

THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

ANNUAL REPORT.

IN presenting to the subscribers the sixty-seventh Annual Report, the Committee purpose to pass briefly in review the events of the year, in each of those important spheres of Christian exertion where their missionaries have striven to disseminate the gospel. While on the one hand it has been a year of unusual additions to the nascent churches springing up in heathen lands, on the other their anxieties have been many, and the inroads of death upon the missionary band of more than ordinary concern.

Three missionaries, each eminent in his department, have been called to their rest. The Rev. James Thomas, the superintendent of the Mission Press, after thirty-two years of uninterrupted labour, has passed away to reap the reward of his successful, self-denying, and devoted toil. The Rev. W. H. Denham, the restorer of Serampore, fell a prey to disease at Galle, as he was about to renew his labours of love. The Rev. J. Parry died after twenty-six years' exertion in Christ's cause, during the chief part of which, as the evangelist of Jessore, he was greatly blessed by his Lord. And lastly, full of years, the Rev. J. Macintosh has also departed, the last but one of that energetic band of men called out in India by the zeal and prayers of the Serampore brethren to carry to their adopted countrymen the message of eternal life. He joined the mission so long ago as the year 1812, when it was yet in its infancy, but lived to witness those changes and advanced preparations for the further triumphs of the cross which now gladden the hopes of God's people.

But if the names of these good and honoured men have been blotted out from the roll of living missionaries, the liberal response of the churches to the appeal for India has encouraged the Committee to engage others in their room. The Rev. Joseph Gregson has already reached his appointed station at Monghyr. The Rev. E. Greiffe has been taken up in India, and occupies the pilgrim city of Gya. The following brethren have also been engaged, and are preparing to go forth as the messengers of Christ to that great heathen land: Mr. Craig, of Glasgow; the Rev. J. Williams, of Llangendeyrne; the Rev. A. Hobbs, of Margate; and the Rev. J. Claxton, of Mildenhall. The Revs. R. Williams and James Smith, with recruited health, have reached their destined fields of labour, and the Rev. T. Morgan, through Divine mercy restored to his wonted health and energy, will, with God's blessing, accompany the brethren above-

mentioned in the summer of the present year. In addition, the Committee have also engaged the services of the Rev. A. Innes for the African Mission, whither he sailed in February last. Thus, if death has deprived us of three active brethren, seven have entered the lists as warriors in the Lord's host, and the Committee yet hope to have the privilege of accepting the offers of others who are preparing themselves for the Master's service in foreign lands.

FRANCE.

MORLAIX.

The Committee now advert to the condition of the various fields of labour in which their missionaries are engaged; and first of that one nearest home, Morlaix, in Brittany. Encouraged by the liberality of a friend in the donation of a piece of ground, Mr. Jenkins visited the Principality towards the end of the year, to raise, if possible, a sufficient sum for the erection of a second chapel. This object he was able to secure. Although one person only has been baptized during the year, others are exhibiting the power of Divine grace, and, in two cases, under circumstances of special interest. One, a lady, offers a Catholic chapel on her estate to preach the gospel in. It is two leagues and a half from Morlaix. Mr. Jenkins has sent one of the itinerary teachers to the neighbourhood, where she has commenced giving lessons in reading and in the Scriptures to a few persons who have welcomed her. For a considerable time it has been known that the question of adult baptism was exciting much attention in the evangelical section of the Reformed Church and in the Free Church. For years past several pastors have refused to baptize infants, or have questioned the scriptural authority of the rite, but have deemed it unnecessary to express their new convictions by any open act. At length the proceedings of M. Robineau, of Angers, attracted the attention of the Consistory of which he is a member. An inquiry was instituted, which resulted in his excision from that body. Dissatisfied with its decision, his congregation have declared their intention of adhering to their pastor, and a free Baptist church has been constituted in this city of more than 50,000 inhabitants. An encouraging part of the year's labours has been the increased sale of the Bible. Four hundred and seventy copies of the Scriptures, in Breton and French, have been disposed of within six months, and the inquiry for the Word of God seems daily increasing. The effect of some recent changes in the law, relative to the authorisation of new chapels, and the receipt of foreign moneys for religious purposes, remains to be seen. Generally, the Protestants of France are inclined to view the alteration with favour, and think that their proselyting movements will meet with less opposition from the Council of State than from the local authorities, too often under the sway of prejudice and Romish priests. The measure cannot, however, be regarded as in any sense a step in the direction of religious liberty.

WEST INDIES.

Of the missions in the islands of the Caribbean Sea, Trinidad is the only one in which additions to the Church of Christ have not been made. During Mr. Law's short visit to England, Mr. Gamble undertook the charge of all the stations. But although conversions have not this year followed the preaching of the Word, Mr. Law writes most encouragingly of the prospects before him since his return. The population is of a very mixed character, as may be seen by the variety of nations which form the congregation in Port-of-Spain. It embraces English people, Africans of various tribes, Portuguese, and even Chinamen; nor are representatives of the Hindu race entirely absent. But the Church of Rome exercises throughout the colony a predominant influence. Immigration from heathen countries also introduces a most debasing element into native society. The district under Mr. Gamble's care is but sparsely peopled, and the native churches have, in some instances, shown a great unwillingness to submit to order in their worship, or to discipline in their fellowship. Generations, indeed, must pass away, ere the products of barbarism and slavery will cease to exercise a pernicious influence over the habits of those who in other respects evince no inconsiderable amount of Christian knowledge and feeling.

THE BAHAMAS.

The numerous congregations spread over the inhabited islands of this group have been divided into three districts, of which New Providence, Inagua, and Turk's Island are the chief stations, and the residences of the missionaries. Seven islands constitute the district of Mr. Davey. The churches contain upwards of sixteen hundred members. The Nassau church, of which he is the pastor, contributes very liberally, in common with the churches on the out-islands, towards the support of the native pastors and the maintenance of divine worship. During the year there have been one hundred and ninety-two additions to the churches, of which ninety-three were by baptism, and upwards of one hundred and forty persons are found in the inquirers' classes.

In the smaller district of Mr. Littlewood, whose head-quarters are Inagua, the blessing of God has also been manifested. Thirty-four persons have been added to the churches on the six islands. Upwards of five hundred converts constitute the flock over which Mr. Littlewood, aided by four native pastors, exercises oversight. The voyages rendered necessary by the insular position of the congregations, are often perilous in that region of tropical storms and hurricanes. But the servants of Christ are cheered by the hearty welcome which their ministrations receive, and the constant accessions which are being made to His kingdom. Thirty-six inquirers give hope of yet further increase in the year before us.

The district of Mr. Rycroft, having Turk's Island for its centre, em-

braces eight stations, and one in the neighbouring island of St. Domingo. More than four hundred and fifty persons are in church fellowship. Thirty have been added to the churches during the year, and eighty inquirers excite the solicitude of the missionary and native pastors. Mr. Rycroft enjoys the assistance of ten native brethren. Amidst much immorality in the colony the Word of God makes good progress. At each station converts have put on Christ, while an earnest spirit of prayer has been poured out on the people. "Meetings for prayer and exhortation," says the missionary, "are held sometimes for weeks together. Just now prayer-meetings are held every night, and the missionary and native preachers may be found preaching in different parts of the island in the open air." The chronic state of anarchy in which the fine island of St. Domingo has been kept for years, continues to render it an unfavourable place for missionary exertion. The few Christians at Puerto-Plat are often called out as soldiers, and the teacher has also lately been obliged to bear arms for a cause with which he has no sympathy.

Thus on these comparatively infertile islets the Word of God has free course, and is glorified. The people are indeed poor, but rich in faith. Many of their teachers are ill-instructed men, but burning with love to the Saviour, they cheerfully endure hard fare, or labour with their hands for a livelihood, traverse tempestuous seas in small boats, and endanger life, to feed their perishing brethren with the bread from heaven. The Society has great cause for gratitude to God in the success which has attended their labours among these denizens of the sea.

HAITI.

In Haiti great changes in the government have lately occurred. An empire of despotism, rapine, and crime has been overturned. The resolution of the Emperor Soulouque to destroy every person of colour has been frustrated, and he has been driven into exile. In this revolution not a life has been sacrificed. The new President is known personally to our missionary, and is said to be a man of talent, education, and noble sentiments. His success in overturning the empire he attributes to the providence of God, and his accession to supreme authority encourages the confident hope that education will be advanced, commerce fostered, and free scope given to the promulgation of divine truth. With great propriety the missionary seized the occasion to present to the new President his congratulations on the success of his enterprise, in the name of his congregation and the Society he represents, and to express his hope that Haiti would henceforth enjoy the blessings of peace and the advantages of civilisation.

Missionary work has advanced, notwithstanding the repression exercised by the late Government. Four persons were baptized during the year. One of them has actively united his exertions with those of a Wesleyan brother, and by their conjoint labours some thirty persons have been brought to a knowledge of the truth. These will join the Wesleyan

body in the capital of the island where they reside. Six candidates await baptism, of whom Mr. Webley writes—"These have sent me all their idol trash, and kindled their fires, and cooked their food with the wooden crosses that ornamented their dwellings." May such acts of sacrilege be frequently repeated, until the dominion of the Pope of Rome is utterly destroyed.

JAMAICA.

At the general meeting last year a resolution was passed authorising the Committee to incur the expense of a deputation to the island of Jamaica. Many years have elapsed since the mission churches undertook the entire charge of supporting the ministry, and of maintaining the ordinances of Divine worship. Since then important changes have passed over the island. The material prosperity of the days of slavery has declined. Large portions of the island have ceased to be cultivated. Taxation has fallen heavily on the labouring classes, and the necessities of their position absorb, to a great extent, the fruits of their daily toil. Hence they are said to be less able than in former years to support the cause of Christ. Many of the English pastors have died or left the island, while the additions of native brethren to the pastorate are not numerous enough to supply the pressing need of ministers. From the diminution of contributions more than one congregation is requisite, in many instances, to supply the wants of the European brethren. Hence have arisen frequent and urgent appeals to the Committee for assistance, and it has again and again been stated that the well-being, if not the existence, of the churches depends upon its being given. The statements made to the Committee have not always been easy to reconcile, doubtless from the different point of view of the parties making them. At the same time the arrangements made in 1842 preclude the Committee from rendering the aid sought. Under these circumstances, and at the request of the Jamaica pastors, the Committee have, at length, seriously contemplated the necessity of sending a deputation to examine into the case, and to eliminate, if possible, that course of action for the future which, on the one hand, may bring complaints to a close, and on the other render that kind of assistance which may best advance the interests of the churches and the general prosperity of Christ's kingdom in the island. Till now it has not been possible to obtain the services of suitable persons. But that difficulty is removed. At the solicitation of the Committee, Mr. Underhill has consented again to leave home for the accomplishment of this important object, and a request has been made to a devoted servant of Christ to accompany him, with which request the Committee have every reason to believe their friend and brother will comply. The course of the Committee has been greatly facilitated by the generous offer of our highly esteemed treasurer, to bear the entire expense of one member of the deputation. In doing this, Sir Morton Peto has further enlarged that measure of obligation under which he has, on many previous occasions, laid the Society.

During the year the Committee have enjoyed the privilege of intercourse with their highly valued fellow-labourer, the Rev. D. J. East, of the Calabar Institution, from whom, as well as by many letters received from Jamaica, they have learnt that the measure contemplated has the warmest approval of the brethren labouring in the island. The Committee most earnestly commend the deputation, and the important work before them, to the prayers and sympathies of the churches. They may be expected to leave England in the autumn of the present year, and to return in the following spring.

AFRICA.

On the evening of Saturday, May 22, 1858, the Spanish war steamer, *Balboa*, came to an anchor in Clarence Cove, in the island of Fernando Po. It contained a Spanish Governor, and six Jesuits for the enlightenment of the colony. It was speedily known that the new Governor-General was likewise the commander of a small squadron of war steamers, which, in a few days, would join his flag. The object of this array of force was to overcome the possible resistance of the Baptist missionary to his deportation from the island, to shut up the chapel and schools, and to support the claim of the Jesuit priests to be the religious teachers and pastors of the people. The descent of the new "armada" was in fulfilment of a long-standing threat, on the part of the Spanish authorities, to exterminate Protestantism from their island possession. On three previous occasions, in 1843, in 1846, and in 1856, attempts were made to accomplish it, but from various causes failed. This one, it was resolved, should have a final and triumphant issue. The Governor-General immediately published a proclamation, in which he declared that the religion of the colony was that of the Roman Catholic Church, although not one adherent of that faith was known to be in the island. No other religious profession could, for a moment, be tolerated. Adherents of other creeds were ordered to confine their worship to their own houses. Such was the nature of the intolerant edict, which was read in a scanty audience of the people, with the firing of cannon, and amidst torrents of rain, the lightning and thunder of the tropical tornado giving a strange awfulness to the scene. That evening, the evening of the 27th May, the people met for the last time in open worship to call upon God their Saviour.

The decree of banishment of the missionaries had gone forth, and but a short period of preparation for removal was allowed. No appeal for reconsideration was listened to. Romish intolerance and overwhelming power were once more united, and to the mandate of a Governor-General possessed of the legal right to command, and force to compel obedience, there could be no reply. It remained only to protest against the unjust interference with the rights of conscience. In an address adopted at a public meeting of the colonists on the evening of the same day, the

missionaries, with their people, thus calmly and nobly remonstrate:—
 “Inasmuch as the published laws of this colony have been the guide of the inhabitants, and by them rigidly adhered to, and inasmuch as disobedience to those laws is not even charged against us, we do think and feel that to be deprived of this liberty of worship without a cause is a hardship to be deprecated, and one that every enlightened and religious mind must condemn.” And again:—“The decree now promulgated forbids meeting together for worship, and henceforth the attempt to obey the King of Heaven will be to disobey the laws of this colony and of her Catholic Majesty the Queen of Spain. We are thus driven to disobedience to the laws of earth or the laws of heaven, both of which we desire to avoid. Therefore, to enforce this decree upon us will be to banish us from the land; for to obey God is our duty, and as we cannot obey God’s law without violating the decree of this day, we have no other choice than to retire from the land, and seek a home where liberty of worship may be enjoyed.”

Mr. Saker lost no time in seeking a home for freedom. A few days after he visited the shores of the continent opposite to the north-east corner of Fernando Po. In his perilous journey of exploration, Divine Providence conducted him to a retired and uninhabited cove, hitherto unknown to navigators, lying embosomed at the bottom of Amboises Bay, shut in by a jetty of rock from the swell of the Atlantic Ocean, rendered salubrious by the sea breeze, and the still more welcome zephyrs which during the day descend from the lofty peaks of the Cameroons mountains rising a few miles behind. An open space of nearly two miles in length along a fine sandy beach, by a mile and a half in breadth, watered by a copious and deep mountain stream, with the country inland clothed with forests, but inhabited by numerous tribes of Negroes, was a fitting spot upon which to found a colony of African pilgrim fathers, where the true worship of God may freely and uninterruptedly be observed, the rights of conscience secured from the intrusion of Romish intolerance, and a new pharos of spiritual light erected for the illumination of the surrounding tribes. The property in the soil was quickly secured from the chief of Bimbia, measures were taken to clear away the jungle, to mark out allotments, and already two or three houses have been erected where the banished missionaries have found a home; and gradually the cottages of the poor people whom love for liberty and for divine truth may prompt to follow, will rise around the new house of prayer.

The Committee hastened to bring the circumstances of this Spanish intervention to the notice of her Britannic Majesty’s Government, and subsequently they opened communication with the Spanish embassy and the Minister of the Crown of Spain. It is with pleasure that the Committee report the courtesy which her Majesty’s Government have manifested throughout these negotiations, and they record with thankfulness the obligations under which the Society has been laid for the cordial

assistance tendered by Lord Malmesbury. His Lordship has promised to sustain the Committee, in their application to the Government of Spain for compensation, for the losses sustained both by the present interruption and former interferences with the mission. The Committee can scarcely doubt that, thus powerfully supported, their application will be successful. To the request of the Committee, that her Majesty's cruisers on the West African station should render some assistance to the poor people to emigrate to the new colony, Lord Malmesbury has generously assented, and instructions are gone out to the naval officers on the coast to render all the aid in their power, and to transport the colonists and their effects to the continent. One other request yet remains unfulfilled. It is understood that when a treaty for the suppression of the slave trade was made with the native chief, he placed his country under the sovereignty of the British Crown. The Committee have asked of the Government a recognition of the act of Colonel Nichols, the representative of British authority on the occasion, in order that the certainty of the non-intervention of an authority like that of the Government of Spain, so fatal to the rights and liberties of Christian men, may be assured to the new settlement. This point is as yet undetermined, but orders have been issued to the naval officer on the station to make an accurate survey of Amboises Bay, and to report to Government, probably with a further view of making the place a rendezvous and coaling station for her Britannic Majesty's fleet.

Thus the Committee are induced to hope that this apparently untoward event—this breaking up of our cherished mission on Fernando Po—may result in the furtherance of the gospel, in opening up the interior of that great continent on whose skirts the light of divine truth has just begun to shine. We may see once more, in the Providence of God, the truth of the Psalmist's words, "Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee, and the remainder of it Thou shalt restrain."

CEYLON.

The additions to the churches in this lovely island have not been large. Seventeen persons have been baptized into Christ, but the deductions through death and other causes somewhat exceed the numbers added to the churches. For some years past there has been a gradual decline in the number of conversions from among the Buddhist population, partly owing to the inveterate hold that this deadening system of religious philosophy has upon the minds of the people, but chiefly we fear to the inadequate supply of missionaries we have been able to sustain—two only where three have usually been stationed; and partly owing, also, to the want of a suitable native agency. This last want is gradually being supplied by individuals now under training with Mr. Carter. Still it is difficult to find men of energetic character, adequate talent, and fervent piety. Mr. Allen, however, reports that there are seventy candidates for baptism, and although it is obviously undesirable to hasten their admission to the church

without sufficient proof of genuine conversion, it may, with God's blessing be permitted us to anticipate considerable accessions to the flock of Christ during the coming year. Much assistance has been rendered to the Missionary by members of the Pettah Church, whose visits to the jungle churches have been highly acceptable and useful. For some time past Mr. Carter has given considerable time to a revision and translation of the Singhalese New Testament. This has now advanced to the Epistles. High testimony has reached the Committee of its general accuracy, intelligibility, and acceptance among the people, and during the coming year it is hoped that at least a portion of it may leave the press for general use. The churches on the island embrace a membership of four hundred and seventeen persons, and the schools contain nearly six hundred children; but by a recent estimate of the entire population of the island, the Baptists are said to number two thousand two hundred individuals.

INDIA.

At the date of the last report India was still the scene of anarchy and bloody strife. The tide of rebellion had indeed been turned, but great districts remained unsettled, and the prey of roving bands and predatory tribes of the revolted population. Now, the last flashes of that tempest of human passion are glimmering on the horizon, peace and order are again dropping their fruitful blessings on the land, and the Word of the Lord may once more go forth in freedom and saving power. All reference cannot be omitted from a report of the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society, to the great and most important change that has been effected in the government of the country. The Company of Merchants by which that mighty empire was won for the British crown has ceased to exist. Its powers and its privileges have been surrendered to the command of Parliament, and henceforth India constitutes the noblest part of the wide dominions owning the direct sway of Queen Victoria. For long the Government of India was adverse to the enlightenment and evangelisation of its myriads of subjects. The early years of this Society were years of struggle with the opponents of education and the Gospel. Dangers of the greatest magnitude were apprehended, should the light of truth shine into the dark cells and chambers of obscene imagery of the gods of Hindustan. But, in the issue, those dangers sprang from that portion of the population where rigorous exclusion was most stringently and effectually carried out; and events have shown the impolicy, nay the folly, of opposing the spread of the faith of Christ, which, of all faiths, is pre-eminent for its promulgation of the purest morality, the duty of obedience to rulers, and for the social elevation of the people who accept its teachings and its truths. The great mutiny of 1857 has at least taught the English nation and its rulers this lesson—that to despise and reject Christianity is not conducive to the highest

interests, or to the good and peaceful government, of the vast populations over whom Divine Providence has called them to rule. Considerable and highly valuable changes had, however, of late years been manifest in the exercise of its authority by the East India Company. Education was fostered, obstruction to the progress of Christian truth had ceased, and the connection of the Government with the idolatrous systems of the country was yearly becoming less. Nevertheless, we rejoice in the assumption by the crown of England of the direct rule of this noble empire, and that Her Majesty has openly proclaimed religious liberty and her Christian principles in the conduct of its government. It had been well if that important State document, the Proclamation of Queen Victoria to her Indian people, had been more explicit as to the relation in which her Government will stand to the religious systems of the land; but events which have already transpired, and are yet sure to transpire, will constrain the adoption of a course which, while just to all, preserving the social and civil rights of all, shall be conducive to the spread of all truth whether human or divine. What the supporters of the Baptist Missionary Society desire from the Government of India in its religious relations with the people, is summed up in the following passage from the Petition of the Committee to Parliament:—"That the future Government of India shall proceed in the beneficent course of late years, and separate itself from the idolatrous usages of the people; prohibit such practices as may be injurious to public order and decency, or to the civil and social rights of every class of Her Majesty's subjects; and secure to every rank and condition, to government servants, as well as to all other classes—European and Native—the freest exercise and expression of their religious convictions. And that the future Government of India shall be forbidden to establish, endow, or interfere with the spread or maintenance of any form of religious belief."

The missionary events of the year may be briefly told. Over the whole of our north-western mission the evangelising work has been resumed. For many months the missionaries in Agra have renewed their visits to the bazaars and ghats of the city. Muttra has again echoed with the sounds of life. And Delhi—the scene of the Christian devotedness of Mackay and Walayat Ali—has received within its walls, not merely the conquering hosts of the armies of Britain, but the peaceful messenger of the cross, the preacher of pardon through the blood of the Lamb. Our highly esteemed brother, the Rev. James Smith, has taken up his abode in Delhi, and crowds already listen with deep attention to the words of peace which drop from his lips. The native church of Chitoura, and its pastor, are transferred to Agra, where nearly all the native brethren have obtained highly remunerative employment under the Government. At the request of the Committee, the Rev. R. Williams has tarried for a time at Allahabad, where many of our Christian friends, living formerly in Agra, have settled, through the transfer of Government offices to that place. Whether the Committee will eventually resume Allahabad as a station,

vacated ever since the departure from it, through debility and age, of their lately deceased brother, Mr. Macintosh, will be determined by the course of events. Gya and Patna, in the troubled districts of Behar, have also again been occupied. Thus, throughout the entire scene of the revolt, missionary work has been resumed. In Bengal, notwithstanding the excitement attending the progress of the war, the additions to the churches have been more than usually numerous. The present incomplete returns give one hundred and twenty-four baptisms, nearly one-half more than the ordinary average. Two new stations have been formed in Jessore, and one at the important town of Comillah, between Dacca and Chittagong. In Jessore numerous villages have invited the visits of the missionary, and in Backergunge the native churches are adding largely to their numbers. Educational labours, at Serampore College and elsewhere, have gone on as usual, only interrupted by occasional failure of health. The decease of our greatly beloved brother, Mr. Denham, has led to the appointment of the Rev. J. Trafford to the office of theological tutor; and in the general management of the college he will be assisted by the Rev. W. Sampson, and the members of the new council, the appointment of which was rendered necessary by the decease of Mr. Thomas and Mr. Denham. The Committee have further secured the services of a well-qualified English master, Mr. E. Dakin, for the conduct and improvement of the more strictly secular department of the college course of instruction.

With regard to the resumption of missionary labour throughout the country, the brethren speak as follows of the attitude of the people and of the prospects before them. Of Delhi, Mr. Smith writes:—"I try to make the city ring with the sounds of mercy. Crowds listen, and a sharp opposition has already commenced from both Hindus and Mohammedans, which shows that they are alarmed, and see their craft in danger." Of Muttra, Mr. Evans writes:—"Crowds of people flock around me in the bazaar, and they listen to the truth with more than usual attention and interest." Of Agra, Mr. Gregson writes:—"The people listen with great attention, and in as great numbers as ever. There is also an extensive inquiry after tracts and Scriptures." The missionaries in Benares say:—"Never did the people listen more attentively and orderly than they have done during this year. It has appeared as if a new spirit had come over them; their arguing has been of a more inquiring nature, as also the conversation of the visitors at the mission-house." Of Gya, Mr. Greiffe writes:—"There is a remarkable change in the behaviour of the people; they listen more attentively to the preaching of the word of God, and they inquire apparently more earnestly about the blessed truths of the gospel." Similar testimonies have reached us from many parts of Bengal, while in Backergunge and Jessore the word of the Lord has free course and is glorified. Calcutta at present seems to be the chief exception to these cheering statements, but even there we cannot doubt that prayer and diligence will have their reward.

The loss of our dear brother Mr. Thomas's services at the mission

press in Calcutta rendered necessary the appointment of a substitute. One every way qualified, both by early training and acquired knowledge, was found in the Rev. C. B. Lewis. Since his entrance on the office of Superintendent of the Press, he has conducted its affairs with great success and to the entire satisfaction of the Committee. Large numbers of Scriptures have been printed during the year. Mr. Wenger has proceeded far towards the completion of the Sanscrit version, and the third edition of the entire Bible in Bengali. Mr. Parsons has diligently pursued his revision of the New Testament in Hindi, and also finished an edition of the Hindi hymn-book, which is generally used throughout the native churches of all denominations of the north-west.

The only other matter necessary to mention, is the removal of the Rev. John Sale from Jessore, and his acceptance, with the entire approval of the Committee, of the pastorate of the Lall Bazaar church. It was fifty years on the 1st of January last since this place of Divine worship was opened by the eminent men of the Serampore Mission, and the day was suitably observed by a service of prayer and fellowship with Christ's servants of other denominations. It has ever been a scene of successful labour; and in commending their brother, Mr. Sale, to the Christian affection of the somewhat numerous church—European and native—assembling there, the Committee have hoped to foster the missionary spirit of its members as well as carry forward the work so effectually begun. The interests of the Anglo-Indian church of Madras have also received the attention of the Committee. Through the long-continued ill-health of Mrs. Page, the Rev. J. C. Page is compelled to return to this country, to the deep regret of all who have enjoyed his effective and fervent ministrations of the word of God. In the Rev. A. Claxton, of Mildenhall, Suffolk, the Committee have found his successor, and in a few weeks he will sail to the scene of his future labours as a minister of Christ.

AUSTRALIA.

The Society is aware that the supply of several churches in Australia with ministers has been sought at the hands of the Committee by various brethren in that important colony. The Rev. James Taylor, of Birmingham, was the first to go thither, and he was quickly followed by the Rev. Isaac New. These brethren have been followed during the year by four others, the Rev. Messrs. Slade, Sutton, Wilson, and D. Rees. It is with great satisfaction that the Committee learn that this movement has been eminently successful. It is true that the funds have been furnished by the Australian churches themselves, and it may be that the denomination at home has not taken the deep interest it should have done in the spiritual well-being of the rising kingdoms of the southern hemisphere; it cannot, however, but be a matter of thankfulness that our share in the

movement should have so far been successful. It may serve to stimulate the churches of this country to be always "abounding in the work of the Lord," seeing that he so graciously suffers not our work to be in vain.

FINANCES.

The financial position of the Society will not require any very lengthened report. A small debt of £286 Os. 11*d.*, in 1857, had accumulated to £932 18*s.* 3*d.* in 1858. This year there is a balance on the account in favour of the Society of £540 16*s.* The total receipts for 1858 were £22,946 15*s.* 10*d.* For the present year they are £26,513 1*s.* 3*d.*, being an increase of £3,566 5*s.* 5*d.* But this year £4,371 Os. 2*d.* have been donations towards the "Indian Special Fund," which, added to the sums received in 1858, has slightly exceeded the £5,000 originally asked for by the Committee. Deducting the special contributions, however, there will be a diminution of income, as compared with last year, of £804 14*s.* 9*d.* The receipts on Legacy Account have been much smaller this year than last, which leaves the contributions for General Purposes much the same. The Committee have not to lament over a serious falling off, nor have they to rejoice in a large increase. It is however worthy of notice, that the extra effort made on behalf of the Indian Special Fund has not interfered with the ordinary income. Meanwhile, the Committee are taking steps in concurrence with the pastors to carry out the system of organisation in the churches, far more effectively. It is intended to divide the country into districts, and appoint some one whose duty it shall be to foster existing organisations, revive those which have fallen into decay, and form new ones where none had previously existed. The experience they have had is but brief and limited; but so far it is very encouraging. It must take some time ere such efforts can visibly affect the Society's income.

The Committee are glad to report a considerable increase in the contributions to the work of translating the Scriptures, from the Treasurer of the Bible Translation Society. It is gratifying to observe that the churches are manifesting an increasing attachment to that Institution, on the success of which this Society is mainly dependent for funds to carry on a department of labour in which its missionaries have, especially in the East, been enabled to take a leading part. They urgently repeat the appeal of previous years. The necessity for this Institution is more obvious than ever; while its ever-growing demands of India, and the cost of a new version in Singhalese, in which considerable progress has been made, clearly show how important the Institution is. They earnestly commend it to the liberal support of their friends.

The Committee cannot allow the contributions to the Widows and Orphans' Fund to pass without special notice. This is the third year in which they have appealed to the churches to remember the widows and

orphans of their missionaries, and also their honoured brethren who have been obliged for a time to leave their stations, and seek renewed health in their native land. The first year the amount was somewhat under £500. The second year it was a little over that sum. This year it has reached £724 9s. 10*d.* It is a little singular that very few of our wealthy churches contribute proportionably,—some, indeed, not at all. The bulk of the amount received comes from the poorer churches. Is it that their poverty makes them more alive to the sufferings of others? But the heartiness of their response,—the letters which they send with their contributions, breathing a spirit so tender, lamenting the smallness of the sum, but rejoicing they are able to give at all, assuring the Committee that their doing it is a source of spiritual good, and awakens a deeper interest in the Society's operations,—are striking proofs that the plan, while relieving the ordinary funds of the Society from a severe pressure, confers a benefit on the churches themselves. May the more opulent of them be as ready next year to share in the honour and blessedness of this good work.

CONCLUSION.

The review of the year should awaken fervent gratitude to God. At home the Society has enjoyed peace; its supporters have responded most cheerfully to the appeals of the Committee for aid; brethren have presented themselves for the Lord's service; and they cherish the hope that the missionary spirit, far from being in a state of decay, is strong and vigorous with youth. The fields are white with the harvest, and our Master is beckoning us onward to other lands, where sin and darkness reign with unchecked power. The year has been one of eventful changes; but more especially marked by those prospects which have been opened for the future triumphs of the cross of Christ. Countries long closed to the heralds of salvation have thrown wide their portals, and invite the entrance of the Lord's people to bear to them the fruits of righteousness and peace. Let earnest prayer arise that the Spirit of the living God may descend on his Church in Pentecostal power, thrusting forth labourers into the great harvest field, and giving unwonted energy to his own Word, so that the enemies of the Cross may be subdued, and all the families of the earth be blessed in Christ Jesus.

NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

PROGRESS OF MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN INDIA.—We have as the fruits of missionary labour in Southern India and Ceylon:—1. More than one hundred thousand persons who have abandoned idolatry, and are gathered into congregations receiving Christian instruction. 2. More than sixty-five thousand who have been baptized into the name of Christ, and have thus publicly made a profession of their Christian discipleship. 3. More than fifteen thousand who have been received as communicants, in the belief that they are the sincere and faithful disciples of Christ. 4. More than five hundred natives, exclusive of schoolmasters, who are employed as Christian teachers of their countrymen, and who are generally devoted and successful in their work. 5. More than forty-one thousand boys in the mission schools, learning to read and understand the Holy Scriptures. 6. More than eleven thousand girls rescued from that gross ignorance and degradation to which so many of their sex in India seem to be hopelessly condemned. Here are the palpable evidences of the Divine power of the gospel; evidences which are yet destined to constrain many a heathen to abandon his idols and turn to the now despised and hated name of Jesus.—*Madras Herald*.

INSUFFICIENCY OF ROMISH MISSIONS IN CHINA.—The Jesuit Missionary, Huc, tells us of the numerous attempts made through a long succession of ages by the Church of Rome for the conversion of China, of the means employed, and the result which followed. The missionaries carried with them the ornaments of the church—altars and relics—to see if they would attract the people to the faith of their church. They sent Jesuits, physicians, mathematicians, artists, and men of science,—anything and everything but the Bible. This they never gave to the people. After all their occasional triumphs, Huc thus complains of the comparative failure of their efforts:—“The soil has been prepared and turned in all directions with patience and intelligence; it has been watered with sweat and tears, and enriched with the blood of martyrs; the evangelical seed has been sown in it with profusion; the Christian world has prayed forth prayers; and it is as sterile as ever. The religious ideas do not, it must be owned, strike very deep roots in this country; and the seeds of the Christian faith, cast into it in the earlier ages, appear to have entirely perished.” What a proof of the insufficiency of the priest without the Bible. These missionaries kept back the Scriptures. They gave them altars, relics, ceremonies half Pagan, half Christian, science, the arts; but they gave them not in their own tongue the word of God. No wonder that Huc had to complain of the continual unravelling of the work which the missionaries did; and that all they did had, from time to time, to be begun again.—*Rev. J. A. James*.

THE CRY FROM HEATHEN LANDS.—Let us take broad and deep views of the world still lying in darkness, guilt, and woe. Then contemplate the remarkable manner in which mighty obstructions to the introduction of the gospel are removed. What a change has taken place in Turkey, that now the banner of the Cross may be unfurled under the Crescent! Then pass to the Celestial Empire, and there the three hundred and fifty millions are accessible to the glad tidings of salvation. Then look at the changes wrought by the instrumentality of the gospel in the Society and Sandwich Islands, in India, and Africa. In view of such precious results we may well exclaim, “What hath God wrought!” Scan the wide fields already white for the harvest. Hear the numerous impassioned calls from nearly every part of heathendom, and not a few from nominal Christendom,—“We are perishing for lack of vision. We are told there is a dreadful hell; come, and tell us how to escape it.” These calls, borne upon almost every breeze, demand of the churches an increase of prayers, contributions, and efforts. Never was there a more hopeful period for the church to extend her aggressive movements. Never before were there so many indications that the Lord Jesus was about to have the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.—*Rev. D. Thurston*.

HOME PROCEEDINGS.

PROPOSED NEW MISSION TO CHINA.

For some time past the question as to the duty of the Baptist Missionary Society, with regard to the recent openings for the diffusion of the gospel in China, has seriously occupied the minds of friends, and of the members of the Committee. Several urgent representations from many quarters, and especially the offer of a gentleman, a native of Holland, acquainted with the Shanghai dialect of the Chinese language, to go forth as a missionary of the Society, brought the question definitely before the Committee, and constrained a decision. Accordingly, at the meeting of the Committee on the 20th April last, after earnest consideration and prayer to God for guidance, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, and the subject ordered to be brought before the general meeting of subscribers on the 26th ult., for confirmation and approval. The necessity of our going to press prevents our reporting the issue of this reference; but there can be no doubt of the sanction sought being heartily given. At the present moment it is not possible to lay before our friends the plans to be pursued. These will have to be deliberately considered, and the locality of the mission carefully chosen. It will, moreover, be desirable to adopt, in the formation of the mission, all those arrangements which the experience of the past has taught us to be most useful and effective. We can do no more at the present moment, therefore, than report the resolution to which the Committee have come. It is as follows:—

“This Committee, having had their attention drawn to the great providential fact, that China has now for many months past been open to the introduction of the gospel, and that this fact constitutes an urgent call upon the churches of Christ to send missionaries to that great country, desires to feel impressively that this duty devolves in part upon the Society they represent; and they resolve, in humble dependence upon the grace of God, to address themselves solemnly to its fulfilment.”

ARRIVAL OF MISSIONARIES.

We have the pleasure to announce the safe arrival in London of Mrs. Thomas and family, after a very pleasant though prolonged voyage. The Rev. J. Williamson, our long-tried missionary from Sewry in Bengal, arrived at the same time. He has laboured for more than thirty years in that heathen land.

QUARTERLY MISSIONARY HERALD.

The second number of this quarterly paper is now ready for delivery to the auxiliaries, and for distribution among the subscribers of the Society. The Secretaries will be happy to receive orders for its transmission to the different Auxiliary Secretaries, but request that the numbers ordered may not be in excess of the demand.

Subscriptions and Donations in aid of the Baptist Missionary Society will be thankfully received by Sir Samuel Morton Peto, Bart., Treasurer; by the Rev. Frederick Trestrail and Edward Bean Underhill, Esq., Secretaries, at the Mission House, 33, Moorgate Street, LONDON; in EDINBURGH, by the Rev. Jonathan Watson, and John Macandrew, Esq.; in GLASGOW, by John Jackson, Esq.; in CALCUTTA, by the Rev. C. B. Lewis, Baptist Mission Press. Contributions can also be paid in at Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, and Co.'s, Lombard Street, to the account of the Treasurer.