THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

REPORT.

THE Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society have, by the providence of God, the pleasure of laying before the constituents of the institution the sixty-ninth report of their proceedings. But, before entering on the occurrences of the year, they cannot but advert to that spirit of prayer which has been so largely manifested in missionary proceedings during the last two years. In response to the invitation of the missionaries at Ludianah, in Northern India, the entire evangelical church throughout the world assembled for united prayer in the first week of 1860. Again, in the first week of 1861, responding to the invitation of the missionaries of Bengal, and to the suggestion of the Liverpool Missionary Conference, churches of Christ of many names gathered in worship to inaugurate the labours of the present year, to seek for the Divine blessing on the great work in which they and their predecessors have been engaged. age of the church presents a spectacle so deeply interesting, so demonstrative of the unity of the Lord's people in every land. God, the hearer and answerer of prayer, has listened to these devout intercessions, and, in many places, has been pleased to manifest in a remarkable manner the saving might of his arm. Paul has planted, Apollos watered, and God hath given the increase. The flood of Divine blessing spread from the United States to Ireland, from Ireland to Scotland and England; thence its refreshing streams have fertilized many a barren spot in the East, and quickened the languishing piety of the islands of the West. Thus the Head of the Church reanimates and rewards the faith and patience of his people, and invites them to heartier consecration in his cause. The fields occupied by the agents of the society have not been without many tokens of the Divine favour, and your Committee proceed briefly to indicate the most important features which the past year presents.

And, first, we have to express our thankfulness that death has not entered the ranks of the missionary brethren. The brethren, Williamson and Morgan, have returned to their spheres of labour in health, and resumed their very efficient services as preachers to the heathen of the everlasting Gospel. But the Committee have been called to sympathise with the loss sustained by the Rev. H. Z. Kloekers in the lamented decease of Mrs. Kloekers, whose energy of character and deep piety rendered her so highly qualified for a missionary life.

A similar loss has been sustained by the Rev. L. Kälberer.

The Revs. Messrs. Rose, Ellis, and Reed, have reached the stations appointed them in India; Mr. Comfort, who should have gone with them, being alone hindered by the state of his health. The Rev. G. Rouse, of Regent's Park College, has also been engaged for the India mission, and will proceed thither during the present year. For a few months, the Committee enjoyed the pleasure of intercourse with Messrs. Saker and Diboll; both constrained to make a brief visit to this country for the restoration of health. They have, however, returned to their work, accompanied by the Rev. J. Smith. Captain Milbourne, whose former services to the African mission the Committee recall with pleasure and satisfaction, piloted their little bark over the waste of waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and gives his aid to the mission.

The Hayti mission will receive this year the important accession of two well-qualified brethren, the Rev. Messrs. Bouhon and Baumann; while the institution at Calabar has already been supplied with an assistant for the Normal

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School Department, by the departure of Mr. Alexander Gunning for Jamaica. Two missionaries have been welcomed home for a brief sojourn, the Revs. J. Wenger and F. Supper. One event the Committee cannot pass over without the expression of deep regret. It has been their painful duty to separate Mr. Craig from connection with the society. Just as the Committee are about to submit to you this report, they learn that the Rev. W. A. Claxton has resigned the pastorate of the church at Madras, and entered on secular employment, not without the hope and purpose of aiding to the best of his ability the propagation of the Gospel. Thus, while the society loses two from its list, their services have been amply supplied by the addition of nine brethren to the number engaged.

WEST INDIES.

Towards the close of the year, the Committee gave prolonged consideration to the reports of Mr. Underbill and the Rev. J. T. Brown, the deputation to the missions in the West Indies, whose departure on this very important service was announced at the last anniversary. Their reports have been given entire to the public, and present a very satisfactory account of the social and religious condition of the islands to which they refer. With regard to Trinidad, the Committee have sanctioned the removal of Mr. Gamble to San Fernando, a town, from its large and increasing population and the easy access from it to the stations in the district of Savanna Grande, more favourable for missionary labour. He is now engaged in removing thither, having purchased ground for a residence in a healthy and favourable spot. The Committee are happy to learn that the native churches are in a more prosperous condition than at any former time, and have very heartily acceded to arrangements for their improvement proposed by the deputation. It is also pleasant to record, that among the Chinese strangers, many of whom have gone to Trinidad to labour on the estates, Mr. Law is favourably received as a messenger of Christ.

The prospects of the mission in Hayti were never more cheering. Since Mr. Underhill's visit, the congregations have largely increased in numbers, and conversions are frequent. Fourteen persons, rescued from superstition and Romish error, have been baptized. The Bible-readers are most usefully employed, and several persons have become the subjects of Divine grace as the fruit of their lowly, prayerful, and zealous toil. The peculiar adaptation of this kind of agency to the present condition of the island is such as to lead to the wish for its enlargement. "Our new agency, that of our Scripturereaders," says Mr. Webley, "is doing wonders for us." On the other hand, the changes in progress in the country, the result of the wise action of the present enlightened ruler, are most favourable to evangelizing efforts. Schools are being established throughout the land, in towns, villages, and even hamlets in the mountains. Immigrants—black men—are pouring into the country in considerable numbers from Canada and the United States of America. Every project calculated to elevate and civilize the people has the attention of the President. Protestants are found among the members of the Government. Protestant teachers are even allowed to preside over Government schools. In the Jacmel school, the influence of its instructress, a member of the church, has been such as to lead to the conversion of one of her assistants, and the reception by acclamation, among parents and children, of the Bible and Bible instruction. Mr. Webley has long laboured alone, and it is with great pleasure the Committee contemplate the immediate departure of two brethren to his assistance, to strengthen the mission at Jacmel, and to extend it, it may be, to the capital itself. These two young ministers—one a Frenchman by birth, the other of German parentage—have been educated in the institution of the Paris Society for Foreign Missions, are well acquainted with the subtleties of Romanism, and have come before the Committee with the warmest commendations of the Rev. Fred. Monod, of M. Casalis, the director, and of the Committee of the institution. A plot of land, close by the chapel in Jacmel,

having upon it a house suited for the purpose, has also been purchased, where the school, so long and so successfully carried on by Mrs. Job, may be revived.

In the Bahama Islands the missionaries continue to labour with great encouragement, and to enjoy the privilege of making large additions to the churches. One hundred and thirty persons have been baptized during the year. Although the population of the group is increasing, the number of residents on the various islands is very fluctuating, especially on those islands where the only production is salt. Capable of producing little else, if the manufacture declines through absence of demand, the people are compelled to migrate. For the same reason, their progress in the arts of civilised life is, in some places, slow; and although susceptible of great religious feeling, their intelligence and mental culture do not keep pace with it. The Government schools are very useful and successful; but while the means of livelihood are so precarious and difficult to obtain, the condition of the islands cannot be so satisfactory as could be desired. The people are, as a rule, orderly, generally industrious, ready to avail themselves of the advantages within their reach, and to a very great extent indeed under the influence of religious instruction.

JAMAICA.

The Committee cannot but refer with gratification to the report of the deputation on the state of the churches and people of Jamaica. Without entering into any detailed statement of the facts their reports and speeches have supplied, it may suffice briefly to recapitulate some of the conclusions to which they have been led. Their inquiries were limited to no class of society. They sought information from all parties, and were permitted to enjoy every privilege for the acquisition of accurate information. It is due from the Committee cordially to acknowledge the hospitable and kind attention manifested to them by the people, their ministers, the proprietors of estates, and the authorities of the island.

With some drawbacks, chiefly referable to habits and notions acquired in the time of slavery, the deputation report, that the character of the people is such as to evidence the wide influence of religious truth. In the churches discipline is vigorously maintained. The ministry of the Word is valued, and a commendable zeal is often displayed for the conversion of souls. The deputation visited nearly the whole of the seventy-seven churches which have originated with the agents of this Society. Over these churches twenty-two European and fourteen native ministers preside, having under their care 20,000 members, and upwards of 2,000 inquirers. The contributions for all purposes amount to £8,000 a-year, an average of 8s. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. a head for all the members. The ministers are assisted by a body of deacons and leaders, about 700 in number, who manifest a strong sense of duty, and a tenacious adhesion to those great principles of scriptural truth maintained by our denomination.

The progress of events has, however, scattered the people more widely than was formerly the case, while their improvement in knowledge and their habits of independence, render the necessity of pastoral supervision the more imperative, but at the same time, more difficult to accomplish. There is, therefore, in the judgment of the deputation, an absolute necessity for a larger supply of ministers, both native and European, to reach the people in their mountain abodes, to look after the wanderers and the sick, to gather the young in Bible Classes, and to extend the Gospel to districts becoming occupied by an increasing population. Impressed with these views, the Committee have given their assent to the recommendations of their deputation, which, while on the one hand comparatively inexpensive in character, will not in the least degree trench on the independence or scriptural rights of the churches. They will encourage in every way the improvement and formation of an indigenous ministry, will assist in the enlargement of the usefulness of the institution at Calabar, and encourage the settlement of a few European brethren as pastors of the larger churches, capable of supporting the ministers of the Word from their own resources. The time has not yet come for the withdrawment of the intelligence and energy of the white man from the instruction and oversight of these young communities. They depend, and must for some years depend, for their elevation, on the stimulus afforded by connection with this country; and time must clapse for the production of a class of native-born men, strong in numbers and intelligence, by whom the civilization and religious instruction of the enfranchised negro may be carried to their highest point of development. It was surprising to the deputation to find still how very large is the element existing in the population derived from slave times. Quite three-fourths of the adults now living were once slaves. The generation has not yet passed away which wore the fetter and endured the scourge, and which still retains to a certain extent the prejudices, superstitions, and habitudes of that dread and debasing time. More has, however, been accomplished than we had any right to expect. Generally speaking, the creoles of Jamaica constitute a peasantry daily increasing in intelligence; deeply interested in religious truth; possessing a very considerable amount of property, the gain of their own free labour; pressing into the culture of the staples of the island; well clothed and well housed: and moved by a spirit of emulation to acquire more of the arts and advantages of civilized life. The slave of yesterday is even now a peasant of whom no country need to be ashamed, and to whom freedom has been a boon To employ the language of the deputation, "Notof unmixed blessedness. withstanding many causes for solicitude still existing, the Society, by its agents, and under the blessing of God, has done a work in the island, both social and religious, which demands manifold thanksgivings to the Great Deliverer and

Redeemer of men, and inspires gladdening hopes for the future."

Shortly after the departure of the deputation, meetings for prayer for a revival were held throughout the churches, as agreed upon at the meeting of the Jamaica Baptist Union, held in the month of March. Towards the close of the year the results became apparent in a very remarkable movement commencing at a Moravian station, and immediately communicating itself to the churches in the parishes of St. James, Hanover, and Westmoreland. Great numbers were powerfully moved by the Spirit of God to deep conviction of sin, and to its open confession and abandonment. Unlawful gains were destroyed, quarrels were healed, neglect of Divine worship was changed for crowded assemblies; and meetings were prolonged through days and nights for prayer and instruction. The most intense anxiety for salvation burst forth in loud cries and tears. Many persons were prostrated with emotion. Physical effects, some of a painful character, followed; while numbers arose from them filled with ecstatic joy or heavenly peace. As the work extended, elements of evil were developed. Ignorant people, still hardly removed from the debasement of their former slave condition, were imposed upon by fraudulent men appealing to their native superstitions. Satan sought to mar the good work by extravagances, and the awakening of evil passions. From the most recent accounts we are, however, happy to learn that these painful exhibitions bear but a small proportion to the manifest good, and are rapidly subsiding. Thousands have been added to the inquirers' classes. Additions are being made to the churches, but only after much scrutiny and deliberation. The general face of society is undergoing a visible improvement; and for the present the prevalence of many common vices is checked. We are also informed that the people in some quarters are manifesting a more decided inclination to industrious habits, and that the planters are furnished with an abundant supply of steady labour. Making ample allowance for the evils referred to, the Committee cannot but gratefully recognise the hand of God in this wonderful movement. They prayerfully hope that multitudes will be led to the reception of the truth as it is in Jesus, and to a holy walk and conversation in the world. The churches of the Jamaica Baptist Union report this year an addition of nearly 700 members to their fellowship, not, however, the fruit of the revival, but as the result of the ordinary means of grace. It is during this year the results of the revival will appear in the enlargement of the churches from the 4,000 persons who have been admitted from the inquirers' class.

AFRICA.

The absence from their station of the brethren, Saker and Diboll, on account of health, leaves not much to record of the work accomplished on the continent. to which, since their banishment from Fernando Po, the labours of the missionaries are confined. The two native brethren left in charge have very faithfully maintained the congregations which have been gathered. Progress has been made in restoring some who had wandered from the fold. Many villages and towns in the vicinity of the mission-station sent repeated invitations to come and impart the knowledge of the Gospel to them. The reinforcement the mission has now received will enable the brethren to a certain extent to meet these demands; and the schooner which Mr. Saker has purchased, and in which the brethren ventured, dependent on Divine Providence, to cross the waters of the great Atlantic, will be the means of improving the commerce of Victoria, and of bringing to this rising town many of our former friends from Clarence to take up their abode. The claims of the Society on the Spanish Government still remain unsettled. Several communications have passed between the Committee, her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the Spanish Government; and the Committee are not without hope that shortly some compensation for the losses sustained will be given. In pursuing their claim, the Committee have enjoyed the efficient services of the Treasurer, and the concur rence and support of the British Government.

INDIA.

Although the supremacy of the English power is fully acknowledged in all parts of this great empire, and every trace of a rebellious spirit seems nearly eradicated, it is every month becoming more and more obvious that the people of India will not fall back into the fatal apathy which characterised the first years of the century. If the mutiny has wrought no other effect, the quickening of the native mind in all directions is the greatest and best. In some places indeed it has called forth unwonted opposition; in others to be more than compensated by an attentive regard to the claims of the Gospel, and the conviction of the worthlessness of idols to save. On the whole, Government deals less unfairly with the Christian faith it professes. It has relaxed the rule with regard to the Christian action of its servants in the discharge of their official duties, whether in the school or the camp; continues actively to discourage the performance of the inhuman rites and austerities which Hinduism fosters and approves; and shows itself more sincerely desirous to open the country to every useful influence, commercial or otherwise, which may tend to the elevation of its subjects. One of our missionary brethren, the Rev. John Sale, with the sanction of the Committee, was appointed by the Governor-General in Council a member of the Commission to inquire into the relations of the ryot with the planters of indigo, representing on the board the missionary body of Bengal and the peasantry, whose com-plaints and resistance forced the investigation on the Government. The inquiry extended over three months. The essence of the report presented to the Government is, that the complaints of the ryots, and the statements of the missionaries with regard to them, are well founded; that the cultivation of indigo on the present system is both unprofitable and irksome, and not seldom unjust to the cultivator; and that the peasantry of Bengal have exhibited great patience in so long fulfilling, or trying to fulfil, what on their part is proved to have been generally an unfair contract. The case was one of a kind which, in the progress of our missionary work, will inevitably occur. The Gospel not only directly encounters every religious error, and strives to redeem men from sin, but indirectly touches, presents in new lights, and forces the consideration of, many social questions which arise out of the state of society in the countries where the missionaries labour. Thus, in the West Indies, we encountered slavery. In the East we have to contend with the usurped powers and oppressive

exactions of a great proprietary class, generally hostile to righteousness and truth, to freedom, and to that respect for human rights which Christianity brings in its train. It is not the duty of the Committee here to discuss the action of the Government in this particular case; but it cannot be doubted that the result will be to place the cultivation of indigo on a sounder basis, and to secure a more just treatment of the peasant agriculturist. In Backergunge the Committee are happy to report, that during the past year the churches have enjoyed "rest," have been free from the invasion of the spoiler, and in several instances have added converts to the fold. Scattered over nearly sixty villages, fifteen churches bear testimony to the power of Divine grace, four hundred and fifty persons walk in the enjoyment of Christian ordinances, rescued from the foulness and sins of idolatry, while a Christian community of about two thousand souls has been gathered from among the heathen to be trained in the fear of the only true and living God. Similarly in Jessore, a numerous body of Christians is being formed by the faithful and spiritually blessed labours of the servants of Christ, notwithstanding that Romanism endeavours to turn aside the feet of many, and multitudes pass unheeding by the preachers of the Cross. In Eastern Bengal the missionaries report that since the mutiny hostility to the Gospel, especially among the Mohammedans, has been more than ever marked, while many persist in affirming that it is contrary to the commands of the Queen to receive the Gospel. On the other hand, in Dacca many English soldiers have been added to the Church, a work still more largely developed, under the ministry of the brethren Gregson and Evans, among the regiments occupying Agra and Muttra in the north-In Behar the missionaries have continued among listening thousands in the towns and villages, in the crowded avenues of Benares and Patna, to proclaim Christ and him crucified, with no other result than a general assent, more or less loudly expressed, to the truth of the doctrines they hear. One missionary plants and another waters; it needs but the grace of God, the mighty energies of the Holy Spirit, to give the increase. And this increase is not withheld in the city of Delhi. The remarkable work reported last year continues in all its strength to go forward, and more than a hundred persons have in addition been baptized into Christ. In every department of this mission there has been a steady advance. The converts, now numbering nearly 250 souls, have been organised into six churches under their own native officers. Two new native chapels have been built and opened, and a third is being erected at the expense of a liberal friend of the Society in Delhi. The labours of the brethren have been extended to a number of fresh villages, and in some of them converts have been made. Schools for children, and evening classes for adults, have been formed. Weekly prayer-meetings have been well kept up, being often conducted by the new converts alone, some of whom have actively and successfully sought to bring their fellow-countrymen to Christ. As yet, cases of discipline have been very few, the churches have "walked in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, and been multiplied." The majority of the converts, as in every age, are chiefly from among the poorest of the people. Yet others of higher rank have not been passed by in this ministration of the Spirit. One convert is a grand-daughter of the Emperor of Delhi, reduced to poverty indeed by the mutiny, but now far richer as an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven. Another is the zemindar of a considerable village, and is zealously employed in pointing out the Lamb of God to the people of his estates. Several were followers of Mohammed, one of them the son of a moulvie, to whom an Englishwoman was indebted for the saving of her life and her escape from Delhi, when the city was in the hands of the revolted sepoys. "A bright future," say the missionaries, "is opening for the north-west of India; from Meerut to Rohilkund many have visited us with the cry, 'Come over and help us;' some have been baptized and returned to their own homes, to spread the news of salvation among their neighbours. Efficient labourers only appear to be wanting in order with God's blessing to secure a large harvest." While our anniversaries proceed, thousands are perishing in these districts for want of the sustenance denied them by the parched ground. Still more urgent, is the cry, "Come over and help us." By famine as well as by the sword, is God teaching these poor people to look to him. Let us in Christian charity

send to them of our abundance food for body and soul.

It is with deep regret that the Committee learn at this juncture the necessary departure of their honoured brother, the Rev. James Smith, for a more healthy clime, not, it is hoped, without some prospect of return, should it please God to re-establish his failing strength. He has probably reached the shores of Australia; here he will serve the mission as he is able. Meanwhile, the Committee have sanctioned the removal of Mr. Evans from Muttra to Delhi to supply his place, and hope to be able to strengthen much further this very attractive field during the coming year. It is more than probable that new stations will have to be formed in Meerut and some other places. The Committee depend on the liberality of the churches how far this extension shall go.

In a minor degree only the same good work has been going on in Agra. Nineteen have been baptized on a profession of their faith in Christ, and become members of the native church. Of these the larger part are converts from heathenism, and include about half-a-dozen Sikhs. One is a very interesting young man of respectable family, a Brahmin; another is a Thakur, the head man of a village. They were first met with in the bazaars of Agra. For some months the Thakur acted as a colporteur, and on one occasion having received a number of Gospels and tracts for sale, he set out entirely of his own accord for his native village, distant from Agra some 120 or 150 miles. He not only sold all his books, but preached Christ to his people, and appears to have created a great commotion, especially in his own village. Fourteen wished to return to Agra with him; but inability hindered all but four. Several members of the native church have gone to Calcutta with their regiment, where they have united themselves with the church under the care of our venerable brother Shujaat Ali. But notwithstanding their departure, the native congregation is nearly as large as before. A great work of grace has been proceeding among the European soldiers, in the face of the prejudiced interruptions of the chaplain of the station. Thirty-five Europeans, of whom thirty were soldiers, have been baptized, and thus in this distant land many whose parents are members of our churches, or who were brought up in our Sabbath Schools, have found the Saviour they despised. May they in that heathen land testify of the grace they have received! The Committee have further the satisfaction of reporting that, by the residence of Mr. Williams at Chitoura, that interesting district has again been reoccupied; and itineracies full of encouragement have been recommenced, in company with our faithful native brother Thakur Das.

CEYLON.

Missionary labour in this beautiful island has been unable, as yet, to surmount the deadly apathy induced by the religion of Buddha. A few conversions continue to evince the power of the Spirit of God, and to assure us that even the self-righteousness, the intense worldliness, and religious indifference of the Singhalese Buddhist must give way where the Spirit of God works. But the kingdom of Christ at present expands with great slowness. It finds little active co-operation among those who profess to feel the power of Divine mercy and love. The young men turn away from the ministry of the word as being inadequately paid, and further discouragement is sometimes met with from the defection of some who promised well. Yet are there many among the converts who by their simple piety approve themselves as the children of God, and from time to time others give confident hope that they are born of God. Thirteen individuals have been baptized into Christ. The obstacle to greater success is found less in the forms and doctrines of Buddhism, than in the profound secularism they encourage. Futurity to the disciple of Buddha is a blank—a negation. Hence he lives for this life. The present, and the present only, is everything. Eternity, or an Eternal God, has no attraction, no dread to him. Still it is certain that the ideas of the people are undergoing a change. Education facili-

tates it; the dispersion of books aids it; and we do not doubt that the publication of the New Testament in the intelligible yet accurate form into which Mr. Carter has thrown the version he has prepared, will be an important contribution to the spread of the knowledge of the true God and of Jesus Christ whom he has sent. The Committee have with great pleasure approved the printing of 2,000 copies of Mr. Carter's revision. It is now in the press and will be ready for issue, it is hoped, during the present year.

CHINA.

For several months after his arrival in Shanghai, Mr. Kloekers and Mr. Hall were constrained to confine their evangelistic labours to that city, or its immediate environs. The war between the Imperialists and the Allied Forces rendered any departure from Shanghai dangerous; while the disposition of the leaders of the Revolutionary bands was not distinctly known. The peace dictated by the conquerors within the city of Pekin has released the missionaries detained in Shanghai; for, with passports, they are authorised by the treaty to visit any part of the Imperial dominions, and openly to preach and propagate the Gospel of Christ. Meanwhile Mr. Kloekers, accompanied by the Rev. Griffith John. of the London Mission, and two Chinese gentlemen, penetrated to Nankin itself, the seat of the government of the Celestial King, as the head of the Revolutionists is called. They were welcomed both by the chiefs and the people. There they obtained a document of the utmost importance. As they left, they received an edict, written, in the usual Imperial style, on yellow silk with the vermilion pencil, giving all Christian missionaries permission to travel in every part of the six provinces over which the sway of the Celestial King extends, to settle in the cities, to erect chapels and school-houses, and in every way to spread the doctrines of the Christian faith. Although there were many things in the profession of Christianity made by the rebel chiefs which the missionaries could not reconcile with good sense or the oracles of truth, yet they found much to fill them with wonder and gratitude. The Sabbath was observed, services for preaching and prayer were regularly held. The main truths of the Gospel were clearly and firmly believed. Some individuals gave indubitable evidence that they were born from above, were genuine disciples of the Redeemer. In Nankin every idol is destroyed, and the temples are razed to the ground; there is but one exception—the temple spared has been converted into a Christian house of prayer. Sixteen churches had been built; and all the acts of the Government tended to repress idolatry in every form, together with the use of alcoholic drinks, opium, and tobacco. The Buddhist monasteries were dismantled, and the priests restored to secular life. Under these very wonderful, nay, providential circumstances, your Committee have resolved to request the brethren to commence our Chinese Mission among the Revolutionists, either in Nankin itself, or in some favourable locality in its neighbourhood. After ages of seclusion, China is thus remarkably opened to the Gospel, and, by a series of events the most unlooked-for, the path of its messengers cleared. A local insurrection has expanded into a revolution; a poor Chinese student has become the destroyer of idolatry, the ruler of myriads, and the disseminator of The Committee have deemed it their duty to present these interestthe Bible. ing facts to the Churches, and to invite their prayerful and liberal aid to add at least six to the number of brethren employed in the evangelization of China. The vision of the Prophet Isaiah seems at length in process of fulfilment:—"I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted. Behold, these shall come from far:—and these from the land of Sinim."

FRANCE.

The very interesting and encouraging Report on this Mission presented to the Committee by Mr. Trestrail on his return from a visit to Brittany, and printed in the "Missionary Herald" for February last, renders any lengthened notice unnecessary. Since Mr. Trestrail's return the repairs of the chapel have been completed. A house has likewise been purchased at Tremel, and is being transformed into a place for evangelical worship, towards which our Welsh friends have liberally contributed. With the slow relaxation of the laws which affect Protestant worship, and which continues to go on, Mr. Jenkins has, with the Divine blessing, extended his labours, and laid the foundation of a church of Christ walking in the ordinances of the Gospel. May it become as a city set on a hill in the destitute and priest-ridden district in which his evangelical labours have been so successfully carried on!

TRANSLATIONS.

Although the absence of the Rev. J. Wenger from Calcutta has prevented the completion of the Sanscrit Bible (which has advanced to the end of Isaiah), or the issue of a projected new edition of the entire Bengali Bible, the printing and distribution of the Society's versions have gone on as usual. From Jan. 1, 1852, up to Feb. 29, 1860, there have been printed in Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, and Sanscrit, not less than 244,500 copies of parts or entire volumes of the Scriptures; and the journals of the missionaries contain many interesting notices of the eagerness with which the Bible is sought for, and its contents valued. Of the edition of the entire Bengali Bible now passing through the press, the Calcutta Auxiliary Bible Society has purchased 2,000 copies of the Old Testament, and has expressed a wish to obtain an equal number of copies of the New Testament uniform with it. Thus the local Bible Society will issue, for the first time, the whole Bengali Bible in one volume. With a view to render the Scriptures still more useful to the population of India, and especially to the rapidly increasing Christian community, the Committee have requested their highly esteemed brother, the Rev. J. Wenger, to prepare an annotated edition of the Bengali Scriptures. This he has undertaken to do; and, with Divine permission, it will have his immediate attention on his return to Cal-This edition will be printed at the Mission Press, and sold at as low a rate as is compatible with its cost.

The Hindi New Testament continues to make progress under the very careful and anxious labours of the Rev. J. Parsons. A volume containing the Gospels and Acts was issued in July last. Since then he has revised the Epistle to the Romans and the first fourteen chapters of 1 Corinthians. This revision of a former version is, in fact, a re-translation. When complete it will be very important that a similar revision of the Old Testament should be begun, and for this we trust our brother's life will be preserved. In addition to these labours, Mr. Parsons has issued a hymn-book in Hindi, and is engaged in preparing native tunes in musical notation for congregational and private use.

The Rev. C. Carter, through Divine mercy, has completed his valuable revision of the New Testament in Singhalese. An edition of 1,000 copies of the Gospel of John and the Epistle to the Romans was printed in the middle of the year, and a portion of the impression has been sold. The Committee have now directed the printing of the entire New Testament, and they hope before the year is closed that it will have issued from the press. In reference to this work, the Rev. J. Allen writes to the Committee:—"It is superior to any other version, and, best of all, intelligible to everybody, learned or unlearned, even in its most difficult chapters." Mr. Carter has also published one or two elementary works to facilitate the acquisition of this somewhat difficult language.

FINANCES.

Notwithstanding the severity of last season, and the advanced prices of food, your Committee have the pleasure to report, that, tested by the contributions of the year just closed, the missionary spirit of the churches is on the increase. At the anniversary of 1860, it was announced that the amount

received for general purposes was £16,018 4s. 5d., an increase over the year previous. This year the Committee have the pleasure to report the receipt of £18,871 4s. 5d. for general purposes, a further increase of £2,853. A portion of this is due to a somewhat larger income under the head of legacies; but even deducting this, there is a decided and considerable improvement from those sources which indicate the interest taken in the great work in which we are engaged. For the support of native preachers there has been an increase of £79 13s. 9d.; but under the head of "Widows and Orphans' Fund" there is a diminution of nearly one hundred pounds—the effect of the extreme inclemency of the day on which the gifts of the churches were taken up, and which seems to have extended to all parts of the country. The Special Fund for China has continued to receive additions, the sum of £486 2s. 0d. having been contributed. The Committee trust that a much larger amount may be gathered in this year to meet the extraordinary events which place the whole of this vast empire at the feet of the church of Christ.

The Committee remark with pleasure the steady increase of the contributions for the Translations, from the funds of the Bible Translation Society. With the extension of the work of grace, and the enlargement of our mission in India, the demand for the Scriptures must continue to grow; while new versions, such as that of the New Testament now in the press, in Ceylon, and new fields like that of China, will require ampler means than ever to furnish the people with the word of God. The entire income of the Society has been

£30,468 15s. 4d.

Under the head of expenditure, there is an increase in the cost of the Indian mission of £793 10s. Od., owing to the greater number of brethren employed. As last year, the Committee have given in the balance sheet the entire cost of this mission; but it will be seen that the Mission Press has again largely aided the Society in the maintenance of the work. The expenditure on the China mission has also increased, as was to be expected on the arrival of the brethren in the sphere of their labour. But in Ceylon, Western Africa, Madras, and the Bahamas, less has been expended. With the present year, the cost of the deputation to the West Indies will disappear from the account; but a permanent increase must be looked for in the expenditure on Jamaica and Hayti. The slight increase in Trinidad and Brittany is owing to the arrangements being made for the expansion of the mission in those places. The only other point requiring notice is the considerable amount entered under the head of returned invalid missionaries. A larger number of brethren than usual have been obliged, the past year, to visit their native land, three of whom still They will probably return to their stations during the present year. Their presence has not been without beneficial results in the interest they have awakened, and the intelligence they have communicated of the work of God, in their respective departments of missionary toil.

It will be seen that the Committee have more than expended the funds specially committed to their care for the India mission, and they, therefore, propose to close the fund opened for its enlargement. Of the special contributions for China, a considerable amount—£1,320 13s. 11d.—remains to be employed. Deducting this from the sum in the Treasurer's hands, there is a balance of recepts of £1,880 8s. 11d. over the expenditure of last year. It should not, however, be overlooked that the Treasurer had incurred liabilities on the 31st of March to the extent of £1,169 5s. 11d. on account of the Mission Press, and a further sum of £1,449 14s. 8d. on the general account; not, indeed, then due, but to be provided for out of the balance in hand, and from such contributions as may come in in the interval of their arrival at maturity. The entire expenditure

has been £29,684 8s. 11d.

It cannot but be cause of gratitude to God that the Committee are able to present so favourable an account of the year's labour. The Divine blessing has been granted both on the acquisition of sufficient means, and on the expenditure of them. For God has given an unusual blessing to his word in many parts of the field we occupy. But the experience of the year assures the Committee that they have far from exhausted those resources which the churches possess.

There are still large numbers of persons in communion with the churches, and regular attendants at the house of God, who either give nothing, or a sum very disproportionate to their ability and to the claims of the perishing heathen. In many cases, this deficiency is owing to the want of information; and the Committee desire most earnestly to press upon the ministers of the denomination, upon all who enjoy the opportunity of giving instruction in the various congregations and schools, the duty of bringing the subject of Christian missions into more frequent notice, to give it more prominence in their discourses and lessons, and to encourage in every way the perusal of those papers, so easily accessible, which tell of the doings of the Lord's people in heathen lands, and of the displays of Divine grace in the conversion of the souls of men. China and the Indies of the eastern and western hemispheres, Africa and France, the numerous mission-fields of the Christian Church, abound in materials for the most interesting disquisition, calculated to awaken attention, to stir the sympathies of the Christian's heart, and to deepen the pity of the Lord's people for the myriads who are perishing without God and without hope in the world. The providence of God invites us forward. He opens all lands to our Christian zeal. The Divine Spirit is being richly given in answer to our prayers. Let us then "abound in the work of the Lord, seeing that our labour is not in vain in the Lord."

CONTRIBUTIONS,

Received on account of the Baptist Missionary Society, from March 21, to March 31, 1861.

W. & O. denotes that the Contribution is for Widows and Orphans; N. P. for Native Preachers;

:	and I. S. F. for India Special Fund.	
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_		5		Collections 15 0 0 Collection 20 1	10
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