

ENGLISH WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

On Wednesday week, the Wesleyan Methodist Conference commenced its regular sittings at Bristol. The proceedings of the various Committees, though important, are only preparatory. The income of the United Chapel and Education Fund has been reported at £532, of which one half is appropriated to the Education Fund. This amount shows an increase of about £200. A report was presented of the completion of one hundred and four erections during the year. The entire cost, as reported, is £34,906; the subscriptions and collections realized, £29,033; leaving the debt £4975. The report of the Education Committee states that thirty male and eight female teachers had been sent out by the Committee during the year, and at present forty were in course of training. The Committee experience, in common with other educational institutions, great difficulty from the want of suitable candidates, which, however, they hope will not continue.

The number of Sunday schools, in May last, was four thousand one hundred and six—increased ninety-three; the total number of Sunday school scholars was 436,299—increased 18,396. Not less than 121,798 children in the Sunday schools also attend some day school—showing that, if day schools were generally established, little effort would be required to secure a large attendance. Returns had been obtained of the number of children who attended select classes, or were under special training for church membership, and these were found to amount to 11,763. Of teachers, there were 60,993—and out of this number 55,191 were members of society. The annual cost of the Sunday schools last year was £25,074 7s. 9d. As to week-day and infant schools, there were in May 370—increased 38. The number of children in them was 34,235—increased 3599. In charge of these schools were 233 masters and 133 mistresses. The cost of these schools was £22,322 5s. 2d.—showing that the Wesleyan body was now expending about £47,000 annually in the cause of religious education. During the last year, eighty-one new week-day schools had been established, containing 6061 children; and for these thirty-two teachers had been trained under the direction of the Committee; several of the other teachers had also been trained at different Normal Institutions. In several instances teachers had been engaged by the Local Committees who had not received any previous training for that important work.

From the financial statement it appeared that the contributions towards the proposed sum of £20,000 had been £16,119 14s. 5d., and the general collection £439 13s. 1d., making £20,559 7s. 6d. Deducting £329 for local expenses, the aggregate receipts had been £20,229 8s. Some of the promised contributions were yet unpaid, and it was probable that the sum of £21,000 would be actually realized. The grants during the year had been £1099.

Miscellaneous

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

MOVEMENTS OF THE NEW POPE.—Letters from Rome of the 18th ult., state that the Sacred College offered every possible opposition to the measures of reform contemplated by the Pope and Cardinal Gizzi. His Holiness, however, was not to be deterred from his purpose, and various improvements in the civil administration and the organization of the municipal councils, long claimed by the population, were in progress of preparation. One of the cardinals having observed to the Pope that if he did not alter his system, the people would demand a Constitution; "and why should I not accede to their desire?" replied his holiness, "if a Constitution was necessary to the welfare of my subjects?"

GENERAL MANSE FUND.—It will be satisfactory to the members and friends of the Free Church, and to the subscribers to this important fund, to be informed, that the total sum realized and paid into the hands of the Convener and Treasurer at this date amounted to £30,127 5s. 3d. Various parties have paid up their contributions in full, although they were only eligible by yearly instal-

ments during the course of five years. The Committee are now engaged in dispensing the fund to those whose circumstances and claims were considered as entitling them to a share of the first year's distribution, and upon fulfilment of the conditions and regulations that have been laid down.

JERUSALEM.—It is said that M. Gobat, the new Bishop of Jerusalem, proposes to direct his exertions more towards the Mussulman population than to the Jews, as almost all former missionaries have hitherto done; and this task will be more easy for him, as he has in his former travels acquired considerable knowledge of the manners and language of the Arabians.

FERNANDO PO.—A Spanish corvette arrived lately with a government commissioner, and a bishop and priest of the church of Rome on board. The commissioner ordered the Baptist missionaries immediately to leave the island, as the bishop and priest would take charge of the spiritual interests of the people. He assigned no cause, as far as I have been informed, but that such were his orders, as the Spanish government admitted of no toleration in matters of religion, either in the mother country or in her colonies. The severity of this order was, however, relaxed after a few conferences; and they were allowed a year to remove with all that belonged to them, during which time the Rev. Mr. Sturgeon is allowed to officiate both in church and school. They are breaking up and removing to Bumba, on the opposite coast, where they encourage themselves the Lord has work for them to do, and a blessing to bestow greater than here.

DR. KALLEY DRIVEN FROM MADEIRA
—POPISH OUTRAGES ON BRITISH
PROTESTANTS.

The news is from Madeira somewhat startling. It presents us with Popery in its true colours—the same later of the Bible, the same persecutor of the truth as of old. The outrages are no longer confined to the poor Portuguese converts; they have extended to the British residents and visitors. The Misses Rutherford, three young ladies, the daughters of Mr. Oliver Rutherford, of Edgerston, one of them a very great invalid, living alone and unprotected, were the first sufferers. And of what offence had they been guilty? Simply the allowing of a few poor hunted Portuguese to meet in their house for the purpose of reading the Scriptures together, and engaging in devotional exercises. For this their windows were smashed in, and their doors burst open at midnight, their house ransacked by a savage mob instigated by a Romish priest, and the selves at length forced to take refuge on board a vessel in the harbor. This took place on Sabbath the 21 of August. Then on the following Sabbath we have an attempt on the life of Dr. Kalley, and the sacking of his house. This was done with all deliberation and premeditation, so that when the Popish assailants arrived at the scene of their intended operations, they were met by the Governor of the island, the chief of the police, and the British Consul. In the presence of these functionaries they broke into Dr. Kalley's house, searched every corner of it for their victim, tumbled out his books and papers on the street, and made a bonfire of them, and sent up yells of triumph as they tore the Bibles and cast them into the flames. Meanwhile, Dr. Kalley, disguised in a female dress, had made his escape on board the British West India steamer, which had just arrived in the Bay, and being joined by Mrs. Kalley, they sailed with the steamer that evening, leaving his property in Madeira in the hands of the mob.

And what was the cause of this ferocious attack? For more than a year and a half Dr. Kalley has had no religious meetings. His medical practice among the poor also had been greatly circumscribed by a law which prohibited him from giving them medicines, none but a licensed apothecary being permitted to dispense drugs. It was only when called in as a medical man, that Dr. Kalley spoke to individuals on the concerns of their souls.

But though Dr. Kalley's ministrations had thus been restricted, the truth was still making progress, principally by the blessing of God on native

agency. It was impossible to prevent the poor people from talking to one another on the subject of which their hearts were full, and from reading together the Word of God. The patience also with which they suffered had its effect on many of their neighbors. Now it is this progress of the truth, in spite of all the persecution which it is enduring, that is the real cause of the present outbreak. Satan has become really alarmed for his kingdom in Madeira, and hence the violence and fury of his servants and children. It is not any overt act of Dr. Kalley, for he was doing less than he did two years ago, but it is the increasing number of converts, their firmness, their meek endurance, and their blameless lives, that have provoked Popery to commit these outrages.

And where rests the blame in this matter? That is a serious question. We have no hesitation in saying that it must be shared by the British Government, the British Consul, and the Portuguese authorities in Madeira. Lord Aberdeen paltered with British interests in a manner both un-English and un-Protestant. He put an interpretation on the treaty with Portugal more unfavorable to the liberties and privileges of British subjects than the Popish authorities of Madeira themselves have ventured to do. If Lord Aberdeen's interpretation was correct, Dr. Kalley was fairly within the grasp of the Portuguese authorities, and by legal means they could have imprisoned him, or removed him from the island. But this they have not ventured to do, after the failure of their first attempt, however anxious to punish him or drive him away—and of their anxiety on that head no one can doubt.

Then a large share of responsibility and blame must rest with the British Consul. He is an amiable kind-hearted man, but feels little interest in the work which is now going on among the natives; thinks Dr. Kalley a very troublesome fellow; and is decidedly deficient in that firmness and decision which are so necessary to keep in its proper place a weak and wicked Government, and secure for British subjects the protection and privileges to which, as citizens of this great nation, and by the provisions of treaties, they are entitled. Had he firmly and manfully stood at the beginning to the Popish authorities, "These are British subjects, and you will encroach on their privileges, or fail to protect them, at your peril," we would have heard little of the annoyance and persecutions to which our countrymen in Madeira have been subjected. But instead of this, the Consul has, from the first, pursued a timid course; evidently annoyed by anything like stir or life, he would have been well contented that all had remained in the depth of Popish darkness and ignorance as in days past. The result is, that now, instead of being able to stretch over our countrymen the strong shield of the British name and power, he advises three offending families—those of the Misses Rutherford, Dr. Miller, and Mr. Tate—to withdraw from the island, assuring them that he cannot guarantee protection to their persons and property.

The want of firmness in the Consul, and the un-British interpretation of the treaty by Lord Aberdeen, encouraged and strengthened the spirit of persecution in the Popish authorities in Madeira, and hence the present outrages. During the last three years, the houses of the Bible Christians have been violently entered, and the inmates maltreated; the converts have been waylaid, and most cruelly beaten in open day; and in many instances this was known to be done by the agents of the police. When complaints were made to the authorities, and the guilty parties were pointed out, no steps were taken to punish them. All knew that in maltreating the Kallistas, and insulting Dr. Kalley, they were doing what was agreeable to the Government. This gave boldness to the priests and their associates. They began to feel that not only might they with impunity abuse their own countrymen, the converts, but extend their attacks to the persons and property of the British who showed these poor converts any kindness or countenance.

Nor do they seem to have been mistaken; for two individuals who were seized during the brutal midnight attack on the Misses Rutherford's house on the 2nd of August, and put in prison, were set at liberty in a few hours. When, therefore, on the 9th of August, they plundered Dr. Kalley's house, destroyed his property, and burnt the bibles in the