MISSIONARY HERALD.

CONTAINING INTELLIGENCE AT LARGE OF THE

Proceedings and Operations

OF THE

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

CLXXXI. JANUARY, 1834.

Subscriptions and Donations in aid of this Society will be thankfully received at the Baptist Mission House, No. 6, Fen Court, Fenchurch Street, London: or by any of the Ministers and Friends whose names are inserted in the Cover of the Annual Report.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

JAMAICA.

Another mail has arrived since our last number; the intelligence by which is, on the whole, very satisfactory. The House of Assembly had met. His Excellency, the Governor, delivered a speech on the occasion, characterized by that firm and dignified mildness which his Lordship has so happily maintained throughout the whole of the trying crisis in which he has been called to act. The House replied to this speech in a tone far more becoming and conciliatory than formerly, and were proceeding in discussions on the Emancipation Act when the packet left. It seemed probable that a majority would rather emancipate their slaves at once, than adopt the cumbrous and complex provisions of the 'apprenticeship' plan. Such a feeling was probably foreseen by the government at home, as the Act contains a clause permitting such a course; and thus it will occasion us no surprise if this great measure take full effect long previous to the time proposed by its humane and enlightened authors.

A very satisfactory change appears to be taking place in the general feeling in respect to missionaries. Many, indeed, who signalized themselves by the furious violence of their opposition, have been snatched away by the resistless hand of death; and that, in several instances, in a manner conveying the most solemn admonition to their surviving companions in guilt. Respect for the feelings of relatives, themselves possibly unoffending, prevents our putting on record the names of various parties to whom we could refer; but the facts themselves are such as to strike with humble awe every observer who believes in a just and retributive Providence. When, for instance, it is known that a certain beneficed clergyman, who

was the foremost to destroy one of our chapels in the parish of Hanover, and to rouse his neighbours to second him in the sacrilegious deed, soon after fought a duel with one of his most zealous coadjutors on that occasion, and received wounds of which he died in a few weeks :--- when, again, we learn that a planter, not far from Montego Bay, who, in the time of the insurrection, carried off the sacramental wine belonging to the churches in that district, triumphantly regaling himself and his boon companions with the same, and loudly declared that, if he could find Mr. Burchell, he would shoot him with his own hands, be the consequences what they might, was himself shot, unintentionally, by an overseer, very recently, and expired three days after-who can avoid recollecting the words of the devout Psalmist, Verily there is a God that judgeth in the earth?

Whether the events to which we have alluded have had any share in producing the change we know not, but we are gratified to learn, by a recent letter from Mr. Abbott, not only that the worship of God is now peaceably conducted at Montego Bay, Falmouth, and Lucea, but that, on the last Sabbath day in September, he had, among his audience, at the first named of these towns, upwards of twenty persons who had been actively engaged in destroying the former chapel. It is added that these individuals behaved with great decorum, and contributed liberally at the close of the service !

But, amidst these cheering circumstances, one instance has been reported to us of such infamous brutality, that we think it right to lay before our readers the revolting particulars of the case. The sufferer is well known to our brethren Burchell and Knibb; she was baptized at Crooked Spring, in 1825; is the wife of one of the deacons of the church at Falmouth, and not only a woman of exemplary piety and modesty herself, but one who has exerted herself much to promote the best interests of many of her own sex around her. It is not improbable that this feature in her character may have contributed to call forth the vindictive malignity with which she has been treated.

The statement we are about to subjoin appeared in the Watchman of September the 18th, in the form of a letter, signed "An Evangelist," to W. M. Kerr, Esq., attorney of Silver Grove Pen, in the parish of Trelawney. We omit the introductory paragraph as not material to the narrative.

It is said, on authority which I dare not question, unless the following statements be disproved, that Mary Gordon, alias Mary Williams, a slave on Silver Grove Pen, in this parish, of which pen you are the attorney, and a relative of yours, named Grant Bailey, the overseer, has been subjected to a series of sufferings — not unparalleled, it is true, in the history of West India persecution and tyranny—but of a very aggravated kind, and which have apparently brought her to the brink of the grave.

Mary Gordon, alias Mary Williams. has been married for a considerable period to a free black man, living at Falmouth, named Lewis Williams, who, as well as herself, is connected with the Baptist Church in that town. By her former over-seers Mary had never been required to do any other work on the property than to wash their clothes and wait in the house, and was allowed every Saturday to attend either to her domestic or religious duties; but Mr.Bailey, who it would seem possesses as little predilection for morality and religion as yourself (for I perceive your name on the list of Chapel destroyers), deprived her of her day early in the present year, ordered her to "give up that free Baptist husband of hers at Falmouth," and live in adultery with some man on the property. With this ini-

nuitous mandate she refused to comply, and I shall leave the virtuous among the more highly favoured of her sex to say with how much consistency she did so, oven at the risk of incurring the wrath of a colonial despot. On Mary's remonstrating with Mr. Bailey on the impropriety and sin of forsaking her lawful husband, he ordered her to work in the field. She intreated him not to enforce the order, as she had never been accustomed to such labour, and had not strength for it. Her intreaty, however, only called forth an expression of his determination to compel her to do so until she should forsake her husband, and a charitable wish that she was dead.

Mary was accordingly sent with the gang to Kent estate, where she worked in the field for a fortnight, when, as might naturally be expected, she became ill. The Kent overseer compassionately put her in the stocks, but, as the Doctor, on attending that property, ordered medicine for her, she was allowed to go and remain a few days at Silver Grove, when Mr. Bailey sent her back to Kent field work. A fortnight had scarcely elapsed before Mary had a second attack of sickness; about which time Mr. Bailey visited Kent estate. Mary again implored him to release her from an employment far too laborious for her constitution; and with what success, think you? Why, this modern Nero, to his cternal shame be it spoken, immediately had her flogged in front of the overseer's house, and sentenced her to the stocks, where she was confined for three days without medicine or food, save what she received from her more humane fellow-labourers. When released from this salutary restraint, the driver informed the overseer that she was unfit for field work-the reply was, "flog her again !" Mary, on hearing this, crawled to the field, where she lay exposed to the sun the whole of that and the following day, and where she might have perished but for the kind attention of the slaves, who dressed her laccrated flesh. On the third day she worked on her knees, and, continuing to improve, she laboured for two or three weeks, when she was attacked with the shingles. She went to Silver Grove, and remained for one week in the hospital with fever, when she was again ordered to the field.

It is said that you, Sir, saw her in this stage of her sufferings, but refused to listen to her complaint. Mr. Bailey, no doubt emboldened by your example, then told Mary that she should go to the field or the Workhouse, and on her presuming to make an appeal to his compassion, he was inhuman enough—while her back was yet raw

from the effects of that dangerous disease-again to have her flogged ! to confine her in a dark room for one week, restricting her to an allowance of one quart of corn flour and two herrings-and to send two coloured females to the field for a month, because they had the temerity to convey a little food to this persecuted woman. On being liberated from the dark room, Mary was sent back to Kent field work, and at the expiration of three weeks was again attacked with fever, and, meeting with no sympathy, she went to Montego Bay to represent her case to you ; and is it true, Sir, that you again refused to listen to the cry of the oppressed, and indignantly spurned her from you ?-Mary then repaired to Falmouth, and with her husband appealed to John Kelly, Esq., a magistrate of this parish, who said he could not interfere between master and slave, but gave Mary a letter to Mr. Bailey ; on receiving which, that humanc youth asked her, why she had gone to a magistrate, adding, " I hate you as much as I hate the devil." Well, Mary was once more sent to Kent, and once more returned to Silver Grove with fever; and on Mr. Bailey's being told this by the driver, this feeling youth, who has scarcely thrown off the habiliments of mourning for his nearest and dearest relative, cxclaimed-" I wish to God that woman was dead—tell her to go back to the field !!" He allowed her no medicine, and a few days after, finding her unable to go to Kent, he ordered four men to tie her, and take her thither in a cart ! Hearing this, she escaped to the negro houses, where she lay for a fortnight with fever, and then went to the Hon. William Miller, Custos of this parish, who gave her a letter to Mr. Bailey ; on receiving which he cursed her, and told her, if she did not go to the field, she must remain in the hospital until she died ! She became an inmate of that place for a few days, and then voluntarily joined the gang, which had previously returned from Kent, at work in Silver Grove pastures, where she still labours, though debilitated and reduced by her protracted sufferings to a mere skeleton of what she was nine months since !

Perhaps, Sir, the bare mention of Mary's name would have instantaneously recalled to your recollection many of the foregoing circumstances; but as similar ones so frequently occur, and are as frequently forgotten, I deemed it necessary to give particulars, not so much with a view of touching the chords of your compassion, which I fear, by being habituated to scenes of cruelty, have become somewhat less tender than nature made them. as of aiding the philanthropist and benefitting the sufferer.

Even admitting Mary to have been guilty of some other crime than that of being a Sectarian and married, which I am at present indisposed to admit, yet can it possibly be such as to justify the treatment she has met with ? Is it such treatment as you would look for at the hands of a fellow-creature under similar circumstances? Is it according to the law of equity? And, if not, do you think of escaping with impunity? Colonial laws may tolerate, and even sanction cruelty; but think not, Sir, they can screen you from the eye of Omniscience or the hand of retributive justice. An opportunity, however, is afforded you of ameliorating the condition of this woman, who seems to have been singled out as a fit object for perpetuating the remembrance of the accursed but expiring system; if this be not done, rest assured my unceasing energics shall be directed to secure her redemption from the foul grasp of tyrannical power and lustful barbarity."

What redress will be afforded to this poor woman remains to be seen. Our readers will see in this painful case a new reason to rejoice in the speedy extinction of a system under which such enormities were familiar.

At Kingston the congregations are large, both on the Sabbath day and at the evening services in the week. The school goes on well, under the care of Mr. Samuel Whitehorne; it has lately, however, been visited by a calamity of an unusual character. On the morning of October the 11th the roof of the school house was struck by lightning, which set the wood-work of the roof on fire, and descending a pillar into the school-room, instantaneously killed two little boys who were sitting near it, and considerably injured several others of the children. Damage to the amount of about ± 120 was done before the flames could be extinguished, and the public have shown their interest in this useful institution by contributing for the necessary repairs. The Earl and Countess of Mulgrave were among the foremost to countenance the subscription, as well as to show humane and liberal attention to the poor children who were injured by the shock.

Under date of the 14th of October Mr. Clarke mentions the increased demand for Bibles and Testaments, and religious books of various kinds, and then proceeds with the following gratifying intelligence, which we give in his own words :--

On the 15th of last month I baptized, in the Rio Cohre, forty-two persons, thirteen males and twenty-nine females, among whom were six free people. An immense multitude assembled on the occasion, and all. save a few people bathing in the river, behaved with decency. A Jew stood in the water, nigh to where I baptized, and assisted in arranging the people, and seemed very friendly; indeed he seemed more like one of ourselves, than to belong to those who believe so very differently from us respecting the great Instituter of this solemn ordinance. Among the people at the river side stood Mr. H., looking quietly on, and, with his pencil taking down the names of those who behaved indecently in the river. Shortly after he gave a favourable account of the baptism in the Watchman, expressing his disgust at the conduct of the bathers, and on the two following Sabbaths he attended our chapel. After service on the latter Sabbath he came to me, expressing his sorrow on account of the attempts he had made to injure us, and on account of his conduct generally. He said he knew he was in a very bad state, and wished much to speak with me if I would allow him to call after the courts were over. I said if he had injured us we were very ready to forgive him, and I was sure, if he repented truly, and came to Jesus Christ, God would also forgive him; and if he wished to converse with me on religious subjects, he was welcome to visit me at any time when he could make it convenient to do so. He has not yet called upon me, but should he do this, it will give me additional reason to hope that God is leading him to consider his ways. The churches have long been praying for persecutors, and it may please Him, who changed the heart of a Saul, to change the hearts of some of those who have been breathing out threatenings and

slaughter against all who truly fear the Lord. Here is one who, but a short time ago, interrupted the worship of God, sought to collect a band to destroy the house of prayer, and more recently sought to please his ungodly companions by insulting us in open day as we passed along the street. Now, in the same house of prayer, he quietly sits to hear the word, and, after worship, with apparent contrition of heart, he confesses his sins and acknowledges that his guilt is great.

Among those baptized on this occasion was a Creole female, who, according to the most correct information that could be obtained, is about 100 years of age. She has been free about thirty years, and bas always, until about three years ago, shown herself a bitter enemy to all who appeared to be religious. She was notorious for Sab-bath-breaking and blaspheming; and, when spoken to, gave cursing and abuse for reproofs or advice. At one time a person who kept her daughter saw the evil of his ways, and wished to marry; but old Elizabeth prevented her daughter from marrying him, and assigned as her reason that she was afraid the man would take her daughter to chapel, and that she would begin to pray. At another time a neighbour, with whom she was very intimate, went to chapel, and appeared under concern about her soul. As soon as this was known to Elizabeth she withdrew her friendship, and would not even enter into conversation with her, lest she should at length be induced to go also to a place of worship. She carried her hatred to all good people so far that she would not sell to them the cassava, by the selling of which she obtained her living. Two persevering Christian females, members of the church here, often looked upon the aged sinner with pity and compassion; they forced themselves upon her, disregarded her abuse, and laboured time after time to persuade her to go to a place of worship. One of them found that she was less set against the Established Church than showas against Methodists and Baptists; so she endeavoured to obtain a promise from her that she would go to church. She succeeded; but so ashamed was the aged sinner to have it known that she went to such a place, that she sent out her better clothes to the house of the person who had persuaded her, and went there in her week-day attire, and returned again from church to change her dress, that her immediate neighbours might not know that she had been at a place of worship. After being thus induced to go to church, she was persuaded to attend our chapel in the evening, and soon after this was taken very ill, and for some time sceined nigh

to the gates of death. She was visited during her illness by Mr. Philippo, and after her recovery an evident change was perceived to have taken place in her mind. She now joined one of the classes, attended chapel regularly, left off her blaspheming and Sabbath-breaking, and showed a warm love to those she once hated so bitterly, and to all around her. From that time she has walked circumspectly, and given every evidence that could be reasonably expected of a real change of heart. Before the baptism she expressed a strong desire to testify her love to the Saviour by publicly confessing him before men. Her leader, however, thought her still deficient in knowledge, and hesitated about bringing her forward to the church ; but one of my servants made me acquainted with the case, and I sent for her to come and see me privately. I soon found that her views were clear and scriptural respecting the way of salvation, that she was not trusting to baptism nor to her own works, but simply desired to obey the requirement of her Lord, and testify her attachment to Him, to his people, and to his commandments. She was examined and approved of, and showed the gladness of her heart, both after her acceptance and as she stood in the water previous to her baptism, by the expressions that proceeded from her lips. She indeed appears to be one snatched as a brand from the burning at the eleventh hour to be a monument of boundless, sovereign, and eternal grace.

BAHAMAS.

We have great satisfaction in stating that our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, arrived in safety at New York on the 22nd of October. Their passage was long and tempestuous, but they were treated with much kindness and attention by the captain and passengers; and Mr. P. was enabled to maintain religious worship on each returning Sabbath. He entertains the hope that these engagements were not without spiritual benefit, especially to one of the passengers, whose subsequent conduct appeared fully to confirm the favourable hopes entertained of her.

At New York our dear friends were received with great kindness, not only by the ministers and others of our own denomination, but by many others. Various unsolicited donations had been made to Mr. P. towards the Bahama mission, together with a grant of bibles and testaments from the American Bible Society, and of tracts and other publications from the Tract Society.

Mr. Pearson had engaged a

passage for Nassau, on board the Bob, Captain Albury, at a very reasonable rate, and at the date of his last letter, November 7, was expecting to sail in two or three days; so that we may hope the next mail from the Bahamas will bring intelligence that he has entered upon the work of God at that promising station.

Contributions received on account of the Baptist Missionary Society, from November 20, to December 20, 1833, not including individual subscriptions.

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Collections and Donations in aid of the return of the Jamaica Missionaries to their Stations.

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Collections for the Erection of a School Room at Spanish Town, by Rev. J. M. Philippo.

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LEGACY.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our friends who inquire as to the time of Messrs. Burchell and Knibb's departure for Jamaica, are respectfully informed that it is impossible, at present, to make any statement on the subject. In the meanwhile, any articles intended for them may be forwarded to Fen Court, at such times as may suit the convenience of the parties sending them.

Books for the Jamaica Library have been received, with thanks, from the Rev. Henry Trend, Bridgewater. Also a number of Magazines from the same friend, and from Mr. Jonah Harris, of Walworth.

We have previously stated that the Committee have no prospect of establishing a West African Mission at present. Some of our kind correspondents seem hardly to be aware of the serious difficulties by which such a measure would be attended.

A Box of Fancy Articles has been received from St. Albans.

The thanks of Mr. and Mrs. Philippo are respectfully presented to the following kind friends:—To Mrs. Huckvale, Chipping Norton, for Baptist Magazines. To Mr. G. M. Smith, Chipping Norton, for a complete set of New Evangelical Magazines (bound), for Library. To Mr. Fiske and Oxford Friends, for a large case of Books for do. To Rev. Howard Hinton, for do. To Mrs. Williams, Reading, for Fancy Articles. To Mr. W. Cozens, Holloway, for Books for Library, &c. To the Misses Kitsons and Mrs. Hooper, for useful and fancy articles. To Miss Salter, for do. To Mrs. Millar, Dulwich, for children's dresses, &c. To the Teachers and Children at Kingsland and Maberly Sunday-schools, for rewards. To the Misses Rust and Miss Wills, Greenwich and Woolwich, for books for Library and rewards for children. To Miss Beeching and Friends, Maidstone, for box of valuable articles. To Mrs. Cozens, Sprowston Lodge, for books for Library. To Mr. Jackson, Newgate street, for sundries. To Mr. Ridgway, for books for Infart School, &c., &c. Also to the following Societies for liberal supplies of books, tracts, and school materials:—The Ladies' Society for the Education, &c., of Negro Children; the Religions Tract Society; the Sunday-school Union; the British and Foreign School Society; the Temperance Society; the Tract and Book Society for Ireland; and to a Committee of the Society of Friends.

Our friends will observe the kind liberality with which the late appeal from the Committee has been met, as shown in the list of Collections and Donations, continued in our present Number. It is especially gratifying to receive, on such an occasion, proofs of cordial and sympathizing interest from respected Christian friends, not belonging to our own communion. Instances of this sort will be noticed in our present list, and we may add, that the value of these benefactions has been enhanced by the manner in which they have been conferred. To be more particular in our allusions, might offend a delicacy we would most anxiously respect—we must, therefore, content ourselvos with assuring the kind donors, to whom we refer, of our cordial gratitude for their seasonable aid, and our earnest desire that our Lord and theirs may graciously testify his acceptance of what has thus been done for the honour of his name.

J. HADDON, PRINTER, CASTLE STREET, FINSBURY.