

THE PALM TREE.

"This thy stature is like a palm-tree."—(Sol. Song vii. 7.) On account of its great use to mankind, the family of the palms stands in the first rank among the productions of the vegetable kingdoms, and ought, more than most others, to excite the interest of naturalists; but, unfortunately, it is one of those which has been least noticed by travellers.—The palms are peculiar to the warmer regions of the globe, and the name *palma* has been given to those productions of the vegetable world, from the supposed resemblance of their broad leaves to the human hand, *palma* being the Latin for a hand. On the same account the date, which is the fruit of a species of palm, is called *ductylus*, a finger, not so much from its form as from the mode in which it grows in clusters, spreading out like the fingers of the hand. These trees are of the utmost importance to the inhabitants of the tropical regions; the fruit and sap providing them with food, the fibrous part of their structure with clothing, and the leaves forming the greatest part of their slightly constructed huts. The palm is a most graceful plant, and, in the figurative language of Scripture, its name is frequently employed to express beauty and elegance. The growth of the palm is extremely singular; for, although some species attain the height of the largest forest trees, their structure differs materially from that of a tree, properly so called. The leaves of the young plant arise immediately from the surface of the ground, and it is not until the lapse of several years, that there is any appearance of stem, and this stem, when once formed, never increases in size, the growth of the plant being always upwards, so that the stem itself is formed by the former growth of the green portions of the palm; and as we can judge the age of a tree by the circles visible in a section of its trunk, so the number of years a palm has existed is known by the scars left by the falling off of its annual circle of leaves. Laborde, in speaking of this interesting object, says, "What appeared to me most worthy of notice, was a palm tree in its natural state, which we found above Onali Saleh. The palm tree is always represented with its summit pointed, its leaves bent back and spreading over its head, from whence gracefully hang dates as bright as coral; and we never imagine that all this elegance is produced by art, and that nature, less refined, has only attended to its preservation. Before us we saw the palm tree as it had grown for many a year forming a rampart of its perishing leaves, and again coming to life, as it were, in the midst of its wreck.—Neglected by the Arab of the desert, who considers all attempts at cultivation beneath his dignity, the palm tree at times forms an impenetrable forest; more frequently, however, it is found isolated near a fountain. It presents itself to the thirsty traveller like a friendly lighthouse, pointing out to him the spot where water is to be found to quench the thirst, and a charitable shade in which to repose."—*Scriptural Elucidations*.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

LIBERATION OF DR. KALLEY.

We rejoice to learn from the following extracts, from a letter of the Rev. J. Julius Wood, to the Rev. John Sym, dated Funchal, 9th January, that Dr. Kalley has at last been restored to liberty:—

"Among the kindest of the many kind friends I have met with here, is the family of Dr. Kalley, with whom I am at present living. You will be delighted to hear that the Doctor was released from prison on New Year's day. He had sent two appeals to Lisbon against the doings of the authorities here; both have been decided in

his favour. As the effect of the first favourable decision, he has been liberated on bail. The formal judgment of the other appeal has not yet reached Madeira; but when it does, the bail will fall, and Dr. Kalley will be altogether at liberty. Whether proceedings against him will be commenced *de novo* remains to be seen. The general opinion seems to be that they will not, yet I cannot think that Popery will give up the contest, and allow Dr. Kalley to go on with his work unmolested.

"The attention of the people all over the island has been awakened by Dr. Kalley's proceedings; upwards of 10,000 of them have been in his hands as patients; he has distributed some thousand copies of the Scriptures, or parts of them. Very many people of all ranks are favourably disposed to Dr. Kalley; his medical skill and his amiable conduct and exemplary life have won the respect and love of many Roman Catholics, including sundry priests. For several days after his liberation, his house was crowded with the respectable classes,—British residents, visitors, and Portuguese, who came to congratulate him on his restoration to liberty. Indeed, the state of feeling regarding him is very curious, and puzzles me not a little. For not a few who are Roman Catholics, and strongly opposed to him, are his warmest friends. It is earnestly to be hoped that he will be permitted to go on teaching the truth as it is in Jesus, to those who attend him,—that God will restrain the wrath of man, and allow his own Word to have free course and be glorified."

FREE CHURCH—ANOTHER DELEGATE FROM SCOTLAND.

Mr. H. B. Ferguson arrived by the last Steamer. He brings an encouraging account of the state of the Free Church of Scotland. That Church have now in organization a Theological Seminary, embracing 200 students. Dr. Chalmers and Dr. Cunningham are among its Professors. There were when the secession first took place about 450 ministers connected with it; and now there are 550. New secession churches are springing up in various parts of the land. There has been a decided revival of religion in the country during the two or three years past, as might have been inferred from the events connected with the secession. As to the rumors of many ministers having gone over to Episcopacy, the delegate states that only one minister in Edinburgh, a Mr. Marshall, has taken that course. There is a great degree of union and good feeling between the Free Church and the Congregationalists.—*N. E. Puritan*.

SUNDAY TOLLS.—EXEMPTION OF A LOCAL PREACHER.—On the 15th ult., the Mayor of Liskeard decided that Mr. Philips, a Wesleyan local preacher in the Liskeard Circuit, was, as such, exempt from toll on Sundays, when proceeding to fulfil his circuit appointments.

SACRED MUSIC COMPOSED BY PRINCE ALBERT.—Prince Albert has lately come before the public as a composer of sacred music, and his productions have been very much admired. On Friday week, a private rehearsal of sacred music, the composition of the Prince Consort, took place in the Queen's private chapel, before her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, under the superintendence of Dr. Elvy, Private organist to the Queen. The Prince Consort having given his permission to Dr. Elvy to introduce his compositions in the service at the chapel of St. George, they formed a portion of the musical service at the chapel on Sunday morning, the *Te Deum*, and the *Sanctus*, and the *Responses*, being his Royal Highness's productions.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester has transmitted a liberal donation to the fund for the completion of the restoration of the ancient and interesting church of the Holy Sepulchre, at Cambridge. The Duke of Northumberland, Chancellor of the University, has made a second contribution of 20l.

The Rev. Mr. Milne, of the London Missionary Society, performed the journey overland from Ningpo to Canton, a distance of 1,300 miles, in 38 days. He was dressed as, and passed of course for, a Chinaman. He represents many parts of the country as extremely beautiful; but others, as of large extent, barren and thinly peopled.

THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1844.

WESLEYAN METHODISTS.—The spirit which so vigorously actuates this religious denomination, in Great Britain, exercises its animating influence here. A few years only have elapsed, since this class of our fellow-citizens celebrated "The first Centenary of Methodism." On that memorable occasion, they contributed, if we mistake not, nearly £3,000 towards the Centenary Fund—a fund, which, in the aggregate, amounted to upwards of £200,000 sterling: all of which was expended upon various objects, solely with a view more effectually to carry on the great and glorious purpose of evangelising mankind. It is well known, that the Wesleyan Church in this city, is one of the numerous and flourishing affiliations of the parent body: and is, like all those located in the colonies and foreign parts, under the direction of their Missionary Committee. From a very small beginning indeed, this portion of the universal "household of faith" has become both numerous and highly influential; and, as a natural result of this prosperity, all their places of worship have become too small.

To obviate this inconvenience—to extend their borders—and to build tents sufficiently large wherein to dwell—the church members and hearers were convened together in Saint James Street Chapel, on Thursday evening, the 7th inst. The chairman of this meeting, JOHN TORRANCE, Esq. placed before the congregation, in few, "but well selected and fitly spoken words," the object for which they were assembled. Addresses, richly fraught with persuasive and convincing eloquence, were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. HARVARD, SQUIRE, LANG, BROWNELL, COONEY, and RICHEY—after which, donations and subscriptions were furnished, amounting to £2575 10s. 2d.

On Saturday night, another meeting for the above-mentioned purpose, was held in the Wellington Street Chapel, and at which, JAMES FERRIER, Esq. presided. This gentleman having explained the object of the meeting, urged upon all present, the necessity of doing all in their power to promote its accomplishment. Very appropriate and effectual appeals were made by several of the above-named clergymen, and to which their auditory cheerfully and munificently responded. At the close of this service, £537 12s. 0d. were obtained—making the total amount raised by this effort, for church extension among the Wesleyans in Montreal, £3,103 2s. 3d!

This large sum, so worthy of the proverbial liberality of the Methodists, is to be expended in the erection of a new and commodious chapel, in St. James Street, in place of the one at present there—in the completion of another now in progress, in Quebec Suburbs—and in enlarging the chapel situated in Wellington Street, Griffintown.

As these liberal contributions are, exclu-