

Missionary Intelligence.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

Tuesday, March 6th, 1855.

The Rev. J. H. Welsh's report of visits to emigrants from Liverpool, for the Quarter ending Feb. 12, 1855, was laid before the Meeting. The following are extracts:—

"During the past year, 210,742 persons have sailed from the Mersey as emigrants, being at the rate of more than 4000 a week; and for the conveyance of this vast multitude of people, composed of the surplus population of at least three European nations, a fleet of 637 ships has been employed.

"Of these persons, 194,922, chiefly Irish and Germans, have proceeded to the United States; 41,491 to the Australian Colonies; about 20,000 to the Colonies of North America; and the remainder, about 200, to the East and West Indies.

"They exhibit one remarkable feature, as compared with those of previous years,—the large number, 20,000, who have sailed hence for the Canadas. Looking at this gigantic movement in a Christian point of view, one cannot help reflecting with pain that amongst these 110,000 souls, only seven clergymen of our Church have gone forth from this port."

The Secretary informed the Society that satisfactory letters had been received from Pitcairn's Island.—The following letter from Mr. John Adams, a grandson of the original settler, was read to the Meeting:

"Pitcairn's Island, Oct. 24, 1854.

"My dear Sir,

"I embrace this opportunity to address you a few lines, as I feel sure, from the kindness which was shown by you to our worthy pastor while in England, you will forgive my intrusion upon your time.

"The deep interest you have taken in our welfare, both spiritual and temporal, demands our warmest thanks. For myself individually, I feel I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude; but I trust you will accept of my best wishes, as a small token of that love and esteem which I ought and do feel to one who has done so much real good for our community.

"Had it not been for the many valuable lessons we have learned from the liberal supply of books which we from time to time have received from the Society to which you have the honor to belong, I do not think the present state of education now existing among us would have been attained. You will doubtless be rejoiced to learn that your Society has been the means of diffusing much Christian knowledge among us, and that we are not insensible of the immense debt of love and gratitude we owe you.

"The ordination of our teacher is a blessing which we highly appreciate, and it will, with the blessing of Almighty God, be productive of such good. Divine Service is performed every Wednesday evening, and we partake of the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month,—privileges for which we cannot be too thankful.

"You will doubtless be glad to learn that the Rev. G. H. Nobbs has, since his ordination, acted in a manner highly honourable to his high calling and profession. His whole aim seems to be directed to one object, that of doing good to his flock, both in spiritual and temporal things.

"I am, gratefully yours,

"JOHN ADAMS

"Rev. T. B. Murray."

"The Rev. G. H. Nobbs, in a letter dated Pitcairn's Island, Sept. 7, 1854, wrote as follows:—

"I trust you will not think me negligent in writing so seldom, but the reason is, not that I am becoming forgetful or ungrateful, but the opportunities are so seldom offered me of corresponding with such estimable friends as yourselves, Sir T. Acland, Mr. Grant and many others. I have still by me letters addressed to my honoured patron, the Lord Bishop of London, and to the Rev. Mr. Hawkins, indicated last January, but no conveyance to be depended on has as yet offered by which I could forward them. I am fearful, now that Admiral Moresby has left the station, it will be quite as difficult to obtain tidings of you, although my kind friend, the British Chaplain at Valparaiso, will do his best to forward such letters as may be addressed to me through him.

"And now, as respects our island concerns, the population is increased to nearly two hundred, and will by the time you receive this, exceed that number, all (with the exception of three) born here. By the arrival of Her Majesty's ship 'Dido,' last November, we received the supplies furnished by the British Government. The books and the many articles of intrinsic usefulness, which evince your ungrudging benevolence,

and your solicitude for the welfare of this community, arrived in good condition, as did also a number of packages from other valued friends. I heartily thank you for Beveridge's 'Theaurus,' the copies of my Sermon, &c.

"We are abundantly supplied with such things as we have need of, and think we can do without any assistance from our good friends in England for the next three years; and perhaps by that time we may hear something definite concerning Norfolk Island. If the Government should determine to move us thither, the less amount of baggage we have to carry with us the better; and I have no doubt, let the removal come when it may, we shall have to abandon much that is useful—but that is quite a secondary consideration; a removal is imperatively necessary, and the earlier the better.

"There are many whom I met at your Society, to whom I am greatly indebted for the interest they manifested both to myself and the Islanders, and to whom I offer my grateful respects."

The Lord Bishop of New Zealand, in a letter to the Secretary, stated that he hoped, soon after his return to his diocese, to pay a visit to the community at Pitcairn, and requested twelve copies of "Pitcairn, the Island, the People, and the Pastor." These had been forwarded to the Bishop.

A letter was read from the Rev. the Chaplain-General, saying that 3000 Prayer Books and 3000 New Testaments are required for the Crimea, for the use of the troops, and that he will undertake to pay half the amount.

It was agreed that they be sent, and that the Prayer Books be granted, from the fund of Clerical, to the value of £162 10s., being the amount of half the cost of the whole consignment.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

79, Pall Mall, March 9, 1855.

From the Rev. W. Whyatt.*

"Staff, 2nd Division, British Army, Crimea, Feb. 9th, 1855.

"I do not intend to say anything about the affairs of the Hospital at Scutari, as you will have so good testimony from eye-witnesses. I may, however, say that I was much pleased with all I saw there, and felt assured that all was being done for them that could be done. Such of the soldiers as I enquired from expressed themselves in most grateful language for all their comforts.

"Owen was delighted to see me, as his work was so great that he scarcely seemed to do anything, or to make any impression. We looked forward to working together, and hoped to do some good. The duration of our partnership was not for long. In four days he was taken ill, kept his bed for eight or nine days, and when better, was taken down to ship to go to Scutari. I was exceedingly sorry for him, as being ill in camp is of all places the worst, and it was well that I was up to cheer him and comfort him a little. I think his was an attack of Crimean fever, which is now so prevalent and fatal.

"On the same day, Mr. Canty, the R. C. priest, living next tent to me, was taken ill, his fever merged into typhus, and he died on Thursday, the 1st of this month. He was a fine hearty young man, about thirty years of age, and seemed to have strength for anything. I saw much of him, and was enabled to do many little offices of kindness to him, and, indeed, was up with him for several hours the night he died. This is the second R. C. priest attached to this division who has died.

"You may suppose that these things coming together would tend to dispirit me and alarm me. but, strange to say, they have not, except at the time. I am wonderfully preserved, especially in spirits, and can only attribute it to His, who has promised his help to his servants.

"I am well received by all, and it would gladden many a Christian's heart to hear in my convalescent but the hearty manner in which they repeat after me the Confession, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. I am enabled to come home rejoicing many a time, when you would fancy I ought to be sorrowful, as none can help being to a degree, who sees the awful sights it is my daily fate to see.

"The soldier is very child-like in some things, he has been so long accustomed to obey, that he has not been allowed to form notions or have opinions, and thus he is in a fit state to receive the good news, the glad tidings of salvation; he receives it in simplicity.

"I have formed little bands of communicants."

* The news of his death reached Halifax by the first English mail.

of the patients, and I am certain that once a week to keep them together, they are few in number, as death has taken some of them away, however we hope for an increase, and feel assured we shall get it, if we trust in G. S., who has promised that his word shall not return unto him void.

"I wish I had books or tracts, as the poor men are so anxious to have something to read. I am constantly asked for Prayer Books. To whom must I apply for them?"

"I am thankful to add, that I am extremely happy in my work, and hope that the Lord will make me a useful minister in this portion of his vineyard."

From the Rev. C. J. Mason.

"Scutari Hospitals, Feb. 10, 1855.

"I have good reason to believe that the reformation which takes place here is more than temporary with the majority. Their attention to religious observances when they are recovered and able to get about again is most gratifying to the clergy. If you want to know how Mrs. Nightingale and her nurses work, and the immense good they do, ask the convalescents who are sent from this place to England; they will bless them to the last moment of their lives, and until this generation of soldiers shall have altogether passed away, her name will be revered in the British army."

From the Rev. Dr. Freeth.

"Kulalie Hospital, Feb. 15, 1855.

"I believe I wrote to you a short time since stating, that I had obtained permission to go to England for recovery of health. I improved so much aboard ship, that I readily responded to Mr. Sabin's kind and urgent appeal to assist Mr. Hulcat in his duties here. I arrived at this place last Monday, and am now engaged as chaplain to the sick here. I must write more in detail hereafter. My health; thank God, is now excellent, and my spirits good. We have a noble and extensive field of duty before us here."

* The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has already sent out several parcels of books, and more will be transmitted immediately. Large quantities of Bibles, Common Prayer Books, and other books and tracts, have also been sent out by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Selections.

A PERIOD OF HUMAN LIFE.—M. Flourens, the distinguished French Physiologist, and Perpetual Secretary of the Paris Academy of Sciences, has just published a book, in which he announces that the normal period of the life of man is one hundred years. The grounds on which he comes to this new philosophic conclusion may be briefly stated. It is, we believe, a fact in natural history, that the length of each animal's life is in exact proportion to the period he is in growing. Buffon was aware of this truth, and his observation led him to conclude that the life in different species of animals is six or seven times as long as the period of growth. M. Flourens, from his own observations and those of his predecessors, is of opinion that it may be more safely taken at five times. When Buffon wrote, the precise period at which animals leave off growing, or to speak more correctly, the precise circumstance which indicates that the growth has ceased, was not known. M. Flourens has ascertained that period, and therein lies his present theory. "It consists," says he, "in the union of the bones to their epiphyses. As long as the bones are not united to their epiphyses the animal grows; as soon as the bones are united to their epiphyses the animal ceases to grow." Now, in man, the union of the bones and the epiphyses takes place, according to M. Flourens at the age of twenty; and consequently he proclaims that the natural duration of life is five times twenty years. "It is now fifteen years ago," he says, "since I commenced researches into the Physiological law of the duration of life, both in men and in some of our domestic animals, and I have arrived at the result that the normal duration of man's life is one century. Yes, a century's life is what Providence meant to give us." Applied to domestic animals, M. Flourens's theory has, he tells us, been proved correct. "The union of the bones with the epiphyses," he says, "takes place in the camel at eight years of age, and he lives forty years; in the horse at five years; and he lives twenty-five years; in the ox at four years, and he lives from fifteen to twenty years; in the dog at two years, and he lives from ten to twelve years; and in the lion at four years, and he lives twenty." As a necessary consequence of the prolongation of life to which M. Flourens assures man he is entitled, he modifies very considerably his different ages. "I prolong the duration of infancy," he says, "up to ten years, because it is from nine to ten that the second dentition is terminated. I prolong adolescence up to