

THE AUSTRALIAN EXPLORING EXPEDITION.—The interior of the immense continent of Australia is an unknown region, all the exploring expeditions which have from time to time been fitted out having from a variety of causes proved failures, or partial failures. In July, 1855, Mr. A. C. Gregory and a party of twenty men, with six months' provisions, were despatched from Sydney in a small vessel on an exploring expedition, by the direction and at the expense of the home Government. Their absence was expected to be only of four months' duration. On the 24th of September a letter was received from Mr. Gregory by the colonial Government, and then a period of nine months elapsed without any intelligence of him, so that fears began to be entertained that the party had shared the melancholy fate of Leichardt, Kennedy, and others. On the 19th of June, 1856, the Torch steamer, chartered by Government, and placed under the command of Lieutenant Chinnis, R.N., was despatched from Sydney in search of the missing expedition, and succeeded in ascertaining that the party was safe. On Entrance Island, at the latter end of August, notices were found posted up, stating that Mr. Gregory's schooner (the Tom Tough) had a short time previously sailed for Coupang (Timor), for a fresh supply of provisions, and that a party had started overland for the Albert river in good health and spirits.

THE POPK AND HIS COLUMN.—The correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on the 20th ult. from Rome, says:—“Yesterday afternoon his holiness went to pay a visit to the newly erected column in honor of the immaculate conception, and dismounted on the Piazza di Spagna to admire the monolith, and inspect the machinery, somewhat cumbersome according to modern ideas of engineering, by which it was raised to its lofty pedestal. The architect, Signor Poletti, was in attendance, to explain the details of the operation, and to receive His Nuncio's unqualified approbation of its success. His holiness heard with the greatest interest how 220 firemen (this corps has a military organization in Rome) headed by their colonel, Don Michael Angelo Casetani, Duke of Sermoneta, having previously heard mass at the altar of the immaculate conception in the neighbouring Church of St. Andrea della Frate, repaired to the Piazza di Spagna, and were placed at the disposition of the architect; how, every man bringing at his post, at one o'clock precisely the sound of a trumpet gave the signal for the capstans and windlasses to be put in motion; how the huge column gradually rose to its perpendicular position in twenty seven minutes; how the exact adjustment of the column upon the sheet of lead covering the marble base, so as to leave it fairly erect, occupied ninety-three minutes more; how no misfortune took place; how the band played, and the spectators clapped their hands, how many cardinals, ministers, witnessed the operation from the windows of the Propaganda College; and, finally, how Quirina Christiana herself was spectatress of the scene from the balcony of the Spanish Embassy. Well pleased at the success of the first stage of his favorite hobby, the benevolent pontiff blessed the architect and his assistants, and gaily returned towards the Vatican. Such is the new destination of his ancient column, *columna citatrix*, which once served, according to the opinions of some authors, to bear the names of the Roman tribes and centuries who came to give their turbulent votes in the Campus Martius; whilst, according to other antiquaries, it belonged to the forum of Antoninus Pius. Whatever purpose it may have served in former ages, it certainly lay half buried and neglected for several hundred years, in the garden of the missionary fathers, when it was excavated, by command of Pope Clement XI., and placed opposite the Innocentian Curia, on the Monte Citorio, where it lay undisturbed for another hundred and fifty years, until P. Nono cast his eye upon it, and destined it to rear its lofty head once more in *perpetuum memoriam* of his dogmatic definition of the immaculate conception.

THE KING OF PIEDMONT ROBBED OF HIS PURSE.—The Turin papers mention the following rather singular incident:—“The King of Piedmont, while on a sporting excursion a few days ago, having been separated from his suite, was stopped by a party of robbers, who demanded his purse. ‘But I am the King,’ was the reply; to which the robbers answered; ‘We know that very well, and it is precisely for you alone that we are waiting here.’ The wretch, being solitary and the King's suite at a distance, his Majesty was obliged to yield compliance, and held out to

the robbers a purse containing about twenty gold pieces, which was received with marks of the greatest respect.

At Newark the strange discovery has been made by one of the borough officials, that the whole of the articles, consisting of hams, bacon, wines, spirits, porter, ale, cheese, tobacco, &c., with a large quantity of warm clothing of almost every description, contributed by the inhabitants last year for the army in the Crimea, and left in charge of the Major, a Mr. Bagdale, who has just gone out of office, had never been sent, but were still lying in one of the rooms of the Town-hall, packed up, exactly as they were in 1855. Such of the articles as have not spoiled are to be returned to the donors. This specimen of home mismanagement has the merit, we trust, of singularity.

PREVENTION OF SEA SICKNESS.—Dr. Landerer, a medical man at Athens, announces that he has discovered a sovereign specific against sea sickness. His remedy is to give from ten to twelve drops of chloroform, in water. The chloroform, in most cases, removes nausea, and persons who have taken the remedy soon become able to stand up and get accustomed to the movement of the vessel. Should the sickness return, a fresh dose is to be taken. It was tried on twenty passengers on a very rough voyage from Zee to Athens, and all, with the exception of two, were cured by one dose. The minority, two ladies, were able to resist the feeling of illness on taking a second dose.

Diocesan Church Society.

CHESTER BRANCH OF THE D. C. SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of the Chester Branch of the Diocesan Church Society, was held Dec. 13, 1856. The Schoolhouse was well filled, and the audience manifested much interest in the proceedings.

Rev. R. Payne offered up the usual appropriate prayers. Heber's Missionary Hymn was then sung.

After the Secretary, Rev. R. Payne, had read extracts from the Report for the past year, the Rector, the Rev. C. J. Shreve, President of the local committee, introduced the subject of the evening. He adverted to the History of the D. C. S., and to its extending operations in the diocese, as well by sending Missionaries to destitute places of which he spoke from some personal experience, as by the other proposed objects of the Society. After some lengthy observations, Mr. Shreve concluded by exhorting all present to additional exertions in support of the D. C. S., as the future source of aid for poorer parishes, when the support of the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel should be withdrawn.

The Rev. R. Payne moved the 1st. Resolution, seconded by Mr. Amos Morgan:

Resolved—That earnest prayer should be joined with our unceasing efforts for the advancement of God's Church, so far as the blessing from above is promised not to either alone, but to both conjoined.

In moving the Resolution, the Rev. Gentleman quoted some passages of God's word and our Lord's commission to his Apostles, as being obligatory upon the Christian Church. Our fellow Churchmen in England were impressed by these considerations, and established those missionary institutions which are the most cheering facts of the day. Colonial Churchmen should feel it to be an imperative duty to relieve the Parent Societies of the expense of sustaining the interests of the Church in the Colonies, that more aid might be given to new missions to the heathen. We should not only pray that the Lord of the harvest should send forth more labourers, but exert ourselves for their support. In conclusion the speaker took a rapid survey of the progress of the missions of the Church, and contrasted it with what remained to be done in the dark places of the earth.

Mr. Amos Morgan, in a neat speech, seconded the Resolution.

The 2nd. Resolution was moved by M. B. Desbrisay, Esq., and seconded by Mr. Joseph Whitford:

Resolved—That in view of the fact that millions of our fellow men are enslaved in spiritual darkness, the Members of the Church, mindful of their high privileges should be more than anxious to spread throughout the world the consoling truths of the Gospel.

In moving the resolution, Mr. Desbrisay drew a comparison between the slavery existing on this continent, and that endured by those who, in different lands, are lying in spiritual darkness, showing the painful effects of each,—that while the former shut out large numbers of men from the benefits of science and civilization, the latter deprived them of all

those Christian aspirations which impart the highest happiness in this life, and anticipate the joys which “eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart conceived,” and urged the serious attention of the audience to the lamentable fact, that amidst the resplendent light of this century, and the onward march of truth, so many millions should still be living in heathen practices, and bowing down to wood and stone. He instanced the rapid spread of Infidelity at home and abroad, with its effects on its unfortunate victims in life and death. The high privileges of Churchmen, and the comfort they would afford if given to those deprived of them, were also dwelt upon, and the testimony born in favor of the Church by distinguished Divines not of her Communion, was quoted. The imparting of good things proposed to others not so favored, resulting from one of the noblest feelings which can animate the human mind, and the peculiar application of this duty to the comforts inseparable from the Christian life were strongly recommended. In answer to the charge made by the enemies of Christianity that the spread of the Gospel produced no good results, Mr. D. gave an account of the mission to the Hottentots of the Cape of Dr. Van der Kemp, who had been himself an avowed Infidel, and its extraordinary effect in securing their temporal and eternal good.

In conclusion he urged the right estimate of the high privileges enjoyed by Churchmen, in making liberal contributions to send the light of God's word into the destitute parts of this Province, and the dark places of the earth. To this line of duty they should be constrained by “the love of Christ,” the coming judgement, and the near approach of that Eternity, which in the words of an eloquent Divine, were declared to be “the only property in the Creation, compared to which all earthly joys and sorrows, all interests which know a period, fade into the most contemptible insignificance.”

Mr. Joseph Whitford in seconding, alluded to the onward progress of the Christian Church, notwithstanding varied obstacles—to the elevating effect of Christianity among those who were influenced by it, and concluded with some comments upon Heber's Missionary Hymn.

The 3rd Resolution was proposed by Dr. Pearson, seconded by Mr. John F. Hiltz:

Resolved—That whilst, as Churchmen, we thankfully acknowledge that all we possess comes from God, it is our duty and interest to give of our substance for the support of the Church in the advancement of true religion amongst the spiritually destitute of our own land, and those of foreign lands.

W. Pearson, Esq., in some very appropriate observations, showed that we consulted, not only our spiritual interests in giving our worldly goods to the cause of religion, but that even our temporal interests were promoted by the various refining influences in the train of religion.

Mr. John F. Hiltz briefly seconded, with some interesting remarks.

It was also unanimously—

Resolved—That a fourth of the money remitted to the D. C. S. should be reserved in aid of the fund for the endowment of the Parish.

Collectors were appointed, and officers and committee for ensuing year. A collection of nearly £9 was made, when the meeting closed with prayer and singing.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The adjourned Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Church Society of this Island, was held at the Infant Schoolhouse, on Thursday evening, the 8th of Jan'y. 1857, at 7 o'clock, the Rev. C. Lloyd, B. C., in the chair. After the offering up of prayer and the singing of the 100th Psalm, the chairman opened the business of the meeting by directing the attention of those present to two principal features connected with the Society, the interests of which they were that evening met together to promote, namely, its being a Church, as well as a Native Society; Church in its character and principles, and native in its aspirations and sphere of labor; a Society which, not only represented the interests of the Church of England in this colony, but expended all its means within its borders; means, however, which, he regretted to say, were as yet but small, and nothing equal to the demands which were made, or even likely to be made, upon it; a society which had the free and full disposal of its own funds, and over whose laws the Bishop of the Diocese had a controlling power. The prospects of the Society he was glad to see, were brightening, especially if he were to take the attendance this evening, at such an inclement season, as an indication of the interests felt in its operations. The time, he was persuaded, was drawing near, when the venerable Society which had hitherto so generously sustained the cause of the Church in this Island, would be obliged to withdraw its funds to younger and more destitute colonies, and therefore there was the more need, ere they