

## Missionary Intelligence.

## SOCIETY S. P. G. F.

REPORT FOR 1853.

At the commencement of the present year an attempt was made to procure from the Society's Missionaries abroad more abundant information respecting the work which they are carrying on. The want of such information has been long felt as one of the greatest obstacles to the extended support which the Society is seeking at home. Sympathy which was ready to be secured has been neglected and lost. The bond which knits together the Church at home and the Church abroad has been relaxed, while many have sought in vain for such details of Missionary or pastoral work as might answer to the warmth of their own religious feelings, and others have wished for statements more distinct and systematic than the Society has had the means of giving, to show the general progress of the Church, and the extent of the work before her, and the means and institutions employed for propagating the Gospel. A letter, a copy of which is subjoined,\* was sent for general circulation to every colonial Diocese which is assisted by the Society. The desired results have as yet only partially followed: sufficient time has not been given for completing the necessary arrangements everywhere, and affairs of greater moment have in the past year engrossed the attention of many of the Colonial Prelates. But there is ground for expecting that such measures are in progress as will leave the supporters of the Society no further reason for anything like dissatisfaction on this score.

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM MISSIONARIES.

The following Letter, signed by one of the Assistant Secretaries, was sent by the standing Committee at the close of last year, to every Colonial Bishop whose diocese is aided by the Society:—

1. I am desirous by the Committee to call the attention of your Lordship to the increased demand which exists in England among members of the Church, for additional information regarding the operations, the progress, and the wants of the Church in the colonies, and among the heathen. Notwithstanding the increase of late years in the number of the Society's publications,† and the larger amount of information which is thus circulated, a complaint is frequently made, by those who are most active in supporting the missionary work of the Church, that the information supplied by the Society is less abundant than is ought to be; that it wants the regularity of a continuous history, and the interest attaching to individual detail; and that it is not sufficiently copious and exact for statistical purposes.

2. The Committee believe, that by removing the ground of this complaint great benefit would accrue to the sacred cause in which we are engaged, through the deeper sympathy which would be excited and maintained between different branches of the Church, and among members of the same body in widely different positions. Still, in endeavouring to meet the acknowledged want, they desire to make it understood that no intention exists, on their part, of exercising any new control or inquisitorial power over their fellow-labourers abroad. Neither would they encourage such an indiscriminate and injudicious publication of personal details as would merely gratify curiosity, at the expense of destroying all singleness of purpose in a Missionary, and in those to whom he ministers. But they are of opinion that the information which they seek may be obtained without incurring this risk.—And I am instructed to ask your Lordship's assistance in procuring the co-operation of all in your diocese who are connected with the Society, in carrying out the wishes of the Committee.

3. *Quarterly Report of Missionary Operations.*—We respectfully request your Lordship to make known to them, that the Society would be glad to receive from each missionary, catechist, and schoolmaster, a periodical account of his exertions, within his own sphere, for the Propagation of the Gospel. Generally, this should assume the form of a quarterly report or letter detailing the proceedings of the writer during the three months preceding. A travelling missionary, or

a missionary first entering on a new field of labour, or a missionary among the heathen, would probably, find ample materials for a daily journal of occurrences, and for a description of the people and the country around him. Others might select any unusual or interesting incidents, which give variety to their ordinary parochial work, and may be properly communicated. It would be convenient that these quarterly reports should be made up to an uniform period. They might be sent by the writers to your Lordship at the four quarter-days, Lady-day, Midsummer, Michaelmas, and Christmas, and be transmitted to the Society at your Lordship's earliest convenience.

4. *Annual Return of Missionary Statistics.*—In addition to the quarterly report of the Missionary's occupation, the Society would be glad to receive once a year a statistical account of the condition of the mission at the close of each year. The Report for 1852 contains statements of this kind from the dioceses of Nova Scotia, Jamaica, Guiana, and Capetown.—Such an account should always include the particulars specified in the annexed printed form of annual return. The Society would be glad to have these, and any similar particulars, either from your Lordship, if they exist already in a condensed tabular form, or in detail, from the missionaries, with their Christmas quarterly reports, through your Lordship.

5. *Collegiate Report.*—An Annual Report should be sent at Christmas, by the proper authorities of any College or other educational institution which is in receipt of assistance from the Society. This would, of course, have special reference to divinity students, or others in immediate connexion with the Society.

6. *General Diocesan information.*—If to these your Lordship would add an annual statement at Christmas, of the present condition of the diocese, of any changes during the past year, of the progress which the Gospel has made, and of the hindrances which it has met with, of any missions which may be vacant, and of the provision which can be reckoned on for the maintenance of a clergyman therein, and a statement of the most pressing wants of the diocese which your Lordship desires to have brought before the Church of England:—the Society would have nothing more to seek in the way of information on these subjects.

7. *Paper.*—Lastly, I am requested to say that it would be a convenience to us if the above, and all other official letters, and documents, were written on folio or foolscap paper, with the inner margin left for binding.

JAMAICA.—*Bishops' College.*—We have to record the foundation of a theological and educational institution bearing this name, by the respected and distinguished prelate who occupies this see.

For a long period of years this desideratum has been sorely felt, and the many failures which have taken place in endeavouring to found such an institution, have been the opprobrium of Jamaica: on the other hand, the very small sister island of Barbados has long been distinguished, not only for her excellent Codrington College, but for the many able men who have been nurtured within its walls, and who now adorn the several learned professions, and give tone to the various positions of life in which they move.

Nor can we pass over in silence the progress of similar institutions in the colonies of more recent growth, and the promise which they hold forth of supplying their youth with a solid education, based on Christian principles, rendering that painful and hazardous separation between them and their parents or guardians, for the purpose of being educated in Europe, no longer necessary.

It has been left, then, for the present Bishop of Jamaica to carry into execution that which has been long the wish, not only of his predecessor, but of every father of a family in our colony.

His Lordship has accomplished his praiseworthy undertaking at the cost of great personal sacrifice and inconvenience, which, we believe, is not generally known. The commodious residence, and the convenient and healthy locality of Bishop's Lodge, have been voluntarily surrendered by his Lordship for the whole term of his Episcopate in this See. *Colonial Church Chronicle.*

## MORMONISM IN THE EAST.

Referring to the Mormonite efforts, the Rev. C. E. Driberg writes:—

"I am sorry to report that the Mormonites entered into our villages last April, and succeeded in deluding some (only, I am thankful to say, the unsoundly

and disaffected ones,) to adopt their abominable system. I have been very careful to impress upon the minds of the Christians, and such heathens as have inquired about the matter, that the followers of Joe Smith have no claims whatever to be considered a branch of Christianity, or Christians in any sense. I trust the evil will soon pass away. Several who had been perverted are now desirous of returning, having, I believe, seen the sinfulness of the step they took.—The Christians generally and well disposed heathens, have been disgusted with the practices of the Mormonites—especially, in their countenancing people who are living openly in adultery, by baptizing them, and giving them the Lord's Supper after their fashion."

The Rev. H. J. Harrison, in charge of Dhauhat and Kharri, also reports an attempt of the Mormonites on the Christians belonging to his mission. Four families were misled in the following extraordinary manner:—

"Four Christians from Sibpur,\* having heard of the new sect, undertook a journey to Calcutta to see what they could get from the Mormon *Sahibs*. On the way they were met by some of the native Mormonite teachers, who asked them what they were, and whence they came? They replied that they were Christians who had come from a distant village to learn the new religion. The teachers urged the necessity of their being baptized without delay, when the converts inquired what each of them should get in the event of their joining. 'That question would be settled afterwards,' they replied, 'they must first be baptized.' The Christians submitted, and then they renewed their solicitations. To one of them who could read was handed a paper, which passed for an authority to preach and administer the sacraments, according to the rules of the Mormon Church. The man started, and asked what he was to preach—he knew nothing about Mormonism, and had no book, except a Bible and a Prayer-book. He was informed that he needed no other books, he was to read the Bible and use the prayers of the Prayer-book. His salary would be 7rs. per mensem. His companions were promised a monthly allowance of 2 and 4rs., and so they were dismissed. They returned to their village gratified, and reported that a ship-load of money was coming from England, for the support of the Mormon brethren; and they strongly advised the other Christians to follow their example. Some of them asked the newly elected teacher what he had to say for the religion he had embraced, and of which he was appointed minister; others asked him where he intended to get bread and wine for the Lord's Supper. He said, 'there was no necessity to use bread and wine, he could substitute *cocoa-nut* and the milk of the *cocoa-nut*.' These four, with their families, were the only converts who strayed away from my charge."

\* A Village situated on the very edge of the Sunder bands.

## Selections.

OUR LORD'S LOVE OF NATURE.—No one ever loved nature with a purer, intenser love than the Saviour himself. We delight to contemplate this feature in the Saviour's character; there is so much of childlike and pure humanity about it. When he walked by the sea of Galilee, as he often did, and felt his jaded spirit soothed by the refreshing sight of its clear waters, and the musical murmur of its waves—when he pointed his hearers to the trooping ravens that hovered above him, or to the lilies of the field that decked the sides of the mountain—or when we follow him to the lone mountain, where he loved to retire at the close of the day, when his spirit was wearied and broken down by the wickedness of his age—we feel that we are in fellowship with one who, though Divine, has the purest human sympathies; and not the least attractive and prominent of these is his intense love of nature. His frequent walks by the seashore, and on the quiet road, skirted with trees, leading from Jerusalem to Bethany, his wanderings upon the mountains, and all his many beautiful allusions to familiar but never-to-be-forgotten objects in nature, bore witness to the ardent love with which he looked upon the heavens above and the green earth beneath. His spotless spirit was in harmony with every thing that was good, and beautiful, and true. Hence some of his most striking and appropriate illustrations were taken from the mountain flowers or from the moorland birds, or from the varied forms of placid beauty or towering grandeur which the scenery of Judea daily brought before him. He loved the quiet, sequestered rural retreat. His sympathies for man—and every thing that was human—were of the purest, the strongest, and the most enduring character; but he loved the solitude and the calm of the mountain summit, or the woody slope, or the margin of the murmuring brook, or the lone shore of the lake, or the peaceful hamlet nestled in the forest shade and sheltered by the towering hill, where there was little or nothing to disturb the uniform process of social life. Hence we find him oftentimes on the mountain or by the sea shore,

† In addition to the gratuitous publications, the Annual Report and the Quarterly Paper, which are regularly forwarded to the colonial dioceses, that they may be at the disposal of every Missionary, the Society has recently issued two monthly periodicals, the *Monthly Record* and the *Go. d Missionary*, which are sold through booksellers.

† See Appendix, p. 135A.