

the friends of Africa for the safety of the noble minded men who have given themselves to the work of evangelizing the Caffre tribes; but, by the latest intelligence from the seat of war, we learned that the Missionaries and their Societies had been uninjured. The attention of the British Government is arrested by the fact, that the Missionary stations in the interior of those barbarous regions, are exercising a most commanding influence for good upon the tribes around them; and that the principles of evangelical religion, so extensively diffused among the aborigines by the Wesleyan and other Missionary societies, form the basis of civilization, prosperity, and peace.

We have been frequently gratified in attending the anniversary services of the St. John's Auxiliary Missionary Society, but never more so than on the present occasion. The congregation was unusually large and respectable. The addresses of the Rev. gentlemen were listened to with great attention until a late hour, and at the close of the meeting the very liberal sum of £40 was taken up, a sum unparalleled at any previous anniversary.

We learn that the sums contributed by the friends of Missions, in St. John's, in behalf of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, are as follows:—

Collected by the Ladies . . . . .	£60 9 7
Juvenile Offerings . . . . .	28 12 9
A Lady's Missionary Box . . . . .	3 0 0
Collected Sunday, May 25th . . . . .	20 12 6
Ditto at the Missionary meeting . . . . .	40 0 0
Thank Offering . . . . .	25 0 0

Total . . . . . £177 14 10

—St. John's Nfld. Courier, May 31st.

#### Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, United States.

The M. E. Church, U. S., has a mission in South America, whose centre is Buenos Ayres; another in China whose centre is the city of Fuh-Chan; another in Africa, covering the whole of the Republic of Liberia and the Maryland Colony at Cape Palmas. This mission is in the form of a regular annual conference, with its districts, circuits, and stations, and Sunday and day-schools, and its commodious seminary in Monrovia, the capital of the Republic; another on the Pacific coast, comprehending Oregon and California. This mission has assumed the form and action of an annual conference, with its districts, circuits, stations, academies, and schools. Its position is one of great interest, being in the centre, between China, the dark empire of Paganism, and the Protestant world in Europe and America. There, then, is the vantage ground from which Protestant missions may influence China, that only and last stronghold of ancient Paganism and idolatry. We have also a German Foreign Mission in the free city of Bremen. It is an offshoot of the missions among the Germans in the United States. It is scarcely eighteen months since it was founded, and yet its success has been astonishing. Already there are five missionaries employed in it, and doors opened in various parts of Germany. This mission is not sent to enlighten the Germans in matters of doctrine, but to contribute somewhat towards restoring the religion in the German Church, as the mission of the Messrs. Wesleys and Whitefield in England, and President Edwards and others in America, was to restore to the cold and formal Churches of their day the life of religion. Our missions in Germany does not seek a revolution in the Churches of Germany, but a renovation of them.

#### The Free Church Assembly.

The Free Church Assembly met on Thursday, in the Large Hall, at Canon-mills, which was crowded to excess, presenting a curious contrast, in this respect, to the other Assembly, although it had all the pomp and display of a representation of royalty to attract an audience without its results. The Rev. Dr. Paterson, of Glasgow, the Moderator, preached the usual sermon, at the close of which he nominated as his successor to the moderator's chair, the Rev. Dr. Duff, of Calcutta, who has now been resident for upwards of a year in this country for the double purpose of recruiting his shattered health, and of furthering the cause of missions in India, for which he has done so much. The appointment was most cordially gone into; by his persuasive eloquence, his kindness of disposition, and his devotedness to the evangelization of the heathen, he has won all hearts, and is, at this moment, the most popular minister of the Free Church.

On taking the Chair, Dr. Duff delivered a long, able, and truly eloquent address. Regarding the Free Church as the National Church of Scotland, he adverted to the many great men who had presided at the Assembly, such as Knox, Melville, and, in later times, Chalmers. He then gave a vigorous sketch of the more prominent points in the early history of missionary enterprise; and, referring to his own election that day, he stated that he regarded it as an additional proof of the interest they felt in the cause of missions to the heathens. They had, he said, married the spiritual interests of Scotland to

those of India, and had made the forests of Caledonia to kiss the plantations on the banks of the Ganges. He then proceeded at great length to contend that there were two points in the church militant, or, as the great historian of the Reformation had more expressly observed, the church had two distinct propositions always in view, namely, inward preservation, and outward propagation; and he proceeded to show how the church had fulfilled, or failed, in the fulfilment, of these points, sketching her general history from the earliest times to the Reformation, referring to her various conflicts with the State, and to the sufferings and persecutions inflicted upon her, the effects of which had been, that in no other country in Christendom was the essential system and spirit of the Reformation more thoroughly embraced and more permanently retained than in the Scottish mind. He then went through the more recent history of the church, giving an account of the rise and progress of patronage, until he came to the struggles which ended in the disruption of 1843; and when, he said, upon the 18th day of May, they went forth out of what was once the Scottish Church to seek for themselves another Zion, they did so amidst the bright sunshine of heaven's own favour, until, in that very hall, they laid the foundation-stone of one of the noblest structures which the world had ever seen—the foundation of the Free Protestant Church of Scotland.

An address to her Majesty on the occasion of her birth-day was then agreed to; and the Free Assembly brought the business of the first day to a close.

On Friday forenoon the only business of public importance before the Assembly was a report by Mr. Jaffrey on the schemes of the church, from which it appears that the total amount raised in the course of last year was £20,868, being an increase of £3,858 on the previous year. The amount was raised proportionately as follows:—

Home Mission scheme . . . . .	£6,083
Education scheme . . . . .	13,906
College Fund . . . . .	2,671
Foreign Missions . . . . .	17,264
Colonial Missions . . . . .	4,900
Jewish Missions . . . . .	5,671
Building Fund . . . . .	3,365

In the evening, the Assembly heard the deputation from the Evangelical Union of Churches in France, consisting of the Rev. MM. Monod and Bost. These gentlemen gave a very gloomy account of the state of religion in France. Infidelity and Jesuitism were rampant; and while the people, in civil matters, boasted of liberty, equality, and fraternity, these terms when applied to religion, meant despotism, hatred, and oppression. The body, which they represented was but small, consisting only of fourteen churches; but by the preaching of a pure gospel, and the dissemination of the scriptures, they hoped yet to be largely instrumental in reviving a true evangelical spirit in that country. The Moderator, at the conclusion of their address, thanked them kindly for this visit, and commended them and the union with which they were connected to the sympathy and liberality of the ministers and members of the Free Church.

On Saturday forenoon the Assembly were addressed by a deputation from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. This Church has fraternized, so to speak, with the Free Church, since the disruption; and, in a few cases, the ministers of the one body have been inducted into the churches of the other. The deputation gave some interesting accounts of the social and spiritual condition of Ireland, and represented Popery as making most vigorous efforts to obtain the ascendancy. The other business before the Assembly was of no public interest.

#### Nova Scotia Presbyterian Church Missions.

Letters from Mr. Geddie dated December last have been received. The contents are highly encouraging. A meeting has been held at Sydney, New South Wales, for the purpose of establishing a mission on the New Hebrides. The Bishop of New Zealand was present and delivered an address, in which he especially commended the exertions of our church, and said that if a people 30,000 miles distant had felt an interest in that race, how much more should the people of New South Wales, who are within 1000 or 1500 miles of them be excited to efforts on their behalf. A resolution was adopted to raise £1000 to purchase a vessel of about 70 tons burden, to pass between the Islands; and of this sum £400 was subscribed on the spot. This is most delightful intelligence in itself, but is especially cheering to the friends of our Foreign Missions to see how our zeal has been the means of awakening the zeal of other colonies on behalf of Missionary enterprise. Nothing of particular movement had occurred on the island of Annetum.—The heathen party had determined on a war with those who are in favour of Christianity, and laid their plans for putting the principal of them to death. But Mr. Geddie made a most earnest appeal to the chief, and succeeded in turning him from his purpose though not without great difficulty, and not until he had threatened to remove the Mission from the Island.—Miss. Register.

#### New Expedition in Search of Sir John Franklin.

(From the Aberdeen Journal.)

The Prince Albert on her second voyage to the Arctic regions, in search of Sir John Franklin and his associates, sailed on Thursday the 22d May.

The design is to proceed direct to Griffith's Island, which is the appointed rendezvous, and the place where Captain Austin is likely to have deposited any important information of which he may be possessed. Should no such intelligence be found, the Prince Albert will proceed to winter ground, as far down Prince Regent's Inlet as can be reached for ice, possibly to Brentford, or Cresswell Bay, from which the boat parties will be despatched. It is expected that a passage for a very considerable distance will be obtained for the boats in the channel, along the shore, formed by the flood-tide, and which admits of boat, tho' not of ship, navigation. Very much may be expected from the services of the boat parties; indeed, it may be safely affirmed that by this means alone can success be attained, if it is attainable. So far as human means can accomplish that result, we believe that, from the efforts of Mr. Kennedy and his men, there is much to hope in the way of, at least, relieving the deep and universal anxiety that prevails as to the fate of the missing expedition. What adds to the reasonableness of this view is, that Sir John Franklin is most likely to have, if such a course had been practicable, retreated in the direction of Fury Beach, which Capt. Forsyth nearly approached last year, but without landing, as the only spot where he knew provisions were to be left by Ross; and he would also naturally judge that thither would anxious eyes be turned to seek to effect his discovery.

If the Prince Albert should not accomplish the object of her search in the course of this year, it is the intention to remain two years, or till the autumn of 1852. It is of course a possible contingency that, though some measures of success be attained, the vessel may be prevented by the ice from returning this season—so that in either of these cases—namely, detention in the ice, or want of success the first year, we shall have to wait for the return of the Kennedy expedition till the autumn of next year. The Prince Albert is amply provided, in the way of stores, till that period.

The Prince Albert carries three boats—one of mahogany, one of common materials, and one of gutta percha. Messrs. Duthie have built a boat specially for Mr. Kennedy's use. It is 22 feet long, only 2 feet wide at the midships, or broadest part, and after being covered with hide or gutta percha, with one person set in it—canoe fashion—it is calculated to draw only three inches of water; the depth of the boat is 12 inches at the seat. It is intended to propel this extraordinary craft after the manner of the natives of these regions—the Esquimaux—by a double-bladed oar, and the person seated in it will be so covered up with a skin dress, buttoned to the chin and fastened to the deck, that in the event of its being swamped, it can easily be righted again without any water getting into it. Mr. Kennedy contemplates not only using this boat for crossing rivers over ice, and down rapids, but to make it his couch of repose all night, by simply pulling a blanket over him, and there repose in a temperature that makes one freeze to think of it. He has been accustomed to these hardships, and has stood many nights in similar circumstances, with the thermometer 40 to 50 degrees below zero; often, too, with no covering but the canopy of heaven.

The vessel has on board a neat little organ, which the illustrious Prince whose name she bears, has ordered to be put on board, "to contribute to the amusement of the men" in the dreary depths of winter.

It is a somewhat remarkable coincidence that it is precisely six years on Monday last since the departure of Sir John Franklin. To those who are apt to lose hope of the discovery of the missing expedition, or rather of its safety, it may be some relief to know that Mr. Kennedy entertains the most sanguine hope, or rather firm persuasion, that, at least, a portion of Sir John's party are yet alive. The Erebus and Terror were fully provisioned for 3 1-2 years, for the 138 persons composing the expedition—but Mr. Kennedy is fully of opinion, from his knowledge of the products of those regions, that the victualling stores would be amply supplemented by the killing of deer, marine animals, and salmon, all of which abound in most localities, and particularly the salmon, and of most excellent quality—so that this, perhaps the chief ground of fear, is, in his opinion, unavailing. Then, as already stated, Mr. Kennedy's own ability and experience, assisted by similar qualities on the part of his men, taking into account the decided efficiency of the boating and land travelling plan, afford strong ground for hope.

The expedition, it is stated, will be conducted on the teetotal principle—a principle on which Mr. Kennedy himself strictly acts, and which, it is believed, he deems of some consequence to the health and efficiency of the men, and the success of the expedition.

The present undertaking has been the means of calling forth some remarkable instances of heroism and self-denial, which we feel peculiar gratification in recording. First of all we have

the Commander himself—Mr. Kennedy—who, having had very considerable experience under the Hudson Bay Co., and who was among the first Europeans that planted foot on the ice-bound northern coast of Labrador, and therefore conceiving that his services might be of advantage in the arduous undertaking of rescuing Franklin and his companions, most nobly offered himself, when in Canada—a country in which he was born, and to which, though educated in Orkney, he belongs—to take the command of this expedition. Having crossed the broad Atlantic to undertake the duty, he goes without fee or reward, animated by a pure devotion to the service, and by a feeling amounting almost to a certain premonition of success.

There is reason to believe that Lady Franklin, while deeply touched with so striking an instance of magnanimous heroism, attaches a peculiar value to Mr. Kennedy's services. And well may her ladyship do so; for one more resembling her own honoured husband, in those virtues which shed a lustre on our humanity, could scarcely be found. Possessed of a sound judgment which appreciates the difficulties and dangers to be met with—but with a cool daring, inflexible determination, and burning zeal, which, by anticipating, will be ready to conquer all obstacles that human energy and perseverance can overcome—and when, in the same breast, is found a pious reliance on the direction and help of an all-wise and omnipotent Providence—the services of a man, adding to these noble qualities the very important one of experience, cannot be too highly valued. As affording a beautiful illustration of one of the virtues we have attributed above to Mr. Kennedy, we may mention that, at his desire, the crew met at the vessel on Sabbath forenoon, and proceeded to Church in a body, himself and Capt. Leask at their head, desiring in this way to acknowledge their dependence on Providence in their peculiarly arduous undertaking. It is, we doubt not, certain that Mr. Kennedy never meant this incident to be published; but it is one so pleasing that we are sure, our readers will feel gratified that we have communicated it to them. We cannot drop reference to the brave and good Commander of this expedition without acknowledging as we do most gratefully his uniform courtesy in the way of giving full information as to the undertaking.

M. Bellet, Knight of the Legion of Honour, and a distinguished officer of the French naval service, also accompanies the expedition. This gallant and noble-hearted young officer kindly volunteered his services; but the vessel being small and nearly the last inch of space pre-occupied, it was considered right to apprise him of the insufficiency of the accommodation, as also that the vessel had already her full complement of officers and men, at the same time that every one who accompanied was made for his generous proposal. M. Bellet was, however, not to be repulsed; and had no sooner received Lady Franklin's courteous though somewhat discouraging communication, than he instantly started for England, arriving in London on the 10th. The inconveniences, which must have deterred others from the purpose, appear to have only presented the undertaking to his mind in a more inviting aspect. M. Bellet gives his services, which are likely to be of no small use, entirely without remuneration; and even Lady Franklin's pressing entreaty to be allowed to furnish his outfit was declined. Such an instance of genuine and expansive "fraternity" is an honor to M. Bellet and the French nation, and will touch the heart of Britain.

#### Narrative of a Refugee Slave.

Being a faithful account of the experience of THOMAS H. JONES, who was a slave for forty-three years, and who effected his escape from Wilmington, N.C., in the fall of the year 1849—comprising, also, an account of the providential escape of his family, a wife and three children, whom he succeeded in aiding away previously.

"The writer would affectionately present his simple story of deep personal wrongs to the earnest friends of humanity. He humbly asks you to buy and read it, for in so doing you will help one who needs your sympathy and aid, believing you will receive in the perusal of this simple narrative, a more fervent conviction of the necessity and blessedness of toiling for the desolate members of the one great brotherhood."

Mr. Jones, who arrived in this city a few days since, has recently been pastor of a Coloured Church in Salem, Mass., from which he was obliged to flee, or expose himself to the risk of being dragged away to his former bondage. He comes highly recommended by Ministers and others "as a worthy man and a Christian, every way deserving of sympathy and aid." He purposes shortly to visit Great Britain, and seeks during his stay here, to enlist the benevolent sympathies of the citizens of Halifax. His pamphlet of 48 pages of thrilling narrative he offers for sale at 1s., by the proceeds of which, and by public meetings, supplemented by the generous aid of those who feel interested in the wrongs to which the African portion of our race has been and continues to be subjected,—he hopes to be furthered in the objects of his mission. We wish him every success.