

The meetings of the LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY and COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY did not take place in time for the reports to reach us for this month's *Independent*; next month we hope to inform our readers what these two Societies (in which we take especial interest) are doing.

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SERVICES TO THE "UPPER CLASSES."—We find the following paragraph in the columns of the *Morning Advertiser*:—"On Saturday afternoon Captain Trotter gave his second address to the higher classes of society, in Willis's rooms. The place was crowded in every part, and a great many of the audience had to stand during the whole time. The subject of the gallant officer's address was the Holy Spirit in his Person and Work. For more than an hour Captain Trotter enchained his audience by luminous expositions of the statements of Scripture on the subject, mingled with singularly powerful appeals to the conscience. Not a sound was heard during the delivery of the discourse, which there is every reason to believe must have been savingly blessed to many who heard it. The address was thoroughly practical, as well as expository, and the closeness and cogency of its application, at the end, to the minds and hearts of those present, must have met with a thorough response in many a bosom. Among Captain Trotter's auditory there were distinguished noblemen, with their wives and families. The thought must have occurred to many who listened to the address of the gallant officer, that the rich and noble, as well as the poor and lowly, had, in this instance, the Gospel preached to them. The aristocratic character of the audience, which could not have consisted of less than from 500 to 600 persons, may be inferred from the fact that King-street and a portion of St. James's-square was lined on each side by splendid equipages, just as if the attraction that had brought them hither had been the appearance of some new prima donna at her Majesty's Theatre. Who could help reflecting in his own mind on the contrast between the purpose to which Willis's Rooms were applied on Saturday, and that to which they have been for so long a period appropriated as Almack's?"

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A MISSIONARY PRIZE ESSAY.—Last spring an announcement appeared in the newspapers, emanating from the Rev. Chas. Hodgson, rector of Barton-le-Street, offering for competition four prizes, for the first, second, third and fourth best essays on the best method of infusing a missionary spirit into the education of the young. The prizes were to be 50*l.*, 20*l.*, 10*l.* and 5*l.*, respectively. No essays were to be sent after the last day of September, and the adjudication was promised at the close of 1860. Three eminent clergymen of the Church of England were appointed adjudicators, amongst whom was the Rev. Mr. Champneys, rector of Whitechapel and canon of St. Paul's. In consequence, however, of the large number of essays written (473), the adjudication has only just been completed; and we have heard that our respected friend and neighbour, the Rev. John Stock, minister of Morice-square chapel, Devonport, has, by the unanimous award of the adjudicators, received the first prize of 50*l.* As the prize comes from a Churchman, and has been so impartially adjudicated by Church clergymen, Mr. Stock, after giving 10*l.* towards the repairs and alterations of his own chapel, divides 15*l.* between the Church Missionary Society and the Baptist Missionary Society, as a tribute to the catholicity of spirit which dictated the throwing open the competition, and to the impartiality with which the decision has been made.—*Western Morning News*.

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IRISH SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—The Sunday School Society for Ireland held its fifty-first annual meeting at the Rotunda in Dublin last week, when the Earl of Roden occupied the chair. The total number of schools reported is 2,705; of scholars, 233,390; and of gratuitous teachers, 21,302. The Bible is read by 153,969, of whom 67,926 are adults above the age of 15. Within two years there has been an increase of 52 schools, 18,138 scholars, and 1,830 teachers in the province of Ulster, a result which is ascribed to the late revivals.