

THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

REPORT.

THE lapse of time has again brought round the period at which the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society are accustomed to present to the constituency their Annual Report.

THE MISSIONARIES.

Very few have been the years in which it has not been their sorrow to record the decease of some beloved labourer from among the missionary band. The last year is a gratifying exception. For although some of the missionary families have suffered from sickness, and one brother, the Rev. H. Smylie, of Dinagepore, has had to sustain the loss of his endeared wife, not one of the missionaries has entered on his eternal rest. With one exception the entire body of the Society's missionaries remains intact, while some few additions have been made to the number engaged in the work of God.

In the last report it was announced that a suitable person had been found to follow in the steps of the lamented Davies, of Ceylon, and to replace the loss occasioned by the foundering at sea of the ship in which Mr. Dawson and his family were returning to this country. In the month of August, Mr. and Mrs. Davis sailed for their destination, and arrived safely in Colombo before the close of the year. Meanwhile the inquiries of the Committee for a tutor for the important institution at Calabar, Jamaica, were crowned with success. At their invitation the Rev. D. J. East, of Waltham Abbey, signified his willingness to undertake the charge of the institution, where he arrived with his family early in the present year. The same month, November, that bore Mr. East to Jamaica, witnessed also the departure of the Rev. D. Webley, for Haiti. The precarious health of the Rev. W. H. Webley constrained the Committee to relieve the solitariness of his position, and they gladly accepted the offer of his younger brother to proceed immediately to his assistance. He arrived at Jacmel in January, and the Committee rejoice to learn that the health of his brother is in a great measure restored. Besides these additions to our missionary strength, the Committee have obtained the services of the Rev. J. Jackson, of Falmouth, for the pastorate of the Baptist church at Agra. The health of the Rev. J. Makepeace being sufficiently established, these two brethren sailed together in the William Carey in the month of February, and are now on their way to the scene of their future ministry for Christ, accompanied with the many prayers of the friends of the Society, whose interest in India has, in an especial manner, been awakened by the eloquent appeals and striking facts that have proceeded from the lips of Mr. Makepeace, during his sojourn in his native land. The Committee also heard with gratitude, about the middle of the year, that our brethren Saker and

Wheeler had resumed the interrupted mission in Western Africa ; at the date of the last advices their health was good, and their prospects were most cheering. One reduction only from the number of the brethren engaged in the service of the Society has to be recorded, occasioned by the return of the Rev. George Small, of Benares, on account of impaired health. He will not again resume the work, but intends to exercise his ministry in this country.

While, therefore, Delhi is still vacant, and Benares requires the presence of another missionary, the Committee have been enabled, by God's blessing, in some measure to repair the breaches that death had made in Ceylon, in Africa, and in Jamaica ; at the same time adding to the efficiency of the mission, and extending its operations in some important places in India and in the island of Haiti.

THE AFRICAN MISSION.

The resumption of the mission in Fernando Po, and on the neighbouring coast, has been attended by several encouraging circumstances. It was found that during the entire absence of European superintendence, the church at Clarence, numbering about a hundred members, had regularly met for Divine worship on the Lord's day, and for prayer during the week. Under the guidance of its deacons it had observed the ordinances of the house of God, in particular watching with jealous care over the purity of its fellowship. It might well have been thought, that many of the converts would quickly return to their degrading superstitions when the watchful eye and the warning voice of the missionary were removed. Such indeed were the fears of many. It would have been no surprise to have found the church disorganized and the members scattered, and large numbers again captive to the vices of savage life. But the grace of God had not been preached or received in vain. It manifested its power in the godly jealousy with which the church was on the one hand guarded from the intrusion of unregenerate men, and on the other hand by freeing itself from fellowship with apostacy. Three individuals had already been excluded from the church for sin before the arrival of Mr. Saker, and the closest investigation ended in the separation of only three more. Surely we have in this a striking manifestation of the power of the gospel to elevate, to sanctify, and to save the most debased of our fellow men ; and may we not learn to repose yet more confidence in the sincerity of the converts ; with less fear for the results commit these infant churches to the grace of God, and to the teaching of the Holy Spirit ? The Committee have marked their sense of the activity and devotedness of the senior deacon, Mr. Wilson, by presenting to him a copy of Henry's Commentary on the Scriptures. On the continent, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Johnson, both black men, had continued diligently employed in their great work : the latter with very considerable success at Cameroons, the former at Bimbia. On the arrival of the missionary, several persons were found prepared to put on the Lord Jesus. Their faith had been severely tried by persecution, only with the effect of deepening convictions, and adding both to the numbers of the candidates and to the steadfastness of all. It was

the privilege of Mr. Saker, shortly after his arrival, to baptize five converts, as the first ingathering of our native brothers' toil.

The translation and printing of the word of God has been resumed by Mr. Saker; Mr. Wheeler has commenced the study of Fernandian, in order to proceed with advantage on missionary journeys among the aborigines of Fernando Po. One heavy trial has, however, overtaken the church at Clarence. In the month of November, a destructive tornado levelled their humble chapel with the ground. For some time past the people had been making contributions to replace the old building by a new one. This is now become a necessity, and the Committee trust it will speedily be accomplished.

WEST INDIES.

In the islands of the West, three missions are sustained by the Society, those of Trinidad, Haiti, and the Bahamas. In the first two islands the population is chiefly Roman Catholic: but in Trinidad the power of Rome is supreme. With their national independence, the Haitiens gained a large measure of religious freedom, and the influence of the papacy declined. During the past year more converts than in several former years have been baptized in both these fields of labour, while Haiti in particular presents many encouraging features. In both islands the mission has been extended: in Trinidad to the important district of Couva: in Haiti, at Port au Plat, where Mr. Rycroft, our late missionary at Turk's Island, with very encouraging prospects, has just settled, reviving the work some few years ago interrupted by the jealous independence of the native authorities. One hundred and thirty-one converts are in church fellowship at these stations, while the number of attendants at the regular services of the house of God on the Lord's day, averages upwards of 500 persons. In Trinidad, the first baptist and member of the church has been called into rest, after many years' consistent walk as a Christian, maintained amidst much poverty and distress. He was an American slave refugee, and was the first on the island to speak to his fellow men the pure gospel of the kingdom. If in these localities the work has been slow in its progress, yet is the promise sure. Present success is a pledge of the faithfulness of Him who hath said, that in Christ Jesus "shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed."

THE BAHAMAS.

The mission in the islands, or rather islets, of the great sand-banks of Bahamas, has engaged the peculiar attention of your Committee. Although very numerous, perhaps some five hundred in number, not more than fourteen or sixteen of these rocky islands, or keys as they are called, are inhabited. They are for the most part long, narrow, and low, covered with a light sandy soil. The inhabitants are but thinly scattered over them. Cat Island, though ninety miles in length, has a population not exceeding two thousand. The population of the entire group does not reach thirty thousand individuals. Yet on these islands it has pleased God largely to bless his word, and to gather numerous churches of Christ to show forth his praise. About 2700 persons are embraced in the fellowship of the numerous churches, being nearly a tenth part of the entire population of the islands; and a considerable number of

persons are in communion with native baptist churches, that have no connexion with the Society. In nearly all the islands suitable buildings have been erected for the public worship of God, and also for the education of the young. The average attendance on divine worship in connexion with this mission is about eight thousand; the week services are also proportionately attended by the people. Three missionaries have hitherto watched over this interesting field. One has confined his labours to the important island of New Providence, where there are churches numbering upwards of seven hundred members: while the other two have ranged over the various islands of the group. The difficulty of access, the danger attending voyages at certain seasons of the year, and the wide scattering of the churches on the islands themselves, have constrained the missionary's visits to be few, averaging perhaps two in the year. The churches have therefore, for the most part, been necessarily left in the hands of native teachers or leaders: by whom, in the intervals of the missionary's visit, divine worship has been conducted, and the oversight of the churches discharged. They were not, however, pastors: the pastoral office has been retained in the hands of the missionary. It is obvious that, so far as the evangelization of the islands is the great object of the Society's labours, that work has been accomplished. In few countries in the world, if any, is the number of converts and church members so great in proportion to the entire population. It therefore, appeared to the Committee, that the time had at length arrived, when some effort should be made to set in scriptural order these numerous churches: to place over them pastors of their own colour and race, by whom the work of God may be maintained and perpetuated: and to withdraw, at least for the present, one of the missionaries, that he might be free to carry the word of life to a more destitute people, thus enlarging the sphere of the Society's operations and economizing its funds. It was further considered that the limited means at our command forbade the hope either of extending our efforts to lands yet heathen, or of obtaining a sufficient supply of European brethren to meet the increasing demand for pastors made by the multiplication of native churches, if those means were to be constantly absorbed in providing for the wants of converts, who by every scriptural rule of duty and example ought themselves to sustain the work of God in their midst. While these views are evidently applicable to other regions as well as to the Bahamas islands, the Committee resolved, in the first instance, to apply them there. A plan therefore was carefully prepared for the settlement, at as early a period as possible, of native pastors over the existing churches. It was then submitted to the two missionary brethren, Messrs. Capern and Littlewood, for their consideration. In September the plan was finally resolved on, and its execution confided to the senior missionary, Mr. Capern, whose views in every respect were found to coincide with those of the Committee. Mr. Littlewood, being thus released from his engagements, has proceeded to Turk's Island to assume the duties lately discharged by Mr. Rycroft, while the latter brother, at the request of the Committee, has undertaken to re-establish the mission on the north side of Haiti: so far accomplishing one object of the plan, the further extension of missionary labour, and without any increase in the number of the brethren engaged.

Too brief a period has elapsed to permit the formation of a judgment as to its success. One native brother has already entered on pastoral duty in the island of Eleuthera by the unanimous voice of the people, and on Cat Island a considerable number have expressed their wish to have the services of the brother who has for some time resided among them as their teacher. Prejudices have, however, to be removed: the long practice of the churches has to be broken through, and the discharge of scriptural obligations regarded as the duty of every member of the church of Christ. Reluctance is felt in some quarters to assume the burden of the pastor's support, and hesitation shown to yield to the necessity. Until, however, Mr. Capern shall have visited the entire group, and given those explanations that are requisite, no unfavourable conclusion can be drawn from the present manifestation of opposed feeling in the one or two cases in which it has appeared. It is, indeed, but the natural result of the long continuance of the old system; but the Committee are assured, in the language of Mr. Capern, that should some failures occur, the plan is nevertheless "sound, scriptural, and the only practicable plan for this isolated and widely scattered people."

CALABAR.

Before leaving the West for the East Indies, reference must be made to the training Institution at Calabar. During the interval between the decease of the late excellent tutor, the Rev. J. Tinson, and the arrival of his successor, the students, six in number, have been under the care of the Rev. Thomas Hands, of Montego Bay. In the month of August, two of these young brethren were set apart for the pastoral office over the churches at Mount Nebo and Refuge. Eight or nine coloured brethren are now exercising their ministry in the island, and with great acceptance presiding over communities that had been deprived by death or other causes of their European pastors. The Committee are gratified in having received the most cheering testimony as to the progress these brethren have made in knowledge, and of their fitness for the work on which they have entered. Mr. East commences the labours that he anticipates with no ordinary interest and pleasure, with four students, and several applications for admission are pending the decision of the Committee of the Institution.

JAMAICA.

No small portion of their time has been occupied by the Committee in deliberation on the affairs of the churches and pastors of Jamaica. It is well known that since 1845, when the mission churches ceased to be dependent on the funds of the Society, the island has suffered greatly from commercial distress. Wages have been reduced so low, as to render the congregations, to a large extent, unable to contribute to the maintenance of the cause of Christ with that generosity which had previously marked their conduct. Several brethren have departed into rest, while others, constrained by circumstances, left the island and the work altogether. These difficulties have been still further aggravated by the recent visitation of the cholera; and since the cessation of its ravages the small pox has completed the work of devastation. Earnest and reiterated appeals reached the Committee for help.

The visit of several brethren to this country in search of invigorated health afforded a favourable opportunity to enter on the whole question, with the advantage of their presence and personal communications, and in October the Committee arrived at the determination to form a special fund, which being carefully guarded from any interference with the independence and self-reliance of the churches, should yet afford, in some measure, the relief that appeared absolutely required. Three objects are sought in its formation. 1. The first relates to the assistance it may be desirable to render to any brother whose people do not adequately support him. 2. Secondly, it is sought to afford some temporary relaxation to those whose health may require a change of climate. 3. And thirdly, some aid is contemplated to enable any brother, invited from this country to undertake the pastorate of a Jamaica church, to proceed thither. By the generous kindness of one of the Treasurers, a considerable sum was placed at the Committee's disposal, which, with additional contributions, has enabled the Committee to assist several brethren under each of these heads.

Besides this, the very anxious question of relief for their widows and orphans, has received very prolonged attention. A plan has been proposed by the Committee, which, while on the one hand it will arrange the affairs of the Widows and Orphans Fund of Jamaica, will at the same time afford the requisite assistance to the families of deceased brethren, and remove a large amount of pressing debt on the mission properties. The plan now awaits the acceptance of the brethren in Jamaica, which the Committee have no doubt will gladly be accorded, and the execution of it welcomed by all the parties interested. The Committee cannot but hope that these arrangements will meet the difficulties of the case; and that the increased attention to divine things manifested by the people of Jamaica, and the considerable accessions now making to the churches, are the forerunners of brighter days.

EAST INDIAN MISSION.

In the East Indies thirty-five brethren are actively engaged in the work of God, having under their care churches numbering upwards of two thousand members, of whom about seventeen hundred are converts from heathenism, or from the false religion of Mahommed. In this noble enterprise they are assisted by ninety two native preachers. India and Ceylon abound in gratifying proofs of the gradual, yet certain, enlightenment of the native population by the preaching of the gospel. Everywhere crowds listen eagerly to the message of eternal life, and as eagerly receive the books distributed with the greatest care by the missionary. Education is earnestly sought after by the youth, and, even at the risk of conversion, Hindoo parents choose in preference missionary schools for the instruction of their children. In Benares itself, the holiest of Indian cities, Brahmins discuss with each other in their private meetings the evidences of Christianity, while converted natives openly challenge their former associates to a searching investigation of their creed. It is also a sign of the increasing confidence of the converts that native missionary societies are being formed; as for example in Calcutta, where the native brethren have founded an association, of which the venerable Shujaat Ali is president. In the second year of its existence it has opened two chapels or preaching places

in the city, supports one native preacher, and spreads, by means of its own members, the knowledge of Christ in various parts of the suburbs. In other places, in a manner the most unlooked for, divine truth is found to have taken root beyond the eye and the personal influence of the missionary. Of this, interesting examples are found in the case of the weaver and his family some thirty miles from Monghir, and there is a still more remarkable case in the district of Comilla, near Chittagong. In the latter instance a large number of persons, about 120, were led to seek after Christ by the perusal of a few books that at some fair had fallen into the hands of a Brahmin. The scorching sun of persecution had not burnt up the tender plant, and so advanced were they in Christian knowledge, that some sixteen were shortly after Mr. Johannes' visit baptized into Christ, and others will speedily follow. Invitations have come to our brethren from remote quarters to visit districts into which some portion of light had penetrated and excited a desire for more.

Other general influences are likewise operating most effectually to undermine the fabric of Hindooism. Caste is relaxing its hold upon the people. By some it is openly despised. Others seek to lessen the stringency of its rules. In every previous era of India's history its conquerors have gradually yielded to the power of Hindoo social institutions; for the first time they are giving way. England's ideas of law, of right, and of morals, with England's Christianity, are mightier than they. The intolerant precepts of Menu are set aside, new modes of thought are rapidly spreading; and science is doing her part to uproot the dreams of Brahminical theology. "The impression," says Mr. George Pearce, in a recent letter, "that has been made upon my mind beyond what I have ever received in former journeys, is that *the confidence of the people in Hindooism is gone*. Their manner, their tone, their confessions, on many occasions, made me feel this in no ordinary degree."

TRANSLATIONS.

During the past year considerable progress has been made in perfecting and completing several important translations of the Scriptures. In Bengali, Mr. Wenger, assisted by Mr. Lewis, has carried through the press a new edition of the Old Testament, of which 2000 copies have been taken by the Calcutta Auxiliary Bible Society. The New Testament has been revised in manuscript to the end of Peter, and printed off to the 5th of Romans; and a further portion is in type as far as the 2nd Corinthians. The alterations in this edition are numerous; but such as will add to its elegance and accuracy. The Sanscrit version has been somewhat delayed by the printing of the Bengali; but the new edition of the New Testament revised, and with great labour improved, was finished in October, and some little progress made in the Old Testament. The Hindustani New Testament, likewise, has left the press, as also a reprint of the Persian New Testament under Mr. Lewis's editorial care, aided by Mr. Thomas. Other editions are in the press, or in contemplation, especially a small Bengali Testament, which, by its cheapness and portability, may be brought more within the means of the native Christians. The number of copies of Scriptures, or parts of them that have issued from the depository during the year, amounts to 32,821, and for the most part distributed by the missionaries of the Society.

THE DEPUTATION.

It was permitted to the Committee, by divine providence, to welcome their beloved brethren, the Revs. Messrs. Russell and Leechman in health and safety from this interesting field in the month of July. They had occupied nearly a year in the mission with which they had been charged, the visitation of the various stations of the Society in the East. The results of their observations and inquiries were laid before the Committee at great length shortly after their return, some of which have already received careful consideration, while others remain for deliberation.

GENERAL STATE OF THE MISSION IN THE EAST.

Ceylon was the first of the Society's missions visited by the deputation. At the time of their visit our brother Allen was labouring alone, having the care of all the churches resting upon him. In his company every station and school, with one or two exceptions, was visited during the month of the brethren's stay. The general impression produced by these investigations is given in the following words of Mr. Russell, "The native preachers, as a body, are earnest and efficient men, prospered by God in their work; and though the schools are elementary, we are persuaded that they do much good in their respective neighbourhoods, and in several of them there are scholars who give evidence that God has impressed the truth on their hearts. On the whole the mission is in a healthy and promising state. There is great cause for sincere and fervent gratitude on account of the multitude of natives who have been rescued from the cold, heartless, inefficient morality and superstition of Buddhism, and the degrading rites of devil-worship." Mr. Leechman adds the following testimony:—"We have seen a good deal of our native brethren, and on the whole I am much pleased with them. There is considerable diversity among them, some more fitted for the work than others; but all seem good men, honoured of God to be useful. We have met them singly and collectively, and I admire the grace of God in them. They know, and love, and preach the truth." With the schoolmasters Mr. Leechman was less satisfied. Many need more instruction than they have hitherto received. "All," he says, "are not equally defective: some seem good men, anxious to do good; but all need improvement." His pleasure was, however, very great in witnessing the fervent piety of the native churches. "In our brief visit," says Mr. Leechman, "of course, we could do little more than scan the surface. Still I saw enough to fill my heart with gratitude, and to urge the Society onward in the work of the Lord. I was not prepared for the gratifying scenes that burst upon me in our visit to the jungle. The half has not been told of what God has wrought through the instrumentality of the Society. We examined the native members, and much reason had we, on the whole, to be satisfied with their views and feelings. Some of them stood prominently forth as cheering specimens of the triumphs of Divine grace. I am convinced that God is doing great things in these villages. They cannot yet with safety be left to themselves. European aid and influence are yet necessary. They are, however, making advances, and eventually will walk alone."

MADRAS.

The stoppage of the steamer at Madras allowed our brethren to pay a

brief visit to the Rev. T. C. Page. The church gathered here is chiefly European or East Indian. It was found prosperous and in peace. The members are active in spreading the gospel in the surrounding district, and at the time of the deputation's visit were supporting two brethren as missionaries among the heathen. The schools were with some difficulty maintained, while nearly the whole of Mr. Page's time was devoted to the welfare of the church.

NORTHERN INDIA.

The deputation reached Calcutta on the 1st Nov. 1850, and spent between four and five months in investigating the subjects especially commended to their attention by the Committee. During this period they visited, with one or two exceptions, all the stations of the Society, receiving, on the whole, a most favourable impression of the extent of the work that had been accomplished, and of the devotedness and piety of the various labourers in the field, both European and native.

Much time was devoted by the deputation, to an examination of the spiritual condition of the native churches, and also of the individuals employed as helpers in the propagation of the gospel. The result was highly gratifying. The piety of the converts seemed devout, sincere, and deep. Many instances of loss and suffering for the gospel's sake were met with, and some interesting examples occurred of the concern felt by the native churches for the purity of their fellowship. On the question of the preparedness of these infant communities for independence of European aid, and their oversight by native pastors, the deputation found a great diversity of sentiment prevailing among missionaries of all denominations: indeed, it appeared at a meeting of the missionary Conference in Calcutta, at which the deputation were present when the question was discussed, that a majority of the missionaries were inclined to the negative side: on the other hand, says Mr. Russell, "two or three brethren argued strongly in favour of placing more confidence in native Christians," and adds, as the result of their observations, "that while superintendence appears to be necessary and proper, it should be such as will stimulate and encourage the native preachers, and leave the principal work and the connected responsibility with them."

SERAMPORE COLLEGE.

The earliest of the questions submitted to the brethren on their arrival in Calcutta, and to the Committee at home on their return, was the relation to be sustained between the Society and the College at Serampore. In the last report it was intimated that a correspondence, with John Marshman, Esq., was in progress on this subject, the final settlement of the questions involved being delayed till the Committee should be in possession of the views of the deputation. At its meeting in August last the Committee agreed upon the basis of an arrangement in general conformity with the views expressed by Mr. Marshman, and sustained by the opinions of the deputation. To the resolutions in which the views of the Committee were embodied, Mr. Marshman has given his cordial assent, and the Committee confidently anticipate that the arrangements thereby determined, and now in progress of accomplishment, will meet with the hearty concurrence of the members

of the Society, and be the foundation of a great enlargement of the Redeemer's kingdom. According to the plan adopted, the Committee are at liberty to use the College buildings, for the repair of which generous provision has been made by Mr. Marshman, for the purpose of training a class of young men, both East Indian and native, for the ministry in India, the secular classes of the College being open to the students without charge. The responsibility of the management and direction of the College affairs will as heretofore remain with the Council, which will for the most part consist of missionaries of the Society, the Committee only engaging to support the theological tutor and his class, the expense of which is not to exceed the sum of £500 a year. In addition to this the proceeds of Ward's Fund will be available for the same purpose.

THE CALCUTTA PRINTING PRESS.

Not the least onerous of the duties imposed on the deputation was the inspection of the Printing Press in Calcutta, so nobly devoted by its founders, Wm. Pearce, Eustace Carey, John Penney, and others, to the advancement of the gospel in India. Since the decease of Mr. Wm. Pearce it has continued under the superintendence of the Rev. J. Thomas, and, as the examination has proved, has not only contributed many thousands of pounds to the support of the Society's stations in India, and at times when failing funds in this country endangered their existence, but has issued very large numbers of copies of the scriptures and other books highly conducive to the salvation and enlightenment of the people of India. Very nearly a million copies of various portions of God's word have proceeded from its presses: upwards of two millions of school-books, at the expense of various educational societies, have likewise gone forth for the instruction of the the juvenile part of the population: and about 300,000 tracts and other miscellaneous works have been printed, and are spreading light and truth in every part of the land. It is most satisfactory to the Committee to learn that this important Institution is in a vigorous and healthy state, and is able so largely to aid them in the propagation of the gospel of Christ. The investigation entered upon and concluded by the deputation has placed its stability and value beyond doubt.

CONSOLIDATION OF STATIONS.

By the letter of instructions the attention of the deputation was particularly called to the widely-scattered positions of the Society's stations. Some of these are divided by great distances from each other, or not easily accessible from physical and geographical obstructions. Thus, the missionary brethren were often precluded from that mutual counsel and co-operation it is desirable they should enjoy. The painfulness of their position has further been increased by the solitariness of their work, since in many cases they have had to labour alone. Two methods of proceeding may be adopted in order to amend this state of things: either to place at every station at least *two* brethren, or so to arrange the stations that every missionary may easily reach some neighbouring brother with whom to confer and co-operate. On the whole, a combination of both methods appears to be the only practicable plan, and to this the suggestions of the deputation point.

THE AGRA MISSION.

The Society's Indian mission may be divided into three parts; the Agra, or north-west district; the Behar, or central district; and the Bengal mission.

The first of these has already occupied the attention of the Committee, and in pursuance of the suggestions of the brethren and guided by the means at their command, the Committee have endeavoured to consolidate the mission in the Agra presidency, and to give it increased efficiency. The station at Saugor, in the Nerbudda country, will be discontinued, owing to its remoteness from every other station of the Society, and the inability of the Committee to occupy it with adequate strength. Besides, its recent formation enables the Committee to withdraw from it without any material sacrifice. Mr. Makepeace is therefore directed to proceed to Agra, the scene of his former labours, and as the Rev. J. Jackson will assume the pastorate of the English Church, the attention of Mr. Makepeace will be wholly devoted to native work. In immediate contiguity to Agra is the interesting station of Chitoura, and within easy reach are the stations of Muttra and Cawnpore, at which Messrs. Smith, Phillips, and Williams will respectively labour. The latter station was some years ago discontinued, but will now be revived, and we trust the work will be prosecuted with fresh impulse and success. These brethren and stations will thus be enabled to co-operate with each other, and give the mutual aid they require.

THE BENARES MISSION.

Of the Behar or central mission, the most important station is Benares. Although now among the oldest of our stations, various circumstances have kept it in a low condition, chiefly that the brethren have not had suitable premises in which to live and to labour. The offer of a building and compound recently occupied by the government as a school, presents a favourable opportunity for consolidating and placing on an efficient footing the mission in this noted stronghold of Satan. The Committee hope to secure the possession of these very suitable premises, and have resolved to strengthen the hands of the two brethren labouring there with a third missionary. The efficient station at Monghir is closely allied to Benares, and of easy access by means of the Ganges. The Committee would be happy to extend their mission in this quarter; but at present Bengal claims their first attention, and with a few words on this district they close this portion of their report.

THE BENGAL MISSION.

The Bengal mission embraces Calcutta, the villages and stations to the south and east, and some few to the north. Barisal, Jessore, Dacca, and Chittagong are included in it. In Bengal is found the larger number of our missionary brethren labouring in India, and by far the greater number of the converts that God has given as the fruit of their exertions. So far as the manifestation of the Divine blessing is an indication of the localities to be preferred for missionary labour, that indication is here indubitable and clear. Every part of the presidency is easily accessible by its numerous streams to the messengers of peace. Throughout its borders the population is dense, willing to hear the gospel, and anxious for instruction. Scriptures, tracts, and school

books, can be multiplied beyond count in the language which a Carey first reduced to grammatical form, and in which an elegant and faithful version of the scriptures by Carey, Yates, and Wenger, has been made. The whole of this great country with its thirty millions of people is before us ; and to the east of Calcutta till you touch on the mission of our American brethren in Assam, there is no other missionary society engaged. The Committee are most anxious to occupy this attractive field, and, immediately. The harvest is ripe. Witness the successes in Barisal, Jessore, and the marvellous discoveries at Comilla near Chittagong. Providence summons the Baptist Missionary Society to this special work, and the Committee ask their friends at once to arise, to conquer this land for Christ. Your first attempts have greatly prospered. Let a holy boldness inspire you to seize the favourable moment, and to send at least six brethren to aid our present laborious but successful missionaries, and to push yet further the victories of the Prince of Peace.

HOME PROCEEDINGS.

Having detailed the operations of the Society in the Foreign Field, the Committee advert, for a few moments, to its home proceedings.

The very important subject of native agency, especially in its relation to the pastorate of the mission churches, has received the very anxious attention of your Committee, and they have recorded the views that they entertain in the following resolution :—“ That, after an attentive consideration of the papers laid before them by the Secretaries on the pastoral office in the mission churches, and on missionary work, the Committee are grateful to them for having recalled their attention to this subject, and now record their deliberate judgment—a judgment which is in entire coincidence with the views entertained from the earliest period of the Society’s history, that it is in the highest degree desirable that the churches should be placed under the care of pastors elected and supported by themselves, and that to this end the missionaries be earnestly counselled to direct the attention of the churches to such of the native converts as may be qualified by natural endowments and the grace of God to sustain the office.” The principles involved in this resolution the Committee have already put in operation in the Bahamas, and confide their application to other portions of the Society’s mission field to those who shall succeed them.

Your Committee cannot pass over, without notice the generous conduct of William Jones, Esq. owner of the William Carey, who has not only given a passage to Mr. and Mrs. Makepeace, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, and their families, and provided for their comfort during the voyage to India, on the most liberal scale, free of all expense to the Society, but enjoined the officers and crew of the vessel to treat them as his own personal friends ; an act equivalent to a donation of two hundred and fifty guineas. The Committee have marked their sense of Mr. Jones’s liberality, by placing him on the list of honorary members of their body. The Committee have also every reason to believe that the pastors and churches throughout the country generally continue to cherish an earnest desire to sustain the mission, and to encourage them, in directing its concerns, by their sympathy and confidence.

FINANCES.

At the last anniversary the Committee had to report a balance due to the treasurers of £5751 11s. 4d. The total receipts, for the present year are £19,146 11s. 9d., the total expenditure £18,088 6s. 1d. leaving a balance on the year's account, in favour of the Society of £1,058 5s. 8d., by which amount the debt is reduced. The balance, therefore, now due to the treasurers is £4693 5s. 8d. It must, however, be observed that the total receipts are exclusive of about £300 of auxiliary expenses paid by the country treasurers, and this year they will be found to be deducted from the amount printed in the contribution lists. This plan has been adopted for the purpose of showing, as far as possible, where the money has been spent; while, at the same time, it is obviously more correct to make the officers of the Society responsible only for what actually passes through their hands. It is to be hoped that, in future years, this plan, which can only now be regarded as an experiment, may be rendered more satisfactory and complete. But for this slight change the total receipts of the Society would have appeared to be nearly £500 in advance of the previous year. The Committee have also most carefully watched the Home Expenditure, and by the adoption of plans which have been carefully considered from time to time, they have been enabled to reduce the various items of expense included under this head. They have recently made an arrangement with a gentlemen in the North of England, whereby the loss on one of its periodical publications, amounting to nearly £70 per annum, will in future be saved. The charges for interest, agency, printing, and incidentals are also less this year than they were last. In these items it will be found that reductions have been effected amounting to £278. They refer with all the greater pleasure to these reductions, because they are unaccompanied with any reduction of agency abroad; on the contrary, as the report shows, four new missionaries have been sent into the field, and there has been an expenditure in India of £2000 more than was paid for that department in the previous year.

Various suggestions have been thrown out, from time to time, with the view of increasing the annual income. They have resolved not to apply specially for the reduction of the debt, but having paid this year a portion of it, to leave its further reduction to the influence of those plans of retrenchment, which, without impairing the general efficiency of the mission, have been tried with an encouraging measure of success.

But still some effort must be made to increase the income, if the plans suggested in this report with respect to India, are to be carried out. Your Committee have a strong conviction that the annual subscribers might do more. They referred to the "mournful monotony" of their contributions in their last report; and then suggested the giving oftener, and on a more systematic plan. How far this suggestion has been acted upon, the Committee have no means of judging. But they now propose to every annual subscribers to increase his subscription. An increase of one fourth would give a *permanent* additional income of £1200, a sum sufficient to enable the Committee to attend to the loud call from India. To attempt this without a permanent increase of funds, would only involve an increase of debt.

Bengal, therefore, can have no more missionaries, unless this proposal be generally responded to. They urge it on their brethren, and entreat them to ponder it well. In most cases the addition which each person would have to make would be small; but the *aggregate* would be large.

The Committee have now stated their difficulties, and the way in which they think these difficulties may be overcome, openings for usefulness embraced, the mission strengthened, and its power to extend the kingdom of Christ largely increased. They must leave the results with Him who has the hearts of all men in His hands, while they once more entreat the friends of the Society to remember their obligations to God, their solemn responsibilities to their Saviour and their Lord, the grandeur of the work in which they are engaged, the immortal welfare of vast multitudes of souls perishing in ignorance and sin, and beseech them to abound yet more in earnest prayer, that God will pour out his Spirit on all flesh, and establish Zion, and make her a praise in all the earth.

BAHAMAS.

NASSAU.

The following extracts from a letter just received from Mr. CAPERN will be read with much interest by our friends as illustrating the work of faith and labour of love in which our native brethren are engaged. It will, doubtless excite a lively feeling of gratitude to God and an earnest spirit of supplication that these devoted brethren may prove steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Under date of March 13th last, Mr. CAPERN writes:—

The following extracts from letters received from some of the native pastors will give you some idea of what they are doing and of what they think of the state of their field of labour.

"I have been busily employed," writes J. Laroda, of Cat Island, "ever since I came up, in visiting different settlements and teaching both old and young, in which I always feel great delight. Every day I am engaged in teaching some children wherever I go, and nearly every night I am teaching some to sing. To-morrow, if all be well, I shall baptize two candidates at Port Howe, and return home on Monday, if spared." He says that he has to contend with some rather formidable opposition, but says, "I hope the Lord will grant me sufficient faith and patience to endure it." This worthy and devoted brother is doing much in the great matter of education, there being now five day schools on the island, which was never the case before.

From Eleuthera the native pastor writes, "I hope I may say that I am earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints, trying to take courage and go forward in the work of the Lord, trusting that my labour is not in vain in the Lord. Since I left Nassau I have paid a visit to Tarpum Bay and to James' Cistern. To all appearance things are going on well. I know it is your desire that your children should walk in the truth. May none of us grieve your spirit, nor cause your hands to hang down, nor your knees to wax feeble, nor give the enemy occasion to speak reproachfully of the holy gospel of the Redeemer."

From Long Island the native pastor writes, "I was not able to write you by the last opportunity on account of having so much to do. On Wednesday morning I keep a Bible class and preach at Palestine; on the evening of the same day I hold another Bible class and preach at the Harbour, a settlement twelve miles distant from the first mentioned station. My sphere of labour is indeed altogether enlarged, and I thank God for strength to perform my great duties. The church here is in a much better state than it has been for some time. Some who had run off are returning, and say that they can find nothing in the Church of England. They have seen the difference in the churches, and experience is the best schoolmaster."

From Rum Cay, a leader writes, saying, "that things are wearing, at present, a very encouraging aspect, and that they are about to build a new chapel." I confess I long to go and see these friends, and bid them God speed.

JAMAICA.

It will gratify our friends to learn that our brethren DAY, HENDERSON, and CLAYDON, arrived safely in Jamaica on the 18th of March, and have resumed their labours amid cheering indications of a divine blessing.

CONTRIBUTIONS,

Received on account of the Baptist Missionary Society, during the month of March, 1852.

£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
<i>Annual Subscriptions.</i>			
Angus, Rev. Jos., M.A.	2 2 0	Rawlings, Mrs. D., Ken- sington, Collected by	1 0 0
Beddome, W., Esq.	1 1 0	S. W. R.	5 0 0
Beddome, R. B., Esq.	1 1 0	<i>Legacies.</i>	
Beeby, Mrs.	2 2 0	Hickson, Miss, late of	
Benetink, Mr.	1 1 0	Lincoln (legacy duty	100 0 0
Bigwood, Rev. John	1 1 0	paid by Executors) ...	100 0 0
Burls, Charles, Esq.	1 1 0	Yeary, Mr., late of High	
Burls, Miss	0 10 6	Wycombe ...	178 8 6
Burls, Miss Jane	0 10 6	LONDON AND MIDDLESEX	
Carey, Rev. E.	1 0 0	AUXILIARIES.	
Cozens, Mrs.	1 1 0	Allie Street, Little—	
Dallas, Mrs.	2 2 0	Sunday School	3 16 0
Edwards, Mrs.	1 1 0	Battersea—	
Fletcher, Jos., Esq.	2 2 0	Collections	8 5 0
Gardiner, W. B., Esq.	1 1 0	Contributions	28 4 8
Gingell, James, Esq.	1 1 0	Do., Juvenile Asso-	
Gover, William, Esq.	1 1 0	ciation (moiety) ..	5 15 0
Howard, Luke, Esq.	2 2 0	Do., Sunday Schools	1 4 10
Huntley, Miss	1 1 0		43 9 6
Jacobson, Miss, for Co-		Previously acknow-	
lonies	1 1 0	ledged and expen-	4 3 6
Johns, Mrs.	1 0 0		39 6 0
Jones, Mr.	1 1 0	Blandford Street—	
Malipant, Mr. G.	1 1 0	Juvenile Association.	10 4 0
Marten, Mrs. R. H.	1 1 0	Bow—	
Do., for <i>Entally</i>	0 10 0	Contributions	6 7 0
Do., for <i>Jamaica Theological Institution</i>	0 10 0	Do., Sunday School	1 0 0
Murch, Rev. Dr.	1 1 0		7 7 0
Nash, W. W., Esq.	1 1 0	Less expenses	0 3 6
Nash, Mrs. W. W.	1 1 0		7 3 6
Payne, Mrs., Leather-		Brentford, New—	
head.	1 1 0	Collections	18 4 8
Peto, S. M., Esq., M.P.,		Contributions	6 15 4
and Mrs. Peto	100 0 0	Do., for <i>Native</i>	
Pewtrell, Thomas, Esq.	1 1 0	<i>Preachers</i>	3 13 5
Phillips, Mr. W. H., for		Do., Sunday School	0 7 2
<i>India</i>	1 1 0		29 0 7
Phillips, Mrs. E.	0 10 6	Less expenses (two	
Pontvex, Mr.	1 1 0	years)	3 1 6
Pritchard, Rev. G.	1 0 0	Camberwell	
Ridley, S., Esq.	1 1 0	James Street Sunday	
Russell, Miss.	1 1 0	School	1 0 0
Rust, Miss	1 1 0	Church Street—	
Sands, John, Esq.	10 10 0	Contributions, by Miss	
Smith, Miss R.	1 1 0	Pardon	3 0 0
Trestrail, Rev. F.	1 1 0	Do., Sunday School,	
Underhill, E. B., Esq.	3 3 0	for <i>Mr. Heiny's</i>	
Vines, C., Esq.	5 5 0	School at <i>Trelo-</i>	
Walters, Stephen, Esq.	1 1 0	<i>chau</i>	8 0 0
Warrington, Jos., Esq.	2 2 0	Cromer Street—	
Watson, S., Esq.	1 1 0	Juvenile Auxiliary, by	
Welton, Mr. Henry	1 1 0	Young Men's Mis-	
Wheeler, Mr. D. D.	1 1 0	sionary Association,	
<i>Donations.</i>		for <i>Biagama Schools,</i>	
An Old Subscriber	70 0 0	<i>Ceylon</i>	1 1 6
Bible Translation Soci-		Devonshire Square—	
ety, for <i>Translations</i>	600 0 0	Contributions	28 13 10
Friend, for <i>India</i>	1 0 0	Do., for <i>Female</i>	
Gouldsmith, Mrs.	10 0 0	<i>Education in India</i>	5 2 6
H.	6 0 0	Do., Sunday Schools	2 5 6
			36 1 9
		Less expenses	0 6 0
			35 15 9
		Eagle Street—	
		Contributions	7 8 6
		Do., Juvenile	1 7 0
		Hackney—	
		Collections	18 1 8
		Contributions	30 1 1
		Do., Sunday Schools	8 3 6
		Hammersmith—	
		Collection	0 1 9
		Contributions	21 16 11
		Harrow on the Hill—	
		Collection, &c.	4 16 7
		Hatcham—	
		Jones, Captain, R.N.,	
		A.S.	1 1 0
		Henrietta Street—	
		Contributions	8 12 11
		Do., Sunday School	0 13 10
		Girls	
		Do., Female Bible	1 8 7
		Class	
		Islington Green—	
		Contributions, by Mrs.	
		Burrell	5 7 6
		Islington, by Mr. Barker	2 2 0
		Do., Sunday School	
		Class	0 3 0
		Do., for <i>Jamaica</i> ..	0 12 0
		John Street—	
		Contributions	107 14 2
		Do., Sunday School	
		Association	7 1 1
			114 15 3
		Acknowledged before	20 0 0
			94 15 3
		Kensall Green	1 0 0
		Kensington, Silver Street—	
		Collections	6 6 5
		Contributions	15 3 5
		Do., Sunday School	1 14 1
		Keppel Street—	
		Contributions	4 9 6
		Do., Juvenile	0 13 8
		Do., do., for <i>Grand</i>	
		<i>Pass School, Co-</i>	
		<i>lombo</i>	7 14 4

£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Maze Pond—		Shouldham Street—		Contributions	0 15 10
Contributions	40 16 6	Contributions?	4 10 0	Do., for <i>Native</i>	
Do., Juvenile	10 0 0	Do., Juvenile	0 10 0	Preachers	1 0 0
	50 16	Tottenham—		Stevenson—	
Acknowledged before		Collection	12 14 9	Collection	2 15 0
and expenses	21 11 6	Contributions	19 18 8	Contributions, for	
	29 5 0	Do., Juvenile	0 8 0	Jamaica Schools ..	0 5 0
New Park Street—		Do., Sunday School	0 6 2	Thurleigh—	
Contributions, for		Less expenses	1 12 0	Collection	1 14 0
<i>Native Preachers</i>	0 15 0			Contributions	2 7 0
Do., Juvenile Association, for <i>Mrs. Allen's Boarding School for Native Females, Colombo</i>	35 0 0	Walworth, Horsley Street—		Toddington—	
Harvey, Mr. J., Holborn Hill, to complete the sum required to support the above School	35 0 0	Contributions	3 8 1	Collection, &c.	4 10 0
Poplar—		Less expenses	0 4 6		136 10 11
Juvenile Association	7 15 0		3 3 7	Less expenses ..	5 11 1
Prescot Street, Little ...	20 0 0	Walworth, Lion Street—			130 19 10
		Contributions, Female		BERKSHIRE.	
		Auxiliary	18 0 0	Ashpampstead—	
		Do., Sunday School, for <i>Ceylon School</i>	12 0 0	Collection	2 9 0
				Do., Compton	1 0 0
				Contributions	1 4 0
				Do., Sunday School	
				Girls	0 7 0
				Faringdon	6 0 0
				Newbury—	
				Collections	8 7 0
				Contributions	15 13 8
				Do., Sunday Schools	0 11 3
					24 12 5
				Less expenses	0 14 5
					23 18 0
				Reading—	
				Collections	18 1 10
				Contributions	17 16 4
				Do., for <i>Africa</i>	2 19 0
				Do., Juvenile	16 15 11
				Do., Sunday Schools	4 11 5
				Do., do., for <i>Native</i>	
				Preachers	1 15 11
				Henley Auxiliary—	
				Contributions	7 2 6
					69 2 11
				Acknowledged before	
				and expenses	49 8 0
					19 14 5
				Reading, by Mr. Philip Davies—	
				Contributions	2 16 6
				Do., for <i>Africa</i>	0 10 0
				Do., for <i>Native</i>	
				Preachers, Madras	0 10 6

The remainder of Contributions for March is unavoidably postponed.

ERRATUM.

The sum of £20 acknowledged in the March Herald as a Donation from G. T. Keyes, Esq., should have been entered thus:—Blandford Street, by G. T. Keyes, Esq., £20 0s. 0d.

Subscriptions and Donations in aid of the Baptist Missionary Society will be thankfully received by William Brodie Gurney, Esq., and Samuel Morton Peto, Esq., M.P., Treasurers, by the Rev. Frederick Trestrail and Edward Bean Underhill, Esq., Secretaries, at the Mission House, 33, Moorgate Street, LONDON: in EDINBURGH, by the Rev. Jonathan Watson, and John Macandrew, Esq.; in GLASGOW, by Robert Kettle, Esq.; in DUBLIN, by John Purser, Esq., Rathmines Castle; in CALCUTTA, by the Rev. James Thomas, Baptist Mission Press; and at NEW YORK, United States, by W. Colgate, Esq. Contributions can also be paid in at Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, and Co., Lombard Street, to the account of the Treasurers.