

### Supplementary Intelligence.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN TRANSLATION COMMITTEE  
FOR THE YEAR 1855.

Read and adopted at the General Meeting, Tuesday,  
July 3, 1855.

"When the British forces first sailed for the seat of war, while supplies of Bibles and Prayer Books and other Books and Tracts were sent by the Society for the use of our soldiers and sailors, Prayer Books in modern Greek, Turkish, Armenian, and Arabic, were granted for distribution as occasion might require. The General Hospital at Scutari had not been long established before one of the chaplains applied for a further supply of Turkish, Armenian, and Arabic books, which, he was sure, would be gratefully received by some close at hand. 'Some of us,' he wrote, 'have formed the acquaintance of the Armenian Archbishop of Scutari, and are also on friendly terms with one of the colleges of Der-ishes. The latter receive us always most kindly, and sometimes comes to see us at our quarters. This they do, knowing us to be Christian 'Papae.' They profess to be tolerant of all forms of religion but idolatry; and one of them told us a few days ago that they were suspected by the strict Mohammedans of being Giaours.' The books requested were supplied immediately.

"A Turkish version of the Archbishop of Dublin's work on the Endowments of Christianity has just been completed, under the direction of the Foreign Translation Committee, who have availed themselves of the services of Mr. Redhouse, a gentleman strongly recommended to them as the author of an elaborate and valuable Turkish Grammar, and an accomplished Turkish scholar.

"The translation of 'Agnes and other Sunday Stories,' into Arabic, stated in the Report for last year, to be in the press, was at length available for distribution. Copies of both these works have been in time supplied.

"An Armenian translation of the Archbishop of Dublin's work, carefully approved and attested at the College at Malatya, is now passing through the press under the auspices of this Committee. A version into Arabic, some time ago completed, at the expense of the Society, in Malta, of some of the Homilies, is now undergoing a final revision for publication in the form of separate Tracts, and will soon appear.

"The above works have been undertaken at the request of the Standing Committee with the view of taking advantage of opportunities offered, for the promotion of Christian knowledge in the East.

"Similar translations of Books or Tracts upon the Society's Catalogues have been made during the past year, to aid the labours of Missionaries in other parts of the world, or of religious instructors among foreigners in England. Translations of 'Faith and Duty' into the Ojibwa language by Dr. O'Meara, and into the Cree language by Archdeacon Hunter, have been printed and supplied to the translators, for the use of the Indians to whom they minister, the one on the shores of Lake Huron, and the other in the diocese of Rupert's Land. In aid of missions to the poor French and Italian residents in London, a French version of the Bishop of London's second series of Family Prayers, and an Italian translation of Bishop Wilson's 'Form of Family Prayer' have been published. A French translation of Bishop Jewel's Apology, and Italian translations of the Rev. H. Stowell's Tract 'On Infidelity,' and the late Rev. G. S. Faber's 'Rome and the Bible,' are now in press.

"The Polish translation of the Archbishop of Dublin's Tract, on the Christian Evidences published in 1852 has been reprinted. A Zulu-English dictionary, compiled by Mr. Perrin, a resident in Natal, has been printed under the direction of the Foreign Translation Committee, and the whole impression, consisting of 200 copies, has been taken out by the Bishop of Natal himself to aid the purposes of the mission to the Zulu Kaffirs.

"Extraordinary circumstances then have, this year, thrown an unusual amount of what may be deemed extraneous work upon the Foreign Translation Committee. But there has been no neglect of their more appropriate and prescribed sphere of labour. A newly-revised edition of Diodati's Italian translation of the Bible has been their most important work completed in the course of the last year. This edition, as the title announces, has been carefully revised throughout, and corrected by the comparison with original Greek and Hebrew texts; the orthography has been modernized, some few obsolete words and phrases,

no longer intelligible to ordinary readers have been exchanged for others, of the same import, now a general use; while words and expressions which now either have a vague meaning, or convey a very different sense from that which they bore in Diodati's time have been replaced by others of a more definite character, or which, to readers of the present, exhibit more clearly and correctly the meaning of the originals. That this work may be still more acceptable and instructive to Italian Bible-students, marginal notes have been supplied, Diodati's lucid summary of chapters, in an abridged form, have been retained, and well-executed maps, with chronological and other useful tables, have been added.

"Luther's German translation of the Bible has been reprinted, and such errors as have been detected and pointed out, during the circulation and use of the previous edition, have been corrected."

"The printing of the Greek Septuagint at Oxford, which has been unavocably suspended, has now been resumed, and will henceforth proceed without further interruption or delay."

"The printing of the new version of the Old Testament in Arabic is proceeding under the care of Professor Jarrett, assisted by Mr. Lucas, who still remains in London.

"In the meantime, the New Testament of this version 'is gaining favour,' we are assured, and the demand for it increases, in those countries where Arabic is read and spoken.

"The printing of Mr. Brett's Arnavak translation of the Gospels, with parts of Genesis and the Acts of the Apostles, resumed in a summer, after an interruption explained in the Foreign Translation Committee's Report for 1854, is now nearly completed. In writing on the subject Mr. Brett observes that the delay, though unpleasant, had not been unproductive of good, in enabling him to revise the work. It had enabled him also to prepare a translation for the use of the Caribbees, among whom it had been circulated with beneficial effect.

"In the last Report of this Committee, reference was made to translations of the Gospels, then in progress, in the Lochoean and Japanese languages. Although these works are not conducted under the immediate superintendance of the Foreign Translation Committee, still, as the expense of them is chiefly defrayed out of a special grant made by the Board for such purposes, and as the Committee has been the medium of communication between the Society and the Bishop of Victoria, some account of the progress made in them may be looked for in the present Report; and the information may be satisfactorily furnished in the following extracts from the Bishop of Victoria's Annual Report to the Archbishop of Canterbury, with respect to the College and Missions at Hong Kong, dated 'St. Paul's College, Hong Kong, Feb. 1855:—

"We have been busily engaged during the last three months in printing in the Lochoean language Luke, John, Acts, and Romans, which we hope to send, by an United States surveying ship, direct to Lochoan at the end of the present month, to the Rev. G. H. Moreton, in that island. I have received encouraging letters from Mr. Moreton, and am rejoiced at the present favourable prospects of that mission being sustained. I have ten Chinese printers residing in the college, and hope in another two months to have completed the printing of Luke in pure Japanese, with a Chinese version intermixed, from what is called the 'Delegation' Version (now in publication by the British and Foreign Bible Society). The Lochoean and Japanese versions are the work of Dr. Besselheim, the former missionary at Lochoan, now returned to Europe. At present we publish a small edition, and regard it as a tentative and experimental effort for possible future correction.

"A considerable portion of my remaining special funds for printing, granted me by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, will be consumed by the Lochoean and Japanese printing."

"We shall be glad to procure them for any of our Lutheran friends at Lundenburg who may require the same. Also any of the above works can be procured through us.—*Publisher Church Times*

(To be concluded next week.)

To-morrow is like a juggler that deceives us; a quack that pretends to cure us, and thin ice that will not bear our weight. It is fruit beyond our grasp; a glittering bubble that bursts and vanishes away; a Wilco-the-wisp that leads many into the mire; and a rock on which many mariners have struck, and suffered shipwreck. It is an illusion to all who neglect the present hour, and a reality to those only who improve to-day.

### Selections.

**SKILL-EDUCATION.**—The previous years when the character is taking its bent and the constitution its tendencies, are in most families spent in the society and under the care of persons ignorant of every principle of science, whose conversation is at best idle gossip, and often something much worse; whose notions on every subject are narrow; whose attentions are confined to their own small concerns; who are incapable of answering a question if asked, and avoid the confession of ignorance by a feeble reply. Thus the child leaves the nursery very little wiser in the last year than the first, knowing nothing of pleasure in intellectual exercises, and possessing in his own secret soul instruction with weariness, and knowledge with dullness. The real education of the rich man's child, then is, in fact, no other for many years than that which has been acquired by his nurses in the national school, aided by the gossip of the cottage; and the young heirs pass into the hands of tutors and teachers, with a mind as devoid of ideas, and faculties as little awakened as the persons under whose charge these invaluable years had been spent, whose misuses can never be remedied. In strong contrast to this will be seen sometimes a child left wholly to the education of circumstance, and whose mind has been awakened to observe, because there was amusement in the employment. Without going all the length of Rousseau's theory, it may be safely asserted that the child to whom everything has been taught before he sought to know it, is likely to remain an ignorant, and that the wise teacher will rather strive to excite curiosity than demand learning from the very young. If a child be set to do a day's work like a labourer, his health will suffer from the long continued exertion; for the instinct of childhood dictates a fitful activity alternating with sleep and rest. The brain is subject to the same law as the other natural organs, and, if nature be consulted, will do its work by the same irregular movements; now eager for novelty and striving to open fresh paths to novelty, now weary and unwilling to apply. If this law of nature were attended to in early youth by the parent or home teacher of the child, he would have laid the foundation of knowledge without fatigue or inconvenience, and would rather seek than shrink from the lessons of the school, if they were, as they ought to be, rational, and consequently interesting. It is with the mind as with the body;—food may be supplied, but if there be no appetite it will be useless; for if it be forced down the throat when the stomach is not fitted to receive it, the substances thus thrust in will not be assimilated, and the body, consequently, will not be nourished. The art of the tutor, then, consists, not in driving into his pupil a certain amount of acquirements, as a carpenter would drive a nail, but in awakening the faculties so far as to induce the child to seek information, and thus, in a great measure, to educate himself. But the tutor, or the schoolmaster, under whom many boys are placed, finds such an attention to character troublesome; his task is rendered more difficult by previous neglect; and he is too apt to enforce the completion of the lesson by severity, without considering whether it is duly digested so as to afford wholesome nutriment to the mind. He succeeds, at last, in carrying his point; the lesson is done, but the book is hated, and the first step in such education is thus accomplished—that of giving a complete distaste to everything that the pupil is thus compelled to learn. The House of parliament, the pulpit, the bar, all bear testimony in unmistakable language to the results of this mode of instruction; for it would be difficult to find in any one of these a single broad principle laid down, a single great and comprehensive view taken of any question in politics, in theology, or in jurisprudence. The principles advanced, instead of being taken from the eternal verities of God and nature, are patched up, like a physician's prescription, *pro re nata*; for the child who has been trained up by the "excellent servant," brought up under the eye of the clergyman in the school be superintended, grows to maturity with much the same powers of reasoning as his earliest tutress was likely to give him. And yet when we see the progress in intellectual greatness occasionally made by persons who have had scarcely any of the "advantages of education," as the phrase is, we must believe that the human mind is capable of higher flights than those cramped, drilled faculties ever reach; and if our present system was always to be pursued, we should rather say of any one who has risen above the general level, "he has done it in spite of the disadvantages of education."—*Westminster Review*.

A quaint old writer is very opinionated to be suffering the private I to be too much in the public eye.