

Missionary Herald.

BAPTIST MISSION.

Home Proceedings.

Plan for paying off the Society's Debt.

IN our Number for February last we stated that the Committee had adopted a plan for the immediate liquidation of the debt of £3000 yet remaining due from the Society, on the principle of a subscription, payable only in case the whole sum should be raised; and it was added, that prompt measures would be taken to introduce the plan more fully to our friends at large. Since that time, the subject has occupied much of the anxious attention of the Committee, and they gratefully acknowledge the readiness and zeal which have been shewn, in a variety of quarters, to co-operate with them in this important and most desirable effort. It has gratified them especially to observe that, in different parts of the country, individuals, to whom a donation of £10 would be impracticable, have united their contributions so as to make up that sum, agreeably to the suggestion already thrown out. The Committee are persuaded that the friends of the Society will hear with great pleasure that more than £1600 is already subscribed; and as many individuals in the metropolis, from whom contributions may be hoped for, have not yet been waited on, and the lists from Bristol, Birmingham, Norwich, Leeds, and other large and opulent places, have not been received, there is every reason to expect success, *provided only that those who approve the object, whether in town or country, will promptly and vigorously exert themselves.*

This exertion, therefore, the Committee do most earnestly and respectfully solicit. To fail in the accomplishment of this important object, when it has advanced so near attainment, would indeed be painful; but they entreat the readers of this paper

to consider that the time within which the subscription must be filled up, is nearly completed, and that therefore *it is particularly desirable that whatever is intended to be done, should be done at once.* They would remind all who wish well to the cause, and to whom God has given the ability, that the contribution of each person is, from the nature of the case, of far more value than the identical sum so contributed, and that every person who adds his name to the list will, if called on for the money, have the delightful gratification of insuring the removal of a burden which, in one form or other, has impeded the operations of the Society for seven or eight years.

A list of the sums already subscribed may be seen at the Missionary Rooms, No. 6, Fen-court, Fenchurch-street; or by application to any Member of the General, or Corresponding Committee in town or country.

Satisfied that the cause they are pleading is the cause of their adorable Master, the Committee leave it in his hands, and to the affectionate and grateful regards of his people; and they doubt not that He who noticed, with such condescending approbation, the widow's mite, will remember, in his mercy, *the work of faith and labour of love*, which, on this occasion, his servants may shew unto his name.

Notice to Auxiliary Societies, &c.

THE Treasurers of Auxiliary Societies, and other friends who may have monies in hand on account of the Society, are respectfully reminded that the Treasurer's account for the year will close on the first of June, and that therefore all payments intended to appear in the Appendix to the next Annual Report, must be made in the course of the current month. It is requested that the respective accounts may be sent properly balanced, and that lists of Subscribers, &c. in alphabetical order, be forwarded at the same time.

THE Committee are happy to announce, that the Rev. William Steadman, D.D. President of the Bradford Academy, and the Rev. George Barclay, of Irvine in Scotland, have engaged to preach the Sermons at the ensuing Anniversary. That in the evening will be delivered at Surry Chapel, which has been very kindly lent for the occasion by the Rev. Rowland Hill and the Trustees.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE Second Anniversary of the Bedfordshire Missionary Society was held at Biggleswade, on Tuesday, March 25, on which occasion three sermons were delivered. The Rev. R. Hall, of Leicester, preached in the morning, from Isaiah viii. 20. Professor Woods, from Washington in America, in the afternoon, from Hebrews xiii. 14. Rev. Henry Lacey, of Salters'-hall, London, in the evening, from Heb. v. 1, 2. The devotional services were conducted by Messrs. Blandell of Northampton, Hemming of Kimbolton, Blackburn of Pantonville, Greenwood of Royston, Hillyard of Bedford, and Holloway of Gotton End. An encouraging statement was given of the receipts of the Society during the past year. John Foster, Esq. was requested to continue the office of Treasurer, Messrs. Hillyard and Middleditch were re-elected Secretaries, and upwards of £36 was collected at the doors. The services were found peculiarly interesting. On Thursday, the 27th, Mr. Hall advocated the cause of the Baptist Mission in a very eloquent sermon, at Ridgmount in this county, when upwards of £24 was collected.

Biggleswade.

T. M.

GREAT MISSENDEN, BUCKS.

WE announced, in our Number for March 1822, the formation of a Missionary Association in this village, intended to assist, equally, the funds of the Church and Baptist Missionary Societies. The affectionate zeal then displayed gave fair promise of the efficiency of this rural institution, and we rejoice to say, that the promise has been nobly fulfilled. The first Annual Meeting was held on the 31st of March last, the Rev. Richard Marks,

Vicar of the parish, in the chair, and it appeared, from the report of the Committee, then read, that this active Society, chiefly conducted by females, had raised, in the first year, no less a sum than *seventy-three pounds!* The meeting, which was very numerously attended, was held in the spacious school room, erected by the liberality of the late J. O. Oldham, Esq. and appropriate addresses were delivered by the Reverend Chairman, the Rev. W. Stephens, Vicar of Bledlow, and several other Ministers and Gentlemen; as also by the Rev. John Dyor, Secretary to the Baptist Missionary Society, and the Rev. Benjamin Rayson of Somers Town, who was on a journey for the benefit of the Moravian Missions, and preached for that Society in the evening. This supplementary service exhibited an interesting specimen of Christian union. A Director of the *London Missionary Society* pleading (not in vain) the cause of his *Moravian* brethren in a Baptist meeting-house before a congregation, including many respectable members of the *Established Church!* Thus may the spirit of zeal for the promotion of our common Christianity, continue to strengthen and multiply the bonds of mutual attachment between the disciples of the Redeemer, till the sublime intercessory prayer, offered at the close of his earthly ministry, be completely answered, and the final proof be afforded that he was indeed a Teacher sent from above! *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

Foreign Intelligence.

SERAMPORE.

An esteemed correspondent in Scotland informs us, that a letter, which had just reached him from Calcutta mentions the death of Mr. Felix Carey, eldest son of Dr. Carey, who has, for some years past, been residing at Serampore, and diligently employed in translating various useful works into the Bengalee language. It is probable that we may be

able to furnish further particulars of this mournful event in our next number.

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BENCOOLEN.

FROM a joint letter from our Missionaries at this station, dated in April, 1822, we extract the following particulars, which would have been inserted earlier, but for the press of other matter.

Whilst in the Marlbro' Bazar one evening lately, distributing Tracts, the cry of fire! fire! was heard; and on turning towards Old Bencoolen, we observed a volume of dense black smoke rising from an extent of flame which seemed to envelop the whole Bazar. Our native school-room was situated in the midst of the Bazar, and we had not the slightest idea that it would escape. On proceeding to the spot, however, the following morning, we found it untouched, although the fire had approached within fifteen yards of it. One of the Datus, or native magistrates, who had been burnt out of his house, had taken up his abode in it. The school furniture which happened to be at the Datu's house, was burnt with it. The ashes were still smoking when we arrived: the fuel having consisted almost entirely of shops and their contents, quantities of rice, with various other articles burnt and parched, lay strewn about in all directions. The conduct of the people, whilst the fire was raging, was quite characteristic. When about thirty houses had been consumed, a gentleman from Marlbro' happened to arrive, having accidentally taken a ride at the time in that direction. He found the natives looking upon the fire with the utmost unconcern, satisfying themselves that it was their fortune, and could not be remedied, and therefore caring but little to remove the articles out of their shops and houses before the flames seized and consumed them. Although one range of the houses was built on the very brink of the river, to obstruct the progress of the fire was a thought which never entered their minds. The gentleman no sooner arrived, than he took measures to prevent farther mischief. He directed them to pull down a house or two on each side of the street, but was himself obliged to

commence the business, and to make use of both persuasive and coercive measures before he could prevail on a single individual to join him in it. Although the breeze continued strong, the plan succeeded, and the fire was suppressed, after consuming thirty-five houses. An attempt was made during the night, happily without effect, to revive it, by throwing a bag of fire upon the thatch of a neighbouring house. The sensation produced by this conflagration was not perhaps so great as would have been excited by the burning of a single English cottage.

The Sabbath after the fire we proceeded to the place again, and took up our station in the school-room, where the Datu was still living. People, to the amount of ten or twenty, collected, and for upwards of three hours heard with attention the truths and doctrines of the gospel. The conference was opened by the reading and explaining of a portion of a tract on the subject of the creation, and the fall of man, which had recently issued from the press. A considerable time having been spent in this exercise, one of the hearers, with an air of great respect, and apparent sincerity, stepped forward, and put several rather singular questions concerning God, amongst which, addressing himself to brother Robinson, he said, "Sir, I have heard a great deal about God; but have never seen him. People speak of his form (referring perhaps to the passage in the tract, 'God made man after his own image,') and say that he is very great or large, and that he is very high and very powerful. How large therefore is he, and how high, and how is he powerful?" He was answered, that when the form or image of God was spoken of, reference was made to spiritual attributes, and not to material shape; and that when he was said to be high, he must not suppose God to be tall, like a cocoa-nut tree; and that when he was said to be powerful, he must not believe him to be strong like a buffalo, because God was a spirit without a material body: that our governor was but a small man, yet every one understood what was intended when he was called great, or high, or powerful. The poor man seemed perfectly satisfied with this explanation, and invited us, when we came again, to pay him a visit. He took thankfully two of our little books, and promised he would learn to read them; like many others, he could but just read the characters. Numbers of

all classes of the people, who make any pretensions to a knowledge of the letters. It was originally prepared for the children in the native schools, and the most common subjects were chosen, for the purpose of rendering it easy to them. The reception it has met among the superior, as well as amongst the lower orders, very strongly marks the state of literature and of the native mind. A work adapted to the capacity of no child in England more than seven years of age, is received here by persons of the highest rank and greatest learning, as quite worthy of their attention. Our object has been to unite perspicuous language with clear printing and systematic orthography. In each of these it is to be hoped we have succeeded. The language is such as the most unlearned can comprehend, and the printing is as clear and legible as we ever expected to make it; what has been done in orthography you will hereafter learn from a work on the subject, soon to be put into the press.

JAMAICA.

SINCE our last, we have been favoured with the copy of a letter from Mr. Knibb to a near relative in Bristol, containing not merely the account of his arrival at Kingston, but further particulars respecting the work of God there, which will gladden the hearts of many. The following are extracts;—

“We landed at Kingston on January 20, and were very kindly received by Mr. and Mrs. Coultart, at whose house we still reside, and whose kindness and attention increase rather than diminish towards us. Thus far we are highly favoured, as many missionaries have experienced the greatest difficulties on their arrival, whereas we have experienced none. Goodness and mercy have hitherto followed us. Mrs. K. has been rather unwell since her arrival, but I was never better in my life. I perceive the salutary effects of this climate already on my constitution; and I have reason to hope, through the blessing of God, that the indisposition I so often experienced in England will be entirely

removed. Certainly, I have not been here a sufficient time to speak from experience. I trust that I do bless God for bringing me to this island. Here is much to be done. The people seem to be evidently a prepared people for the Lord. The third day after my arrival here I went to Port Royal, five miles from Kingston, in a canoe, to preach. It was the second time the room was open, which will hold from 150 to 200. It was not half large enough. It was crowded to excess. The stairs were also filled, and as many persons without as within. I endeavoured to talk to them in as plain a manner as I could. They were very attentive all the time. They thanked God that he had sent another minister out. Their eyes glowed with pleasure, while many of them said, ‘O me love you, me sweet massa, me sweet massa.’ If we had a large place of worship I have no doubt it would be filled. The congregation at Kingston is very large. It would surprise you to witness the earnest attention with which they listen to the word. They seem to listen as though they never heard of salvation before, or as if they wished to catch every word.

“I shall now proceed to give you an account of the second Sabbath I spent here, a day to be remembered with peculiar pleasure. Being ordinance day, and there being many candidates for baptism, this was the day fixed for administering the two ordinances. Baptism is administered at an early hour for several reasons: 1. That those who are servants may be back to their employers in time. 2. That the sun should not scorch us. And, 3. To prevent the assemblage of carriages, &c. &c. We set off between four and five for the sea-side, there being too many for the baptistery in the chapel. Though it was so early, vast numbers were assembled at the place of baptism, and many had slept all night under the trees to be there in time. Tents were erected for dressing, and enclosed with rails. A number of canoes filled with spectators, formed a semicircle, within which baptism was administered. Though the numbers were great, they behaved with the greatest decorum, and seemed impressed with the solemnity of the ordinance. The candidates were arranged in double columns:—the men on one side and the women on the other. The women had white dresses, and the men white trowsers and shirts. Mr. C. and I, and several of the men—

bers, leaders, deacons, &c. stood between the columns, and commenced by singing and prayer. I then took two of the men into the water, to a sufficient depth, and, after repeating the usual words, baptized them. The time the ordinance was administering was employed in singing, which lasted nearly an hour. Out of eighty females not one made the least disturbance, or discovered the least fear of the water. Nothing occurred to interrupt the solemnity of this important, this interesting ordinance. The number of persons baptized was *one hundred and fifty-two*. It was an interesting spectacle, such an one as perhaps is seldom witnessed. The greatest caution has been exercised in receiving these candidates. Many more have been rejected than have been received. Their knowledge, doubtless, is scanty, but many of their prayers testify that they are acquainted with the fundamental truths of the gospel. They have no inducements to hypocrisy, except ridicule and persecution; no inducements. Mr. C. is as faithful in addressing them as a man can possibly be; telling them that it will be of no use whatever to be baptized if they do not love and serve God; on the contrary, it would be far better for them if they were never baptized at all.

"In the afternoon the Lord's-supper was administered. This was also a spectacle that would rejoice the hearts of the people of God to witness. The far greater part of the congregation remained, and above a thousand partook of this Christian repast. When will the time arrive when the far greater part of English congregations will sit down to celebrate the dying love of the Saviour? God grant that it may be hastened. One of the natives said to me, 'O how I should like to go to

England where the good people live who send out good men to teach us!' Poor man, thought I, you would be greatly disappointed: you would wonder to see so few remain at the table of the Lord, and so many who care for none of these things.

"Our monthly prayer-meeting was well attended. The earnest and simple prayers of the negroes affected me much. I was highly delighted. How much did I wish that my Bristol Christian friends could witness the sight. It would, I am sure, have done their hearts good to hear a poor African pray in the presence of hundreds of his fellow-countrymen, 'thanking God that he had sent the gospel to poor black negroes, who were so wicked as to deserve to be shut up with devils, where no sun shine, and where no Saviour come!'"

At the date of this letter (Feb. 11,) it had not been decided whether Mr. Knibb should remain at Kingston, or proceed to Manchinel. From the rapid increase of the church and congregation under Mr. Coultart's care, the pleasing opening at Port Royal, and the need of a teacher for the school, it seems probable that the former step will be deemed the more expedient of the two. In that case, the Committee will be very anxious to send out another labourer as early as possible; and they feel convinced that all their friends will unite with them in opinion that a field so promising ought not to be neglected.

Contributions received by the Treasurer of the Baptist Missionary Society, from March 20, to April 20, 1823, not including Individual Subscriptions.

FOR THE MISSION.		£	s.	d.
Legacy of Mr. Thomas Mann, late of London, (Exor. Mr. T. J. Crookford) 8 per Cent. 1720	.....	100	0	0
Legacy of John Trigg, Esq. late of Melbourn Bury, Cambridge-shire, (Executors, W. Nash, C. Finch, and T. Scruby, Esquires,)	.....	£100	90	0
	less duty	10		
Reading, Collection and Subscriptions, by Rev. J. H. Hinton	.....	111	7	0
Aberdeen, Auxiliary Society, by Mr. Thomson	.....	6	9	11
Female-Servant Society	.....	4	0	0
		10	9	11

	£	s.	d.
Dudley, by Rev. Charles Hardcastle, first payment	6	13	6
Second	5	10	0
	12	3	6
Edinburgh, Auxiliary Missionary Society, by W. Murray, Esq.	40	0	0
Sundries, by Rev. W. Innes	46	7	0
Penn (Bucks) Baptist Church, by Mr. Delling	0	16	0
Sutton, Norfolk, by Mr. Squirrel	2	10	0
Newark, Female Auxiliary Society, by Rev. W. Perkins	8	9	4½
Penzance, Missionary School Union, by Master Thomas Rosewall	4	2	6
Cumbræ, N. B. Bible and Missionary Association, by Mr. James M'Kirdy	5	5	0
Northampton, Collection, Small Society, &c. by Rev. T. Blundell	67	0	0
Produce of 100 Pocket Books, presented by Miss H. Kiernan, Drumcondra, near Dublin	12	8	6
Wincobank, near Sheffield, Missionary Association, by Miss Reads	8	8	0
A Friend by Ditto	1	1	0
	9	9	0
Yorkshire, West Riding Assistant Society, by M. Thackrey, Esq.			
Bramley	10	0	0
Rawdon	5	16	0
Shipley	7	0	0
Salendine Nook	17	15	0
	40	11	0
Mr. John Deakin, Birmingham	150	0	0
Thomas Key, Esq. Water Fulford	Ditto	175	0
William Dennis, Esq. Penzance, by Rev. John Foxall	5	0	0

TRANSLATIONS.

Dublin, Hibernian Society for promoting the Translation of the Holy Scriptures, by Rev. John Short	70	0	0
Mr. Howden, Garleton, N. B. by Mr. Liddle	12	10	0
Kingstanley, Baptist Church, by Rev. J. Cousins	2	0	0
Rawdon, Collection, by Rev. J. Mann	2	4	0
Sorn and Catrine, N. B. Association for Religious Purposes, by Rev. George Barclay	8	0	0

SCHOOLS.

Kingstanley, Baptist Church, by Rev. J. Cousins	2	0	0
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FEMALE EDUCATION.

Newcastle and Pottery Female School, by Mr. Thomas Thompson. Second Annual Subscription	15	0	0
Leeds, Female Branch Society, by M. Thackrey, Esq.	16	13	8

COLLEGE.

Thomas Key, Esq. Water Fulford	25	0	0
Kingstanley, Baptist Church, by Rev. J. Cousins	2	0	0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A Parcel, containing Pincushions, &c. for the Female Native Schools, has been received, kindly presented by the pupils of the Misses Grove and Burchell, Yeovil.

Our Correspondent from Ipswich will perceive that the Herald contains a full answer to his friendly enquiry. We certainly hope to hear further from him on the subject.

The Communications from D. T. Tewkesbury, have been received, and met due attention.

The Editor is much gratified by the friendly letter of E. W. Lockwood. He has received the amount mentioned therein.

T. W. Woodford, is informed that his Subscription for the Bath Society came duly to hand.