

Committee of Correspondence.—Tuesday, May 27th.—The Rev. W. Mason being about to return to North-west America, after having completed the entire Cree Version of the Holy Scriptures in the Syllabic character, was introduced to the Committee, and conversation was held with him upon the possibility of the withdrawal of the operations of the society from Rupert's Land. Mr. Mason pointed out the hopelessness of any adequate support for a native ministry throughout the north-eastern portion of the diocese, in which no agriculture exists, and where the Indians are compelled by the system of advances to bring all their furs to the company, so that they have literally nothing to contribute of their own; but he suggested the placing of native teachers in localities in which fish are plentiful, as there would be a great resort of Indians to such localities, and the native teacher would require but a small stipend in addition to the support he would receive from fishing. Mr. Mason was also urged to attempt the evangelization of the Eskimo on the west shore of Hudson's Bay, so as ultimately to reach those within the Arctic Circle, by encouraging to introduce amongst them, should the genius of their language permit it, the syllabic system, which had been so effectual in the case of the Cree Indians.

The Hon. Clerical Secretary then addressed Mr. Mason, assuring him of the sympathy of the committee in all his past trials—he is now returning a widower, leaving six children behind him—and of their desire that at every means should be employed for introducing the self-supporting principle into the North-west America mission.

Mr. Mason having acknowledged the instructions of the committee, he was commended in prayer to the favour and protection of Almighty God by the Rev. J. Stock.

Committee of Correspondence.—Tuesday, June 3rd.—The Bishop of Colombo (Dr. Cloughton) being present, was introduced to the committee, and expressed his earnest desire to co-operate with the missionaries of the society in Ceylon, and it was arranged that the secretaries should meet his Lordship, to confer upon the various details of the Ceylon mission, and the relations established between the Indian Bishops and the society.

LONDON CITY MISSION.—The twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of this Society was held at Exeter Hall. The hall and platform were crowded. The report gave a long account of the operations of the Society during the past year. The number of missionaries now employed by the Society was 400, being an increase of 11 during the year. There were special missionaries to the dock labourers, the police force, the public houses, the work-houses, and the hospitals, and whose labours generally had been very successful. During the year 9460 copies of the Scriptures and 3,069,763 religious tracts had been distributed, and 49,208 books lent out. The missionaries reported considerable improvement in the working neighbourhoods; where formerly tracts were refused, they were now frequently asked for, and the open air services held in those districts were allowed to take place without the interruptions which used to attend them. During the year 578,000 people had attended these open air services, and 610,868 readings of Scripture in visitations had taken place. The attendance at the in-door meetings and Bible-classes had been 1,418,000 during the year. There had been 341 persons living in concubinage induced to marry, and 503 fallen females sent into asylums or restored to their homes. The feature, however, most relied upon by the Committee was house to house visitation. To do the work of the mission effectually increased

subscriptions were necessary, and it was trusted the friends of missionary work would come forward in aid of the Society. The report concluded with an appeal on behalf of the disabled missionary cause. It stated that the average number of missionaries stricken down by sickness and fever caught in the unwholesome and unhealthy localities they visited in the course of their duties was thirty-six weekly. The number had been larger than usual during the past year, and the expenditure of the fund had exceeded its income. The financial statement showed the receipts to be £87,150 1s. 10d., and the expenditure for eleven months £87,866 1s. 6d.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—Two donations, of £50 and £30 respectively, were reported to the Committee, as thank offerings from attached friends of the missionary cause on the deliverance of the Society from its late financial difficulties. The Benefactions of the past month include two, of £2000 and £800 respectively, given in anticipation of an intended legacy, by friends who desire thus to avoid the very heavy duty to which charitable bequests are subjected.

DEATH OF BISHOP MACKENZIE.

The steamship Athens, after a stormy passage, arrived from the Cape at Plymouth on Tuesday, bringing intelligence of melancholy interest to the friends of missionary enterprise in Africa. The *South African Advertiser* of April 21st announced the death of Bishop Mackenzie in the following terms:—

"Bishop Mackenzie died on the 31st of January, and the Rev. Mr. Burrup on the 22d of February following. When the news first reached the Cape it was feared that the whole mission had been involved in one common and fatal disaster. This has happily not been the case. The party, as a body, have been eminently successful. Under the direction of Dr. Livingstone they settled down in an admirable station high up the river, where the country is an elevated plateau, where the climate is tolerably salubrious, and where a dense population is immediately available for evangelising work. A church was speedily erected there, schools were established, and the mission was organised in a business-like fashion, which still secures its prosperity and success: and it was only after all this had been accomplished, and the first fruits were already beginning to appear, that the Bishop and his right-hand man were both stricken down with fever and removed to their reward."

From a file of the same paper we learn that on Sunday, May 4, the services held in the several English churches in Capetown and neighbourhood, had special reference to the lamented death of Bishop Mackenzie, of the Zambezi Mission. At St. George's Cathedral, the Lord Bishop of Capetown preached an impressive discourse from Rev. xiv. 13—"And I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, for henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them." In the course of the sermon the Bishop alluded as follows to the sad news recently received from the Zambezi:—

"The church this day mourns the loss of her faithful sons, who counting not their lives dear to themselves, so that they might finish their course with joy, for His name's sake who loved them, went forth to win a new kingdom for their Lord, and to lay the foundation of that kingdom by the sacrifice of themselves. The much-loved chief of that little band, whom but last year we consecrated and sent forth to his high and holy office, within the walls of this cathedral, and one of his devoted priests, who, daunted by no dif-

ficulties, had gone through great dangers to reach his brethren and enter upon his work, have fallen—almost ere the work was begun. Wo sorrow not for them. They were in Christ; are with their Lord; and their Lord is with them. They had not a thought for themselves. Their Lord's cause, the work to which He had called them—the lifting up the heathen from their degradation—the making known to them the love of God in Christ, was their one concern. 'Lord, what wouldst Thou have me to do?' was the habitual temper of their minds."

The journal of that holy man, upon whom, as Bishop, the chief responsibility of acting under the very difficult circumstances in which they were placed rested, and his private letters, show how his life was spent in prayer—how counsel and guidance was sought in every hour, at every step.

Very remarkable it is that, almost on stepping out of their boat to enter on their labours, they should find themselves in a country ravaged by slave-hunters; should hear of tribe at war with tribe for the purposes of this nefarious traffic; should confront the very system which they came to put down in its fullest vigour; should themselves fall in with a large band of slaves driven by their captors; and should have these, delivered by the single hand of Livingstone, handed over to them, with their free consent, as their first charge. It seems as if all the power of Satan had been let loose on the approach of the messengers of the living God, but only to encounter defeat in the midst of his kingdom of darkness, with these, as they loved to call them, their "first-fruits." They settled in the village of a friendly chief, who told them that if they would abide with him he would not fly, as nearly all his nation in front of him had done, from the ravages of the slave-hunters. Regarding the invitation as a providential call, the mission was planted there, and during the few months that it has existed considerable progress has been made, notwithstanding interruptions from the hostility of unfriendly slave hunting tribes, who, however, from the latest accounts, are just beginning to understand the objects of the mission, and to seek to establish friendly relations with it. The kindness shown to the slaves who have been released, some of whom came from far and have returned to their homes, seems to have been the chief cause of the change of feeling. A school has been established, in which are seventy children, several of whom, it was already hoped, would soon be fit for our native college here. Houses were erected, land cultivated, considerable progress made in acquiring the language. Of the work already accomplished I prefer to speak from the report of the naturalist of Livingston's expedition, who was for two months at the station, and writes thus to me:—"Although so short a time has elapsed in which to speak of the working of the mission, the results, as they are now patent to all, should be taken for good or ill. No one can enter that wide country at the present time, who has seen it since or before the arrival of the mission, without seeing at once the change that has been effected. The objects of the mission are known and appreciated; a light has been thrown on the vileness of slave traffic, and chiefs now abhor it who, but a few months since, were solely occupied in furnishing its victims. The principle of civilising before evangelising is being truly carried out, and the example of the working Christian has already leavened a large multitude, and prepared the way for effective religious instruction. By their example and exertions not only friends but foes have been led to compare their conditions, and to seek to better them; and it is my confident belief that the influence of