

the House of Commons, appointed in 1852, to investigate the subject of Sabbath desecration, remark in their report, that Sunday labor is generally looked upon as a degradation; and it appeared in evidence that in trade, in proportion to the disregard of the Lord's day, was the immorality of those engaged in it. One of the witnesses examined, a respectable baker, declared he would hardly train up his children to the business, because he was afraid of their morals being corrupted, through the Sabbath desecration required by the occupation as practised in London. The journeymen bakers in London, amounting to eight or ten thousand, are seldom in church; general looseness of moral principle is the consequence; from this very circumstance they feel that they are degraded; and not less from a regard to their character than to their health, comfort, and spiritual welfare, petitioned Parliament in a body, to devise means for relieving them of Sabbath work.—*North American Review*.

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

JUNE, 1856.

Anniversary Meetings in May.

We believe that there is no month in the year in which there are so many public anniversary meetings held in Great Britain, and such an amount of ecclesiastical and missionary business transacted as the month of May. It is found to be a most convenient season for traveling, at the commencement of summer, when able and eloquent representatives from different religious denominations and benevolent institutions are congregated in the same cities, and the sympathies of the religious public are powerfully excited, and their contributions poured into the Christian treasury. It is in this month that the large anniversaries of England centred in the metropolis, and stretching their branches throughout the empire and the world, are held; and it is then also that the annual meetings of the supreme ecclesiastical Courts in Scotland are convened. We have only had an opportunity of perusing abstracts of the proceedings of some of these public meetings, and can therefore find room for a very brief and condensed summary in our columns this month.

The following short notices of the anniversaries of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Church Missionary Society, the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and the Protestant Reformation Society, will enable our readers to form some idea of the magnitude of these great institutions, of the extent of their influence, and the beneficent effects of their operations:

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this society was held on the 7th ultimo, at Exeter-hall. The chair was taken by the Earl of Shaftesbury. The Rev. S. B. Burgoyne read the report of the committee for the past year. From this it appeared that the receipts of the year ending March 31, 1856, had exceeded those of any preceding year (including the special funds). The amount applicable to the general purposes of the society was £65,624 13s. 9d., and the amount received for bibles and testaments £13,100 10s. 4d.; making the total receipts from the ordinary sources of income £128,725 10s. 1d.; being £4,274 0s. 7d. more than in the last year, and £3,059 11s. 3d. more than in any former year. The issues of the society for the year were as follows:—From the depot at home, 952,145; from depots abroad, 522,249; total, 1,474,394 copies, being an increase of 23,518 copies over those of last year. The total issues of the society now amounted to 30,863,901 copies. The ordinary payments had amounted to £125,099 0s. 1d., and the payments on account of the Jubilee and Chinese New Testament Funds to £9,714 0s. 9d.; making the total expenditure of the year to amount to £134,813 0s. 10d. The society was under engagements to the extent of £89,910 5s. The meeting was afterwards addressed by the Bishop of Carlisle, the Rev. Canon Stowell, the Rev. Canon Bickersteth, the Rev. James Spence, Lord Teignmouth, the Rev. Mr. Landells, and the Rev. G. Clayton, &c., and several resolutions were adopted.

THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The annual meeting was held at Exeter Hall, London, on the 6th, Mr. T. B. Horsfall, M. P., was present. The total amount received during the year on behalf of the society was £115,208 4s. 8d. The expenditure had been—On account of the general expenditure of the society at home and abroad, including China, £109,799 6s. 8d.; on account of disabled missionaries, &c., £5,291 2s. 5d.; making a total of £115,280 9s. 1d. There were at present in connection with the society 128 stations, 263 clergymen, English, foreigners, natives, and East Indians, 33 European lay agents, nine European female teachers, (exclusive of missionaries' wives), 1,716 native and country born catechists and teachers of all classes. The number of communicants in 1853 was 16,772; in 1854, 17,124; in 1855, 17,909; in 1856, 18,739. The report having dwelt upon the financial position of the society, proceeded to point out the great need there was of missionary candidates to carry out the great objects of the institution. A Turkish mission had been established in the Mediterranean. In New Zealand and other parts of the world the missions of the society had been prosperous.

WESLEYAN METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this society was held on Monday morning, the 5th ultimo, in Exeter-hall; the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. The noble chairman, in commencing the business of the meeting, paid a high tribute to the activity and usefulness of the Wesleyan body, observing that the missionary cause was one in which all denominations of Christians could and ought to combine. The financial report then read by the secretary, shows an increase in almost every considerable item of receipts, both in the home and foreign income. The total ordinary home income, for the year ending December 13, 1855, amounts to £79,832 16s. 5d., which,

with the contributions of foreign auxiliaries, &c., brings the total to £119,122 4s. 9d., being an increase of £8,073 10s. 5d. over the receipts of the previous year. Thirty-one missionaries and seven wives of missionaries have been sent out by the society since the last anniversary. The report was adopted after some lengthy addresses, and the meeting separated.

PROTESTANT REFORMATION SOCIETY.—The twenty-ninth annual meeting of this society was held on Monday, the 5th ultimo, at the Hanover-square Rooms, London. Mr. George Finch presiding, in the absence of the president, the Right Hon. Lord Colthorpe. The balance-sheet gave an increase of subscriptions over those of last year of £132 18s. 10d., and £65 19s. 8d. in remittances from auxiliaries. The society had been engaged during the past year in diffusing book-stories, lectures and sermons, to counteract the influence of Popery, there being 819 Roman Catholic chapels and stations situated over this Protestant land, with a staff of 1,142 priests, besides the inmates of 93 nunneries and 17 monasteries. The special mission of the society had been vigorously carried on. Its missionaries, under the superintendence of the local clergy, were 7 in London, 16 in the country, and 14 in Scotland. To maintain those agents cost £200 a month, and the committee are anxious to create a reserve fund to make up any deficiency in the monthly receipts, in order that no missionary may be withdrawn from his post of labor. The abstract of the cash account for the year ending the 31st of March last showed a balance in hand of £384 14s. 10d., and the meeting addressed by several clergymen and gentlemen, including the chairman, the Rev. Dr. Cramming, and the Rev. Canons Bickersteth and Stowell.

The Scotch papers furnish full and interesting accounts of the proceedings of the United Presbyterian Synod, which was this year held at Edinburgh on the 5th ult. The synod has 115 students attending at Divinity Hall. The Home Mission Committee has assisted 80 congregations from its funds. Under the charge of the Foreign Mission there are 67 congregations in Canada, 24 in Jamaica, and missions in Trinidad, Old Calabar, Cafraria, Australia, and India. The receipts for the Home Mission Fund during the year have been £5,928, and for the Foreign Mission £12,197, in all £18,125, being an excess over last year of £625. A long and animated discussion took place on the subject of the organ in churches originated by a memorial from one of their congregations in Clarendon street, Glasgow, in favor of instrumental music in public worship.

After a protracted debate, the following motion by Dr. Thompson, of Edinburgh, was carried by a large majority:

"That inasmuch as the use of instrumental music in public worship is contrary to the uniform practice of this Church and of the other Presbyterian churches in the country, and would seriously disturb the peace of the churches under the inspection of this Synod, the Synod refuse the pe-