

CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY.

PROOFS OF THE EXISTENCE AND PERFECTIONS
OF A SUPREME BEING.

(Continued.)

THE care of an all-wise and good Governor is seen in nothing more clearly than in the preservation of the different animals, and the preventing also the different species from being so intermingled and blended together, as to produce some monstrous innovations in the animal creation. Infinite wisdom watches over the different species, so that none of the useful or important part of the creation has ever been lost. This will appear the more wonderful, when we consider the immense risk which threatens the destruction of different creatures. Besides the innumerable accidents to which they are exposed, they have to run through a series of direct attacks. Some are hunted down by tyrannical men. Some are preyed on by their own species; and then, inclement seasons have frequently threatened the total extinction of animal life. The hare, naturally so innocent, so helpless, and so timid, is, during its whole life, in a state of continual terror. Man seeks its destruction in all the stages of its existence, and assaults it in every form. He attacks it with balls, with snares, with fire-arms, with stones, and with every kind of destructive dog. Bears, wolves, foxes, hawks, vultures, eagles, and every bird of prey; besides a variety of vermin, rats, weasels, and other contemptible animals, seek the life of this harmless creature. It can never be at ease, never at rest. Besides, no creature suffers more from the inclemency of the season. It has to struggle with want in common with most of the other wild animals. But it is debarred from that research and diligence which others enjoy. How, therefore, does it happen that this species has not long since been extinguished? Nothing but the protection of Him who watches over the life of every creature, could it find it from so many dangers. And it seems to be preserved, not so much for any enjoyment that this persecuted animal can have in life, but for the benefit of man, the pampered lord of this lower world.

This case will apply to many other creatures, and furnishes us with a striking instance of the presence and care of the great Governor.

Were we to suppose, that no supreme power and intelligence were concerned in this world—that what some of our philosophers call nature produced every thing, and that this nature must be blind and ignorant—(otherwise we shall make nature only another name for the great First Cause)—if we should suppose nature produces every thing, how happens it, that we never meet with instances of new beings arising either from the sea, or the land, or the air? Are the powers of nature exhausted, and is she now incapable of any new productions?

But the fact is, so far as history, natural history, carries us back, we find the same animals existed then, that do now. We may be perplexed sometimes with names, and we may be entertained sometimes with the wonderful and fabulous stories of Pliny and other naturalists; but when we come to a proper understanding, and divest history of every thing extravagant, we shall find that the same animals that existed then, exist now, and that we have not been able to add any new ones to this catalogue, except the animals of countries that have been discovered since their time.

Such things, duly considered, become beautiful and illustrious testimonies to the existence of that perfect power and wisdom, which first formed this world, and constantly interfere to preserve order and harmony in all God's works.

But whilst, in this general survey of God's works, we discover evidences of his existence, we shall find these evidences grow stronger and brighter by confining our attention to the examination of some distinguished parts.

Here we have no opportunity of examining more nearly, and are delivered also from some embarrassing objections, that come upon us on account of our situation, unfavourable to seeing and comprehending all the connections of the various parts of this universe.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

INTERESTING SCENE IN NEW ZEALAND.

On the 11th of February last, a missionary meeting was held in Kaitai, New Zealand. Portions of about twenty different tribes assembled. Those who were once "hateful, and hating one another," now met to manifest their gratitude to God for the word of his grace, by forming themselves into a Branch Society. Addresses were made by a number of the missionaries, and by natives. The natives then came, and placed their offerings on the plate; advancing in order, and depositing their gifts as they walked by the table. Each tribe came separately, headed by its chief. Old Witi, nearly ninety years of age, chief of the Mount Carmel tribe, walked up with a firm step, and placed two dollars on the plate. Another chief and his wife gave five sovereigns. Several other natives gave gold.

The scene was most picturesque, as the different parties came up, many being well dressed. When the collection was over, the chairman held up the plate to view, piled with gold and silver, for nothing else was offered. The collection was more than \$200.

MISSIONS IN JAMAICA.

THE same spirit of liberality exists among the native converts in Jamaica, that we have noticed above in regard to New Zealand. At a station called Rural Hill, connected with the Church Missionary Society, the coloured people contributed about £200 per annum for missionary purposes, independently of the school payments, which amount to £50 more. The number of subscribers is 264. At Shiloh, more than £17 were collected; and at Mount Herman, £150. The Gospel is represented as making rapid progress among the lower orders of society, as well as in some respectable families. The labourers are teachable, well-disposed, and industrious; work continuously and faithfully when employed, and give general satisfaction to their employers.

CONVERSION AT MAST-HEAD.

A LETTER just received from the Pacific Ocean, gives an account of a revival of religion on board a whale-ship. In the account is one thing of unusual occurrence, "*One man was hopefully converted at mast-head looking out for whales.*" Had he been converted in the cabin, or in the fore-castle—while upon duty on deck, or in a Mariner's Church on shore, it would not appear strange. Conversions under such circumstances are of frequent occurrence. It is estimated there are 600 or 700 truly pious captains on the ocean, and some 5,000 sailors who fear God. But that one should be sent aloft, and there find Him who made the great and wide sea, and "created great whales" to play therein, is somewhat remarkable! An interesting sketch published in the New York Observer a few months since—"*Prayer at the mast-head*"—showed us the sailor in the closet. This sketch exhibits the sailor in Christ. His convictions were carried from the fore-castle, where 12 or 14 of his companions were wont to meet for prayer and praise. With a broken heart he climbed to the mast-head to perform a whaleman's duty. And there he cried, *God be merciful to me a sinner.* There he cast himself on Christ.—There, in the language of penitential submission, he said,

"Here, Lord, I give myself away:
"Tis all that I can do."

And there his tongue first expressed the grateful emotions of a renewed heart.—*N. Y. Observer.*

MISSIONS IN RUSSIA.

THE Russian government has suppressed the Mission of the London Society to Liberia, and Messrs. Swan and Stallybrass, after labouring there successfully for several years, have been compelled to return to England. Thus do "the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." But "the Lord shall speak to them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure."

DANISH QUEEN.

OF the present Queen of Denmark, Mr. Baird says, she is a very beautiful woman, of a most dig-

nified and graceful deportment; and her heart, we are assured, is as noble as her person. Withal, and better than all, she is an humble and sincere Christian. The interest which she takes in the schools, orphan asylums, and other institutions of beneficence, as indicated by the frequent visits she makes to them, as well as in other ways, greatly endeared her to the people.

THE MISSIONARY WILLIAMS.

Two beautiful paintings in oil colours have been published in London—one representing Mr. Williams, the missionary, landing at Tanna in the midst of a crowd of friendly Islanders—the other representing him in the waves, with his left hand lifted up to shield his head, while an infuriated native is striking at him with an enormous club; and others are attempting to do the same. The prints are published for the benefit of the widow and orphans, and have already produced profit to the amount of an hundred guineas.

HOLLAND.

JOSEPH J. GURNEY, and his celebrated sister, Elizabeth Fry, have been pleading the cause of emancipation in Holland and Denmark, with great success. Meetings for that express purpose were held at Rotterdam, the Hague, &c. They were largely attended, and much interest excited. J. J. Gurney's visit to the West Indies enabled him to bring forward very conclusive facts to prove the advantages of free labour. The king and queen of the Netherlands gave audience to these ambassadors of benevolence, heard very respectfully their opinions, and suggestions on the subject of slavery and prisons, and promised to consider seriously their wishes and remarks. A memorial has been sent to the king, through the medium of the British ambassador. The king and queen of Denmark likewise received these friends with great respect, and they are said to have made a deep impression on the royal mind on the subject of slavery.—*Anti-Slavery Stand.*

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE receipts of the last year were £60,643; the expenditures, £90,391. The number of stations and out-stations belonging to Society, in different parts of the world, is 387; missionaries, 163; assistants, European and native, 528; churches, 110; communicants, 11,485; scholars, 42,222. The Society has 15 printing establishments, and 18 missionary students. Seven missionaries and four female assistants have died in the service. Twelve labourers came back to England on account of bereavement or ill health, most of them not expecting to return to their missions. Thirty-seven brethren and friends have been sent forth to supply the place of those who have fallen, or who have left the missionary field.—*Christian Intelligencer.*

MORTALITY OF MISSIONARIES.

NEAR one hundred missionaries, sent out by the Church of England, have died at Sierra Leone—showing that if Africa shall ever be converted, it must be done by the instrumentality of natives, rather than foreigners.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RECORD.

MARKS OF A GOOD SABBATH SCHOOL
TEACHER.

THE importance of punctuality and faithfulness cannot be too frequently insisted on, whether relating to our civil or our religious duties. As the success of the Sabbath School teacher more particularly depends, in a very great measure, upon a strict attention to these particulars, we would earnestly recommend the following remarks, copied from the *Philadelphia Repository*, to all who are engaged in this most interesting "labour of love":—

He is sure to be in his place before the opening of the school, in all weathers—whether it rain or shine, whether it be cold or hot. As he is never late himself, he can recommend to his scholars, both by precept and example, the virtue of punctuality. He keeps his place during the whole time of school, and never engages in any conversation with his class or others, but such as is connected with his duties as a teacher. He is al-