## THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

#### JAMAICA DISTRESS.

THE pressure on our space, arising from the annual services of the Mission's has for a considerable time precluded any lengthened reference to the distress that has fallen on the island of Jamaica. Meanwhile a large amount of correspondence has accumulated on our hands, from which we propose to extract various passages, illustrative of the extent and causes of the distress, and expressive of the feelings of our brethren with regard to the relief that the Fund has enabled the Committee to give.

The distress appears to be by no means uniform throughout the island. While the entire community complains of the decay of cultivation, the want of employment, the diminished trade, and the dearness of food and clothing, the drought has fallen with especial severity on those parts of the island where the water supply is at all times the least abundant. Springs, ponds, and rivers, have in some places, and to a certain extent, made up for the absence of rain; but, where these do not exist, or are quickly exhausted, the suffering and loss have been great. Opinions differ on the causes of the prevailing distress; some attributing it to the deterioration of morals and piety—some to the idleness of the population—some to the reaction which has followed upon the revival—some to the gradual decay of the commercial and agricultural interests of the island—and some to the failure of the Legislature to adopt wise and salutary laws. Whether these are the causes, or others, it were beyond our purpose to specify; certain it is, that poverty is increasingly prevalent, while crime has attained a sudden, unusual, and startling magnitude. On some, or all these points, the following extracts from our letters will throw light, and in adducing them we shall commence with the testimony of those brethren who live on the southern side of the island, proceeding westwards to the northern districts.

The Rev. J. M. Phillippo, after expressing his grateful acknowledgments for the grants made by the Committee, on the general condition of the island remarks, that the taxes are annually increasing, the difference between 1858 and 1865 being £50,000 per annum; that the duties on imports have risen from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., making an increase of 50 per cent. on the clothing of the peasantry; and that some of the imposts are levied unequally

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on the planter and the peasant, but in favour of the former. He then proceeds:—

"Things continue with us in a very depressed condition. No rain has fallen in this parish to the present time. Horses and cattle are dying for want of water and food. A livery stable keeper, I was informed yesterday, lost fourteen horses in a few days. Scarcely a blade of grass is anywhere to be seen. Almost all agricultural operations have been for some time suspended, and thus the aspects as to the future are sad indeed.

"Since the £10 received for distribution among the poor and distressed of my congregation, I have had before me a list of about fifty in a really miserable and almost starving condition. I have also ascertained that nearly half my congregation resident in the town (and no small number in the neighbourhood of it), absent themselves from public worship from insufficient clothing. Among these, many of the more decent persons of colour, are the greatest sufferers, both as to clothing and food.

"A short time since I was called to visit a young coloured woman, a member of my church, who had been in good circumstances, and who was said to be dying. On leaving her room I was met by her landlady, who assured me her illness was solely from want of food. Though it was always insufficient, for the last three or four days she had literally tasted nothing. She had endeavoured to support herself by needle-work, but work failed.\*

"The grateful expressions of those among whom the £10 were distributed, I should have liked for the donors to have witnessed and heard."

This letter is dated the 7th April. A month later Mr. Phillippo writes:—
"Our prospects as to weather are a little brighter; but the effects of the past will be felt for some time to come."

The drought appears to have fallen with especial severity on the lowlands of the parish of Clarendon. The Rev. W. Claydon, under date of March 24, writes:—

"The Savannah is at the best of times never very fruitful—and the past two years have been years of great drought. The last year, since May, we have scarcely had a shower; and the consequence is that our people are not only destitute of apparel, but of common food. Water is scarce; it is costing us 7s. a week. Manchester people, upon whom I chiefly depend for support, are very little better off, except in the article of water—the Porus river is not yet dry; but the coffee on which they chiefly depend has been a total failure the last two years.

"I cannot complain so much of the attendance; it is pretty good, though not what it was. We have exercised Church discipline for neglect of means of grace, till I am appalled; and after a minute inquiry and personal visitation, I am convinced it is from want of clothing—these are among the lowest and poorest of our people. We are greatly in arrears with our teachers, Ebenezer we have been compelled to close. The others are still struggling on, for I fear the demoralizing tendency of yielding to the pressure.

"The distress has been greatly aggravated in the Four Paths district by fire, which has destroyed acres of our poor people's provision, and thus cut off entirely whatever little they had."

Writing again on the 6th April, Mr. Claydon says:-

"The clouds appear more dense and the horizon darker. April has come, and no rain for planting peas and corn, which would have given our poor people food in about two months. If there be no rain in a week or two, the time for planting yams will have passed, and there will be no hope of averting another year of famine. The silver lining to the cloud is, that there is promise of a most abundant crop of mangoes."

<sup>\*</sup> Another case of the kind occurred last evening.

In a letter written early in May we find the following statement of the want of water, and the bright hopes raised by a fall of rain:—

"It has been terrible for the proprietors as for the peasants; scarcely a property here about (breeding pens entirely), but what has lost from fifty to a hundred head of breeding stock. It cost us, charging for time of mule and cart, which were our own, 5s. per day for water alone for the last two months, and 5s. per day for bread nut for horses—grass was not to be seen.

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"I am thankful to say God has at length remembered us in mercy; we have had a few fruitful showers, enough to commence planting, and to cause the landscape to smile again with beauty; all nature seems vocal with grateful praise for the seasonable showers; the small stock about the yard leap for very joy. I never saw nature so glad. As for the coffee shrubs, they put on their robe of lily white blossom as if by magic. On Friday I passed by the coffee field, all appeared seared brown drooping leaves. On Monday following, on my return, the fields were almost as if covered with immense white sheets—the following showers have fixed the blossom, and the promise of a crop is more abundant than for many years."

The parish of Westmoreland, in which our esteemed brother, the Rev. J. Clarke, resides, has not suffered to the extent of other parts; but from a published letter we take a few facts which express his views. "Poverty," he says, "is felt in every parish; and if a few planters do not feel it, with sugar at £11 the hogshead, it is because they do not depend on sugar cultivation for support." Last year the cocoa nut almost entirely failed. Ripe and unripe provisions alike have become the prey of thieves, while over some heartless land-agents a sort of destructive mania has come, in which they wantonly destroy growing provisions, owing to disputes as to the quantity of land rented by their poor tenants. In St. Ann's mountains, and in other places similarly situated, the dry weather has prevented the earth yielding her customary increase. People seeking employment cannot find it, while those who are employed get small wages, and often find a difficulty in obtaining what they have honourably earned. In most places there is a decrease among all the Protestant denominations of one-third, or one-half, and in some cases of two-thirds, of the usual congregations which assembled for Christian worship before 1863.

Crossing to the north side of the island, we now extract the testimonies of our brethren in and around Montego Bay. Writing under date of March 23rd, the Rev. J. E. Henderson, after expressing his gratitude for the assistance received from the Distress Fund, says:—

"Our condition is bad enough, and will I fear soon be much worse. The future does indeed appear dark. The drought is still very severe in this part of the island. Although it is crop, there are hundreds of people unable to obtain employment upon the estates.—Almost every one in the island seems to have lost hope. The help I have been able to offer to some of our poor has afforded myself and wife pleasure only equalled by the happiness of those who have been the recipients of English bounty."

Under the same date the Rev. J. Reid writes :-

"There is a large amount of distress in the land, and it is daily increasing.

"The island in all its interests is in a state of great depression, and all classes of the inhabitants are more or less affected by it. The causes are various, some remote and others near. The state of the country at the time of emancipation was far from being in a prosperous condition, and the whole course of the legislation since that period has been extravagant, one-sided, partial, and unjust.

"In the year 1863, the usual rains were withheld, and greatly affected the crops for the following year. The fall in the price of sugar was much felt by the estates, especially those which were mortgaged and in the hands of merchants. The seasons for 1864 were scanty, and consequently the crops for that year suffered, and those for the present year will be injured from the same cause; and I need scarcely add that ground provisions have been scarce and dear.

"Then the great bulk of the population are working people, who have not been able to lay up much for the season of adversity, and to provide themselves with a stock of clothing. With a scarcity of employment, small wages, dear provisions and clothing, they have been reduced from a state of comparative comfort to one

of hardship and distress.

"The adverse times which are passing over us are very trying and hard to bear; but these are not heart troubles, and they will not last for ever: but the great sorrow of the Christian minister is the general ungodliness which prevails, and still more, the numbers of Church members who have literally forsaken the house of the Lord, and so many who never enter the sanctuary except to the monthly communion."

Mr. Reid adds, that he feels truly grateful to the Committee and the kind friends who have contributed to the Fund, and the clothing will be a most acceptable present to the poor people.

The mountainous district in which the Rev. W. Dendy resides, above Montego Bay, does not appear to have suffered so much as many other places. He says, under date of April 6th:—

"In this district, although there is a general prostration, yet our springs and rivulets are never dry, hence our sufferings from drought are not so severe as in some other places; we find it, however, very difficult to keep open our schools, as parents do not send their children, and to repair the Chapels and Mission Premises, as we can but barely collect anything for these purposes; if there were funds for these objects in England, it would very materially aid us."

The Rev. G. R. Henderson, of Bethtephil, writes April 5th as follows:—

"It has done our hearts good to find our friends feeling so much for us. We have all been in distress, and some of our people are suffering much at the present time. Our crops are sadly thinned through the severe drought, and when the people are cutting cane by the load, or grinding by the syphon, they cannot live on what they earn. There are two estates close here, where one man with his three sons, big boys, have been out cutting canes; they have earned 1s. for the four per day, 3d. each. On another estate, they have ground twelve syphons in the week, giving the people not much more than 1d. per day; and when you take into account that their own grounds have not yielded you may tell that there is distress."

The Rev. E. Hewett, of Mount Carey, after expressing in a very warm manner his thanks for the relief afforded, refers to the state of his congregation. He says:—

"Our congregations are very much reduced. Large numbers who used to attend the house of God, now do not, because they cannot appear in what they consider suitable apparel, and such as they were once able to assume. This district is more free from the sad distress that has visited other parts of the island, simply because we have had more rain; but even here there are many objects of deep poverty amongst the old, and sick, and orphan children, with a class of coloured persons (mostly females), who were once in better circumstances, but who never engaged in manual labour; and now they are poor, and miserable, and

wretched. But we want clothes more than anything. Oh! how thankfully they would be received by some poor creatures. Among the old and sick there is nakedness and hunger painful to witness."

A quantity of clothes has been sent to Mr. Hewett to meet the painful want he describes. From a later letter it appears that even this somewhat favoured district has begun to suffer much from the long continued drought. "We are being burnt up," he says. "Things are getting worse and worse, instead of better. Clouds and darkness surround us, but God reigneth!"

Passing on to the parish of Trelawny, we reach Falmouth, the scene of the labours of Wm. Knibb. The Rev. T. Lea, his relative and successor, writes:—

"I hardly know what to say in reply to your very kind letter, and in acknow-ledgment of the opportune and generous grant of the Committee. You say well when you refer to the 'distress which seems to be crushing the energies of our brethren, and putting a stop to the improvement of the people.' How some with their large families have lived I know not, and how they have worked, oppressed with such fearful cares, is a still greater mystery to me.

"The thousands of poor half-starved old people who have been altogether dependent on relations or friends, or who receive the miserable pittance, grudgingly given of parochial relief are weetchedly cared for during these hard times

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"I was visiting through Granville on Tuesday, and from some of the old and sick, as well as from the leaders, I got a tale of suffering which made my heart bleed, and it was with no ordinary joy that I felt I could, through the liberality of British Christians, to some extent minister to their necessities.

"It is all true what the Kingston papers say as to the increase of crime; but he knows little of men or of history who denies that national poverty and crime go hand in hand, and the one, amongst ignorant and irreligious classes, is the occasion, if not the cause, of the other.

"But facts will explain the cry of poverty: the number of estates thrown up, the continuous droughts, the small amounts proprietors are willing to spend on estates. Trelawny this year, an experienced planter assures me, will only make 2000 hogsheads instead of 6000. Last year the number was fearfully below the average.

"A merchant in Falmouth, of long experience and good standing, told me the other day that his retail sales for January, February, and March 1865, were fifty per cent. less than in the corresponding months last year."

Falmouth and Granville are in the lowlands on the sea. The Rev. John Kingdon writes from his station in the mountains in the same parish:—

"I need not say what pleasure it gives us to know, that now the day of adversity has come, British Christians are so ready to sympathise with and help, not only us, but the people for whose welfare we desire to 'spend and be spent.'

"Nearly all the estates around us have ceased cultivation; there are no less than ten within a few miles of Falmouth offered for sale, because it will not pay to keep them on: and for a long time strong men, in order to get any work, have gone out for 9d. per day. I have been informed by several persons, that a few weeks since, on one of the estates near us, they were told if they could not work for 6d. a day, they were not wanted."

From the correspondence of the Rev. D. J. East, of Calabar, we select the following passages:—

"While there is some abatement of distress in some districts, the general depression seems to be increasing, while in some the drought continues to a most calamitous extent. A student who came yesterday from the borders of Clarendon and Manchester gives a grievous account of things. He says both estates and provision grounds are burnt up, and the hopes of the growers destroyed, while in

consequence of the parched condition of the ground, fires are of constant occurrence, cutting off any prospect there might have been.

"I am sorely afraid that we have not yet known the worst; for where crops fail for this season, it will entail privation and want under any circumstances till another comes round.

"A letter just to hand from Annotto Bay says:—'The unusual distress arises from two years of successive drought, the second more severe than the first year, and now with us the third year threatens to be still more severe than the second, unless the Lord be merciful to us and give us rain ere long."

As a proof that there must be a growing amount of distress in the parish of Trelawny, Mr. East tells us that four years ago the estate produce realised £200,000 and upwards. It is estimated that this year's produce will not realise much more than £70,000. On a visit to Clarksonville, where the native pastor, the Rev. E. Johnson, labours, Mr. East met with the following state of things in houses taken promiscuously in one part of the little township:—

"More than one half showed a scene of destitution very deplorable. There were children running about absolutely naked, and women only partially covered. There were others more decently clad, who declared the clothes they stood in were the only garments they had to wear. I saw one girl of fifteen years of age ironing a frock recently washed, and suggested that she must be getting ready to go to chapel the next day. But I found the dress belonged to her sister, and that it was the only decent one there was in the family; the poor girl herself had on a wornout muslin, so thin that it showed her naked black skin through it, and the tattered remains of the under garment by which it ought to have been covered. There was another girl in the same yard who declared the dress she wore was the only one she had, and that she had been compelled to work out in the field in that all the week. In another yard, I met a boy about fourteen or fifteen years old, with no other raiment than a ragged shirt, who assured us he had no lower raiment to put on. Numbers of these poor people have been unable to get to the house of God for months for the want of clothes; many of them members of the Church."

The Rev. John Clark, of Brown's Town, thus refers to the welcome gifts of clothing that have been forwarded:—

"Give our best and grateful thanks to those dear friends who, by their gifts of clothing, have enabled us to alleviate the distress of our own people and to send portions to others at a distance. I rejoice to learn that there are on the way so many packages to brethren in different parts of the island, for what has been received will meet the wants of a new portion of the members of our churches, who are suffering from distress.

"They will, whether sent to me or others, be applied as the generous donorsdesire, and may draw on them blessings in answer to the prayers of the recipients

of their bounty.

"The care thus manifested by the Committee and friends at home has cheered us greatly. It has taken a heavy burden off us, so that we shall be better enabled to press onward in the path of duty. Although this is a gloomy day—not only in temporal but in spiritual things—I believe the light of God's countenance will again shine upon us, and fill our hearts with joy and gladness. Those who have so generously helped us will pray for us. Their prayers will bring down on us the blessings of our common Father."

A native brother, the Rev. P. O'Meally, in the Mountains, writes as follows, under date of March 9th:—

"The state of things at present is awful: on every side are to be seen some half-naked persons walking in the roads; of course, it is worse in some places than in others.

"With us the house of God is badly attended; at one time I felt so discouraged that I made up my mind to leave the place, but after going among the people and becoming acquainted with their real state, I made up my mind to suffer with them."

"The one cry is distress: no clothing to attend the means of grace. We, in this district, do not suffer from dearth directly, but they have in the low lands. We are dependent on them for a little cash; if they cannot get employment they cannot purchase what is taken to market, consequently our people very often have to take their provisions to market and return without selling them.

"It is distressing to see some of our old people half naked going about seeking

aid."

The Rev. B. Millard, of St. Ann's Bay, summarizes thus the extent and intensity of the drought:—

"The drought in some places is very severe. I hear that in St. James's the yams to come in during June will be seriously injured, if not very much destroyed by the dry weather. In Lower Clarendon, Spanish Town, Kingston, St. Andrews, it is very severe. In the Dry Harbour Mountains and Pedroe district ponds and tanks are nearly dry, save in peculiarly favoured spots. In this district we have had acceptable rain on ten days out of one hundred and twelve days. True, some of the showers lasted only half an hour, but they were acceptable. On sixteen other days we had a sprinkling, but one hour's rain in eleven day's time is not very much in a tropical clinate. I only hope the May Seasons will set in favourably: if they fail us we shall be badly off indeed. May our Heavenly Father give us fruitful seasons."

In our latest letters from Mr. Millard, dated May 8th, he says:-

"We have had here very delightful showers since the 1st of May. We need some heavy pond rains yet, for which we are hoping; but are very thankful for the refreshing showers sent. I hear they have fallen in Clarendon, Manchester, Trelawny, and St. Ann's.

Thus succinctly have we passed over a large portion of the Island. Distress exists everywhere, more or less intense, and our friends will rejoice that their contributions have not only been fitly bestowed, but are giving courage and important aid to our brethren and their flocks in the sore trials they have to endure. May God grant that refreshing rains may continue to fall and become sufficiently abundant to restore plenty to the people; and that other causes of suffering and complaint may pass away through the adoption of wise measures, and by the hearty co-operation of all classes whose interests are so intimately bound up with the material prosperity of the Island.

From a letter addressed to the Committee by the Governor of the Island, we are happy to inform our readers that he has most kindly directed the Officers of Customs to admit, free of duty, the clothing sent by friends in this country, for gratuitous distribution among the poor.

# DECEASE OF MRS. SMITH, OF DELHI, AND OF MRS. RYCROFT, OF THE BAHAMAS.

Owing to the loss in the Post Office of the letters containing the information, we were unable at the time to announce the departure to her rest of our esteemed

friend, Mrs. Smith, the wife of the Rev. James Smith, of Delhi. This sad event took place on the 26th of last September. A letter from Delhi, dated the 27th of

September, thus speaks of it :-

"To-day every face is sad here, for remorseless death has robbed us of a friend and sister. Yesterday, about two o'clock p.m., the wife of the Rev. James Smith, Baptist Missionary, departed this life, deeply regretted by all who knew her. Her kindness and hospitality were proverbial; and in her we feel we have lost a friend we could ill spare. This morning, at eight o'clock a.m., her mortal remains were conveyed to the cemetery, and there interred, followed by a large number of civilians and officers of the 38th and 4th regiments. We were pleased to see a number of ladies in the mourning procession, who, contrary to custom, had ventured out to pay their last homage to the departed. Requiescat in pace."

Scarcely less grief will be felt by the friends in this country who had the pleasure of knowing our departed sister; her ready attention to the wants of the converts, her sympathy with them in their trials, will make her loss severely felt in the Mission. To our missionary brother the loss is irreparable. Two little children remain with him to be memorials of their affection, and a charge upon

his tenderness and care.

While preparing these pages for the press we learn the unexpected decease of the amiable wife of the Rev. W. K. Rycroft, of Turk's Island. Her illness was a short one, but she died rejoicing in the Saviour she loved. We shall prefer to give in other words than our own our estimate of her worth. The following is from the discourse preached at her funeral by the Rev. J. Moon, Wesleyan Missionary, to almost the entire population of the Island:—

"God has removed from your midst one whom you have long known and loved—one who by a life of unobtrusive piety did honour to the religion she professed and enjoyed. At an hour we thought not the summons came, and now our dear

departed sister is with Jesus.

"She was not taken by surprise. Long had she considered life's momentous subject and aim—long had she also sought to hold herself in readiness for the final summons. She has passed away when we least expected it, but we doubt not has

passed away to be for ever with the Lord.

"What she was as a Christian you all know. My own acquaintance with her has been for a short time only, but I have been particularly struck with her constancy and steadfastness—her devout reverence for God and the things of God—her kind and sympathetic disposition; indeed it has seldom fallen to my lot to know an individual whose life was more blameless than that of Sister Rycroft's, and I helieve that in this opinion I am sustained by the judgment of this entire community. During the past three years of my residence here I have not heard a single person speak of our departed friend save in terms expressive of the highest esteem.

"During the past few months I have had ample proof of her considerate kindness and anxiety to contribute to the comfort and happiness of others. Most of you will recollect her unvaried and unwearied attentions to the late Rev. Joseph Maxwell, rector of this parish, during his illness, and her unremitting kindness to

his family when he had passed away.

"Personally I shall cherish great regard for her memory, for the Christian sympathy and attention shown to Mrs. Moon during her affliction some weeks ago.

"But these are circumstances with which you are all well acquainted, as her acts of kindness were not confined to any section of this community, but all classes shared her sympathy and her care. She cultivated a wide and catholic spirit, whilst she cherished the most fervent love for the people amongst whom her lot was cast. I am not prepared to give you any description of her religious experience, or the various processes through which she passed ere she arrived at such ripeness and maturity—this duty will be performed by her now hereaved husband at the proper time. I gather, however, from statements she made to Mrs. Moon, that during her religious course she had at times been troubled with doubts. The day before her death she said—"Is it not strange that all my life I have been a doubting Christian, and now every doubt is taken away. I have no doubt—no fear. I would not lose the benefit of this affliction for all I possess in the world."

"In answer to the question—'Are you able to give up all for Christ and to Christ?' she replied with marked emphasis and force; 'Oh! yes; I lean on Him: He is my all in all: I am very ill, but He is a great Saviour, and will do all things well.' She requested Mrs. Moon to repeat some of her favourite hymns, such as—

'God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform—'

And-

'Just as I am—without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me, And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee— O Lamb of God, I come!'

"In this happy and submissive frame of mind she continued until called to lay down the mortal and put on the immortal; calmly and without a struggle she fell asleep in Jesus."

To our laborious missionary, Mr. Rycroft, the loss is most severe. He will have the affectionate sympathy of a very numerous body of friends, to whom Mrs. Rycroft became known during their recent visit to this country. The dear child, too, left behind in England, should be remembered in affection and prayer that she may tread in her mother's steps, and finally join her in that happy land where there is no separation or death.

#### ASSOCIATION OF NATIVE CHRISTIANS IN BENGAL.

[We have great pleasure in laying before our readers the following account of the Second Annual Meeting of our native Churches in Association in the villages to the south of Calcutta. Through various circumstances no European Missionary was present, and the narrative below is from a letter written to the Rev. George Kerry by Jacob Mundul, of Khari, one of the Pastors.]—ED. M. H.

On Tuesday, April the 4th, 1865, the brethren from this neighbourhood and from a distance, assembled after twelve o'clock, and in the afternoon, met in the Chapel; but on account of the absence of the president, at the request of the brethren, I accepted the duty of president.

First, our brother Jonah Sant gave out the 257th Hymn, after which Lukhynarayan, Pundit, offered prayer: then I announced the 323rd Hymn, and Horish Chundro Mundul prayed. I then read the 116th Psalm, gave a short address on gratitude, when the assembly broke up. There were about 250 people present. The next morning, April 5th, at nine o'clock I gave out the 22nd Hymn, Jonah Sant offered prayer, and Brindabun Holdar took for a text the 139th Psalm, from the 1st to the 12th verse, and preached a sermon on the infinite knowledge of God.

On the same day in the afternoon the people again met; I spoke a few words, and then one of the two hymns composed expressly for the occasion was sung and Kartick Chundro Ray prayed; the second hymn was then sung, and Giridhor Midhya prayed; afterwards I gave out the 23rd Hymn of the Hymn Book, and Kalachand Mundul prayed. I then took as a text from the 2nd chapter of Luke the 41st to 45th verses, and urged the people to desire the blessing of God on our meetings to the end of them.

On Thursday morning the 6th April, after I had announced a Hymn, and brother Ram Dass Ray had prayed, the business of the meeting commenced.

I read a report of the Khari church, as follows:—
Account of the baptized church at the village of Khari.

By the great mercy of God, our heavenly Father, we have obtained deliverance from many and special calamities in the past year. For all these deliverances we, with all our heart, gratefully acknowledge our obligation to Him.

For the information of all in the present assembly we briefly present a report of last year's work :---

To obtain deliverance from various perils, to make the people attentive to religious duties, and to get deliverance from opposition of the hostile sprinklers, a few of us being of one mind, have established a prayer meeting on each Wednesday at noon; at those times one or two addresses are given, and two or three prayers are offered. The people have given their minds to this. By the Cyclone of 20th of Aswin (5th October), our chapel was unroofed, hence this meeting has been closed. Yet God, the hearer of prayer, has fulfilled our desire. The people have not become inattentive to religion, and excepting a few, all those who went to the sprinklers, have returned to us.

(2.) Every Lord's day, two services for the worship of God have been held for the Christian people at Christianpara, at Brahminerabad, and at Maibeeber Hat;

and the Christians have received weekly instruction.

(3.) The Gospel has been continually preached in due order to the Hindus and Mussulmans. At melas, and festivals, and markets, particularly at Maibeeber-hat, the preaching has been constant. Our brother, Jonah Sant, is attentive to accomplish this good work; and at suitable times, &c., many tracts and Scriptures have been given away.

(4.) In the past year three Hindus have left their own false religion, and with their families have come amongst us. After the last Cyclone, our superintendent, the Rev. G. Kerry, did acts of kindness among the people generally, by that the

fame of our religion has in a special manner arisen.

(5.)—For the boys and girls in Christianpara there is a day school, containing from 20 to 25 pupils. The teacher, Dwarkanath Mundul, receives his support from the Calcutta Auxiliary Missionary Society. And besides this school, since the last month of Magh, our brother, Jonah Sant, has established a school in his own house, for Hindu boys and girls, at Mybeeberhat. At present there are 34 boys and 2 girls—in all 36 children are present. As already there is in brother Sant's hands abundance of important work, he can only instruct the children in religion at leisure times; but his eldest son, Nondo Lall Sant is very diligent in promoting this important work. Nondo Lall only receives a very little from the boys—in the last three months he has only received 1s. 6d.

(6.) Last year the Christian people commenced to make a monthly collection, and, until the storm, gave as they were able. By this £2 1s. 9d. have been obtained. Of this, for the repairs of the verandah of the chapel, 18s. have been expended, and for mats for the chapel 15s. 7½d. have been paid, leaving a balance of 8s. 1½d. The amount received from the collection at the Lord's Table, and given in fulfilment of vows to the Lord, is £3 7s. 9¾d. Of this 16s. 3d. have

been given to the poor, and there is in hand £2 11s. 63d.

(7.) With the wish of getting some assistance for the repairs of our fallen chapel from the Hindus and Mussulmans, we made an appeal to them, and they with great gladness gave us something. In the subscription list nearly 34 rupees (£3 8s. 0d.) are written, but I have only obtained 18s. I have not been able to collect the rest on account of prevalence of cholera in our village, but nearly all are willing

to pay.

(8.) By the assault of the terrific storm of October last, and the cholera in March, though eight souls have been taken from amongst us into eternity, and though it seemed probable that many more souls would be taken, by the display of great mercy God the Father delivered us from the above dangers. For this with all our hearts we bless Him. There was no likelihood of my son surviving; the brethren hearing our lamentations, nearly all of them, of one heart, with earnest entreaties, made continuous prayer to God; and the kind missionaries of Calcutta immediately they heard the news prayed for my help. I with all my heart thank them.

(9.) Statistics of the courch and congregation connected with us altogether are 402 souls. Three persons, members of the Church, have died. Two persons have been excluded. Four persons have been received or restored. Eleven have been

baptized. At present there are 65 full members of the Church.

JACOB MUNDUL.

2.-Korgeshwur Sirdar, the pastor of the Church at Lakhyantipore, not being

present, Kartick Chunder Ray gave a brief account of the Church. People from the following ten villages form the Church and congregation—viz., Lakhyantipore, Dhankhatta, Bolorampore, Chowkitolla, Dorirchok, Morapai, Banspalla, Sodasib-

pore, Gorizolla, and Sougrampore.

The people connected with the Church and congregation, reckoning men, women and children, number 363. Amongst these there are, at present, 64 full members of the Church. During the year four persons have been excluded, and three have died, and one has been added by baptism. The Rev. Mr. Kerry is the pastor of the Church, and the assistant pastor is Khorgeshwar Sirdar. The Evangelists are Dorpo Narayan Mundul, Kartick Chunder Ray, and Brindabun Holdar: these give instruction to the people of the villages, and look after them and proclaim the Gospel to the Hindoos and Mussulmans living near and at a distance. These brethren meet once a week for mutual counsel and prayer for the increase of the Church.

Kartick Ray goes monthly to Dighir Pahar (distance 20 miles) to give instruction to the Christian people there, and stays with them ten days. There are three Day schools connected with the Church; namely at Dhankhatta, one for boys and another for girls; and one at Lakhyantipore for girls. The work of preaching has been much hindered, and also the prosperity of the schools, by the Cyclone, and after that by the cholera, small pox, &c. We are blessing God that we have been delivered from all these distresses, and we hope that hereafter more prosperity will be enjoyed by us.

3.—Lukhynarayan Pundit gave a report of North Lukhyantipore and Narsigdarchoke. He was much distressed at having to speak of the misconduct of the people. The Gospel was regularly preached to the Hindoos and Mussulmans of the neighbourhood. Ram Dass confirmed the above report. The Pundit had

forgotten to bring the statistics of the Church.

4.—Horish Chandro, the preacher, was the only person present from Bishtopore. He gave a brief verbal statement of the condition of the Church. The disposition of the people was not pleasing. The work of the Lord was going on with the the Hindoos and Mussulmans. The Christian community consisted of about 35 persons, of whom 14 were members of the Church. In the Day school there were 35 pupils.

5.—The preacher from Russool Mahomed Choke, was not present, but Toophan Chokdar, the school teacher, gave some account of the state of the Church. This was not very cheering. The nominal Christians numbered about 20 persons, and

the members of the Church 10. In the Day school there were 37 boys.

6. Giridhor Midhyer gave an account of Ros Khali, not very satisfactory. The preaching to the heathen was going on regularly. There were 42 nominal Christians. One had been excluded from the Church. There were three members.

The Day school contains fifty pupils, taught by two teachers.

7.—Jani Chundro Sirdar reported concerning Tambuldah. On account of the continued illness of Gopal Chundro Sirkar, the preaching had not gone on. The number of people of the congregation was 64 persons. 20 were members of the Church. Amongst the Christians there is a weekly collection on the Sabbath day. In all matters of this sort the two brothers, Modon Mohon Mundul and Jogeswur

Mundul were particularly attentive.

- 8.—On the above reports having come to an end, the eleven persons who had been prepared were baptized in the adjoining tank, after which all reassembled in the chapel to take the Lord's Supper. I first gave a sermon, taking as a text Psalm l. v. 5—"Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice;" and then I administered the Lord's Supper, of which from 80 to 90 people partook. The collection for the poor amounted to six shillings. I also obtained at this time nearly thirty-six shillings as special contributions, in fulfilment of vows made in the time of suffering from cholera, or some other trouble.
- 9.—For Chapel furniture, Parbottee Charon Haldar, and his wife, Dropothe, gave £1 2s., and a widow gave towards the expenses of the Association 18s.

  10.—With the provisions which were left, and some more purchased, the

people of this place kept a sort of Easter festival; on the 12th of April, being the 1st day of the Bengali year, I assembled the people together at the Chapel in the morning. Kala Chund Mundul offered prayer after singing the second hymn. Bikari Bhye prayed; then I read the 17th, 18th, and 19th verses of the 12th chapter of Deuteronomy, Raj Bolloth, of Dhankathi then prayed, after which I gave a short sermon from the 9th chapter, Esther, v. 21 and 22; the service was closed with prayer.

At this time, reckoning men, women and children, there were nearly 450 of our own people who ate together. In joy we spent the time. For all these things we are praising God, and from hearing on this day that you, Sir, had arrived safe at home, we were at rest and content.

11.—Our expenditure has been for this Association about £11; by collections I have obtained from the people about £8. God has supplied all things; I am blessing him. Victory to Jesus! Jacob Mundul.

#### HOME INTELLIGENCE.

During the last month the Rev. Robert Robinson has given Missionary Addresses at Salter's Hall Chapel, Canonbury, at Maze Pond Chapel, and Cross Street, Islington. He has also preached for the Mission at Notting Hill Chapel. The Rev. John Robinson has visited Rickmansworth and Northamptonshire, being accompanied in the latter by the Rev. W. H. Gamble, of Trinidad. The Rev. R. Bion has held Missionary meetings in Cambridgeshire and at Markyate Street.

Our esteemed brother, the Rev. Thos. Evans, has continued his very useful labours in South Wales. He reports that in nine places in Cardiganshire and its vicinity, he has obtained new subscribers to the number of 350 of half-a-crown each. These zealous friends might find perhaps many imitators in our English congregations.

#### REMOVAL OF OFFICES.

Our friends and correspondents will be so kind as to forward all future communications to the new Mission House,

### 2, JOHN STREET, BEDFORD ROW, W.C.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

Received on account of the Baptist Missionary Society, from March 20th to March 31st, 1865.

W & O denotes that the Contribution is for Widows and Orphans; NP for Native Preachers;
T. for Translations.

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## Contributions from 1st April to 31st May, 1865.

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Collection	Romford, Salem Church— Contributions (less expenses)	Do., King.street, for two Y P, under Rev. F. T. Reed, Cutva, India
Collection	Romford, Salem Church— Contributions (less expenses)	Do., King-street, for two V P, under Rev. F. T. Reed, Cutva, India
Collection	Romford, Salem Church— Contributions (less expenses)	Do., King.street, for two Y P, under Rev. F. T. Reed, Cutva, India 20 0 C Do. City-rd. Sunday—School for Rev. T. Morgan's Natice School, Howrah 6 0 0 C Contributions 12 4 S Frome, Badcox Lane—Contributions 28 8 6 Do., Sheppards Barton—Contributions 52 15 4 Do. Sunday schl. for Mrs. Anderson's School, Jessore 5 0 0 Do., do., for Rev. F. D. Waldock's School, Ceylon
Collection	Romford, Salem Church	Do., King-street, for two V P, under Rev. F. T. Reed, Cutva, India
A   10	Romford, Salem Church— Contributions (less expenses)	Do., King.street, for two Y P, under Rev. F T. Reed, Cutva, India
Collection	Romford, Salem Church	Do., King. street, for two Y P, under Rev. F. T. Reed, Cutva, India
Collection	Romford, Salem Church	Do., King. street, for two Y P, under Rev. F. T. Reed, Cutva, India
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Collection	Romford, Salem Church	Do., King-street, for two V P, under Rev. F. T. Reed, Cutva, India
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