

very same date, now existing, I ask, whether it does not present the proof of the authenticity of the New Testament before the very eyes, and render it palpable almost to the senses of mankind?—*ishop Wilson, of Calcutta.*

**ELIHU BURRITT, THE LEARNED BLACKSMITH.**—A letter written by Elihu Burritt, the learned blacksmith, contains some interesting incidents of his career.

Mr. Burritt mentions that being one of a large family, and his parents poor, he apprenticed himself when very young, to a blacksmith, but that he had always had a taste for reading, that he carried it with him to his trade. He commenced the study of Latin when his indentures were half expired, and completed reading Virgil in the evenings of the winter.

He next studied the Greek, and carried the Greek Grammar in his hat, studying it a few moments while beating some iron at the forge. In the evenings he sat down to Homer's Iliad, and read twenty books of it during the second winter. He next turned to the modern tongues and went to New Haven, where he recited it to native teachers in French, Spanish, German, and Italian, and at the end of two years he returned to his forge, taking with him such books as he could procure. He next commenced Hebrew, and soon mastered it, reading two chapters in the Bible before breakfast; this, with an hour at noon being all the time he could spare from work. Being unable to procure the book he desired, he determined to hire himself to some ship bound to Europe, thinking he could procure them at the different ports he touched at. He travelled more than a hundred miles on foot to Boston with this view, but was not able to find what he sought; and at that period he heard of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester. Thither he bent his steps, and arrived in the city in the most utter indigence. Here he found a collection of ancient modern, and Oriental books, such as he never imagined to be collected in one place. He was kindly allowed to read what books he liked, and has reaped great benefit from this permission.

He used to spend three hours daily in the hall, and he made such use of these privileges, as to be able to read upwards of fifty languages with greater or less of facility.

**MEMOIRS OF JOHN ABERNETHY, F. R. S.**—By Geo. Macilwain, F. R. S. Harper and Brothers. 1853.

This is quite an agreeable work, and may be perused with pleasure by the general, and with both pleasure and profit, by the professional reader. Mr. Abernethy indeed forms an admirable subject for a biographical memoir, where, as in the present instance, the narrator is filled with regard and admiration for his hero. Nor was that hero a common man.—Warm-hearted and benevolent, with very considerable abilities; and no little eccentricity, what he said and did was greatly calculated to amuse and to instruct.—Mr. Abernethy and Sir Astley Cooper were in some sort rivals in their early days, and were, moreover, completely opposed in body and in mind. The person of the former was not so good, but his head was far better developed, and his countenance more calm, and, above all, more intellectual. But Sir Astley Cooper was entirely devoted to his profession, and intensely anxious to advance his success therein, and hence, with inferior talents, his success was greater.—As lecturers, neither excelled. When the topic under discussion permitted it, Mr. Abernethy sat with his arms folded, moving his body gently; and in various directions. What he said was sensible, of course, but it was delivered with little animation, and in a style never ornate, and now then not very decent. Sir Astley displayed his fine person by standing erect, and his countenance was very animated; but having no great amount of learning, nor depth of thought, his style was light, and his sentences, not always well constructed, became occasionally so entangled, that a violent break was sometimes necessary to enable him to escape. As members of society, however, as well as members of the profession, with such abatements, nevertheless, as the frailties of humanity too commonly exact, these two eminent men may serve as models to future surgeons in other ages and in other climes.—And this small tribute is paid to their memories by an aged pupil of both, and of one of them of more than fifty years standing.

**POWER OF THE TRUTH.**—When I first visited — writes a metropolitan missionary, "I found him an infidel. He offered me an intelligent opposition. He was deeply read in the most subtle infidel writers. He exerted a greater influence for evil over

other young men, for they looked upon him as an oracle. I frequently visited him during the first twelve months, and brought the truth as it is in Jesus to bear upon his errors. About this time I saw a gradual change. He began to search the Scriptures diligently; and, about six months after, he gave up to me some infidel publications, and with them some money for my library, saying that he had been so largely benefited that he felt that it was his duty to aid it in some way. About this time he commenced going to church, and has continued going there regularly ever since. For the past twelve months he has zealously defended the bible, from the attacks of his former associates. An infidel, who lives next door, said to me, "I suppose you mean to make — a missionary; for he has got all your arguments by heart." A short time back I was conversing privately with him, and pressing home the matter of personal salvation, when he said to me, "I do believe in Jesus. O that his love was shed abroad in my heart. Infidelity has darkened my understanding, and obscured the saving truths of the bible. 'Create in me a clean heart, O God.' My impression certainly is, that he is brought out of darkness into marvellous light. Lord, make him entirely Thine."

**RAILWAY TRAVELLING.**—Sir Isaac Newton wrote a work upon the Prophet Daniel and another upon the book of Revelation, in one of which, he said that in order to fulfil certain prophecies before a certain date was terminated—namely, 1,260 years, there would be a mode of travelling of which the men of his time had no conception; nay, that the knowledge of mankind would be so increased that they would be able to travel at the rate of fifty miles an hour. Voltaire, who did not believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures, got bold of this and said, "Now, look at that mighty mind of Newton, who discovered gravity, and told us such marvels for all to admire. When he became an old man, and got into his dotage, he began to study that book called the Bible; and it seems that in order to credit its fabulous nonsense, we must believe that the knowledge of mankind will be so increased that we shall be able to travel at the rate of fifty miles an hour. The poor dotard!" exclaimed the philosophic infidel Voltaire, in the self complacency of his pity.

"In this city," says a daily paper, "rum defies law, defies juries, defies people, defies God. Its domination is supreme. Time, and its own outrages, working upon public opinion, are the only influences that will effect its overthrow."

**EPITAPHIS.**—The generality of mankind are not content to sink ingloriously into the grave, but wish to be paid that tribute or panegyric after their deaths, which in many cases may not be due to the virtue of their lives. If the vanity of the departed has not been provident of monumental honors, the partiality of friends is eager to supply them.

### Diocesan Church Society.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

#### MEETING OF THE LOCAL COMMITTEE, SYDNEY, C. B.

As all members of the Church, both clerical and lay are, according to their power, solemnly bound to assist in advancing the Kingdom of Christ upon earth, the periodical return of those occasions when a regular appeal is made to them, to engage in this work, ought to have especial interest for them. At this season of the year, such an appeal is made, and their contributions and efforts are called for through the instrumentality of an Institution admirably adapted to carry out such a sacred object. Such occasions have something refreshing in them, and help to lift the thoughts above the ordinary and transitory scenes of this world. In seasons when the iniquity of our fallen nature casts a dark shade over earthly things, and makes the soul sad under the oppressive weight of human guilt and sorrow, any thing that points to brighter scenes, and engages its practicality in the causes which promote the diffusion of religion, and hastens the coming of the Redeemer's Kingdom, must be a relief and a grateful occupation. Such was the case on Friday last, when this Local Committee held its usual anniversary meeting in this town. As a short sketch of these proceedings is often looked for with interest by the members of our Church in this Diocese, I am induced to send the following account:—

Friday, January 6th, being the Epiphany, prayers were read in St. George's Church at 11 o'clock in the morning. The interior of this Church, which is beautifully painted in oak, and otherwise handsomely fitted up, was in addition, dressed in the appropriate decorations of the Christmas season. It was ornamented in excellent taste. Several ladies and gentlemen of the congregation and Garrison voluntarily undertook the work, and seldom have I seen a Church so well ornamented in this way. The hymn of "Glory be to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men" was placed in letters of evergreen along the front of the gallery at the lower part of the Church. A deep and open screen of evergreen ran along the upper part of the pillars which support the roof of the

Church, and also along the gallery, leaving the Choir (which is in the centre) partly open, having the word "Emmanuel" in green, placed immediately over the front of the choir. The pillars and chancel rails were wreathed with the same evergreen; and the pulpit and desk ornamented with festoons. This, with several other appropriate and elegant decorations, gave a warm and solemn appearance to the whole Church, and conveyed to the mind the impression of sacred joy, and triumph in the Redeemer's glorious work, which belong to the season of His nativity. Such a mode of celebrating the triumph of His Advent in the flesh, recalls the scene of His entrance into Jerusalem, when palm branches were carried around Him, and strewn in the way, in honor of His advent as the expected Messiah.

In the evening at 7 o'clock, the meeting of the Local Committee took place in the Temperance Hall. The building was well filled with a respectable audience. The room was well lighted, and every thing well arranged, and the whole proceedings were very gratifying. The Melodeon from the Church was placed in the gallery, and the choir sang in the course of the evening part of the 6th Psalm, Heber's Missionary Hymn, and several verses of the 100th Psalm, with the doxology. The music contributed a good deal to the interest of the evening. The Rector of the Parish was in the Chair as President of the Committee. An excellent Report was read by the Secretary, showing many encouraging facts, and many respectable contributions from the Parish towards the support of the Church, and the promotion of religious objects. But as this Report most likely will appear as it usually has done in the *Church Times* I need not add anything further respecting it. In support of the Resolutions, which were submitted to the meeting, several interesting and animating speeches were made both by the Clergy and Laity. Among the latter John Bourinot, Esq., Captain Ousely, and Edward Sutherland, Esq., were the principal speakers. And amongst the former the Rev. W. Y. Porter, travelling missionary, and Secretary of the Committee, and the Rev'd. Robert Arnold, Rector of Trinity, Sydney Mines, who kindly gave his valuable assistance at the meeting. Great attention and order were observed during the evening. Churchmen felt a becoming interest in what was going on; and we may hope were impressed with a sense of the importance of the association, and have received an additional impulse in its favor. May this impression be lasting and growing, and be accompanied by the substantial proof of their interest in the Society, viz., the disposition to contribute according to their means, to carry on the work of our Missionary and Apostolic Church! Towards the close of the meeting a collection was taken amounting to £2 15s.

Thus terminated another meeting of those associations of Churchmen, everywhere at this season held through the Diocese. They are important though unpretending agencies; and we may humbly hope, are amongst the means by which Providence is gradually and imperceptibly bringing on the period when the truth of the Gospel shall be generally diffused, and the light of the Church of our Divine Redeemer shall shine brightly into the hearts of men, and guide their feet into the way of peace and salvation.

SYDNEY, C. B., January 10th, 1854.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

MR. EDITOR,

On Wednesday evening, 11th inst., an exceedingly interesting and well attended meeting of the Mahone Bay Committee of the D. C. Society, took place in the School House. Proceedings commenced with singing the time-honored 100th Psalm, and with the appointed prayers after which the Rev. President in a short address, having first called the attention of the meeting to the origin, objects, and state of the Society, requested the Secretary to read the Report. The following Resolutions were then moved, seconded and passed *unanimously*.

1. *Resolved*, That the Report just read, be received and read. Moved by Benjamin Legge, Esq., seconded by John Reid, Esq.

2. *Resolved*, That the measure of past success, which, by the blessing of God, has rendered the efforts of the D. C. Society in this Diocese, a living witness to the love of the Redeemer, to the eternal borders of the Church, and to the immortal souls of a people, be gratefully acknowledged to the Giver of all grace.

Moved in a plain, practical, and interesting speech, by the Rev. H. L. Owen, Rector of Lunenburg, seconded by Mr. J. W. Reid.

3. *Resolved*, That the abundant liberality of the Venerable Society of the D. C. S., which this Parish in common with the other Churches of the Diocese has so long shared, entitles them to a lasting gratitude and fervent prayers that God will continue to prosper the work of their hands.

Moved in a feeling and many useful remarks by Mr. Frederick, Esq., M. P., seconded by Mr. Frederick, Esq.

The Missionary Hymn having been sung, the 4th Resolution is as follows:—Whereas in consequence of the wide and effectual, having been opened for the first time, the Gospel to the unnumbered millions of the East, and the Islands of the sea, who are ignorant of the true God, and of Jesus Christ, whom He has sent, calls for assistance from the Parent Society in England, have been exceedingly multiplied.

There *was* *Resolved*, That Churchmen in this Diocese will best perform their part in enabling the Society to answer those calls, by supporting their own Missionaries and their own Church Institutions.

Moved in a very appropriate speech by the Honble. W. Russell, M. L. C., seconded in his usual earnest manner by D. Owen, Esq., and supported by Mr. Nathaniel Kaulback.

5th. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the several gentlemen from Lunenburg, who have so kindly assisted us this evening.

Moved (in the absence of Mr. Francis Zwicker) by Mr. Lewis Knaut, seconded by Mr. Alexander Zwicker, Junr. Officers for the ensuing year were then appointed; a collection taken up, and the meeting closed by singing the Doxology, and with the Apostolic Benediction.

MAHONÉ BAY, Jan. 13, 1854.