

and depression ; a most affecting public calamity befel Saint John, a circuit, which, since the formation of the Society, had contributed the largest amount of any in the district to the missionary cause ; yet we have not only to state that the ordinary income of this Auxiliary is above that of last year, but that the Saint John Branch sent to the mission fund a larger amount than had ever been remitted before. This is a pleasing proof that the missionary cause is supported from duty and principle, and will not, therefore, be arrested in its progress, or neglected in its claims, by flames that partially consume, or waters that occasionally overwhelm.

Respecting the state and prospects of the Parent Society's operations, the Committee in their last report observe, had they "to dwell upon the absence of encouraging success in their endeavours to promote the evangelization of the heathen, and the decay of that spirit of zeal and liberality which has hitherto replenished the funds of the Society ;—were they compelled to admit as a fact that the state of the Missions, generally, was such as to warrant the presumption that the plans and principles upon which modern Missions are founded, are not calculated to advance the cause of Christ in heathen nations, except in a very limited degree; that when the work has reached a certain point it becomes stationary, or is seen to retrograde, and that thus the conversion of the whole world to Christianity, remains, as yet, a matter of pure faith ;—and were it obvious, moreover, that in consequence of the growing conviction that this is the case, the cause of Missions was gradually losing its hold upon the public mind,—the Committee would address themselves to their annual task of reporting the state and prospects of the Society, with feelings widely differing from those by which they are actually influenced. For it is their privilege gratefully to acknowledge an amount of success attending the Missionary enterprise, the anticipation of which by the friends of Missions living in the last generation would have subjected them to the charge of the wildest enthusiasm. They can adduce facts so numerous and of so decisive a character as to demonstrate that the Gospel, in the hands of the Missionaries, and applied by the Holy Spirit, is capable of triumphing over every form of idolatry and error, and of raising the most debased and demoralized of the human species to the level of Christian and civilized society. They dare confidently to invite attention to the character and tendency of those operations which are constantly going on wherever Missions have been planted among the heathen, from the firm conviction that every reflecting mind will, in the creation of a native agency and the religious training of the rising generation, discover reason to conclude that the work of Christianity, under the continued blessing of Heaven, may be carried on in the world to an extent only limited by the want of the appointed means for its further prosecution."

The following are extracts from the General Report.

**MISSIONS IN IRELAND.**

To this interesting portion of the United Kingdom the Society continues to devote a small portion of its labours and its funds, on the simple ground that after all that has been done, or is likely to be done, by the more regular and usual methods of ministerial instruction and pastoral care, whether by the Established Church or by the auxiliary exertions of our own and of other denominations of Christians, there must and does remain a large mass of the population, especially in the remoter and least-favoured districts, and in those where the Irish language still con-

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