

ANNIVERSARIES.

An improvement in conducting the Annual Meetings of the various Societies is in progress. Such as are held in Places of Worship have been usually opened with *prayer*: some few, perhaps, find a difficulty, from the diversity of sentiment in their members, in adopting this sacred practice: others have been prevented by the seeming incongruity of acts of religious worship, with places usually occupied for very different purposes, and have waited till the very desirable object be obtained of a Building appropriated to Meetings of this nature. This design is likely to be accomplished at no great distance of time; but several Societies have, on the present occasion, anticipated that period, and have begun publicly to invoke the blessing of God on their deliberations. We cannot but rejoice in this: for every returning year strengthens the conviction that we are fallen on times of imminent danger, when the Great Enemy is seeking, under his most subtle guise of an *Angel of Light*, to hinder the Work of God. It is become, therefore, a most urgent duty, to offer prayer, both in public and in private, in behalf of all who incur the great responsibility of attempting, in these days of susceptibility and excitement, to guide the opinions and feelings of these large and mixed assemblies, that they may not fall into the snare of serving their own will while they persuade themselves that they are serving the will of God.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY.

Forty-second Anniversary.—The meeting was held on Wednesday the 30th of April, at the London Coffee House, Ludgate Hill; Samuel Hoare, Esq. Treasurer, in the Chair. Collection £3 11 6.

Movers and Seconders.—T. Wilson, Esq.; and Mr. W. F. Lloyd—Rev. H. Budd; and John James, Esq.—T. Challis, Esq., and Mr. Chauncy, of New York—and Rev. Benjamin Allen, of Philadelphia; and Rev. Mr. Williams.

Resolution.—That, notwithstanding the number of Elementary Schools established throughout the Kingdom, a lamentable degree of Ignorance, Depravity, and Profanation of the Sabbath still prevails; which in the opinion of this Meeting, no means seem so likely to check and remove, as the Religious Instruction afforded in Sabbath Schools.

STATE OF THE FUNDS.

Receipts of the Year.		£.	s.	d.
Annual Subscriptions	- - -	158	19	0
Donations	- - -	265	7	6
Legacy	- - -	89	0	0
Total		£513	6	6
Payments of the Year		£	s.	d.
Bibles and Testaments	- - -	647	19	7
Elementary Books	- - -	231	6	10
Salaries, Rent, and Incidentals, for 15 Months	- - -	199	6	2
Total		£1078	12	7

SUMMARY VIEW OF THE SOCIETY.—This Society was established in the year 1785.—Its object is—

To promote the establishment of Sunday Schools throughout the British Dominions; and to assist, by gratuitous supplies of Bibles, Testaments, and Spelling-Books or Lessons, all Sunday Schools requiring aid.

At the Annual Meeting of the last year, the Committee were desired to Revise the Regulations of the Society, in order to its greater efficiency: at a Special Meeting, held on the 25th of July, they presented the result of their labours, with the following notification—

Pursuant to a Resolution of the last General Meeting, your Committee have revised the Regulations of the Society: the alterations which they have to propose make no difference in the object and leading plans of the Institution, but they chiefly consist of the omission or alteration of such rules as are become obsolete, or the adoption of such as are necessary to place the Society on the same improved plan as other modern Charitable Institutions.

Up to March 31, 1827, the Society had thus issued 8357 Bibles, 118,924 Testaments, and 668,939 Spelling-Books and Lessons: in consequence of the measures adopted in the last year, the issues have greatly increased.

IRISH SOCIETY.

Sixth Anniversary.—On Wednesday Morning, the 30th of April, the Annual Sermon was preached at Percy Chapel, by the Rev. John Bird Sumner, M. A. Prebendary of Durham, from Mark iv. 26, 27. Collection, £46 3 10.

On Friday, the 2d of May, at One o'clock, the Annual Meeting was held in Froomasons' Hall; the President, the Lord Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, in the Chair. Collection, £50.

Movers and Seconders.—Hon. C. John Shore; and G. Sanford, Esq.—Rev. Dr. Thorpe; and Rev. John Peers—J. E. Gordon, Esq. and Right Hon. Sir G. H. Rose, K. O. H. M. P.—Rev. G. Hazelwood, of Dublin; and Hon. and Rev. Gerard T. Noel—and Dr. A. Rennie; and Lieutenant Browne, R. N.

SUMMARY VIEW OF THE SOCIETY.—Receipts of the Year, £1315 8; exceeding those of the Fifth Year by £555.—Payments, £1305 10.—Districts, 26; Schools, 434; Inspectors, 33; Pupils, 14,715; Adults, 11,067: being an increase, in the year, of 13 Districts, 170 Schools, 18 Inspectors, 3762 Pupils, and 2221 Adults.

SCIENTIFIC.

BOTANY.

"Some in a finer mould

Are wrought, and temper'd with a purer flame,
To these the Sire Omnipotent unfold
The world's harmonious volume, there to read
The transcript of Himself. On every part
They trace the bright impressions of His mind
As seen in tree, or shrub, or tender herb.

Botany is that part of Natural History which treats of vegetables or plants as a science, and to facilitate the study of them they are divided into classes, orders, genera and species. There are reckoned, according to the sexual system of Linnæus 24 classes, 121 orders, 2000 genera, and about 30,000 species; besides almost innumerable varieties.

The generic characters of plants are always taken from the parts of fructification, and to constitute a genus some prominent feature must here exist in each species. The specific characters are derived from various considerations; but chiefly from the leaves.

According to the science of Botany, a plant is divided and considered in the following manner; namely—Root, stem or trunk, including branches; and leaves. Flowers have seven constituent parts. 1st, the *receptacle*, or the basis upon which all the other parts of the flower rest;—2, the *pericarp*, or the covering of the seed;—3, the *nectary*, that part which secretes and contains the honey;—4, the *calyx*, or the exterior part of the flower;—5, the *corolla* the interior leaves of the flower;—6, the *stamen*, the organ for preparing the farina;—and 7, the *pistil*, which is the organ for the reception of the *farina* or *pollen*. A knowledge of the different parts of a plant, which by the way are very numerous, in all their various forms and modifications, is the great aim of the botanist.

The great and all-wise Creator has made nothing in vain. Every plant however obscure and unimportant it may appear to our dull apprehension, is created for some purpose. Some plants are made subservient to the wants of men in diet; some furnish timber for our dwellings; some provide us materials for clothing; others are used for medicinal purposes—for ornament, and in a thousand other ways. The leaves of plants, besides furnishing a refreshing shade, are found to exhale oxygen gas, or vital air, which sustains animal life, and without which we should all immediately die. We see, therefore, that there is nothing created in vain. Without vegetables animals could not exist, they would all die through hunger; so that we may consider the whole animal creation sustained and supported by the vegetable kingdom.

The world may be considered as one vast Botanical garden, beautified and adorned with every thing that is pleasing to the eye and delicious to the taste—where man, unlike our first Parents, is permitted to handle and eat of every fruit. Our indulgent Creator has not only created us rational and intelligent beings, capable of loving and serving him—he has not only provided us with *conveniences*; but he has done *every thing* that can render us happy here, and furnished *means* for our happiness hereafter. He has

carpeted the earth with green, the most pleasing color to the eye, for our accommodation, and stretched out the heavens, in all their beautiful array, as a canopy over our heads. The tall oak of the forest gently waves to the passing breeze and whispers praise to Him who made it, while the less stately but more useful trees cover the hills and plains, and furnish us with delicious fruit. In whatever direction we turn our eyes we find objects to regale the senses, and lead our thoughts to Him who sustains and preserves all things.—*Zions Herald*.

MISCELLANY.

ENERGY OF CHARACTER.

It is the great duty of man to be active. Possessing talents capable of endless improvement, and surrounded with objects, on whose present interest and future destiny he may exert an important influence, he is urged by every personal consideration, by the voice of humanity and the voice of God, to do, with his might, whatever is presented in his sphere of action. His usefulness in life, his own improvement and distinction, alike demand his active exertions. Whatever be the object of his pursuit, it is to be gained, not by indolent repose, but by noble and vigorous enterprise.

Superior natural endowments can never crown the indolent with the laurels of distinction. Their lustre may dazzle for a moment—the youth of brilliant talents may excite admiration and give flattering hopes of future greatness; but unless corresponding energy and zeal distinguish his riper years, he will blast the expectations of his friends, and go down with the multitude to the shades of oblivion. Give the youth not only talents and the means of being distinguished in life, but let him have an ardent desire for celebrity, and in the height of enthusiasm resolve to attain it, still, if he lack that firm decision, that intrepid energy of character, which, amid difficulty and danger, leads the hero on to conquest, his talents, his advantages and resolves, can never crown him with success. Not the superior powers, not the plans and purposes of the great alone, but their vigorous and unwearied exertions, have led them to those attainments, which excite the approbation and applause of the world.

It is that firmness of purpose—that ardour of soul, which shrinks at no discouragement, startles at no false alarm, but with an eye steadily fixed on the object of pursuit, marks its way with resistless energy to that attainment. It is this that elevates the character of man, and gives him "a reputation and a name," which will descend to distant generations. It is the *want* of this that hides in obscurity, or sinks in ignominy and disgrace, many who might have been conspicuous ornaments of their country. Their breasts may have drooped with desires for usefulness and distinction; and amid convictions of duty and prospects of success, they may have resolved to persevere. But, fickle as the wind, they suffered objects of the greatest importance to sink into comparison with the gross indulgence of the moment, and then vainly prefer the latter.

View the man who has been nursed in the lap of indolence, or the youth attracted by her charms.—While he reflects upon the pleasures which will attend the pursuit of some worthy object, and the rewards which will finally crown his exertions, he resolves to go forward. But he delays to execute his purpose. He casts a lingering look at the sensual pleasures and repose, which must, if he proceed, be relinquished—dwells upon the difficulties and hardships which he must encounter—the numerous toils and exertions necessary to accomplish his object, and again contemplates the mighty task. It swells in his imagination, until every object which threatens to retard his progress, appears insurmountable. The mole hill becomes a mountain: and the very shadows of the grove which border his course, are transformed into an impenetrable forest. He shrinks from his design, and exclaims, "My efforts are vain, I will not sacrifice my ease, my pleasures and amusements, and endure such toils and hardships. No, not if I might command a sceptre or a crown." Thus he relinquishes his object—gives up his hopes of distinction as an idle dream, and remains to reap the reward of sloth and stupidity.

Such is not the man who possesses true energy of character. He not only resolves, but executes.—When duty and interest point out his course, instead