

Missionary Intelligence.

(From Wes. Notices Newspaper for April 1851.)
The Income of the Wesleyan Missionary Society for 1850.

It is with no ordinary feelings of gratitude to God, and thankfulness to the friends of Missions, that the Committee are enabled to report the Income of the Society for 1850 to be ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY-ONE POUNDS, FIFTEEN SHILLINGS, AND FOURPENCE.

To the contributors at large, who have thus sustained the operations of the Society by their liberality, and to the Ministers and others who have publicly advocated the cause of their Society, the committee feel that their best thanks are due. Many of the Donations which have been sent, have been accompanied by the most gratifying expressions of attachment to the Mission work; many Subscribers have been nobly continued, notwithstanding the exigencies of the times, in many instances, and the strong pressure of unusual claims in others. Many Collectors have persevered in their self-denying labours, under circumstances of great discouragement; and the Donors, Collectors, and Treasurers of the Christmas and New-Year's Juvenile Offerings of the Wesleyan Missions have this year exceeded their former doings, the contributions from this source, received in time to be included in the account, amounting to the noble sum of Five Thousand Pounds, Nine Shillings, and Threepence. And though it was reasonably expected, considering the very extraordinary amount of Legacies received during the preceding year, in connection with the large amount of Special Donations then spontaneously offered, that the Aggregate Ordinary Contributions of 1850 would not fully equal those of 1849, they do, we believe, present an increase of more than £534 over the Income of 1848.

Gratifying to a high degree as are the facts now announced, the Committee are confident that a much larger amount, more nearly adequate to the wants of the Missions under the care of the Committee, might easily be raised. The great thing required for the accomplishment of this important end is—*Information*. If any godly man saw a great work of grace in progress in his own neighbourhood, the ignorant instructed, the prodigal reclaimed, sinners converted, the church enlarged, joy and happiness diffused around, and God glorified, would he not give, out of his plenty, or, if poor, out of his poverty, to maintain the agency by which such a work is carried on? Let him only see the work, let him see its progress and results, and its claim on him would be irresistible. No consideration of indulgence, or of penury, would prevent his practical interest in it: "Let my right hand forget her cunning," he would say, "and let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy." But this work is as really going on by the agency of Missions among the most depraved and barbarous and idolatrous of men, as if we saw it with our own eyes. The African, and the American Indian, are enlightened by the Gospel. The Feejee Islanders are won from their cannibal propensities, and are living in holy love and joy. The Singalese and Hindoos cast away their idols. God's word has free course and is glorified. In Jamaica alone Three Thousand Five Hundred persons have been received on trial, for Christian fellowship, since the awful visitation of the Cholera in October last! Let it be known that many thousand persons are every year added to the living church of Christ on earth, on the Mission Stations, to fill the places of those who are removed to heaven! Let it be known that the enlargement of this great work depends on the united aid of the members of the Societies and Congregations; and where is the man, woman, or child, whose heart God has touched with His grace, who would not desire to contribute towards it? It is in the multitude of those who do not yet regularly contribute to the support of Missions that we see, not any cause of despondency as to the enlargement of Christ's kingdom on earth, but a reasonable ground of hope for

its speedy and indefinite extension. We are inspired with the best anticipations for the future, by contemplating the vast number of good people yet to be brought forward to the help of the work of Missions. The world cannot remain as it is, when there is so large a reserve of the army of the church militant still to be brought up to the help of the Lord, "to the help of the Lord against the mighty." The great Head of the church alone knows all the good effected by His servants all over the world. Some measure of it may be learned from the correspondence, at large, of all the Missionaries; to which few persons only can have access. A selection from this correspondence is published every month in the "Notices," and once a quarter in the "Quarterly Papers;" but these publications are not generally read. There is not one person in ten, in our Societies and Congregations, who regularly reads the "Missionary Notices" and "Quarterly Papers,"—the records of the labours and trials and successes of the men who are fulfilling the command of the Saviour, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." Here, then, is a great work going on; and you are ignorant of its details! Or if you know them, you are letting others, who ought to be equally interested, remain in ignorance! *The work is not seen*; and from this cause, from the information of what is doing not being duly circulated,—the Missions, which might be enlarged, and rendered twice as useful, are restricted in their operations. There are many thousand persons connected with Methodism who do not give so much as *one penny a week*, throughout the year towards the support of the Missions. There are many such persons connected with almost every Society and every chapel. They do not subscribe, because they do not know the good that is done. Now, the object of this address will be accomplished, if all such persons will procure the "Missionary Notices," and read them. There ought to be a large sale of this instructive and interesting publication. All persons who desire to know the work which God is now carrying on in many countries, should buy and read the "Notices," and preserve them with the Covers, which contain useful information, for future reference. And every Collector is earnestly advised to begin afresh to lend the "Notices," not only to the penny-a-week subscribers, but also to those who do not subscribe. Let the "Notices" be read, and information of the state and work of the Missions be diffused among those who fear and love God, and the Missions will be supported and enlarged.

It has been said, that Contributions are given in sympathy with the Committee, and not in regard to the Missionaries and their work. This is not true, to any great extent. It is no wish of the Committee to appropriate to themselves the affectionate sympathy which should be directed to the Missionaries. The Committee, therefore, earnestly reiterate their recommendation, that the published letters of the Missionaries be universally read; and they have then no fear but that adequate means will be provided for sending out the men now ready to go, and for their support in the prosecution of the work of God to which they are devoted. The Mission-work cannot afford to lose any of its old friends and supporters; and it can justly claim in addition to these, that all persons connected with the Methodist Societies and congregations should read the information which is published, and should become regular subscribers to its Funds. Should this object be to any great extent accomplished, by the united efforts of Ministers and Officers and Collectors, and by the kind acquiescence of every one who reads this address, there will be a glorious augmentation of the work of Missions, many dark places of the earth will soon be visited by the light of the Gospel, and the glorified and exalted Saviour will "see of the travail of His soul, and will be satisfied."

We would bear in prayerful remembrance the other Missionary Societies who are co-workers with us in this great enterprise. We heartily wish them "God-speed;" but we would not be less mindful of our own duty to take our full part of the conflict

against idolatry, Popery, and scepticism; and against every form of antichrist which now seeks to obtain ascendancy, and enslave and ruin the souls of men. "We, then, as workers together with God, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain."

JOHN BRECHAM, } President of the
THOMAS FARMER, } Conference.
JOHN SCOTT, } General
JAMES BUNTING, } Treasurers.
ROBERT ALDER, } General
ELIJAH HOOLE, } Secretaries.

Correspondence.

JUDGE MARSHALL'S LETTERS.

(Continued from *Athenaeum* of the 30th ult.)
TOWN AND COUNTY RATES.

The next head of taxation which may be mentioned, is of a local description; comprising the town and county rates. It is not easy to ascertain the exact amount of all these, but from the most correct information afforded on the subject,—especially, as seen above, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who states them at 13 millions, but which estimate as he admits, does not include tolls, and some other similar items,—it would appear, that the whole amount of these local taxes, including tolls, and the other items alluded to, cannot be less than from 18 to 20 millions. The principal charges and expenses which these local taxes are raised and expended to defray, are for Jails, Penitentiaries, Bridewells, Lunatic Asylums, County and Town Officers, including Police, repair of roads and bridges; with various other purposes of a local description. Supposing, then, all these local taxes, including the tolls, to amount only to 18 millions, this sum added to the £2 millions of general revenue, from duties &c., as seen already, will give the sum of 20 millions. It may here be remarked, that a large proportion, probably the larger of the 18 millions of local taxes, is paid by the labouring classes, certainly much the larger by these and the middle classes combined. Here, again, the nobility and other aristocracy have the great pecuniary advantage over all the other orders, though so far better able to bear the charge. It may further be remarked, that it would appear from statements contained in one of the authorities on the subject now in my possession, that in some parts of the United Kingdom, if not in others, or in all, as indeed in every other country, there have been, to say the least, great extravagances and abuses. The following, mentioned by one of those authorities, seem to be instances of the kind. "Prisons, have had expended upon them sums beyond all conception in extravagance. The Reading Jail, costing £220 per prisoner, Millbank £500 per prisoner; York, enlarged at the prodigious expense of £1,200 per prisoner. Among the charges of the Poor Law Administration, are £59,801 for masters and matrons, School-masters and mistresses; Chaplains £59,431; Medical Officers, £124,532, and even nurses £2161."

POOR RATES.

The next department, or species of taxation, which presents itself for examination and remark, is the rating for the relief of paupers. On this important and harassing subject, there is, probably, at the present time, more general dissatisfaction and complaining, in the United Kingdom, than regarding any other part of the load of taxation. The probable number of paupers throughout the Kingdom, has already been stated in a previous letter, at about *three millions*: the actual number in England and Wales and Scotland, in 1848, having been 2,104,182, as appeared by a return made to the House of Commons. It is not probable that the number in those three countries is less at the present time; and the proportion in Ireland being added, will doubtless make up the full number of three millions. The whole annual expense of the relief or support of this enormous multitude, is estimated from public returns, and on other good authority, at about 12 millions sterling.—If all the rest of the population, being about 23 millions, were actually rate-payers, the amount might not seem to be very oppressive, but it is grossly different. Taking the average of 6 to a family, [these 23 millions will fall short of 4 millions of families, and

moreover, large numbers of the population, who themselves are not public paupers, yet from poverty and other circumstances, cannot, or do not pay any such rates. It has been estimated, and is stated in one valid authority, in my possession, that there are in England, about 2½ million of houses, on whose rentals the cost for the relief of pauperism is levied. Suppose that in Ireland and Scotland, there are one million of houses assessed in like manner, the whole number, throughout the Kingdom, will be 3½ million of houses and rental, to bear and defray the 12 millions of pounds, already stated as the whole public expense for the relief of pauperism. If it could be equalized or averaged in this way, according to the number and rental of houses, the burthen would not be so great, in a large majority of cases, but such is not, and cannot be done. In some of the agricultural parts, and even in many of the smaller towns, the poor's rates are comparatively low, while in most of the larger towns, especially in the manufacturing cities, as well as in some of the agricultural towns, and districts, the rates are extremely and oppressively high. They vary, of course, in all parishes and places, according to the number of paupers, and the number of the population liable to the rates. From information I received, it appears that the rates are assessed, in general, if not invariably, on *two thirds of the rental*. The first precise or authentic information I received, as to the extent and pressure of the taxation for pauperism, was in the town of Sunderland, in the county of Durham. Being on a visit there, in the autumn of 1848, I was informed by a respectable house-holder, that their poor tax was then at the rate of 19s in the pound, assessed on the two thirds of the rent. According to this, where a rent was £60 the assessment would be on £40 of it, and would, at such rate of 19s amount to £88. I was very particular in enquiring of him as to this point so that there might be no misapprehension or mistake. In proof of the correctness of the statement, I may mention, that upwards of a year afterwards, I was again in the same town; and one of the persons who kept the temperance hotel where I lodged, informed me, that their rent was £24, and that their poor's rate for the year, amounted to about £18, and their other rates and taxes to about £7, making £20 in all, or nearly as much as the whole rent. In the summer of 1848, being in the City of Leicester, which contains a population of about 60 thousand, a large manufacturer there, and who was one of the Board of Guardians, or Commissioners of the poor, informed me, that they were then daily relieving, from the poor's funds, from 12 to 14 thousand persons; and that the poor rates, amounted to about 16s. in the pound, on the two thirds of the rental. In Bolton, in Lancashire in the Autumn of 1849, the poor's rates, as I was credibly informed, were 10s. in the pound, on "rack rent," that is, on the whole amount of rent paid. In the large town of Nottingham, in 1848, the same rates were from 12s 6d to 15s in the pound, on the two thirds of the rental. Other similar instances might be given, as to England, but these may suffice, to give some view of the force of the pressure. Even in some of the agricultural parishes and districts of that country, the poor's rates, in the years above mentioned, were from 5s up to 10s and 12s 6d in the pound, assessed on the two thirds of rent. A return made to Parliament, in pursuance of a motion for the purpose, shows the number of paupers relieved and the expenditure for their relief, in the following cities and towns, respectively, during the six months which ended the 25th of March 1848, namely—In Bolton 16,004 paupers, at a cost of £12,689, (the whole population of the town being about 60 thousand) in Bradford, about the same population in all, 39,759 paupers—or nearly two thirds of the population,—at a cost of £17,126; in Halifax,—about 30 thousand of a population in all—17,950 paupers, at a cost of £8,869; in Leeds,—population about 120 thousand—19,951 paupers,—cost £15,034; in Liverpool,—population about 300 thousand—27,982 paupers, at £33,323; Manchester—population about 400 thousand,—paupers 94,702, at £44,910; in Nottingham,—population about 90 thousand,—9,232 paupers, at £11,451; in Stockport,—population about 60 thousand,—25,563 paupers, at the cost of £17,329.

In several land, the probability, still in England, that the increase in consequence of their removal. The Board of that the sum land, in the not exceed 1st of February an increase in the year was £433,9 year, of £1 was £541,3; of with the and, as on of February increase a place, within low, the year, as falls to £128,500. But little, pauperism of positive tax; as these subjects known. In Newry, in which the last pauperism southern are formed by the saying, that for the poor, paid, and a of that did not know made from it probably, he in a month of, is only a that time, a about 600 Union or V could not act her were bit the town.

There can many abuses working of the King London under created and their humorous and s the works I afford some- of such Rev. Mr. St. since, ridicul Metropolis; that the occ gave rise to young weav servant girl vided, they opeets of a fa not retrac live on the gets a ticket city," she wants baby apply her he goes to th He is eight out of the School;" fro distressed, te city;" and he attains to he remains for nothing, journeyman, is before his own age. I round of cha precarious, 1 years in the always saved he again has and parish g parish associ lent societies the comforta ly. He com income of pa from the pa ment, by the pnticeship.