

length, which was burning, that I might explore what was before us. As I was doing this, I was arrested by one of the Inquisitors, who laid his hand gently on my arm, and with a very demure and holy look, said, "My son, you must not take that with your profane and bloody hand; it is holy." "Well, well, I said, I want something that is holy, to see if it will not shed light on iniquity; I will bear the responsibility." I took the candle and proceeded down the staircase. I now discovered why the water revealed to us this passage. Under the floor was a tight sealing, except at the trap door, which could not be rendered close; hence the success of Col. De Lile's experiment. As we reached the front of the stairs, we entered a large square room, which was called the Hall of Judgment. In the centre of it was a large block, and a chain fastened to it. On this they had been accustomed to place the accused, chained to his seat. On one side of the room was an elevated seat, called the Throne of Judgment. This the Inquisitor General occupied, and on either sides were seats less elevated, for the holy fathers were engaged in the solemn business of the Holy Inquisition. From this room we proceeded to the right, and obtained access to small cells, extending the entire length of the edifice; and here, what a sight met our eyes! How has this benevolent religion of Jesus been abused and slandered by its professed friends.

The cells were places of solitary confinement, where the wretched objects of Inquisitorial hate were confined year after year, till death released them of their sufferings, and there their bodies were suffered to remain until they were entirely decayed, and the rooms had become fit for others to occupy. To prevent this practice being offensive to those who occupied the Inquisition, there were flues, or tubes, extending to the open air, sufficiently capacious to carry off the odour from these decaying bodies. In these cells we found the remains of some who had paid the debt of nature; some of them had been dead apparently but a short time, while of others nothing remained but their bones, still chained to the floor of their dungeon. In others we found the living sufferer of every age and of both sexes, from the young man and maiden to those of three score and ten years—all as naked as when they were born into the world. Our soldiers immediately applied themselves to releasing these captives of their chains; stripping themselves in part of their own clothing to cover these wretched beings, and were exceedingly anxious to bring them up to the light of day. But aware of their danger, I insisted on their wants being supplied, and being brought gradually to the light as they could bear it.

When we had explored these cells, and opened the prison doors of those who yet survived, we proceeded to explore another room upon the left. Here we found the instruments of torture, of every kind which the ingenuity of men or devils could invent. Among them was an image of the Virgin Mary, so contrived with spikes, knives, &c., that when a person went to kiss it, the arms closed, and the victim was pierced with a thousand wounds, and cut to pieces. At the sight of these the fury of the soldiers refused any longer to be restrained. They declared that every inquisitor, monk or soldier of the establishment deserved to be put to the torture. We did not attempt any longer to restrain them.—They commenced at once the work of torture with the holy fathers, and insisted upon the chief inquisitor kissing the image of the Virgin. He refused. They pricked him with their bayonets, and compelled him to do so, when the arms closed, and he was cut and backed to death in a most shocking manner. I remained till I saw four different kinds of tortures applied; and then retired from the awful scene, which terminated not while one individual remained of the former guilty inmates of this ante-chamber of hell, on whom they could wreak revenge. As soon as the poor sufferers from the cells of the Inquisition could with safety be brought out of their prison to the light of day, (news having been spread far and near that numbers had been rescued from the Inquisition), all who had been deprived of friends by the holy office, came to enquire if theirs were among the number.

O, what a meeting was there! about a hundred who had been buried alive for many years, were now restored to the active world, and many of them found here a son, and there a daughter;

here a sister, and there a brother; and some, alas! could recognise no friends. The scene was such that no tongue can describe. When the work of recognition was over, to complete the business in which I had engaged, I went to Madrid and obtained a large quantity of gunpowder, which I placed underneath the edifice, and in its vaults; as we applied the slow match, there was a joyful sight to thousands of admiring eyes. Oh! it would have done your heart good to see it; the walls and massive turrets of that proud edifice were raised towards the heavens, and the Inquisition of Madrid was no more.—*Western Citizen.*

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

THE BRITISH WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

THE hundredth or centenary Conference of the Wesleyan Methodists commenced its sittings at Sheffield, on Wednesday se'night. The various preparatory committees met on the preceding days, but the only proceeding of any particular interest was a project for the extension of the means of education in the Connexion. From the statistical report of the Education Committee, it appears that, exclusive of eleven circuits in England, and one in Wales, from which no returns have been received, the total number of day-scholars is 29,394; of Sunday-scholars, 401,333; of school-libraries, 1,153; of teachers in Sunday-schools, 78,051; and the total cost of Sunday-schools, £21,167 7s. 2d.

At the meeting on Wednesday, the first business was the filling up of the vacancies in the Legal fund. The Rev. J. Farren and the Rev. C. Hoole were chosen by ballot; the following by seniority:—Rev. Messrs. James Bunstead, J. Gostock, Jameson, Sleigh, M. Dunn, Dalby. For Ireland—J. Nelson and Phillips. For the office of President, twelve ministers were nominated, but of these four had only one vote each, two two votes, one three, another seven. The three highest were, the Rev. John Scott 150, Rev. J. Stanley 16, Rev. S. Jackson 15; and the former, his nomination having been confirmed by the Hundred, was duly inducted into office, the Rev. Dr. Hannah resigning the seals. The Rev. Robert Newton was chosen secretary almost unanimously—having 153 votes. The new president took his seat under great emotion, and delivered a speech characterized by simplicity, neatness, and good sense. He expressed his thanks for the confidence his brethren had reposed in him, and took encouragement under the heavy weight of responsibility, from the manner in which his election had been made. The remainder of the day after prayers, was occupied in appointing officers, and other routine business. Thursday was occupied in examining the list of candidates for the ministry, recommended by the several district meetings.—This part of the work has been much facilitated by the labours of the Examining Committee, which met in London previous to the Conference, and by whom the whole of the candidates had undergone a sifting examination, which occupied ten days. The number, it is expected, will be great, more than the Connexion will be able to employ in the present embarrassed state of the commercial affairs of the country.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

The *London Watchman*, when reporting the proceedings of the Wesleyan Conference, after alluding to the painful separation between pastors and flocks, arising from the unavoidable condition of that system of itinerancy which forms an essential and elementary portion of the constitution of all Methodist Churches, suggests the following urgent motives to the laity, for fervent prayer for the Ministers leaving or coming to their respective circuits, and for all who are engaged in the blessed work, in connection with their domestic and foreign operations.

"It is not necessary that we should urge upon our Wesleyan readers the duty of fervent prayer, not only for the ministers who may now be leaving or coming to their own respective circuits, but for all who are engaged in this blessed work, whether in connection with our domestic or foreign operations. Their own hearts will prompt to this. We may suggest, however, that there are special reasons for such supplication to be found in the present situation of public affairs.—The widely spread commercial depression and distress in this country; the turbulent state of Wales; the perilous state of Ireland, where it seems un-

certain at what hour the hitherto pent-up elements of rebellion may burst forth in some volcanic explosion, spreading devastation and ruin around; the formidable obstacles which the enemies of evangelical Protestantism generally, and of Wesleyan Methodism particularly, continue, with a zeal and perseverance worthy of a better cause, to accumulate in our path,—all render it urgently important that a more than ordinary outpouring of the spirit of wisdom and love and a sound mind should be vouchsafed to our ministers, who will have, in so many instances, the pastoral oversight of societies more or less directly exposed to the difficulties and dangers and temptations that may thus arise. It is no vain boast to say that loyalty to the Sovereign and obedience to the laws have always been inculcated by the preachers, and exemplified by the members of the Wesleyan Church. During the disturbance of the last autumn, it is believed that in no single instance was a Wesleyan found implicated; and with reference to Wales, testimony has recently been borne by the *Times* newspaper (a quarter from which we are not likely to receive unmerited commendation) to the efforts of our ministers for the promotion of order and tranquility. Still, however, since so many unexpected circumstances may occur in the ecclesiastical or political affairs of the country at large, or of particular districts, in which a wisdom purer and higher than that of man may be necessary to guide, it is most desirable that those who long for the welfare of our Zion should be constant and earnest in prayer to Him who has promised to give liberally and without upbraiding.—As regards hostility to our progress, we could point to many a little Repluim; where although the weapons of warfare are different, the spirit of opposition is scarcely less bitter than that by which the Amalekites were actuated when they fought against Israel. If we would secure victory for what we believe to be the cause of God, we must "stay up the hands" of those who are engaged on the Lord's side."

RAMATONCA.—"You will doubtless rejoice to hear that the Book of Psalms, and the two first Books of Moses, are in the hands of the people, and the third in the Press. By the time this reaches you, we hope the Five Books of Moses will be read by the inhabitants of this once heathen and cannibal race. It is truly gratifying and soul-cheering to perceive the ardent desire manifested by the people to possess the Psalms; which, with the New Testament, are daily read and highly prized by not a few. A few months ago, on my visits to the sick, I entered, unperceived, the house of a poor man who had been confined to his dwelling for more than two years. He was reading aloud a chapter in the Gospels. Soon as he saw me, almost forgetting his weakness, he attempted to raise his mat, and cried out, with such an expression of joy as I think I shall never forget, 'O Teacher, I have found it! I have found it! Here it is, here it is! Come and see,' turning over in haste the leaves of the sacred word, till he arrived at the precious portion! 'I have got it!' 'Well,' I said, 'what is that you have found, and which seems to fill you with so much delight?' 'Here it is,' showing me the second chapter of the Gospel by Luke—the birth of the Saviour announced by Angels! Oh, I have read it again and again, and my soul is filled with joy.' He had heard of it before. Frequently had it been read in public; but now his eyes saw it, and he read it in his own tongue, which produced such an ecstasy of joy. Ah! had you been present to have witnessed such a scene, I think it would never have been erased from your memory. Nor would you think any labor too great, for the wider spread of the invaluable treasure of God's word through all nations of the earth. By the side of this poor but good man, on his mat, I sat down, and conversed with him and family on the glad tidings contained in that chapter. You will bless God through Christ Jesus our Lord, to hear that in about six months afterwards he recovered; and has since joined the Church of Christ, with two of his sisters, who are among the most intelligent of our Church members, and are walking constantly with the rules laid down in that precious volume he so much prized. Let the friends of the Bible rejoice at such instances of God's infinite condescension to the poor heathen, and to Him give all the glory; and let it animate them to the most strenuous exertions, till all the nations of the earth be blessed with this sacred treasure."—*Pitman.*