

Edward Clifford, or *Memories of Childhood*, received from J. C. Geikie, Toronto.

Memoir of Miss Newton;

Evening Incense;

Memoir of J. M. Mason, D.D., received from D. McLellan, Hamilton.

A GLANCE BACKWARD AT FIFTEEN YEARS MISSIONARY LABOUR IN NORTHERN INDIA. By the Rev. Joseph Warren, D.D.

This is one of the latest issues of the Presbyterian Board of Publication, at Philadelphia; and it is a very important and interesting volume, as is indeed every work brought out by able and devoted missionaries, who favour the Church, if not the world, with the results of their experience and observations among the Heathens. But India, on many accounts, stands pre-eminent in point of missionary interest. There have laboured missionaries of the highest character, such as Martyn, Brown, Carey, Ward, and many more, now no more; and there still labour, Duff, and a number besides, who are spending and being spent, through the love of Christ constraining them, to live, not unto themselves, but unto Him. The Presbyterian Church in the United States occupies part of the vast field of missions in populous India; and in this book we have what its talented and excellent author calls "a glance, &c." It may be characterised as a matter-of-fact book, and is rich in information and suggestions, to those who wish to study the peculiarities of India as a sphere of missionary operations. The object of the book is, in the authors words to "help the friends of missionaries to a full knowledge of the work, so that they may form just expectations, and be led to go forward with more interest in the matter, more earnestness of desire and purpose, and more hope, patience, and prayer."

Such is the nature and object of the work, and every one who peruses it will be amply repaid for the small cost of the volume, by getting a masterly sketch from the life of the gigantic and glorious work which has yet to be achieved for christianising densely peopled India; although a good deal has already been done, and there are cheering signs that the foundations of Satan's kingdom there are being undermined, and will perhaps, ere long fall down, giving place to Christ's kingdom of peace, righteousness, and joy in the Holy Ghost, if his professed people zealously go up to take possession of that bright sunny land for Him.

We would strongly recommend this volume to missionaries and others; also a very instructive similar work, published recently by the Board, the *Memoirs of the Rev. Walter M. Lowrie*, one of the Presbyterian Church's missionaries in China, who fell a victim to the cruelty of Pirates while on a voyage in prosecution of his noble undertaking, after having been engaged in it six years. These books, and any other of the publications, can be had from Andrew Kennedy, Agent, at London, C. W.

They that will not inquire of the Word of God for their comfort, shall be made to hear it, whether they will or no, to their arrangement.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

There was a warm discussion on the occasion of the recent Anniversary of the American Tract Society, with reference to the charges brought against the Society, and the remonstrances addressed to it on the subject of Slavery. Pro-Slavery newspapers, and certain members of the Society, had done what they could to create a prejudice against those who have for a long time been striving to obtain a change of policy in the Executive Committee, on the subject of Slavery. Several ministers were opposed to any thing being done in the matter, but the opposition, thus offered, was powerless, and the result was that a Committee was appointed to inquire into, and review the proceedings of the Executive Committee, and report to next Annual Meeting, or to a meeting to be specially called by the Committee at their discretion:—

According to the *New York Independent*, the points gained by this meeting are,

1. *The vivifying of the Tract Society as an organic body.* Never before was so lively an interest manifested in this institution by those who sustain it with their contributions.

2. *The public avowal of responsibility on the part of the Executive Committee.* Most refreshing was the term "constituents" in the brief report submitted by the Committee to the Society. That the responsibility of all such Committees to their constituents be felt and recognized, is a necessary condition of confidence in benevolent Societies.

3. *A more complete and detailed statement of the financial condition of the Society.* This is by no means perfect yet, but is a great improvement upon the reports of previous years.

4. *The right of supervision on the part of the Society.* This is fully established by the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee themselves.

5. *Entire freedom of debate in the annual meeting; dispensing with routine,* and making business of more consequence than the Anniversary itself. This may never again be so necessary; but the precedent will be salutary in future years.

6. *The formal introduction of the subject of Slavery into the annual report; a declaration on the part of the Committee of their readiness to publish tracts on some of the duties and evils connected with Slavery; and the endorsement of this by vote of the Society.*

As friends of the Tract Society, who have striven for the year past to avert from it the evils and perils which the old policy on slavery had brought upon it, we have every reason to be satisfied with these results. We presume they are equally satisfactory to those who have labored in the same direction, to rescue the Society from the perils that encompassed it. The *Religious Herald*, a paper that has done good service in these discussions, said in its issue just before the meeting:

"We doubt whether it will not be agreed on all sides, and thus voted unanimously, to have a large Committee of investigation appointed representing every shade of opinion, who shall report to a special meeting during the summer or autumn. To this Committee may be referred not only the slavery question but also the subject of altering publications, and the prices of Books, the principle by which the cost is estimated, and the inquiry concerning the amount of property owned by the Society in the form of real estate, stereotype plates, copyrights, presses, tools, stock of paper and other materials, books and tracts in the Tract House or in the hands of agents, etc., with the proper mode of stating the facts annually in

the report. The officers will make no opposition to such a committee, and the result will be to remove the subject from the newspapers and to prepare some method of carrying on the appropriate work of the Society to the satisfaction of the entire Christian public. We look with much hope for a wise and kind adjustment of all difficulties; for we think the brethren on all sides now understand one another."

THE SABBATH QUESTION.

We regret to observe that notwithstanding the recent satisfactory vote of the House of Commons, there is a systematic attempt made on the part of Government officials to extend Sabbath desecration by requiring military bands to play on the Sabbath afternoon. We trust Sir B. Hall will yet desist from his attempt to rule the British Sabbath like the continental Sunday. We deeply regret to observe that in connexion with the treaty of peace lately signed there was a forgetfulness of the sanctity of God's holy day. We allude to the fact that the treaty was signed by the Plenipotentiaries on a Sabbath afternoon, while in the evening Paris was illuminated. We might have supposed that in connexion with such an event there would have some respect paid to the Lord's day, and some recognition of Him who is Governor among the nations. We deeply deplore this flagrant act of Sabbath desecration. We trust those in authority will pause in their course. History presents many warnings to such rulers as desecrate the day of God.

SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND. THE ORGAN QUESTION.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church in England met at Liverpool on the 21st April. The Rev. G. Lewis of Dudley, was elected Moderator.

The following motion on the subject of the Psalmody was agreed to, by a majority of 27 votes:—"That this House approves of the diligence of the Committee, renders to them its grateful thanks for their labours, and remits the Hymn-book to them with instructions that a copy of it shall be sent to every member of the Court who has not been already supplied, with a request that any suggestions the members have to make may be transmitted to the Committee by the 1st of July next, after the receipt of which the Committee be authorized to revise the collection, to reduce the number of paraphrases and hymns to 150, and to issue these to such of the congregations as may desire them."

On the Organ question, the following overture by Dr. Hamilton, was carried by a vote of 53 to 32. It is hereby overtured to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, that they declare that the introduction of instrumental music in Public Worship is not approved of by this church, and enjoin all Presbyteries to take order that no such innovation be introduced in any of the congregations within their bounds, but to take steps, so far as practicable, to encourage and cultivate the harmonious exercises of vocal music.