

THE WESLEYAN.

Halifax, Saturday Morning, January 25, 1851.

WORTHY OF IMITATION.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. R. Weddall to the Chairman of the Nova Scotia District, dated "Liverpool, January 9th, 1851."

"We have just held our Missionary Meetings at some of the principal places on this Circuit. We commenced at Hunt's Point, and pleaded strongly for an advance of twenty-five per cent upon last year, and succeeded by obtaining subscriptions fifty per cent in advance. In Liverpool the key-note was raised a hundred per cent above last year! and a number of our friends heartily responded to it. Here the meeting was rendered highly interesting by the very efficient advocacy of the cause by several respectable lay gentlemen, who first told the people, what to do, and then showed them how to do it, by doubling their subscriptions. At Mill Village the hundred per cent worked well. These are tokens of good, and indicate the presence of God with us, and the existence of a right state of feeling."

"We have recently had two very delightful meetings of the Trustees of the Liverpool Chapel. It was ascertained that a debt existed of upwards of £200. The question was 'What can be done to liquidate the debt, and place the chapel in unembarrassed circumstances?' There were due to Jas. Barrs, Esqr., £100; to John Campbell, Esqr., £18; to Capt. McClearn £30; to Mr. Wm. Johnston £30. Capt. McClearn generously proposed to give up the whole of his claims, and to open a new set of books with the new year. This was nobly responded to. J. Barrs, Esqr., gave up £50, and the rest gave up all their claims."

It is truly gratifying to receive such testimonies of attachment to the cause of God as are above detailed. The whole machinery of Methodism within a Circuit is too often clogged for years by an embarrassing debt upon a Chapel or Mission House, which it requires but a united effort at once to remove. The interest on such a debt is a constant emaciating drain upon the Circuit resources, the payment of which for a series of years absorbs more than would pay off the principal. In several Circuits in the District I find debts on Mission Houses, which are proposed to be gradually liquidated by an annual rent paid for the Minister's residence. Circumstances as the District is, with accumulating unpaid deficiencies due to the Ministers, the practical effect of such a measure is to tax the Minister the whole amount charged as rent,—thus discharging the debt by a forced contribution from those least able to pay it. This is so manifestly oppressive that I am persuaded the attention of our friends needs but to be called to the subject, to induce them to devise other and more equitable arrangements. I trust this whole matter of Church debts will be brought under the christian consideration of the official meetings of the Circuits concerned, and that the praiseworthy example of our Liverpool friends sustained by the membership at large will be imitated, and the way thus be prepared for the wider extension of Wesleyan agency over the Province.

E. EVANS.

Halifax, Jan'y 21st, 1851.

The above communication needs from us no word of commendation; yet we cannot allow the opportunity to pass, without urging its serious consideration on the parties most intimately concerned. There is, however, one point to which advertency is made, which requires more than a passing thought: we refer to that of rent paid for Mission Houses for the accommodation of Ministers. Were the whole amount of Circuit Expenditures raised on the respective Circuits, or fully met according to present pecuniary arrangements, no objection could be raised to the item of rent: but in all cases where such is not the case, or where there is a deficiency unprovided for, the rent if included in the account is necessarily paid by the Ministers, which is not at all intended to be the case by our economy. The best remedy is, for the Circuits to free their Mission Houses from all incumbrances where they exist, and for local efforts to be made independently of regular Circuit receipts to keep them in repair, and then the item of rents need not appear on the face of the accounts; at all events it need not interfere with the receipts of Ministers. We hope the intimation of our respected CHAIRMAN and GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT on this point, as well as others, will receive all due and proper attention from our

official men and other members of our Church in the District.

In connection with the above, we would refer to the very praiseworthy efforts of our BARRINGTON and PORT LA TOUR friends to increase the receipts of the "Mission House Furniture Society;" and we think that the example thus happily set, might be followed with advantage by all our Circuits. The more these local efforts are made and encouraged, the better will it be for our general work. It should be the object of every Circuit to render itself in every sense independent of foreign aid, and then to contribute as largely as possible to the furtherance of the Gospel and its institutions throughout the world.

BRITISH ORGANISATION OF THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

This Alliance, at a recent meeting, has resolved that Slaveholders shall not be admitted as visitors to the Conference proposed to be held in London during this year simultaneously with the Great Exhibition. This resolution has been adopted, lest the intercourse which might be held with slaveholders from America might assume such an amicable aspect, as to bear the interpretation, that the members of the Alliance look with a qualified indignation on American slavery, and more particularly on the Fugitive Slave Bill which has recently come into force. Such an interpretation the Alliance regards as involving a responsibility very dreadful, and which it ought not to incur. Slavery is branded with infamy generally throughout the civilized and religious world; the only exceptions are those who hold, buy, and sell their fellow men as they do the cattle of the field, and who are therefore peculiarly interested in the continuance of the dark and foul system. American slaveholders cannot long resist the mighty force of moral and religious opinion determinedly and intensely arrayed against their inhuman traffic both in their own Republic and in other countries.

The Adjudicators appointed by the above Alliance to decide upon the merits of the first Class of Prize Essays on Infidelity, have adjudged the first prize to the Essay bearing the motto "Shadow of Death," and the second to the one distinguished by the motto, "Strange, Delusive, Fatal." These Essays are said to be written with great force, and calculated for much usefulness. They are specially designed to arrest the attention of the working classes in the mother country, who are to a considerable extent lamentably tinctured with infidel principles.

The Rev. T. R. Birks, Rector of Kelsall, Herts, has been respectfully invited to accept of the office of Honorary Secretary of the Alliance, rendered vacant by the lamented death of the Rev. E. Bickersteth.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONFERENCE OF 1851.—It has been agreed by the British Organisation of the Evangelical Alliance, that as the month of August appears to be the most convenient time for holding the Conference, the Council meet (D. V.) on Tuesday, the 10th of that month, being the anniversary of the Conference of 1846, at which the Evangelical Alliance was formed, and that the Conference open on Wednesday, the 20th. That on the Wednesday morning, the annual address, adapted to the occasion, be delivered, the "Practical Resolutions" read and enforced, and the Annual Report of the British Organisation presented, and on the Wednesday evening, a meeting be held for the mutual introduction of brethren. That Thursday morning, the 21st, be devoted to a free and fraternal conversation on the subject of Christian union; and on Thursday evening, the Committee of Foreign Organisations, having been previously invited to furnish the Council with reports of the state of the Alliance cause in their respective countries, such reports to be read, and each of them followed by a free and general conversation; this reading of foreign reports, and intercommunication on the topics suggested by them, to be resumed and continued at the sitting on the following morning, Friday, the 22nd; and in the evening a public meeting to be held, at which foreign brethren chiefly shall be engaged. That Monday, the 25th, be given to the consideration of the subject of Infidelity, it being an instruction to the Committee of Council to secure the preparation of a paper to be read on Continental Infidelity, by some foreign brother; and also one on the aspects of the same evil in our own country. That Tuesday, the 26th, be occupied with the subject of Popery; and that, in reference to that subject, two papers be also prepared, one on the state of

the Papacy on Continental Europe, by some Continental writer, and another on the aggressions of the Papacy in the British empire. That Wednesday, the 27th, be devoted to the subject of Sabbath desecration, some brother in Germany to be solicited to prepare a paper on the Sabbath question, as at present affecting that country, and another paper to be prepared on the same topic, in its relation to this kingdom. That on the morning of Thursday, the 28th, a public meeting be held, and in the evening a general conversation; that on Friday morning, a public breakfast be held, after which, Religious Liberty, and more particularly the circumstances of British subjects abroad, in relation to it, be brought under consideration; and that the evening be given to a concluding and parting meeting, purely devotional.

PERPETUAL BANISHMENT OF REV. F. O. NILSSON.

Some time ago we adverted to the persecution of Rev. F. O. NILSSON, Baptist Minister, in Sweden, and to his banishment from that, his native country, owing to his religious principles and his pious efforts to benefit his fellow subjects. Memorials and petitions, praying for a rescinding of the sentence, were sent to the King of Sweden from the B. O. of the Evangelical Alliance, and from many congregations and ministers in England and Scotland; and the result has been waited for with much anxiety. The sentence was not immediately carried into effect, as an appeal lay to a higher court. Pending the appeal, Mr. Nilsson obtained an interview with the King, who received him kindly, listened to the recital of his wrongs, and encouraged him in the event of the sentence being confirmed by the superior court, to petition him for the exercise of the royal prerogative in his favour. The sentence of the inferior, was confirmed by the superior court. An answer subsequently came from the King—alas! for royal veracity and firmness!—stating that the King himself confirmed the sentence of Mr. Nilsson, and that nothing could avail to hinder his banishment! The pastor is banished and the flock is dispersed. Tell not this outrageous act in Gath—publish it not in Askelon—lest infidels rejoice and the enemies of Protestantism triumph! Religious liberty—liberty of conscience—whither are ye fled? Shall not God visit that guilty nation for these things, unless, in compliance with the strong remonstrances which, we have no doubt, will be presented from numerous evangelically-Protestant communities, this unjust and disgraceful sentence be speedily erased from its records?

PERSECUTION FOR CONSCIENCE' SAKE.

One of the worst features of human depravity, is persecution of our fellow men, under the guise of zeal for religion. True christianity is as opposed to a persecuting spirit as love is to hatred, or benevolence to pure malignity. Persecution for righteousness sake, ipso facto, evinces depraved, diabolical principle. The sword, instruments of torture, pains and penalties, the undue exercise of civil authority, issuing in confiscation of goods or banishment of person, are utterly inconsistent with the spirit of the christian code, and savour of the lower regions whence they emanate. Protestants who have recourse to such weapons to suppress the efforts, or arrest the progress of any sect of religionists, depart "wile as the poles are assunder" from their own publicly avowed principles, and are unworthy the hallowed name they have assumed. We therefore deeply regret that truth compels us to chronicle the acts of persecution stated in the article preceding; and we cannot withhold the expression of our just indignation at such unchristian, un-protestant conduct, as that which has been manifested by the Courts and Government of Sweden, towards a pious, unoffending, but zealous minister of Christ. Such high-handed injustice, committed in the broad light of the nineteenth century, deserves the reprobation of every sound protestant the world throughout; and the innocent object of it, we trust, will gather around him the warm sympathies, and call forth in his behalf the fervent prayers, of all "who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity," and who are the friends and advocates of the inalienable rights of conscience and freedom of thought, especially when these harmonize with the general, fundamental principles of sacred truth. Let the Protestant world speak out, and tell Sweden that

this act of unrighteous persecution has swelled every heart with indignant feeling, and that if not repealed will render that country a byword of reproach and an object of scorn to every generous mind, and such an appeal to its honour, to say nothing of its religion, for that has been utterly disregarded by itself, will result in its timely retracing its steps and in the restoration of Mr. Nilsson to his former status in society, and to all the immunities he previously enjoyed.

NEW CHURCH.

We are happy to learn that the subscription-list for raising funds to erect the contemplated New Wesleyan Church at the South End, is progressing satisfactorily. The amount signed for this purpose now reaches the handsome sum of about Fourteen hundred pounds. This intelligence will be gratifying to the friends of this enterprise to extend church accommodation. We hope those yet to be called upon, will sign liberally, so as to leave as little incumbrance, on the Edifice when completed, as possible. We accord our meed of commendation to all parties who have interested themselves so nobly in this undertaking; and hope that the result will greatly tend to promote God's glory and the spiritual benefit of thousands of our fellow men.

The Treasurers of the Wesleyan Superannuaries' and Widows' Fund gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following sums, viz.:—Guysborough Circuit, £10 0 0 Halifax Circuit, 18 0

A meeting of the Fire Wardens took place on Monday evening, when John Esson, Esqr., was elected Chairman of the Board, Mr. Sinclair having resigned. An order for 1320 feet of new Hose has been forwarded to England. The estimate for the current year, is £300. Last year the expenditure by the Department was less than in previous years.

The Sun furnishes the following statistics of exports from the port of Halifax during the year 1850: total of dried fish 191,802 quintals; 96,650 blbs. of mackerel; 43,599 blbs. herrings; 4,227 blbs. alewives; 340 tierces 6,412 blbs. salmon; 3,493 casks 36,628 gallons oil; 328 boxes preserved fish; 3,234 boxes herring; 73 blbs. cod-fish.

The American Steamer ARCTIC, from Liverpool for New York, put into Halifax yesterday morning. She brings no tidings of the ATLANTIC, which sailed a fortnight previously.

We are glad to learn that a movement is making to get up a joint stock Company for the prosecution of the Labrador fisheries from this Port. Though the sum proposed to start with is small, it is an easy matter to have the act of incorporation so framed as to increase the stock at any time, should the result of the speculation warrant it. We understand there will be no difficulty in securing the amount of £1000 the sum proposed.—Pictou Chronicle.

A vessel sailed recently from the port of New York for the Sandwich Islands, having on board Mons Perin, a French Consul of the first class.—N. Y. Paper.

The leading cities of the United States rate thus, under the new census, as to population:—New York, 517,000; Philadelphia, 409,000; Baltimore, 169,000; New Orleans, 145,000; Boston, 135,000; Cincinnati, 116,000; Brooklyn, 96,000; Pittsburg, 83,000; St. Louis, 81,000; Louisville, Buffalo, and Washington are about 42,000 each.

Vaudois Missions.

The period of the Vaudois Missions was, taken as a whole, a great and glorious one. It comprehends the records of that primitive Church from its first documentary history in 1120 to the year 1488, when the first general persecution took place, in virtue of a bull of Innocent VIII, and which was executed by the united efforts of King Charles VIII. of France, and the Duke Charles II. of Savoy. This period embraces three centuries and a half. It was then that the Vaudois faith spread far and near, not only in the plains of the Po, and the Calabrian provinces of the Kingdom of Naples, but also as far as Sicily on the one hand, and the southern parts of France on the other. During the former portion especially of these three centuries and a half, the zeal was most intense and fervent, being free from all motives either of worldly interest or of carnal fear. Devoted christians under the garb of pedlars, went from one city to another, and while offering their wares, proclaimed alike in the castle of the rich and the cottage of the poor, the glad tidings of a Saviour's love. How often did the gay lady or the humble peasant, shed tears of penitence and joy, while the poor Vaudois recited the stories of Bethlehem and of Calvary! The colonies formed at that time, be-

came al- sionary forth, to ment of Mission courage people number ously, t Walden big-ene- mast ha The tru a proof sivation this inst The also of ing alik eery is both pu ed to: a certai church-

The o remains the pow The Go Archbi- agree i terfere the law Rome's fused to great q until th appear to fill th ranout It is w Romish opposi howeve to the I or beal ry the l sions ur judicial Fes in Pictou It is ca would b Suprem revoluti tion of some there aquisition; another the Sup To pre the Lat of the I be cont some g awaits t deed, th first fr the auti gelist.

Eliza I thin nolon g subject She has etc., ut located Ohio ei six, in Long I sey the Virgin two, in Wisconsin above c from w enough sanctity tern. A

An writing deman- tined- amount Testam taken b ing, and The St people, spst, a inquiry

At a Society than te- dency, country six uns- ton is t