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BIOGRAPHY.

THE BENEVOLENT HOWARD.

The particulars of this benevolent man's last hours were communicated to his friends in England, by Admiral Mordvinof, of the Black Sea fleet, and Admiral Priestman, an English officer in the Russian service. Howard had visited a lady about 24 miles from Chersis, where he resided, who was ill of an epidemical fever; upon his return he was taken ill. It had been almost his daily custom, at a certain hour, to visit Admiral Priestman; when with his usual attention to regularity and the use of his time, he would place his watch upon the table, and pass exactly an hour with him in conversation.—The Admiral observing that he failed in his usual visits, went to call upon him, and found him weak and ill, sitting before a stove in his bed room. Having enquired after his health, Mr. Howard replied, that his end was approaching very fast; that he had several things to say to his friend, and thanked him for having called. The Admiral finding him in such a melancholy mood, endeavoured to turn the conversation, imagining the whole might be the effect of his low spirits; but Mr. Howard soon assured him it was otherwise, and added; "Priestman, you style this a very dull conversation, and endeavour to divert my mind from dwelling upon death; but I entertain very different sentiments. Death has no terrors for me; it is an event I always look to with cheerfulness, if not with pleasure; and be assured, the subject of it is to me more grateful than that of any other. I am well aware, that I have only a short time to live; my mode of life has rendered it impossible that I should recover from this fever. If I had, as you do, ate heartily of animal food, and drank wine, I might, perhaps, by altering my diet, be able to subdue it; but how can such an invalid as I am lower his diet? I have been accustomed for years to exist upon vegetables and water, a little bread, and a little tea. I have no method of lowering my nourishment, and consequently I must die. It is such jolly fellows as you, Priestman, who get over these fevers."

Then turning the subject, he spoke of his funeral, and cheerfully gave directions concerning the manner of his burial.—"There is a spot," said he, "near the village of Dauphigny—this would suit me nicely; you know it well, for I have often said that I should like to be buried there; and let me beg of you, as you value your old friend, not to suffer any pomp to be used at my funeral, nor any monument, or monumental inscription whatsoever to mark where I am laid; but lay me quietly in the earth, place a sun-dial over my grave, and, let me be forgotten." Having given these directions, he was very earnest in soliciting, that Admiral Priestman would lose no time in securing the object of his wishes, but go immediately and settle with the owner of the land for the place of his interment, and prepare every thing for his burial. The Admiral left him upon his melancholy errand, and having accomplished his wishes, returned with the intelligence to Mr. Howard; upon which his countenance brightened up, and a gleam of evident satisfaction came over his face, and he prepared to go to bed. Soon afterwards he made his will, leaving as his executor a trusty follower, who had lived with him more in the capacity of a friend than of a servant, and whom he charged with the commission of bearing his will to England. It was not until he had finished his will that any symptoms of delirium appeared. Admiral Priestman, who had left him for a short time, returned, and found him sitting up in his bed, adding what he believed to be a codicil to his will, but it consisted of several unconnected words, the chief part being illegible, and the whole without a meaning. After this he became more composed. Scarcely was this labour ended, when a letter was brought him from England, containing intelligence of the improved state of his son's health, stating the nature of his occupations in the country;

and giving reason to hope that he would recover from the disorder with which he was afflicted. Mr. Howard turned his head towards the servant who had read the letter, upon his concluding, saying, "Is this not comfort for a dying father?" He expressed great repugnance against being buried according to the rites of the Greek Church, and begged Admiral Priestman to prevent any interference on the part of the Russian priests; made him also promise that he would read the service of the church of England over his grave, and bury him in all respects according to the forms of his own country. Soon after this last request he ceased to speak.—Admiral Mordvinof came in and found him dying very fast. They had in vain besought him to allow a physician to be sent for; but Admiral Mordvinof renewing his solicitations with great earnestness, he assented by nodding his head. The physician came, but was too late to be of any service. A rattling in the throat had commenced; the physician administered what is called the *musty draught*—a medicine only used in Russia in the last extremity. He was prevailed upon to swallow a little, and in a short time breathed his last.—"Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for surely the latter end of that man is peace!"

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY EFFORT.

We rejoice in being able to lay before our readers a substantial proof of the high interest taken by the friends of Christianity in England, for the promotion of the Missionary Cause. The Annual Meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society, held in London the 18th June last, presents one of the most encouraging circumstances, connected with the management of the financial concerns of that and similar institutions, that has occurred for some time. The financial concerns of that Society were represented by the Rev. Secretary as being minus some thousands of pounds, notwithstanding the exertions of its friends the year past. This falling short in the income, he attributed in a great measure to the general depression of trade and commerce in Great-Britain. But there were also other causes which the Report briefly glanced at, to which, the decline was in some measure owing. The sum of four thousand pounds was stated as the sum immediately required to relieve the Society from its present embarrassments; and under these circumstances, the Committee felt it imperative upon them to direct the immediate and earnest attention of their friends at large, to the pecuniary situation of the Society. The Report thus observes:—

"It is evident that we are brought to a crisis, at which some decisive measures must be adopted. While complaints have been uttered, both at home and abroad, because additional stations were not occupied, and additional labourers sent forth; it will be seen that the most unremitting and painful exertions have been required in order to keep up the previously existing scale of operations. Either means must be found to augment the funds of the Society, or those operations must immediately be contracted. And can we, with an approving conscience, and as in the sight of God, resolve on the latter alternative? Must we consider the sum of nine or ten thousand pounds—not a fourth part of what is contributed to several of the kindred institutions of our native land—the highest point to which our annual resources can extend? While we are surrounded with so much that is encouraging on every side, and our fellow Christians are addressing themselves with redoubled energy to the work of the Lord, shall we alone grow weary of the toil, and retire ingloriously from the field?"

"Assuredly, no reasons for despondency can be found in either of those extensive scenes of labor in which our missionary brethren are engaged. In the East, you have a body of tried and faithful men, none of whom receive more than is barely sufficient for the wants of themselves and their families, while others, in addition to their gratuitous efforts in diffusing the knowledge of Christ among the heathen, contribute to the common cause on a scale which, if it were generally imitated at home, would effectually relieve the Society from all its embarrassments. These brethren assure us that they feel nothing so disheartening as the want of more laborers. "We are full of hope," say they, "we see the work going on, we are confident of success, if men of ardent piety, and active zeal, and melting love to souls, were but here to carry on labors now commenced, and in progress. We need help in every department; but especially in the preaching of the gospel. We have, I suppose, a million within a circuit of four miles; we can procure congregations at all hours of the day; and if we had more preachers to declare with patience, perseverance, and affection, 'the truth as it is in Jesus,' we feel assured of success."

"Turn to the West, brethren, and resist, if you can, the powerful appeals for persevering exertions, and increased aid, which are presented from that quarter. Reflect on the present condition of the negro population—on the prospects opening upon them from the increase of knowledge and gradual improvement of their civil condition—on the eagerness with which they flock to hear the gospel—on the readiness they show to promote the cause of religion to the utmost of their power—and on the astonishing success with which it has pleased God to crown, from year to year, the labors of your missionaries—and then calmly ask yourselves the question, Whether these servants of Christ are to sink one after another into an untimely grave, martyrs to their own exertions? Whether the water of life is to be dashed from the parched lips of thousands eager to drink it, for no other reason than that we hesitate to make the sacrifices necessary to ensure their supply?"

"If, respected friends, this urgency be deemed too great, the only apology we have to offer is that the occasion loudly demands it. Those whom you entrust with the direction of your affairs, have an arduous duty to perform; and they would be chargeable with treachery, were they not to aim, however feebly, at conveying to your minds the conviction which pervades their own. It is most obvious that the exertions of a Committee must be regulated by the funds placed at their disposal; and for the wise and economical distribution of which they are responsible, both to God and the Christian public. Convinced that it is only for the cause to be viewed in its real character and just obligation, in order to secure for it a due share in the solicitude, the prayers, and the liberality of the Church of Christ; they wish to press it on themselves, and on others, as a matter of individual and personal obligation. They hope to see the time when as much zeal will be displayed in the service of Christ, as is continually shown by those who are led captive by the Devil at his will—as much readiness to expend our property in promoting the interests of the Saviour's kingdom, as we discover in procuring for ourselves and our families the means of temporal gratification and worldly distinction—when no luxury will be retained, no expence incurred, which shall be inconsistent with a grateful and honest surrender of our all to God. Thus may we prove that we remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

The reading of the Report was followed by many impressive addresses from several gentlemen present: in which were many warm appeals to the good feelings of the large congregation there assembled; and which, we are happy to observe, elicited