in to look at the sweet face of the precious sleeper, for his face was beautiful even in death.—As they stood gazing upon the form of one so cherished and beloved, the little girl asked to take his hand. The mother did not at first think it best, but as her child repeated the request, and seemed very anxious about it, she took the cold bloodless hand of her sleeping boy, and placed it in the hand of his weeping sister.

The dear child looked at it a moment, caressed it fondly, and then looked up to her mother through the tears of affection and love, and said, "Mother, this little hand never struck me!"

What could be more touching and lovely?

Young readers, have you always been so gentle to your brothers and sisters, that were you to die, such a tribute as this could be paid to your memory? Could a brother or a sister take your hand, were it cold in death, and say, "This hand never struck me?"

What an alleviation to our grief when we are called to part with friends, to be able to remember only words and actions of mutual kindness and love. How bitter must be sorrow, and how scalding the tears of an unkind child, as he looks upon the cold form, or stands at the grave of a brother or sister, a father or mother, towards whom he had manifested unkindness. Let us all remember that whatever we sow in this respect, that we shall also reap.—*Well Spring.*

GOLDEN RULE.—In reflections on the absent, go not farther than you would go if they were present. Resolve never to speak of a man's virtues before his face, nor of his faults behind his back: A golden rule, the observance of which would at one stroke banish from the earth flattery and defamation.—*Bp. Beveridge.*