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THE
CHRISTIAN REGISTER.

" ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN."

VOL. I.]

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1823.

[No 14.]

OBITUARY

OF WILLIAM BLAIR, ESQ.

Late Surgeon to the Lock Hospital, and other Institutions, who died on Friday, Dec. 6, 1822, aged 56 years.

MR. BLAIR had, for many years, taken an active share in the proceedings of various Religious Institutions. Besides those mentioned in the following account of his last hours, which has been circulated by his friends, he was a Subscriber to the Church Missionary Society from its first formation; and became a Member of its Committee in its fifth year: he died in the thirteenth year of his service on that Committee, having willingly rendered the Society all the assistance which his professional and other engagements would allow. In his last moments, there was not only peace, but that true sublimity, which nothing but the grace of God can impart to dying man.

For many months past, Mr. Blair's health had evidently declined. During the last illness of his excellent wife, he was at times so exceedingly reduced, that she greatly feared he would die before her; and earnestly prayed that her Heavenly Father would take her first, if consistent with His holy will, and not allow her to be left an infirm and helpless widow. It pleased God to grant her request; and, after a long and painful, but sanctified affliction of many years, she departed peacefully, in the last Spring; bearing a clear and unequivocal testimony to the truth and faithfulness of God, who supported and

comforted her in every trial, especially when passing through the valley of the shadow of death.

After his wife's decease, Mr. Blair began most decidedly to set his house in order, as he knew he must shortly follow his beloved companion. He resolved to give up his professional practice; and to retire into the country, where he thought he should enjoy more uninterrupted opportunities for reading, meditation, and prayer. He, therefore, took a house in the neighbourhood of Colchester; resigned his situation as Surgeon to the Bloomsbury Dispensary; and prepared to dispose of the greater part of his library, together with such articles of household furniture as he would have no occasion for in the country. He had formed a large collection of rare and curious editions of the Bible, and many scarce Commentaries in different languages; for the Word of God had been his study and delight, during the greater part of his life: a few months ago, anticipating his approaching dissolution, he presented this valuable collection, worth several hundred pounds, to the British and Foreign Bible Society, who have gratefully acknowledged the same in their last Annual Report. He had been an active and very useful member of the General Committee of that Society for the last sixteen years; he was also President of the Bloomsbury Bible Association, and Vice-President of the Auxiliary Society: his unwearyed labours in the cause of the Bible Society, and in active benevolence to

the poor, are well known to his intimate friends. As Surgeon to the Bloomsbury Dispensary, he was indefatigable in his attentions to the cases of distress which came under his notice: he cared, not only for the bodies and temporal concerns, but for the souls and eternal interests of his patients; frequently exhausting his income in relieving the wants of the indigent, and, when his own charity purse was empty, recommending the cases, which he could not himself relieve, to the bounty of his friends.

The Bible Society, of all benevolent institutions, lay nearest his heart. The last effort which he made to leave his house, was to attend a Meeting of the Committee, on the Monday before his death. He asked a friend to lend him a carriage for the purpose, having parted with his own, and proceeded as far as Bridge-street, Blackfriars, toward the Bible Society House, but was too ill to go on, and was obliged to return home without accomplishing his object. He went immediately to his bed-room. After taking a little refreshment, he remarked that he felt as if he should not be able to go down stairs again; and, being in great pain, said—"Well, I will bear it patiently, for the Lord loveth whom He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." In the evening of the same day, he requested his servant to read to him the 11th and 65th chapters of Isaiah, the 10th chapter of Hebrews, beginning at the 19th verse, the whole of the 11th chapter, and the first thirteen verses of the 12th chapter of that Epistle. After they had been read, he desired his servant particularly to notice those chapters, in order that he might find them the more readily when he wished to hear them again.

On the next day, Tuesday, Dec. 3d, he appeared to suffer great pain. Several friends called, and were admitted to see him. He then desired his servant, if any others came to make inquiries, to say that he was too ill to see

them, but that he was firmly fixed upon the Rock Christ. His servant, in the course of the day, read several chapters from the New Testament, and also the 1st, 16th, first eight verses of the 17th, the 27th, 103d, and first ten verses of the 106th Psalms. While reading, Mr. Blair said, "There! you see what faith does. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you also shall be saved." With his hands clasped, and uplifted eyes, he added, "I believe in Him, and have no doubt—not the least—but that I shall be saved through the blood of my Redeemer, for I know that my Redeemer liveth."

He passed Wednesday nearly in the same manner. Nothing gave him so much comfort as to hear the Word of God. He would often say, while listening to it, "What comfort!—what consolation!—what encouragement there is in seeking the Lord!" and he exclaimed, "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly! My only desire is to be with Thee! I am now waiting for Thee!"

On Thursday, a medical friend, who called, proposed writing a prescription for him; he replied—"You know that it could be of no service: I am aware of my own situation, and that I am a dying man;" proceeding to admonish his friend to seek the Lord, and adding, that he himself had sought him during thirty-five years, and now experienced the comfort of having God for his salvation. Toward evening, feeling some apprehension lest his understanding should be affected, and having considerable pain in his head, he prayed earnestly that God would be merciful to him, and spare him the use of his intellects. The pain in his head was removed, and he was afterwards composed and tranquil.

An intimate friend called upon him during the week, to whom he expressed his entire confidence in the Word and Truth of God. He said, "My reliance is alone on the Lord Jesus Christ: as to looking back at my past life, to place any dependence upon

that, I cannot bear the thought. My hopes are alone upon the mercy of God, and my trust is in the Rock of Ages: I am fixed on that Rock." The Bible lay open on his table; and, looking at it, he said, "That is my only book—my great comfort. I used to be fond of my library: but I now want no other book than my Bible." Several times, during the latter days of his illness, he expressed himself in a similar manner.

The same friend called upon Mr. Blair, for the last time, on Friday night, Dec 6. His eyes then appeared to be fixed—his mouth seemed to be falling—and he was breathing with great difficulty, while supported in bed by his servant: it was doubtful, from his appearance, whether he had the use of his mental faculties. The servant told him who had entered the room, and he seemed to recognise the name. His friend whispered in his ear, "The Lord Je-us Christ is your Saviour;" he immediately replied, catching his breath at every syllable, "Altogether precious!" His friend then said, "When flesh and heart fail, God is the strength of the heart, and he will be your portion for ever:" to which he replied, "Always"—repeating the word with great emphasis. This visit had the effect of rousing him: for after his friend had taken his leave, and another attendant had entered the room, on the latter saying, "I doubt not, Sir, you can say with Job, *I know that my Redeemer liveth.*" he immediately took up the passage, and repeated the two following verses, being the 25th, 26th, and 27th verses of the 19th chapter of Job, which had formed the text of the last Sermon he had heard preached at St. John's Chapel, where he usually attended Divine Service. Shortly afterward, he said, "Though my flesh and my heart fail, God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever." He next endeavoured to repeat the Hymn, page 232 of Mr. Cecil's Collection,

"Rock of Ages rent for me," &c.

He then desired his servant to read those chapters which he had noticed at the beginning of the week, particularly the 11th of the Hebrews, to the 14th verse of the 12th chapter, and the 103d Psalm. One of the attendants said to the other, "What a blessing is it to see him so happy!" which Mr. Blair overheard, and interrupted him by saying, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death"—then, hesitating as if endeavouring to recollect the passage, he at length added, "Comfort me." He now became very weak, and was unable to attend to the reading. About five minutes before he died, he said, "Reach me that Blessed Book, that I may lay my hand on it once more." The Bible was brought to the bed, and his hand placed on it. Then, reclining his head, he distinctly said, "I rest in Christ;" and thus peacefully expired.

From the *New-York Spectator*.

We have received a letter from the Rev. Mr. SUMMERFIELD, dated London, May 6, 1823, from which we make the following extract.

"I am now safely arrived in England, and have for the last ten days been feasting my fainting appetite on those intellectual dainties which the present season never fails to provide for all who prefer the prosperity of Zion, to their chief joy. Immediately after the anniversary of the Protestant Bible Society at Paris, I hastened my departure, and arrived here just in time to skim the cream of some of the sweetest dishes that earth can possibly afford. The anniversaries began three days after I reached London; and I have really fatigued myself in plodding through them, though they are but just entered upon. I obtained a printed list of the principal ones, and find that from the 29th of April to the 7th of June, there are no less than fifty-three!

You will be perhaps as much surprised as I was at this number, and wonder what names can be attached to so many associations formed by the christian commonwealth for the benefit of man, —many of them I never heard of before—some were familiar to me: however, they include every thing which the ingenuity of man could invent for the amelioration of the moral condition of his fellow man—for, indeed, ingenuity has been connected with mercy, in this astonishing display of philanthropy.

“Amid the vast variety, you may be sure that those anniversaries, immediately connected with our own institutions, claimed a first rank in my attentions. Yesterday was held our General Missionary Meeting in City Road Chapel—what a scene! Although the chair was not taken til 11, the people began to collect at 7 and 8 o'clock, each anxious to secure a place, willing patiently to endure the fatigue of the live-long day till 5 in the afternoon. None were admitted but on tickets, and no tickets were issued but to subscribers of one guinea per annum; of this class, there were no less than *five thousand five hundred*, although the Chapel would not contain more than half the number. I cannot undertake the description of the scene—one of the most interesting that men or *angels* could look down upon. We may talk over the pleasing story, if God permit, around your own fire side: time will then have lent its mellowing hand to soften down my enthusiasm, and I may then be able to discourse calmly on a subject which would now betray my weakness in the attempt.

“But if I intend to say any thing about myself, I must forbear those more pleasing topics, in which I am quite absorbed. My health continues to improve, day by day, even in the midst of smoky London, and crowded churches. When I go down to Fairfield, in Lancashire, which I may make my head-quarters for the summer, and

there, in the use of the country air and exercise, add new stimulus to the present impulse, I hope to make gigantic strides. Still it will require much time and patience: you remember what I was at leaving you, and I assure you, miserable as I looked, my face was too flattering an index of that debility, which exceeded any thing I can express: but my good Physician will minister the balm I want, and all will yet be well.”

British and Foreign Bible Society.

The anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society was celebrated at the Free Mason's Tavern in London, on the 7th of May—Lord Teignmouth in the chair. The great hall and galleries were filled in every part at an early hour, and great numbers were unable to obtain admission. The annual report was read by the Secretary. It was a very long but important paper as it exhibits in detail the steady and accelerated march of this Society, to more extensive power and usefulness in the great cause. It appears from the report that the number of copies of the Bible distributed during the last year, has exceeded that of any former year, and makes a grand total circulated by this society alone, of more than 3,000,000 copies. The motion for accepting the report was seconded by Lord Bexley. He congratulated the meeting on the beneficial effects which they had already produced, and the extent to which they had spread the Scriptures, as exemplified in their distribution of them for the comfort of the inhabitants of the frozen regions of Iceland, and a large portion of South America; and concluded by expressing his ardent wishes for their prosperity. Lord Harrowby moved the vote of thanks to the President. To those who had witnessed the amazing progress of the institution, no

words could be necessary to induce them to give their thanks to him who had persevered in his exertions up to the present time. His was a rare felicity, such as was only received in another century by Sir C. Wren, who, having laid the first stone of the great metropolitan temple of God, had the felicity to see its top ascend to the clouds, and crowned by the cross of Christ. The Bishop of Gloucester seconded the motion in an able eulogium on the exertions and conduct of the noble Chairman. His Lordship said there was one statement in the report at which he was particularly gratified—namely, the statement of the progress which the Society had made in Ireland; for he was convinced that the only permanent remedy for the evils which afflicted that unhappy country was religious and moral education. Lord Teignmouth rose and returned thanks, and congratulated the meeting upon their progress abroad, and the great increase of correspondence in the most remote and uncivilized countries. The Secretary from the Russian Bible Society, returned thanks in the name of their fellow laborers in Russia, and informed the meeting that they had circulated the Scriptures amongst Cossacks and Tartars of various nations; amongst even the Chinese and to the confines of that vast empire. They had printed in the last year 160,000 copies of the Scriptures at St. Petersburg, and this year would print 100,000 more. Lord Calthorpe, Sir C. Grant, and several other distinguished persons addressed the meeting, which, after the resolutions were unanimously agreed to, separated.

REV. MR. SUMMERFIELDS AD-
DRESS.

Delivered, before the PROTESTANT BI-
BLE SOCIETY OF PARIS, 16th of April,

with the reply of Mons. S. Billing, one of the Secretaries of the Society.

My Lord,—It is with unaffected humility that I rise to address you upon a subject which has now become too vast for human description, and far removed above the eulogy of human praise. The Bible cause has attained such a glorious lustre, that it is like a mirror polished by the hand of heaven; and the breath of the earthen worm who attempts to point out its beauties, rather sullies than correctly delineates them. Still, humiliating as this consideration is, and strange as the paradox may appear, we approach it with a degree of confidence, for the very reason that it is the Bible cause, firmly persuaded that although no tongue is adequate to the description, yet it cannot suffer in the weakest hands; for the testimony concerning it is so supremely excellent, as to dignify any kind of language in which it may be conveyed.

I have the honor my Lord, to represent, upon this occasion, the American Bible Society, by whom I have been delegated to congratulate the Sister Society of France on her past success, and to assure her, that the place which she holds in the sympathies and affections of her elder sister in the west, is second to none! I would, that another and worthier Representative had been chosen, or that my head were frosted with the winters of three score and ten, that weight of years may have combined with the warmth and zeal of youth, to express the ardency of her affection and esteem; but since, by the grace of God, I am what I am, I dared not suffer any consideration of the weakness of the creature, to interfere with the promise of Him who "out of weakness can make strong, and call forth things that are not, as though they were."

The statement which has been read has briefly sketched the leading outlines of the last Report of the American Bible Society; and yet, exalted as must be the views of all who heard it,

concerning her great success, I am proud to say, that were your Lordship to visit our happy shore, you would find cause to exclaim with the Queen of the South, when beholding the glory of Solomon,—“the half was not told me!” Truly my Lord, “the word of God has free course among us,”—“it runs,”—it out strips the wind,—“and it is glorified”! Opposition, which for a time showed its hideous, shape, and Proteus-like, assumed another and another form, has now quitted the field;—or, if objectors still remain they are like the scattered fragments of a broken enemy hanging on the careless outskirts of the victorious army by whom they have been conquered for the mere purpose of teasing, by cowardly and fruitless annoyance, those whom they cannot overcome:—every anniversary is with us a jubilee; we then indent another and another to the thousand triumphs with which the monument of its far-spread fame is covered!

There was a phrase, my Lord, in the statement I allude to, with respect to America, to which I would offer a brief remark. You have been pleased to style it a *free country*;—it is so;—but, my Lord, the liberty which reigns there, is not peculiar to America; it is the privilege of *kingdoms* as well as *republics*,—and the British and Foreign Bible Society, “which is the mother of us all,” has demonstrated, that the more the people are acquainted with the sacredness of the relation in which they stand “to the powers which be, and which are ordained of God,”—the firmer are the pillars of that authority under which they are governed—this relation can only be truly made known by that very gospel which it is the sole object of the Bible Society to disseminate. The Bible, my Lord, the Bible, I repeat it, is suited to every political meridian; to the towering spirit of the high-minded republican it holds up no sceptre, but the sceptre of that Monarch whose ‘kingdom is not

of the world; while to the subjects of royalty it proclaims the first law of the throne, “render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar’s.” In the camp it softens the rage of war by the sweet command of peace, “love your enemies;” while in the cabinet it mollifies the asperity of national pride by that injunction of eternal justice, “do unto all men as ye would that they should do unto you.”

The report of the Protestant Bible Society, affords a pleasing testimony, (if testimony were yet needed,) that the Bible Society is the cause of God! I shall return to the land from whence I came, with a heart warmed with what I have seen and heard to-day, and there, in a language with which I am more familiar, communicate the glad news, that in *France*—notwithstanding the torrent of infidelity which has been poured forth within the last thirty years, and which threatened to deluge the land—a spark still survived which “many waters could not quench,”—and that now there are more than “seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal!” I shall tell them, my Lord, that in *France* there are men who, not affected by the giddy pinnacle upon which high descent and noble birth have placed them, have laid their honour, their reputation, their wealth, at the foot of the cross, counting it their greatest honour to “bear the burthen and the heat” of this glorious day, in which the Sun of Righteousness is shining in his strength; in a word, my Lord, I shall tell them, that in *France* there are kindred souls to those which dwell in trans-Atlantic bosoms, and that many a heart is tuned in full accordance with the angel’s message, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men!”

Mention has been made in your report of the decease of our lamented Boudinot, the late President of the American Bible Society. You have sympathized with us in our loss. Although

Time has lent its mellowing hand to alleviate our grief, yet still we mourn! He was, in a sense, *one of you*; not *one of us*; but God has put in His claim against us both, and taken him to himself! He has been removed to a brighter scene, to a higher mount than Pisgah's top, from whence he may behold the progress of that cause which was the pabulum of the last years of his life, and kept him above the power of death! But I dare not trust myself to enlarge on this tender theme: *you* will meet him, my Lord, after you have ceased from your work and labour of love, as he has done from his! I, too, look forward to that scene; till then I have no expectation of seeing your Lordship more, nor this august assembly over which you so worthily preside; but there we shall meet again! Oh, that we may all be found faithful at that day and counted worthy to be crowned with glory, and honour, and immortality, and eternal life! Then shall we join the song of the redeemed, "unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and made us kings and priests unto God and His Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

REPLY OF MONS. BILLING.

Sir,—A more eloquent tongue than my own, should have responded to the affecting address, which has just been read in your name by our beloved colleague, Mr. Wilder; but the worthy *Assesseur*, who expected to perform this duty, being prevented by his official engagements from attending our Anniversary, the office devolves on me; from this circumstance, you, Sir, and the audience will excuse the brevity and imperfection of my address.

The Protestant Bible Society of Paris cannot but feel deep emotion, to see, among the number of distinguished characters that have honoured this Anniversary with their presence,

a young preacher of the word of God, who has crossed the Atlantic ocean to offer to us the expression of brotherly affection in behalf of the Bible Society of the United States,—a Society, which from the immense territory it embraces, the number of its Auxiliaries, and the success that has crowned its efforts, occupies one of the first places in that vast system which now encompasses the whole globe, and which, by deriving from the wonderful art of Printing every possible aid for the dissemination of the Bible, promotes the taste for reading it among Christians, and publishes it in their native tongues to the nations, now plunged in the darkness of idolatry.

The sacred Scriptures were conveyed to the shores of your continent by the nation by whom it was first discovered, and in part conquered.—The horrible circumstances, under which the Gospel was first presented to the Monarch of the Mexican Empire, we need not now call to mind. They were the fruit of human passions, let loose by War, and by the thirst for conquest. Let us beware of attributing them to religion. The spirit of genuine Christianity is mild and tolerant; it forms the basis of civilized society, and its propagation among idolaters, never had, and never can have permanent success, but when established in a manner worthy of its heavenly origin.

Your happy country, Sir, was peopled by Europeans, who fled their native land to avoid religious persecution. France has furnished her share of this population. You bring this to our recollection, in naming the pious Budinot, the first President of your Society, to whose memory we have already paid a just tribute. The times are changed in France, as well as in England, and to speak only of our own country, you now behold us, Sir, re-established in all our rights, civil and religious. Under the sceptre of the august dynasty, to which the des-

ties of the kingdom have been for so many ages considered, we not only enjoy our peculiar worship as publicly as Christians who profess the religion of the state, but also all those institutions which spring from freedom of religious worship, and, among others, the one on whose anniversary we are this day assembled;—where we hear what is doing throughout the world for the increased diffusion of the Holy Scriptures, and have opportunity of contributing to it according to our means. The situation in which our government places us, by the laws of the kingdom, is not less favorable than that of Protestants in other countries of Europe, where the royal family and the majority of the subjects profess a different religion, and in which the progress of knowledge is not so far advanced as in our own country. Public opinion, we dare believe, is in our favor, for our object is simple; it seeks no concealment; we discuss our measures publicly; we meddle not with political questions. We are humble agents in the advancement of his kingdom, who repeatedly declared, ‘my kingdom is not of this world,’ and who taught his disciples to pray to their Heavenly Father, ‘thy kingdom come.’

Our prayers, Sir, accompany you to your country. May this voyage have the happy effect on your health, which you anticipated in undertaking it! May you long live to exercise the sacred functions of the office you have assumed; and may your countrymen realize the great expectations excited by the commencement of your ministry.

Permit me here to add my expressions of regard for your countryman, Mr. Wilder, who has on this occasion, presented your address, and who after a long residence in France is about to revisit his native land. It is with the most lively regret that we lose the cooperation of a man, so zealous for every thing that tends to advance the interests of piety, who knows how to proportion his contributions not only to

his fortune, but to the wants of the numerous institutions which he has aided us in forming, a Christian in whom simplicity of manners, and all the domestic virtues are in harmony with the doctrines which he professes and propagates. In whatever place he may hereafter reside, we assure him that we shall ever remember him, and shall each, in the particular in which we act, strive to be imbued with the spirit which animates him, and to imitate his conduct.

From the monthly extracts of the *British and Foreign Bible Society* for April, we insert the following animating passages.

From Mr. Charles Stokes Dudley.

Gloucester, February 28, 1823.

THE establishment and success of Auxiliary and Branch Societies, afford a sufficient indication of the interest excited among the reflecting part of the higher and middle classes in our country; but it was reserved for Bible Associations to elicit a similar feeling on the part of the labouring population of Great Britain. “As poor, yet making many rich,” they have, indeed, evinced a generous ardour in this Christian cause; which is at once the best testimony to the singleness and grandeur of the design, and the finest illustration of British benevolence. The voices of the destitute natives of India and of Greenland, of Congou and of Siberia, have been heard in the sequestered villages of our land; and the appeal is recognised and answered. The details which I have now the pleasure to communicate, will form the best illustration of the preceding remarks. Proceeding to Stroud on the 17th instant, I attended, the following day, the first meeting of the Committee of the Ladies’ Association, recently organized, and was delighted to find my expectations far surpassed. The aggregate results, in one month, were,

Number of Free Subscribers,	356
Ditto of Bible ditto,	322
	Total 678
Amount collected,	£44 7 8
Ditto ditto,	20 13 2
	£65 0 10

Nearly sixty ladies are on the Committee of this Association, which is divided into twenty-five districts; and it will be observed, that the proportion of subscribers is as one to every nine inhabitants—a fact sufficiently demonstrative of the interest excited. This effect was further confirmed by the admirable reports of the collectors, which bore ample testimony to the gratitude of the poor, and the cheerful alacrity with which the contributions were tendered.

On the 19th I met the Committee of the Wotton under-edge Branch Society; and, on the following evening, at one of the most crowded meetings I have ever attended, a Ladies' Bible Association for that populous town was unanimously established, and nearly forty ladies engaged as collectors. On the morning of the 21st, the Nailsworth Ladies' Association was established, and twenty-five ladies engaged as collectors. Proceeding thence to Chalford, I attended, in the evening, a large and interesting meeting, at which the Vicar presided, when the Chalford Ladies' Association was formed, and nearly thirty ladies engaged as collectors. This was followed, on the evening of the 22d, by the establishment of the Sheepscomb Ladies' Association, at which also the incumbent presided. Seldom, indeed, have I attended a more delightful meeting, or witnessed a more eager desire, on the part of the labouring classes, to manifest their readiness to assist in supplying their fellow-creatures with the Holy Scriptures. The interest excited by the establishment of this institution, will be increas-

ed by the fact, that the first village Sunday School was founded at Sheepscomb forty-one years ago.

On the morning of the 24th, the Minchin Hampton Ladies' Association was formed, and nearly twenty ladies appointed to their respective districts, as collectors.

From the Same.

Cainscross, March 8, 1823.

I proceeded on the 3d instant to Tetbury. In this town a Branch Bible Society was established in the year 1815, which has, within seven years, distributed 840 Bibles and Testaments; and contributed £388 in aid of the general object. But, in consequence of not having held any public meeting for several years, and from other causes, the interest had greatly subsided, and the Society, during the last year, had collected only £35. It having been resolved to establish a Ladies' Association for Tetbury and its vicinity, a general meeting was convened on the evening of the third, which was very numerous and respectably attended, and the Association was unanimously established under the patronage of her Grace the Duchess of Beaufort, and the Honourable Mrs. Estcourt. The Committee was organized on the following day, and the nine districts into which the Association is divided, were regularly supplied with collectors.

On the 7th instant, the birthday of the Parent Society, the Cainscross Ladies' Association was happily established, at a general meeting, which cannot be remembered without sentiments of humble gratitude to Almighty God! The weather was extremely inclement; but the heavy snow did not abate the interest of the labouring classes, of whom it was estimated more than a thousand attended. I have just returned to my quarters, after attending and organizing the Committee of this Association, which is divided into sixteen districts, and includes four parishes, the industrious inhabitants of

which manifest a lively interest in the cause.

From the Secretary of the Auxiliary Society, at Barnsley in Yorkshire.

February 24, 1823.

OUR Ladies' Association, the formation of which was announced in your last Monthly Extracts, exceeds all the expectations we had formed. Although the lower classes of Barnsley have been suffering from an epidemic distemper, and from partial want of employment, the Association, during the short period of its existence, has collected, towards the purchase of Bibles and Testaments, nearly £50. The zeal of the ladies is equalled only by the gratitude of the poor, and the cheerfulness with which they offer their weekly contributions. The concern evinced by parents for the best interests of their families, is an interesting feature of this work of benevolence. To be able to put into the hands of their children, at their outset in life, a faithful and infallible guide, is the end for which the exertions of many are made. Thus is the Association providing for the rising as well as the present generation.

Two or three places in the neighbourhood of Barnsley have shewn a laudable spirit of emulation, by forming, on a smaller scale, similar institutions. So encouraging are our prospects in general, that what we formerly could but earnestly desire, is becoming the object of our hopes. We are now allowing ourselves so anticipate a period, when not one of the forty townships within the range of our Auxiliary, shall be found destitute of an Association.

From the Ninth Report of the Pentonville Bible Association.

DURING the past year, the ladies have obtained upwards of 300 Free Subscribers, and about 350 for Bibles, and have collected from their Free

Subscribers the sum of £119 19s 4½d. and from those who are subscribing for Bibles, £88 7s. 9½d. They have also circulated in the same period 235 copies of the Holy Scriptures; making a total of 1453 Bibles and Testaments issued by this Association since its formation in 1814.

And let no one imagine that these subscriptions tend to increase the poverty of the lower classes; for it might be satisfactorily proved that they rather excite the habits of industry and economy. But, respecting the necessitous poor of this district, your Committee can fearlessly assert, that in numerous instances they have been greatly benefited. Often have their female visitors found the children of the poor loitering at home in a state of deplorable ignorance, and in some cases so destitute of decent attire as to be unable to leave it; these have been directed to the gratuitous schools around, and furnished with those articles of clothing which were necessary for their comfort. Often have they found their poor Bible Subscribers sick, and alike destitute of medical assistance and necessary comforts: these they have introduced to the Dispensaries, for the mitigation of their bodily sufferings; while the visitors of Benevolent Societies have been informed of their circumstances, and have not only contributed to relieve their wants, but have directed them to the Great Physician, the Lord from Heaven. Often have they found the wives of humble mechanics anticipating nature's most sorrowful and anxious hour with more than ordinary solicitude, because they have not possessed one little garment in which to wrap the expected babe; and from this state of maternal anxiety have they been rescued by the recommendation of their cases to the patronage and aid of the "Infant's Friend Society." Thus, those visits, which have been so much condemned, become, by a benevolent prudence, the means of extensive good. The tem-

poral as well as the spiritual wants of the poor are regarded; and the happiest results must necessarily follow. Infidelity is not likely to make very fearful ravages in those families who thus witness the merciful precepts of the Bible illustrated by their benefactors, and the vitality of its principles exhibited in the fair and holy fruits which are thus so abundantly produced.

From the Rev. Dr. Morrison.

Canton, China, October 10, 1822.

On the 2d of June, 1822, it pleased Almighty God to remove from our lowly world my friend and colleague, Dr. Milne. My lamented friend did not live to see the Bible printed in Chinese. Disease arrested his progress in the midst of a revision of the last two books: these were sent up to me to prepare them for press, which I have done, and returned them to Malacca, to be put into the hands of the Chinese printers, under the care of Mr. Huttmann.

In February or March, 1823, I purpose to go down to Malacca, for a season, to arrange with the brethren there such affairs as the death of Dr. Milne has made it necessary to settle.

Great is the loss to this Mission which the early removal of that faithful, devoted, and successful Chinese Missionary has occasioned. His attainments in the difficult language of this great empire were eminent. His whole soul was in his work. Few have made so rapid a progress as he did in the language, and in a comprehension of the opinions of the Chinese, which he studied assiduously, for the purpose of conveying the truths of the Gospel to their understandings and their hearts.

But our great Lord and Saviour, the Head of the Church, who has all power in heaven and on earth, depends not, for the spiritual conquests of his kingdom, on any human arm. Silence and resignation become us all, under those occurrences which appear most afflict-

ing and disheartening. May he be pleased to raise up other zealous servants, and by the outpouring of his Spirit, prepare this great nation for the glad reception of the truth. His word shall not return void, it must ultimately produce the desired effect. Under this conviction, I do now, in the name of all who shall in China hereafter be benefited by the Bible, return thanks to the Bible Society, for the generous pecuniary aid they have given towards translating, printing and distributing the Chinese Scriptures.

From the Report of the Netherlands Bible Society.

By the Eighth Report of the Netherlands Bible Society, read at its general meeting, which was held in Amsterdam, July, 1822, it appears that in the course of last year, 5896 Bibles, 4339 New Testaments, and 50 Old Testaments, in different languages, have been issued from its depository.

The Netherlands Bible Society includes 51 Auxillary and Branch Societies in the Northern Provinces, all of which, with very few exceptions, have continued in a state of activity.

The General Direction is happy to report, that the Malay New Testament, in the Roman Character, is so widely circulating in the Island of Amboyna, that although 10,000 copies had been forwarded thither by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and afterwards a considerable number of copies of the whole Bible had been transmitted from the same source, yet the want is so great, and the applications so urgent, that a new edition is now preparing at Harlem, of which the Netherlands Bible Society has pledged itself for 5000 copies, and the British and Foreign Bible Society for 1000 copies of the New Testament, and 500 of the whole Bible when printed. The Society has also opened an intimate correspondence with the South African Auxillary Bible Society, and forwarded a number of Dutch Bibles and New Testaments,

with some copies of the Catholic version in that language, and of the Malay New Testament in the Arabic character; as in that part of the world many Mahomedans are found who are acquainted with that character, and to whom the Divine Book may, by the grace of God, prove as acceptable as it was to some Mahomedan priests in Java, from whom a Dutch captain met with the most friendly reception, and who not only gratefully accepted copies of the New Testament just mentioned, but read it with interest. The captain had been provided with these copies by the Amsterdam Association for Seamen. To Surinam 300 Bibles and Testaments have been sent; and as the Israelites in that colony appear in a striking manner to value the word of God, in the language of their fathers, some copies have been added, as well of the New as of the Old Testament, in the Hebrew language.

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From the Eight Report of the Bible Society of the Canton de Vaud.

In the course of the year 5000 copies of the Bible have left our depository, of which about 3000 were distributed in Neuchâtel, Geneva and the vallies of Piedmont; and 2000 in this Canton, for the most part in the cottages of the poor. On receiving so many afflicting details respecting the great want of Bibles, we felt consoled by the zeal with which the contributions of the parishes have been brought in to supply that need of the word of life. The minister of Lucens writes us, under date of 3d October, 1822, as follow: "After dedicating two days to visiting all the families of my parish, which contains eight villages, I am convinced of the great utility and indeed necessity of a Bible Society in our Canton; and I think I may form a judgment of the state of other parishes, from that of my own. Among a population of about 2000 souls, more than 120 Bibles were wanted; many of the co-

pies now in use are old and unserviceable, either because the style is obsolete, or because they are worn out. I found aged persons, who had passed their lives without possessing a Bible, and who would doubtless have finished their earthly career without ever seeing one, if it were not for the Bible Societies, by which a greater facility is afforded for procuring copies.

"We have to request your Committee to furnish us with a Bible for the guardhouse of our Gendarmes."

This respectable clergyman came with a waggon to the President's house at Lausanne, and took 62 bound Bibles. After having himself packed them up, the driver of the waggon considered himself honoured with the charge, for which the payment was a Bible. The same clergyman observes in another letter, dated 31st October, 1822, "I am now on the point of commencing a second journey to obtain a fresh supply of the good word of God. The sixty-two Bibles which I had last, were gone in a fortnight; will you favour us, towards the middle of the week, with seventy or eighty bound Bibles. Our collection is now nearly expended, and I hope that all the families of the parish will shortly be supplied with the treasure. We are delighted and grateful that we can procure Bibles at so low a price."

In the village of Lucens a little girl, 11 years of age, bought a Bible for five francs, the money she had earned by needlework. She afterwards brought her pastor some pence for the poor; and has also earned a small sum more for the use of two poor persons, that they may each be able to give the price for a Bible.

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From the Committee of the Württemberg Bible Society.

Stuttgart, March 11, 1823.

Your further aid of £250 is doubly valuable, since the distress among our peasantry visibly increases, and fresh demands for the Scriptures are made

upon us from parts of the country from which none had ever been made previously; for instance, from the Waldenses, whose congregations are the most indigent in the kingdom. Various individuals also in the adjacent parts of the Grand Duchy of Baden have requested nearly fifty Bibles, which we the more cheerfully furnished, as the applicants were catholics, among whom a great desire has been awakened to read the word of God.

Your Society's grant, joined to other contributions received nearly at the same time, namely, one from our beloved sovereign of 500 florins, and a bequest of about 14 or 1500 florins from an aged Catholic lady, greatly tended to strengthen our confidence in our Almighty Protector, when it was ready to sink, on contemplating the diminished receipts from our country parishes.

Please to express to the British and Foreign Bible Society our grateful sense of their kindness, and assure them that we shall make a most careful use of their donation.

CALCUTTA BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

From the Rev. J. Statham, Secretary of the above Association, to the Rev. T. Thomson.

Calcutta, June 25, 1822.

It affords me the highest satisfaction to have the honour of enclosing a series of Resolutions, passed at a public meeting held at the Town Hall of Calcutta, on Friday evening, the 7th of June, for the purpose of forming a Bible Association, to aid in the important work of distributing the word of life. I humbly trust the Association then formed will prove a valuable assistance in furthering the objects of the Calcutta Auxiliary Bible Society, by ascertaining and supplying the wants of the Holy Scriptures in Calcutta and its environs. And it affords me additional pleasure to communicate, also, a vote of congratulation, passed at the same meeting, to the Calcutta Auxiliary Bible

Society, which you will also kindly communicate to the President, Officers, and Committee of the Society, viz.

"That while this meeting recognises the claims of the Calcutta Auxiliary Bible Society to general support, it respectfully congratulates the Committee of that Institution on the prospects of an enlargement of its operations in Calcutta and its environs by the formation of this Association."

I am also requested to solicit that this Association may enjoy the privilege of purchasing from the depository of the Society, at cost prices, such Bibles, and Testaments, and portions of the Holy Scriptures, as may from time to time be required.

FOREIGN LIBERALITY.

Stephen Pruss, Esq. of Bristol, Eng. has made himself a life member of the New-York Society for propagating the gospel among seamen by the payment of £50. A gentle reproof to the wealthy christians of this country, for their backwardness in contributing the means of spiritual improvement to seamen!—*B. Recorder.*

Religious Improvement of India.

Six religious monthly publications are now supported, viz: in English, *The Friend of India*, the *Missionary Herald*, the *Monthly Extracts*, &c. The Quarterly *Friend of India*, and the *Gospel Magazine*, and *New Missionary Magazine* in Bengallee. New plans of improvement are every day forming; new exertions are made, and new stations are established.—*ib.*

Twenty-two pews were sold in the new Presbyterian Church, in Arch street, Philadelphia, of which the Rev. Mr. Skinner is pastor, for twelve thousand dollars. The highest price given for a pew was seven hundred and fifty dollars.

From the London Courier.

LONDON HIBERNIAN SOCIETY.

On Saturday, the 10th of May, the seventeenth Annual Meeting of this Society was held at the Freemason's Hall, Great Queen-Street. His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester in the Chair.

The meeting was very numerously attended. The business of the day commenced

When it appeared that there were 558 day schools, and 51,889 scholars, being an increase since the last year, of 63 day schools and 800 scholars. The report also stated, that there were 103 Sunday Schools, and 6,885 scholars, being an increase of 21 Sunday Schools, and 500 scholars. The greater part of these scholars were attended by the ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood. There had been also an increase of 43 adult schools since last year, at which were 8,160 adult scholars, nine-tenths of whom were Roman Catholics. On the whole, there were 754 schools in operation, at which there were 66,000 scholars; 50,000 of whom were Roman Catholics. The report went on to state that the principles on which the schools were conducted, were adapted to the conscience of every class of the people; the plan of paying the schoolmasters had been altered, the alteration had been attended by the best effect, and recommended to general adoption; instead of paying the schoolmasters so much per quarter, as formerly, they were now paid in proportion to the number of boys who passed the examination. Notwithstanding the great progress of the Institution, many counties in Ireland were in a state of absolute ignorance, and it was a fact, that where education made the least progress, the disturbances of the country were the most violent and the most frequent; such was the case in the county of Limerick, where not one in 800 was sent to school.

MONTREAL, JULY 15, 1823.

SINCE the publication of our last number we have been favoured with the third annual report of the *Bible Society of Paris*, (or more properly of France,) which begins to assume a magnitude and importance which promise the most happy results; and we rejoice to add that many of the descendants of that interesting nation in Canada evince a desire and determination to read the Holy Scriptures which God has given for the instruction of every human being.

We have also been favored with the eighteenth Report of the *British and Foreign Bible Society*, which becomes increasingly extensive and interesting. We are likewise under obligation to a friend for

the twenty-eighth Report of "the London Missionary Society" which like its coadjutors in the field of benevolence increases in magnitude and interest from year to year.

From the above and more recent publications, we flatter ourselves with the hope of affording to our readers some truly exhilarating information in our future numbers, and we trust that they will participate with us in the pleasure which arises from the indications of the advance of the spirit of evangelical benevolence in Great Britain. From an intimate local knowledge of the places in Gloucestershire in which Mr. C. S. Dudley has been so successful, and a comparison of former, with present appearances, as well as from the rapid advancement of the spirit of truth, of christian benevolence and zeal in other places, we feel persuaded that infinitely greater things are yet to be expected at no distant date. The march of truth is accelerated from one year to another, and whether we turn to the one hand or the other we behold many places, which but a few years ago were either neuter or positively against us, taking their positions and moving in due order in the grand phalanx against ignorance and error.

On Wednesday evening last the members and friends of the "Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society," held their third annual meeting at the City Tavern, when the report of the proceedings of the committee was read, and the following resolutions proposed, seconded and unanimously adopted; as the report is to be printed we shall be enabled in a future number to present our readers with some of the interesting facts which it records; and likewise some of the speeches which were delivered at the meeting.

H. Gates, Esqr. was requested to take the Chair.

The Report was read by the Reverend Wm Johnson.

1st Res. It was then moved by the Rev. Mr. Easton and seconded by Mr. Barrett, That the report now read, be received and adopted, and that it be printed under the direction of the committee.

2d. Moved by the Rev. J. Black and seconded by Mr. John Frothingham, That the sincere thanks of this meeting be given to the Parent Society in London, for their very liberal grant of Books to this Society.

3d. By the Rev. Js. Purkis and seconded by Mr. D. Fisher, that this Meeting most cordially sympathises with the Parent Society, in their feelings of sorrow occasioned by the death of their invaluable Secretary the Rev. John Owen A. M. A loss which is deeply felt by all the friends of Bible Societies throughout the world.

4th. By the Rev. Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. S. Hedge, that the cordial thanks of this Meeting be given to His Excellency the Earl of Dalhousie, Governor General, for his continued patronage to this Institution.

5th. By Mr. Wm. Hedge and seconded by Mr. James Fleming, that the thanks of this Meeting be given to the President and Vice-Presidents for their services during the past year, and that Horatio Gates Esqr be requested to accept the office of President for the ensuing year.

6th. By Mr. Workman seconded by Mr. John Torrance, that the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Treasurer, Secretaries and Depositary, and that they be requested to continue in office, and the following Gentlemen to act as Secretaries for the present year: Reverend Messrs. Eason, Black, Easton, Knowlan Purkis, and Johnson.

7th. Moved by Mr. C. Bancroft and seconded by Mr. Dwight, that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Committee for their particular attention to the concerns of the Society, and the following Gentlemen to constitute a Committee for the present year.

*Messrs. J. T. Barrett,
John Torrance,
S. Hedge,
Wm. Lunn,
Jno. Frothingham,
Jas. Fleming,
D. Fisher,
J. Bigelow,
H. Dickinson,
K. Dowie,
G. Savage,
Wm. Hedge,
E. Lyman,
D. Cameron,
A. Fessenden,
B. Workman,
J. Carswell,
A. Allen,
P. Freeland,*

With power to add to their Number.

8th. Moved by Mr. Wm. Lunn and seconded by Mr. Wm. Hedge. That Messrs. James Fleming, D. Fisher, Jno. Frothingham, J. Bigelow, Wm. Hedge and Wm. Lunn, be appointed to receive the annual Subscriptions and Donations to this Society, and to present the same to the Committee at their next monthly Meeting.

9th. Moved by Mr. Bigelow and seconded by Mr. Savage. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. Reib for gratuitously favoring the Society with the use of a Room for holding the Meeting.

(Signed) H. GATES.
President.

The President having left the Chair, it was proposed by Rev. J Purkis and seconded Mr. Fessenden, and resolved unanimously—That the President be requested to accept the thanks of the Meeting for his able conduct in the Chair.

A BOASTING PREACHER.

The different effects produced by pulpit eloquence are well described by the following anecdote of two French preachers:—Le Pere Arrius said, "When Le Pere Bourdaloue preached at Rouen, the tradesmen forsook their shops, lawyers their clients, physicians their sick, and tavern keepers their bars; but when I preached the following year, I set all things to rights—every man minded his own business."

DIED, on the 22d of Aug. 1822, at Serampore, by an attack of the cholera morbus, KRISHNU PAUL, the first illustrious Hindoo in Bengal who was converted to the Protestant faith. He was baptized by Dr. Carey, in the Ganges, in the year 1800. and throughout a Christian profession of more than twenty years, proved how well suited Christianity is to elevate the Hindoo character. He has left a widow, four daughters, and eleven grand children. He was beloved and respected in life, and was followed by his relations and numerous friends to the grave. He died full of Christian hope and joy.

POETRY.

From the London Evangelical Magazine.

AMPLITUDE OF CHRIST'S COMMAND.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."

Go! ye messengers of God,
Like the beams of morning, fly;
Take the wonder-working rod;
Wave the banner Cross on high!

Where th' aspiring minaret
Gleams along the morning skies,
Wave it till the crescent set,
And the "star of Jacob rise.

Go! to man's a tropic isle,
In the bosom of the deep;
Where the skies for ever smile,
And the Blacks for ever weep!

O'er the negro's night of care
Pour the living light of heaven;
Chase away the fiend Despair,
Bid him hope to be forgiven!

When the Golden gates of day
Open on the palmy east,
While the bleeding Cross display,
Spread the Gospel's richest feast!

Till the Para lift his head,
High among the saints enroll'd
And the widow's burning bed
Is a tale no longer told!

On Arabia's burning soil,
From the Cape to Niger's strand,
Bid each dreary region smile
Lovely as the promis'd land.

Fearless of perennial frost,
Go to Greenland's cold domains;
Seek the outcast, save the lost,
On the Caiman Tartar plains.

In yon world of stream and shade,
Many an Indian Wigman trace;
And with words of love persuade
Savages to sue for grace!

Circumnavigate the ball,
Visit every soil and sea;
Preach the Cross of Christ to all;
Jesus' love is full and free!

Conquer by the Cross alone,
Mystic virtue dwells in this;
'Tis the saints palladium-stone,
Rock of rest, pledge and bliss!

JOSEPH MARSDEN.

* The Gospel, called "the rod of God's strength."

St. John's Chapel, we understand, will be occupied by the Rev. Dr. Harkness, and congregation, during the enlargement of St. Andrews.—Quebec.

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