

of that impede it, by becoming themselves objects of the teacher, thus making the glass in any degree opaque, then you may be complimented on your fine language and beautiful imagery and glowing sentences, and your sermon may go away praising the court position or learning, but your oratorical sermon is now a veil that hides not a glass that shows. It is like on windows encaused with frost-work. How beautiful! We often say of them. But their beauty is our hindrance, we wipe it off when we want to see beyond.

Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19, 1864.

Annual Meeting of the Bible Society.

The fifty-first meeting of the Nova Scotia Auxiliary Bible Society was held in the Temperance Hall on Tuesday evening, the 12th inst. Though the evening was unfavourable, the attendance was unusually large. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Mr. Utzack, the President of the Society. An abstract of the Report was read by the Secretary, the Hon. S. L. Shannon. As this excellent paper furnishing, in a brief form, an account of the operations of the Society, and containing facts and incidents of thrilling interest to every friend of the Bible, will shortly be published in the form of an appendix to the year's report, we speak for it as a careful perusal of the Report. The principal speaker at this Anniversary was the Rev. Mr. Gill, who was present as a deputation from the P. A. Society. The Rev. gentleman, having visited Upper Canada as part of his mission. Many recently he has travelled through a considerable part of this Province, both east and west, for the purpose of attending meetings of the Branch Societies. He was cordially received by the meeting, and his address, nearly two hours in length, was listened to with unabated interest. Referring to his tour through Nova Scotia, he said that, as a stranger, they would naturally desire to know what he thought of their country. The answer he had given, he said, was that he had passed, north and south, cultivated fields, smiling orchards, and thriving settlements; the general intelligence of the people, and the wide diffusion of religious feeling; the regard for the Bible, and the interest generally manifested in its circulation, were in advance of his anticipations. The people of England were far from having correct notions of the extent and prosperous condition of British America.

He would not make a speech about the Bible, that could be done by other gentlemen present; but would endeavour to supply information of the operations of the Society. Their creed was simple:—The Bible is the word of God. It is not obsolete or unsuited to the robust intellect of the present age. It is sufficient in itself. The word is complete, the vision sealed, and the days of miracle ended. We needed no addition. Let us love the Book! Their British organization was much the same as in this country. They had their Auxiliaries, Branch Societies, and Ladies' Associations. In common with other bodies of philanthropic and benevolent character, they were most largely indebted to the christian ladies of England—they were the mainstay of the Society.

He would place before them some facts and figures. With the exception of the Jubilee, the figures of the present year had been in excess of former ones. The total amount, however, included purchase monies as well as contributions. The subscriptions now exceed £90,000,—not a very large sum, considering the objects contemplated, and the united efforts of churches in every land, and christians of every name. The expenditure of the first year of the Society's existence was only £2000, but the last year it had been £121,000. Fifty years ago there were some fifty translations of the Bible in all the world; now there were translations into one hundred and sixty-four languages. During the first ten years 987,000 copies had been disposed of—in the last ten the circulation had exceeded 17 millions of copies. The last year over 21 millions of copies had been published and circulated. The stream of Truth, as in the vision of holy water, had risen amazingly, up to the ankles, up to the knees, up to the loins, and then overflowing its banks, a river that could not be passed over, sending its streams into the desert, making it as the garden of the Lord, in the broad South, heaving its impure and stagnant waters, and making everything to live whithersoever it came.

Through the instrumentality of this Society more than 45 millions of copies of the word of God had been put into circulation. As in the case of the Architect of St. Paul's Cathedral the monument was around you. Could the Bible Society by any possibility become defunct, were its noble efforts to cease, its agents recalled, and its most manly broken up, still its achievements were imperishable, and it has reared for itself a monument more magnificent than the grandest pile of architecture, loftier than pyramids, and more enduring than brass or marble.

Of their Home-ages one of the most effective was that for employing bible-women in the destitute portions of their large cities. Two hundred and five of these women were at present employed in the metropolitan district, and during the last year had sold 9,855 copies of the Scriptures. The principle recognized in this comparatively new agency was most important. To benefit the world you must come into contact with the world. Miss Oshelia could teach, but could not touch mischievous little Topsy. It is easy to sympathize with the world in the drawing room; but such sympathy costs little, and it is worthless. The bible-women go into the mines and alleys, into the garrets and tenements, and are brought into contact with sin and sorrow, and we in all their varied forms, and their mission had not been in vain. From the most wretched haunts of vice and wickedness, and from the most desolate abodes of poverty, they had gathered some of the loveliest specimens of humanity. Much good had also been done in the port of London. Looking along the river, where the ships lie crowded together, and their tall masts are thick as the forest trees, you might see the Colporteur's boat, with a supply of bibles passing from vessel to vessel.

In this way some fourteen thousand ships had been visited during the last two years; and as well as British mariners were supplied with the word of God. The Mayor of North Shields, who is largely connected with shipping interests, has recently called at the Bible House in London, bearing a coarse canvas bag containing purchase money from foreign sailors, who had been supplied with Bibles. In the bag they found notes and coins representing every kind of coin in circulation.

The Bible Society had very largely assisted the several missionary institutions, a good proportion of the versions of the sacred scriptures published in the languages of heathen tribes, and disseminated by the missionaries of the different churches in their distant spheres of labour, had been translated by the Society's agents, and printed at the Society's press. On this ground they could claim the continued support and constant co-operation of all denominations of christians. He would recommend them to read the reports. Do not throw them aside into the waste paper-bag. Rowland Hill had said that the safest place for a £5 note, which you wished to conceal, was between the leaves of a report; yet no page of church history could be read, and no page of the history of the Great Britain, had been most amply extended toward the visitors. The grand Cathedral, the finest in England, was illuminated with gas in honour of the occasion, and presented a spectacle of gorgeous magnificence. The proceedings of this Association are a good deal laughed at. It is a Society which reviews all conceivable subjects in jurisprudence, politics, and general education, including, building, domestic economy, foreign relations, and whatever else, without the power of settling anything. It is a great talking machine. Yet some of the talk has been interesting enough, though the Archbishop of York preached an objectionable sermon at the opening of the session. He contended that the advancement of social reform was a necessary preliminary of the Christian teacher's success. This for a guide set up in high places! You might as well argue that the restoration of a patient's tone of constitution was a necessary preliminary of the physician's success. The venerable and marvellous President, Lord Brougham, had his own decidedly religious allusion of which we have heard throughout the entire proceedings, when he touchingly referred to the comfort which his aged friend, Lord Lyndhurst, had derived in his last days from the reading of the Bible, and the consolation of the Gospel.

The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Denmark has passed off better than we expected. The poor Princess suffered dreadfully from sea sickness in her passage across, so much so as to cause her to feel a nervous dread of coming home. It is a matter of course that they would receive nothing more than a slight salute in Denmark, but the event has proved otherwise. The Princess is a favourite, almost an idol, in her own country. No doubt her heart is still amongst the simple people of her girlhood. It is said that she is utterly weary of the fatiguing grandeur of the English Court. And no wonder. The Prince is gradually developing an independent set, and the Princess is gradually developing a set of her own. The Princess is said to be a devoted Christian, and she keeps him firmly up to his duties of his kind. His is probably one of those natures which require just control and guidance as a judicious, firm, sprightly, and loving wife can best do. The Queen seems almost entirely gone out of public view. She appeared upon the scene for a few days some weeks ago, but retirement appears to be her delight, and the expectation is now given up that she will ever appear prominently in public again.

Mr. Spurgeon has raised an unparalleled hubbub about the question of baptism, and more especially the sincerity of the evangelical clergy in professing adherence to the formularies of the Church of England. No less than 45 replies to him have already appeared. Last Sunday morning he made another tremendous attack upon the Church. Taking as a motto "Thus saith the Lord," he proceeded to a merciless criticism of the Canon and Rubric of the Church of England, as tested by Scripture. Mr. Spurgeon has now unmistakably got the ear of the country. Though only about 30 years of age, he is beyond question the foremost man in the ranks of English dissent. Yet he is no party leader. He is thoroughly independent, pursuing his own course and asking no account of the opinions of his party. All the small criticisms upon his jokes, and his odd expressions has now passed away, and he has established himself as a real power in his country. It is quite an unexpected thing that he should turn controversialist, and hitherto he has managed matters with such skill and force as to dreadfully discomfit his antagonists. The High Church party, who have Evangelical doctrine, especially the doctrine of Christ, in Mr. Spurgeon to a certain extent. Of course they disagree with him when he denounces the doctrine of baptismal regeneration. But they do not disagree with him when he maintains that baptismal regeneration is the doctrine of the Established Church, and that a minister of that church who teaches opposite doctrine is faithless to his ordination vows.

The light of our eloquent friend Mr. Pusey will no doubt strike a better fire in the hearts of England, but it seems a pity that he has been removed from London. In Wesleyan affairs there is nothing particular going on beyond what has been mentioned. Mr. Clulow, the minister set apart by the last Conference to visit and report on Sunday Schools, has hardly yet begun his work. He has a delicate duty to discharge, but no man in the Connection possesses more caution and judgment.

We have had a Methodist Bishop passing through London and preaching to a very large congregation in Lambeth Chapel. The bodily presence of Bishop Thomson, like that of St. Paul, is weak, but he appears a man of considerable intellectual power. His sermon was addressed exclusively to the intellect, whereas English preachers are seldom addressed to the heart. An elaborate essay in the pulpit, however able, may be adapted to the taste and wants of American congregations, but in the old country we love plain, direct, and heart-moving speech.

London, Sept. 30, 1864.

Fredericton Correspondence.

DEAR SIR—In accordance with your request, I proceed to write you something concerning the Exhibition now open, which for months has been looked forward to with so much interest by the inhabitants of this Province. To go in the best track of "our own" Correspondents, would be to ask the "read reader" to accompany me from the wharf at Indiantown to the celestial city, take him through the building, and leave him again at Indiantown. I take the liberty of doing otherwise, for what reader of your paper wishes to hear again the oft-told description of the scenery of our noble river, whose beauty is celebrated world wide, and whose broad bosom, flecked with the sails of boats, and rolled by the passing steamer, reflects the rolling hills and primeval forests, that now touched by the cold finger of Autumn, flash with amber and gold, along whose banks are cottages half smothered in foliage, harvests of golden corn, and the tall and stately spires of Oldbury, and above all—better than all—are "spires whose silent flag-

ers point to heaven's landing a new beauty to the scenery; all this we have heard before. But there must be something very extraordinary to attract the crowds that load every boat and permeate the usually quiet streets of Fredericton. There must be something of very great interest that can induce persons to dispute about the right occupation of a place on the floor of a hotel sitting-room.

And truly there is, for here is the building erected at a great expense, in itself a noble specimen of modified Corinthian architecture, rivaling in appearance the most beautiful erections of the Province. Its turrets surmounted by flagstaffs, from which floats the flag that waves so potently up to break the bondman's chains, its images representing Peace, Liberty, Commerce, fine arts, keeping watch over the dome, and the immense space of crystal that reflects the sunbeams, produce an impression of the magnitude of the work, that is deepened as he enters, still standing under the beautiful dome, he feels his patriotic pride burst into a flame. No wonder New Brunswick is proud of their capital at a time like this, for in this building, itself so eminent an exponent of the resources of the country, are gathered articles of every description—machinery and models, churns and cheese, butter and beef, seeds and flannels, harness and handbags, potatoes and pick-forks, fish and fire-engines, painting and pottery, and indeed every department of industry was as well represented as could be in British America; for here the iron and wood, touched by the hand of Anglo Saxon industry, take a form of beauty, and beauty, Agriculture rears her fruits of the most tempting appearance; vegetables of every kind, marvellous in size; immense ears, sheep, pigs, and poultry; and the Fine Arts presented such a display of pencil, painting, drawing, engraving, wood work, hair and shell work, bronzes, and matters particularly attractive to the ladies, that more than one application was made for a certificate to regulate the living stream of curious humanity that surged around the department.

In the neighbourhood of the building were sheeps occupied by showmen, who "for the small sum of five cents" allowed an appreciative public to look at any city in America, or follow in panorama the American war to the present time. Would-be Astronomers might try their luck in a telescope, and their chance of winning a valuable prize. My letter is already too long. To the thoughtful mind there are other things suggested by such scenes as this, which would be interesting to your readers. There is something suggestive in all this fierce competition for prizes, this excited scramble for notoriety. Would that the greater and better prize were more earnestly sought. Or even in the matter for thought, not only in what Xerxes went for, in view of his great army, but also for reasons that affected one greater than he, when he saw a great multitude, wept over them.

Was the Exhibition a success? It is a question that is difficult to answer. If the great object is to show the people of a country, what its resources are, to create a feeling of pride in its products, and a spirited competition in agriculture, trade, and manufactures, there is no doubt that many went there, who came away astonished at the amazing variety of productions, the magnificence of the articles shown, and the elastic energy which in a country of so small population, can get such a show of manufactures. But in a moral exhibition, the Exhibition was not a success; surely temptation is less enough, when kept down by the stern restraints of a religious faith, and a purified competition in agriculture, trade, and manufactures, there is no doubt that many went there, who came away astonished at the amazing variety of productions, the magnificence of the articles shown, and the elastic energy which in a country of so small population, can get such a show of manufactures. 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