

## THE MISSIONARY MAGAZINE AND CHRONICLE.

We thankfully acknowledge the receipt of this interesting periodical, the organ of the London Missionary Society. It contains brief notices of the missions in India, Africa, and the Polynesian Island. From it we learn that the Rev. David Livingston, one of the Society's Missionaries in Africa, like the Rev. Robert Moffatt, has not only been honored to bear the imperishable word to the benighted African, but to render important service to science, in the discovering and determining the position of a great lake in the interior of South Africa. For which service the Royal Geographical Society have awarded him a premium of 25 guineas. The missionaries in prosecuting their high calling, have made extensive discoveries in the hitherto unexplored regions of that vast country, which, although peopled in the earliest ages of the world's history, is now cast known and least civilized of any portion of our globe. The Rev. Dr. Tidman, Secretary to the London Missionary Society, bears honorable testimony to Mr. Livingston, as possessing "many of the most important qualifications for exploring the hitherto terra incognita of South Africa. He is intimately acquainted with the Sechuana language, which appears to be understood by several other tribes and nations to the northward. He is a man of great self-denial and of singular intrepidity, combined with sound discretion. His benevolent character and blameless life make him regarded by the natives as their friend and benefactor; and as a christian missionary, sustaining this honourable consistency, he travels without fear where the face of a white man has not been seen. Impelled by a love of geological science, and the yet higher motives of Christian benevolence, I venture to predict that he will hereafter accomplish yet more important objects in exploring the unknown regions of that vast continent." The London Missionary Society was established in the year 1795. For a period of 55 years it has continued with varied success to convey the blessings of the gospel to the most distant nations and savage tribes.

**COTE STREET CHURCH, MONTREAL.**—The *Free Church Magazine* announces that the Rev. Mr. Couper, of Burntisland, has been appointed to supply for the winter months, the congregation of Cote Street, Montreal. That congregation, we understand, is likely soon to be supplied with a permanent ministry. One of the Students of Knox's College may be called to that important charge, as soon as he is in a position to receive a call.

**ARRIVAL OF REV. PROFESSOR LYALL.**—We are glad to be able to announce the arrival of Professor Lyall, by the steamer from Boston, on Thursday last. Mr. Lyall has been engaged for the last two years as one of the Professors in the Free Church College at Toronto, and from his distinguished scholarship, his fine literary taste, and scientific attainments, will, we have no doubt, form an able successor to the lamented Mr. Mackenzie in the Collegiate Institution here. Our readers will observe by the advertisement, in another column, that the Free Church College will be opened on Friday the first of November. Professor King will deliver the introductory address in Chalmers' Church, at 12 o'clock on that day.—*Hal. Pres. Witness.*

## COLPORTAGE.

The American Presbyterian Church has, with great success, employed this agency for disseminating the truth in the destitute places of the land. The humble but indefatigable Colporteurs bearing the life-giving Word, have penetrated into the remotest wastes of the country, and into the dens of infamy in the crowded cities. God has in an eminent degree owned their labours. In September last a Convention of these self-denying labourers was held at Cleveland, Ohio.

"The business of the convention commenced on Wednesday, the 25th September, and, with barely sufficient intervals for meals and rest, continued five days, exclusive of the Sabbath. The first exercise consisted of a narration of the individual christian history and experience of each member, and of the dealings of God with his own soul. No sketch could convey just impressions of this service. The internal life of fifty Christians frankly revealed, and the providence and grace of God practically illustrated in their history, furnished such a spiritual repast as is rarely enjoyed. Seventeen of these men were from Germany. Several had been delivered from Romish superstition: some from infidel or rationalistic errors. Nearly all had enjoyed the instructions of pious parents, and with few exceptions, they had been led to Christ in early life. Some had been battling with sin for a quarter of a century or more; others had been converted by the blessing of God on the labors of colporteurs here present. It was deeply affecting to learn from these narratives, that one valued German colporteur traced his conversion to the fidelity of another, who, in turn attributed his salvation, under God, to another then present. And as such facts were developed, the convention was more than once hushed in tears. Such an illustration of Christian unity as was afforded by this meeting, has rarely been witnessed. Here were members of ten different evangelical denominations, namely, Congregational, Presbyterian (O. S. and N. S.), Baptist, Free-will Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, Lutheran, German Reformed, German Evangelical, and Evangelical Association. Each told his story in simple language: no two narratives were alike. And yet, with characteristic diversity, there was entire unity in the great cardinal points of evangelical doctrine and experience. Not a word would have indicated to the observer the denominational affinities of a single individual, if the peculiar use of the word "penitent" in one instance be excepted. Ruin by sin and salvation by grace lay at the foundation of all. All traced their salvation to the Holy Spirit as the efficient cause, and gave all the glory of man's redemption to God as the author."

Most interesting personal narratives and statements from Colporteurs respecting their fields of labour were given; and the following preamble and resolution unanimously adopted:—

"Whereas, notwithstanding all that has yet been done to meet the increasing religious wants of this nation, thousands of souls, not only in the newer, but also in the older sections of our country, are to an alarming degree destitute of the means of grace, and other destitute thousands are coming to our shores from foreign lands; and

"Whereas, from developments made in this convention, it is clearly seen that the labors of pious and self-denying colporteurs are eminently adapted to impart a knowledge of the unspeakable riches of Christ to multitudes ready to perish in their sins, and also to explore our moral wastes, and prepare them to receive ultimately all the appointed ordinances of the gospel; and the Head of the church has greatly blessed them to the accomplishment of such results: therefore

"Resolved, That this department of benevolent effort, so worthy the confidence, the prayers,

and the pecuniary support of the American church, ought to be enlarged by bringing more colporteurs into the field; and that not less than one thousand of these pioneers and helpers of the gospel ministry ought to be commissioned and employed in our country without unnecessary delay."

The hospitable Christians of Cleveland tendered their sympathies and their homes to the toil-worn labourers. The churches of different denominations were opened to them, and the pastors cheered them with their presence and counsel.

The labours of these godly pioneers are not sufficiently appreciated. They prepare the way for the regular dispensations of ordinances, and sow the seed of that imperishable truth, before which the mountains of ignorance and Popish delusion and superstition will one day be dissolved. They are worthy of all encouragement. We welcome them to Canada and hail them as fellow-labourers in the work of the Lord.

Since the foregoing was in type, we have received the advertisement which appears on our last page, for a Colporteur in Canada West.—We hope our friends in Kingston, who have the honor of taking the lead in this movement, will find a suitable agent, and that their example will be speedily followed in other quarters. The subject of circulating good books has been before the Home Mission Committee of our Church. It has become a necessary instrumentality, second only to the preaching of the Word.

## ORDINATION OF THE REV. J. SCOTT, AT LONDON.

The Rev. John Scott was ordained to the office of the holy ministry in the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, London, on the 10th of Oct.—The Rev. John Fraser of St. Thomas, preached on the occasion. There was a very full meeting of the London Presbytery, and a large assemblage of people. We believe the call to Mr. Scott was unanimous. He enters upon the discharge of his arduous and important duties under favourable circumstances, among a united and intelligent people. The congregation has been organized for ten years; they have a comfortable church, built about seven years ago. Although not enjoying a regular ministry, the congregation has not only been kept together, but has increased. This state of things is creditable to the people, and especially to John Fraser, Esq., who has for six years conducted the Sabbath services and religious exercises on week days. To his christian zeal, and excellent management, the present pleasing state of things is in no small degree attributable. We feel warranted in indulging the hope that the cause which has been so well sustained in the face of many adverse circumstances during a long vacancy, will now be strengthened, Mr. Scott is well known to the church as an excellent missionary, and a devoted labourer in the Lord's vineyard. In the summer vacation of Knox's college, and even during the seasons his labours in our vacant congregations and destitute stations have been abundant, and his ministrations acceptable. We congratulate the congregation of London, on obtaining such a pastor, and hope that he may be long spared to break the bread of life among them; the sphere of his labour is large and important—may he as a faith-