

of example when it is seen with the great ones of the earth. If their inferiors by it are led to the service of their Maker, and learn obedience from the Gospel, it will settle public authority upon a basis not to be shaken by the storms of faction, and insure national prosperity by the most certain means. For if the Jews were so prosperous and happy while they served God in the established Church, may not Christians hope for the divine blessing in following their example?

These provinces are highly favoured in this respect beyond many other countries. The Christian benevolence of the parent state flows in upon us like rivers of milk and honey; and we are kindly invited to be partakers almost without money and without price. While we enjoy rare political blessings, the inheritance of Britons, she is desirous of making us worthy of them, and capable of transmitting them unimpaired to posterity. She is therefore anxious to plant the Gospel deeply and firmly amongst us, and to bring us all under the conservative influence of those holy principles which have raised herself to her lofty station among the nations of the earth. She has long been extending the rod of her Empire to the four winds of heaven; and wheresoever the sway of her sceptre is acknowledged, there do we find her heralds of salvation carrying the glad tidings of great joy to her conquered provinces, that wherever her dominion is owned the people may become free indeed. Would to God that all to whom she thus extends the hand of liberality could be brought to appreciate as they deserve her benevolent efforts for their good—that they would second them with their own, and conspire to crown her labors of love with the most triumphant success.

The British Government is in theory, a *Christian Government*, and Christianity is recognized as the best part of the law of the land, because the Bible is incorporated with the civil code, and forms the basis of British jurisprudence. No subject should therefore think of filling any station of honor or trust without a competent knowledge of the law of God as it is adopted by, and grafted into the British Constitution. For how can a public man discharge his duty as the servant of a Christian commonwealth, and be able to resist the encroachment of anti-Christian and unconstitutional principles, if he is either ignorant of, or an enemy to the Christianity of the law of the land? We therefore affectionately submit the foregoing observations to the candor of our countrymen, and would respectfully ask if the principles maintained ought not to be put speedily into practice. The future prosperity of these provinces, this fair portion of the British Empire, is mingled and bleaded with the question at issue: and it lies with us the children of a great and glorious nation, kindly and thankfully to accept the boon which the Gospel of our blessed Lord has induced England to place within our reach. Her Church has imparted to her the greatness of her glory, and the excellency of her strength; and it is also able under divine providence, to raise her American possessions to a large participation in the same inestimable blessings.

But it is time to draw these remarks to a close.—We have trespassed much longer on the readers' patience than was anticipated at the commencement, because we found it difficult to make a fair presentation of all the arguments which the subject suggested. These arguments may be disputed, and no doubt will be; but we rest secure that they cannot be confuted, or resisted by any thing but groundless prejudice. If they are objected to—so is the Bible, and by many plausible sophisms which have had their unhappy dupes.

We shall add a formal and brief reply to some popular objections.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEWCASTLE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, OF THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

(Continued from p. 123.)

As an Association, whose operation are to benefit the whole District, it has been the labor of this Committee to extend the advantages of their Institution as widely as possible throughout the appointed sphere of their exertions; and, on this principle, they have formed depositories of books—great or small, according to the probable demand for them in such neighbourhoods—in the following places:—*Carrying Place, Colburne, Port Hope, Darlington, Peterborough, and Cavan*, under the superintendence of the officers

of the Society in those vicinities. Many thanks are due to the gentlemen who have undertaken the charge of these respective depositories, for the promptitude with which they have accepted an office involving no inconsiderable degree of trouble, and the zeal with which they have laboured to promote the circulation of the books. The committee from the favourable results of this experiment, have it in contemplation to augment the number of such depositories: for it cannot be supposed that a population scattered over a surface of perhaps 800 square miles, with the conjoined inconvenience of bad or nearly impassable roads, could all avail themselves of one single depository, however central. As a *District Committee*, it is their desire, and shall be their continued endeavor to render the benefits of their institution accessible to every inhabitant within the District which circumscribes their operations.

At the Carrying Place, books and tracts to the amount of about £10, were placed under the charge of the Rev. J. Grier, and through the zeal of this gentleman a great portion of these have been disposed of either gratuitously—making himself accountable for such—or at the established prices. With David Smart Esq. of Port Hope, publications of the Society have been deposited, to the amount of nearly £20, currency, and considerable remittances have been made to the Treasurer. A smaller supply was deposited with J. Steele, Esq. at Colburne, who has been active in the cause of the Society and has disposed of a satisfactory proportion. A box containing a considerable variety of bibles, prayer-books, and other books and tracts, to the amount of about £23, was consigned to the care of T. V. Tupper Esq. of Peterborough, who was to divide with the Rev. J. Thomson of Cavan, at the discretion of the latter gentleman. No statement of sales has yet been received from these last places; but the Committee have understood that the demand for their books, in those neighbourhoods, is very considerable. To Mr. Elijah Wallbridge, of Clarke, who, in despite of years and infirmities, is indefatigable in the cause of the Church; and to W. Warren, Esq. of Darlington, much credit is due for promoting the circulation of a few books and tracts committed to their care. The amount actually received for these sales, will appear in the account of the Treasurer.

The following statement shows the actual amount of books sold since the last Annual Meeting of this Committee:—Although this does not, of course, comprehend the whole number disposed of, no returns having been received from any of the branch depositories since January last, and none at all from those of Peterborough and Cavan—the schedule here exhibited is, far from being discouraging:—

Bibles of various sizes.....	44
Testaments	49
Prayer Books	82
Bound Books and Tracts	320

The steady demand for the more important of the Society's publications, as Bibles, Testaments, Prayer Books, &c. has induced this Committee to send for such an increased supply of those works as they deemed necessary for the succeeding year—until the arrival of the more general order, which will be probably made during the ensuing winter, and which cannot reach this till the summer of 1831. Although the Committee, at the time of transmitting this order, were indebted to the Parent Society more than £40 sterling, yet the result of this fresh application—correspondent, indeed, to the benevolent principles of that venerable institution—is thus kindly noticed:—"The Messrs. Rivingtons, the Society's Booksellers, have been directed to pay the most prompt attention to your application for a further supply of books and Tracts."* This is a debt, however, which has not been thoughtlessly incurred by the Committee; for the expectation is founded upon the fairest calculations that in January next, when the new order will probably be prepared, an amount will be at their disposal—from the collection of the annual subscriptions and the intermediate sale of books—which will be fully adequate to pay off, not only those arrearages, but the additional debt incurred by the increased supply of books now daily expected.

In order, however, to increase the means of their usefulness—to

* Extract of a letter from the Rev. Wm. Parker, London, to the Rev. A. N. Bethune.