

Missionary Record.

PITCAIRN'S ISLAND.

The following despatch from Admiral Moresby, has been received at the Admiralty:—

"Portland, at sea, 25 25 S., lon. 126 29 W.
August 12, 1852.

"We made Pitcairn's Island on the morning of the 7th inst.

"It is impossible to do justice to the spirit of order and decency that animates the whole community, whose number amounts to 170, strictly brought up in the Protestant faith, according to the Established Church of England, by Mr. Nobbs, their pastor and surgeon, who has for twenty-four years assiduously and successfully, by precept and example, raised them to a state of the highest moral conduct and feeling.

"Of fruits and edible roots they have a present abundance, which they exchange with the whalers for clothing, oil, medicine, and other necessaries; but the crops on the tillage ground begin to deteriorate, land-slips occur with each succeeding storm, and the declivities of the hill, when denuded, are laid bare by the periodical rains. Their diet consists of yams, sweet potatoes, and bread fruit; a small quantity of fish is occasionally caught; their pigs supply annually upon an average about 50lb. of meat to each individual; and they have a few goats and fowls. Their want of clothing and other absolute necessities is very pressing, and I am satisfied that the time has arrived when preparation, at least, must be made for the future, seven or eight years being the utmost that can be looked forward to for a continuance of their present means of support. The summary of the year 1851 gives—births, 12; deaths, 2; marriages, 3. On their return from Tahiti they numbered about 60, of whom there were married 13 couples; the rest from the age of 16 to infancy.

"Mr. Nobbs was anxious to avail himself of my offer to convey him to Valparaiso, and thence enable him to proceed to England, for the purpose of obtaining ordination. At a general meeting of the inhabitants their consent was given, provided I would leave the chaplain of the Portland until Mr. Nobbs returned; the advantage is so obvious that I feel confident their lordships will approve my consenting. From the anxiety which has been expressed by high authorities of the church for Mr. Nobbs's ordination, I anticipate that it will be effected with so little delay that he will be enabled to return to Valparaiso by the middle of January. I enclose a copy of the memorandum given to the Rev. Mr. Holman.

"I was unable to comply strictly with the list of articles which their lordships authorized me to give the Islanders. I enclose a list of what we supplied; they were greatly wanted and gratefully received. The crew of the Portland also requested permission to give a portion of their allowance, and also that they might be allowed to send them a whale boat, with other stores, from Valparaiso.

"Captain Chads and the officers were most generous. I was fortunate in procuring at Borobora a young bull and heifer, also, a ram, accidents having befallen those previously sent.

"The Adeline Gibbs, American whaler, Mr. Weeks, master, was there during our visit. Mr. and Mrs. Weeks were living on shore. It would be a happy circumstance if a person like her could be found to reside among them.

FAIRFAX MORESBY.

"Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief."

The following letter from Rear-Admiral Moresby, Commander in Chief of H. M. Fleet in the Southern Pacific, addressed to the Rev. T. B. Murray, dated "The Portland," Valparaiso, August, 1852, was read to the Meeting:—

"This will be conveyed to you by Mr. Nobbs, the pastor of Pitcairn's Island. It was not until after our departure from thence that I found he had received a letter from you, dated the 29th Nov., 1850, which I confess has relieved me of much anxiety on the responsibility I have taken upon myself of sending Mr. Nobbs to England. I can most conscientiously assure you, that the state of society at Pitcairn has not been too highly described. The Bible and Prayer Book of 'the Bounty,' as handed to Mr. Nobbs from John Adams, has been and continues the object of their study, and has enabled them to withstand the innovations that too servid imaginations in America and elsewhere have thought, by their correspondence, it was their calling to effect.

"The affectionate attachment of the islanders to

Mr. Nobbs (who, in the triple capacity of pastor, surgeon, and teacher, is as necessary to them as their food) created some little difficulty in his leaving; it was overcome by the arrangement made for leaving with them our chaplain, Mr. Holman, and my assurance that I would return their pastor to them with as little delay as possible.

"Having written to the Duke of Northumberland and the Bishop of London respecting Mr. Nobbs, I have only to request you will give him your earliest consideration. At Valparaiso the crew of 'the Portland' will be attended to by the resident chaplain, but I shall be anxious to have our own again. I hope I am not wrong in supposing that if Mr. Nobbs is found worthy of being ordained, only a short time will be required to prepare.

"I think I did not mention to the Bishop of London the way in which Mr. Nobbs reached Pitcairn: it disproves the malignant stories which have been circulated; and the success of twenty-four years' labour is an abundant proof that, under the blessing of God, he has educated in the principles of our Established Church, as one united family, a community whose simple and virtuous lives are so pre-eminent. In 1826 Mr. Nobbs left England for the purpose of going to Pitcairn. For nearly two years, by the way of the Cape of Good Hope, India, and Australia, he sought a passage; finally, at Callao, in Peru, he met the owner of a launch who, on the condition of Mr. Nobbs sitting her out, agreed to accompany him to Pitcairn. Mr. Nobbs fitted her himself, and expended what little money he possessed. The owner was in ill health, nevertheless these two left Callao by themselves, on a voyage of 3300 miles, which they accomplished in forty-two days.—The owner died soon after their arrival. The launch was hauled on shore, and the materials used to build a house for Mr. Nobbs.

"I was four days on shore at Pitcairn, in constant discourse with the Islanders. I am convinced that the time and the opportunity have arrived for giving them a minister of our Church; and that Mr. Nobbs is the person they wish and the person at present best adapted for them."

SOCIETY PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

Mr. Rochfort Clarke called attention to a paragraph in the sentence passed at Florence on Francesco Madiati, and Rosa his wife, which he said, connected this Society, (Soc. Promoting C. Knowledge,) with the sufferings of those two Christians. He stated that one of the acts of alleged impiety and crime for which the husband was sentenced to fifty-six months, and the wife to fifty-five months' imprisonment and forced labour, was as follows:—

"This latter person (one of their servants) the Madiati took the trouble to teach to read, and thus rendered her capable of understanding the books which they supplied, namely, the Bible by Diodati, and another entitled 'The Book of Common Prayer,' printed in London, in 1848, by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, in which were found recorded the same maxims and doctrines condemned by the Catholic Church, doctrines which expressly assert that the existence of purgatory, and the worship of images, are foolish inventions; that in the sacrament of the eucharist there is no real transubstantiation, and similar notorious heretical pravity indicated above."

Youth's Department.

OUR LITTLE BOY.

When the evening shadows gather
Round about our quiet hearth,
Comes our oldest born unto us,
Bending humbly to the earth!
And with hands clasped tightly,
And with meek eyes raised above,
Thus the prayer he offers nightly
To the Source of light and love:

'Bless my parents, O my Father!
Bless my little sister dear;
While I gently take my slumber,
Be Thy guardian angels near!
Should no morning's dawn e'er greet me,
Beaming brightly from the skies,
Thine the eye of love to meet me
In the paths of Paradise!

Now a glad 'good night' he gives us;
And he seals it with a kiss;
Nought of earthly sorrow grieves us,
In an hour so full of bliss!
Now our arms about him wreathing,
One fond kiss before he sleeps;
Soon we hear his gentle breathing,
In a slumber calm and deep!

IMPORTANCE OF LOST HOURS.—One person rises in the morning at half-past nine, another at six. If each live to be fifty years old, the one will have enjoyed sixty-three thousand eight hundred and seventy-five hours, or two hundred and sixty-one days, more than the other. Let us suppose that there are, throughout Great Britain, one million five hundred thousand persons, who rise at quarter-past nine, or later. Of these, perhaps, nine hundred and fifty thousand would, if they rose at six, be usefully employed. At this rate, fifty-six thousand three hundred and forty-six millions eight hundred and seventy-five thousand hours, or six millions four hundred and thirty-two thousand two hundred and ninety-two years of individual improvement are lost to society every half-century. This is supposing that those nine hundred and fifty thousand get up at quarter-past nine, whereas thousands do not leave their beds till eleven or twelve. All this is uninterrupted day, and composed of hours in which the intellect is far clearer and more fit for study than the rest of the day. It must be remembered, too, that nothing conduces more to health, and consequently to longevity, than early rising. Suppose, out of the above number of persons, five hundred thousand, should live four years longer than they otherwise would have done, viz: fifty-four years instead of fifty; according to the ratio above, here are two million more years of actual existence utterly wasted.

EXTRAORDINARY BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE.—In a school in Edinburgh, in which the intellectual exercises were conducted in a most efficient manner, the teacher put the New Testament into my hands, and requested me to select any passage I might choose from any one of the four Gospels or from the Epistles to the Hebrews, and read it to a class of about eighty boys and girls, who were from eleven to thirteen years of age. Accordingly, I opened the book at random, and read the first verse upon which my eye fell. Before I had finished reading it, a large number of the class had turned to it, and announced the book, chapter, and verse that I was reading.

Astonished at this, I repeated the text, turning backwards and forwards promiscuously, again and again; and in no case were they at fault. In every case, before, or as soon as I had finished the verse I was reading, a considerable number of the class, often a majority, held up their Testaments, and showed or mentioned book, chapter, and verse. I then tried them by beginning in the middle of the verse, selecting verses whose conclusion was such that the clause presented a substantial idea. This made no difference, so complete had they committed of memory not only every verse, but the order of all, and the place where every one was to be found.

Selections.

PHYSICAL RECREATION.—Bodily exercise is one of the most important means provided by nature for the maintenance of health, and in order to prove the advantages of exercise, we shall show what should be exercised, and the modes by which it may be adopted.

The human body is in reality a machine, the various parts of which are beautifully adapted to each, so that if one suffers all must suffer.

The bones and muscles are the parts on which motion most depends. There are 400 muscles in the body, each performing a specific duty. They assist the tendons in keeping the bones in their places and put them into motion. Whenever we run, walk, or sit, or stoop, bend the head, arm or leg, or chew food, we may be said to open or shut a number of hinges, or ball and socket joints. It is a provision of nature that, to a certain extent, the more the muscles are exercised, the stronger do they become; hence mechanics, labourers, farmers and others, are stronger and more muscular than those whose lives are passed in easy light, and professional duties. Besides strengthening the limbs, muscular exercise has most beneficial influence on the circulation of the blood and on respiration. The larger blood vessels are generally placed deep among the muscles, consequently when the latter are put into motion, the blood is driven through the arteries and the veins with much greater rapidity than when there is no exercise; it is more completely purified; as the action of the insensible perspiration is promoted, which relieves the blood of many matters taken up in its passage through the system, and thus diffuses a feeling of lightness and cheerfulness over body and mind.

Recreation should be taken which will exercise all the muscles. Most of our city employments compel the workers to stand or sit in unnatural positions, using only few of their muscles, while the others remain comparatively inactive. Tailors, sawyers, shoemakers,