

DOMESTIC MISSIONARY
INTELLIGENCE.

PROCEEDINGS

At the Anniversary of the Wesleyan Missionary Branch Society, held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Germain Street, Monday evening, February 9, 1829.

ALEXANDER M'LEOD, Esq. in the Chair.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. M'Nutt—seconded by Mr. H. Hennigar—

That the Committee's Report now read, be received, and adopted as the Report of this Branch Society; and that Mr. M'Leod be requested to publish it in his "Religious and Literary Journal."

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Smithson—seconded by Mr. William Salmon—

That the Committee of the St. John Wesleyan Missionary Branch Society, availing themselves of this opportunity, do hereby express their thankfulness to all those persons who have benevolently contributed to the Funds of this Society,—and also do hereby acknowledge the valuable services of the Female Wesleyan Association in this City, and also the persevering and successful efforts of all the Collectors, by whose diligence the funds of the Society were so much increased the last year: and that whilst the Committee thus acknowledge their obligations, they would most affectionately and earnestly call upon all parties, to continue and abound in this "Work of the Lord."

Moved by Mr. A. W. M'Leod—seconded by Mr. G. T. Ray—

That this Meeting solemnly recognize the claims which the unenlightened millions of the heathen world, have upon the piety and benevolence of the whole christian church; and as the christian religion furnishes the only adequate means of restoring our fallen world to its just allegiance to its Holy, rightful and Eternal Sovereign, by renewing the human mind in knowledge, in righteousness, and in true holiness, it becomes the paramount duty of all who compose the Church of God, seriously to consider the extent and weight of those obligations which devolve upon them, as persons who are destined by the Almighty to be his instruments in extending and establishing the empire of the Lord Jesus Christ through all the Earth; and zealously, perseveringly and liberally, to pursue those plans of piety and charity which are so well adapted to accomplish this, His great and merciful design, and thereby fulfil the solemn duties of the Christian Stewardship.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Miles, (Baptist Minister,) seconded by Mr. M. Thomas—

That the great and increasing success which continues to attend the pious and indefatigable labours of Christian Missionaries in general, is a cause of triumphant gratitude to God, who, by his servants, manifests the "savour of his knowledge in every place;" and that it is the duty and privilege of the friends of Christ in this Assembly, now to join in devout thanksgiving to the Lord, for these manifestations of his mercy and grace; and also to implore an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit, upon all Christian Missionaries themselves, and upon the people among whom they labour in the Gospel of His Son.

[After this Resolution was passed, a Hymn of praise was sung, and prayer and thanksgiving were offered by the Rev. Mr. Williams.]

Moved by the Rev. R. Williams—seconded by Mr. W. J. Drummond—

That from the official statements now made to this meeting, it appears, that the exhausted state of the Society's Funds, precludes the possibility of increasing the number of Wesleyan Missionaries, on any of the foreign Stations.—That such are the extraordinary openings for Missionary engagements, and so numerous are the candidates for Missionary enterprises, men provided by God in answer to the prayers of his people, as to afford satisfactory evidence in behalf of the Divine faithfulness, and to furnish the friends of Christ with the most animating motives, to provide the means, to enable these his Servants, "to go unto all the World, and preach the Gospel to every creature."—That therefore it is the duty and the privilege of all such friends of the Redeemer, to make every prac-

ticable advance upon their former subscriptions with a view to enable the Committee of the Parent Society to send more labourers into the field, already ripe unto the harvest.

Moved by Mr. Robert Chestnut—seconded by Mr. David Collins.

That in addition to the Stewards, Leaders, and Trustees, in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodists in this City, the following persons do comprise the Committee of this Branch Society, viz:—Messrs. W. J. Drummond, J. Berriman, and Johnstone Sullivan; and that the stationed preacher for the time being, and A. W. M'Leod, be joint Secretaries for the ensuing year.

REPORT.

THE circulation of the Holy Scriptures, and the preaching of the Gospel by faithful and zealous Missionaries, are doubtless the means whereby the ETERNAL intends, to manifest his mercy in the conversion of sinful men in every part of this guilty world. In proportion as the work of conversion advances by these means, men of piety, are sincerely thankful; and the most enlarged desires are kindled in their hearts, that the kingdom of Christ may be established among all nations, and people, and kindreds, and tongues. The Committee of this Branch Society, feel that they are employed in their feeble way, to assist in raising funds with a view to send Missionaries to Heathen Lands, to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Many obstacles may oppose themselves to the spread of the Gospel, and the conversion of sinners, but God has promised that his knowledge shall cover the earth, as the waters cover the channels of the great deep; and for this purpose he has given his only begotten Son, "for a light to the Gentiles, that he may be his Salvation unto the ends of the earth." The Redeemer and Saviour of man, shall not labour in vain, nor spend his strength for nought, for he shall be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and God shall be his strength. Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship him, because of the Lord that is faithful. Your Committee entertain no doubt whatever, of the fulfillment of God's faithful word, and are, therefore, encouraged to proceed in humble dependence upon the influences of the Holy Spirit, knowing assuredly, "the Lord hath made bare his arm, in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God."

The Committee have heard of the late revival of religion in this Province, and of the interest which has been excited in behalf of Missionary objects, with emotions of unfeigned gratitude; and are disposed to regard these interpositions of divine influence and energy, as an earnest of a more copious and abundant out-pouring of the Holy Spirit upon the people of this City, and through the settlements of this youthful and growing Province.

The Committee proceed to make a brief survey of the field occupied by the Parent Society, where are one hundred and eighty-nine Missionaries, who occupy 138 stations, having Catechists, Schoolmasters, and other subordinate "fellow helpers to the truth."

Continental India and Ceylon.—These extensive, and important Missions continue to prosper. The number of children at present in the Schools is 4113. Since their commencement not less than 20,000, have been instructed in the "right ways of the Lord," not one of whom has been known to turn back to idolatry although connected with Heathen families!

South Sea Missions.—The Missions in New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land, continue to afford encouragement. The Ministers of different denominations, labour in great unity of spirit, to spread the common Saviour's name; and the civil authorities patronize every means, by which religion and good order may be promoted.

Missions in Southern Africa.—These Missions present most cheering indications. At Cape Town the Mission advances. At Khamio's Berg the scene is most exhilarating: the Hottentot Kraal has been succeeded, by buildings, fields, and gardens; the Chapel and School are regularly attended, by the Christianized adults and their Children; and instances of conversion to the faith of Christ, which have distinguished this Mission from its commencement, continue to occur.

The stations among the Caffres, are *Wesleyville* and *Coke's Mount*, Mr. Key writes in his journal, "a poor Caffre came to me this morning, crying O my sins, my sins, the word has cut my heart to pieces. What shall I do? I exhorted him to pray for a new heart. He cried I will, I will." Many thousands of those degraded Caffres have lately submitted themselves to the Missionaries to be instructed in the truths of the Christian religion.

Western Africa, Here are three stations and three Missionaries, the labours of these brethren, yield some fruit to the glory of God.

West-India Missions.—The especial benediction of the Lord, continues to rest upon these greatly important, and highly flourishing Missions. The Schools for negro children are on the increase, and produce the happiest effects. In Jamaica, persecution has raised its iron hand and some of the Missionaries have been imprisoned for no other crime than that of preaching Christ to the poor negroes; but the Committee of the Parent Society, look with confidence to His Majesty's Government, but more especially to the unslumbering Keeper of Israel, the ever faithful, and Almighty Head of his Church, who roaketh the wrath of man to praise him. Upwards of fifty Missionaries, with 27,158 negroes and people of colour, are in christian fellowship, with proportionate congregations, and an appendage of Schools containing 5,000 children, is a work for which we cannot but be grateful.

The Missions in Sweden, France, Gibraltar, Malta, Zante, and Alexandria although comparatively small, are Missions of great importance and of great promise.

The Irish Missions.—The twenty-one Missionaries stationed in different parts of Ireland, continue their arduous exertions, among many privations, and exposed to great dangers. Small Societies have been raised as lights amid the surrounding darkness. The Schools are the means of imparting incalculable benefits to the rising generation. There are 1300 children who receive instruction, more than half of whom are able to read the Holy Scriptures.

Missions in British North America.—The Missions in Canada, Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick, and Newfoundland, employ 46 Missionaries and are reported to be in a state of progressive improvement.

The Committee cannot but commend this great and growing work which God hath begun on the earth, to the prayers and to the benevolence of all the friends of God and man, under a full persuasion, that if sufficient means be provided, God will so direct and bless them, that multitudes of perishing sinners shall be turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. We live in eventful times, in days big with promise. Many are now going to and fro in the earth, and the knowledge of salvation is rapidly increasing. We are beginning to discern the "signs of the times." "At evening time it shall be light," and have we not arrived at the evening of this world. The Lord arise, oh to shake terribly the earth. Behold the reign of Jesus our King. His reign shall be prosperous,—"He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River unto the ends of the earth." "His name shall endure for ever; his name shall be continued as long as the Sun, and men shall be blessed in him, all nations shall call him blessed." Exalted in his