



MAY, 1871.

## REPORT.

ALTHOUGH in their review of the labours of the past year your Committee have not to speak of any striking results, it is with gratitude to God they report that the additions to the Mission Churches have been more than usually numerous. Both in the east and west, in lands of heathen darkness and in the more enlightened regions of Christendom, many have been gathered into the churches of Christ, as the reward of the diligent and self-denying toil of His servants.

### FINANCES.

The Committee are happy to report that the receipts of the year have not fallen below the average. Notwithstanding the numerous demands on the liberality of the Churches, and the effects of the desolating war on the Continent, with its appeals to the generosity of the people of this country, the income of the Society has been well maintained. It could not be expected that the Treasurer should receive the large sums which under the heads of legacies and donations came into his hands last year, yet in both cases the receipts have exceeded the average of former years. Legacies to the amount of £3,362 4s. 11d., and donations to the amount of £2,782 6s. 2d. have come in. There has also been an increase in the amount of special contributions, devoted to the support of particular persons and stations; being this year £2,285 17s. 9d., as against £1,753 16s. 10d. last year. After deducting the donations from, and adding the special contributions to, the General Purpose Fund, we find there has been a diminution of contributions from the churches of about £600, which diminution (omitting smaller sums) appears to have chiefly taken place—in London and Middlesex, £155; South Wales, £150; Yorkshire, £110; and Devonshire, £90. The entire country list shows a decrease in twenty-five counties (including Wales, Scotland and

Ireland) of £980, and an increase in thirteen counties of £408. The largest increase is in Lancashire, where it amounts to £122; and in Cambridgeshire to £75. The Widows' and Orphans' Fund and the Native Preachers' Fund exhibit a slight increase.

The sum total received by the treasurer amounts to £32,878 12s. 1d., and the expenditure to £31,621 2s. 11d. The balance on the year's transactions is therefore £1,257 9s. 2d. in favour of the Society. Of this balance, £700 18s. 1d. belongs to the Jamaica and other special funds, and there should therefore remain £556 11s. 1d. on the general receipts; but after the necessary investment of legacies received (according to the scheme adopted last year for equalising the receipts from this source), there is due by the Society to the Treasurer the sum of £1,656.

Large as these amounts are, they do not show the sum total contributed for the support of the Mission and the agencies connected therewith. A considerable amount is raised and expended by the Missionaries themselves on the spot, and a very much larger sum is furnished by the ninety-five churches of Jamaica for the support of their ministry, and the spread of the Gospel in Jamaica and Africa. The Ladies' Association, established as an auxiliary to the Society, for the carrying on of a Zenana Mission, and the support of Bible women in India, has also this year collected among our churches the sum of £600, all of which will be expended by the wives of our Missionaries, or under their direction, in this very important department of missionary labour.

Although there have been some differences from last year in the amounts expended on the various stations, yet the total expenditure is only £181 less. For several years past the expenditure has been about £2,000 more than the ordinary income and the deficiency has been met by resources from time to time springing up in various quarters. Every year a most rigid scrutiny has been instituted for the purpose of reduction; but the Committee have again and again felt that they could not recall honoured brethren from their stations, nor abstain from entering doors of usefulness opened before them in the course of Divine Providence, without doing wrong to their convictions and to the great cause placed in their hands. Relying, therefore, on the Divine assurances, and having faith in God, they have continued as their best judgment has led them to decide to sustain the work that has been brought to them. They have not been disappointed, and as emergencies have arisen, the Master they serve has provided for their wants.

At the same time the Committee feel it to be their duty to take such measures as may be consonant to the will of God to obtain the needed funds, and they trust the arrangements made during the year for the better working

of the auxiliaries, by the appointment of the Rev. C. Bailhache as Association Secretary, and the diffusion of missionary information by forwarding the **MISSIONARY HERALD** to subscribers, with other minor measures, will, with the Divine blessing, secure the requisite means for the maintenance of the present staff of workers' in the field.

But it must not be forgotten that the staff needs strengthening. Every year one and another of our devoted brethren pass away, after longer or shorter periods of arduous labour; and at the present time there is urgent necessity for Missionaries to be sent to Trinidad, Hayti, Jamaica, India, and China. As the success of the Mission increases, these requirements increase, and the Committee have every confidence that the Churches will not fail to recognise the claim.

It is due to our missionary brethren at home, the Revs. W. A. Hobbs, J. J. Fuller, Jas. Smith, J. H. Anderson, H. Pestorji, and T. Lea, to acknowledge the very efficient services they have rendered as deputations throughout the country. The Committee are deeply indebted to them for their ready aid, and for the quickening of the missionary spirit that in many places has followed their visits. The Committee also owe a large measure of obligation to the pastors of the Churches who, by their services as deputations, or by their local arrangements, have contributed to the success of the very numerous meetings which have been held.

During the year the Committee have suffered with deep regret the loss of several venerated and valued colleagues, whose services in past years were of the highest value. The names of the Revs. Dr. Godwin and Joshua Russell recall events of deep interest in the history of the Society; the Revs. Dr. Evans, C. J. Middleditch, and W. Heritage rendered most efficient aid both as members of the Committee or as secretaries of district auxiliaries. Thus the fathers pass away, leaving to their successors an inheritance of honourable labour and of noble enterprise.

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#### THE NEW MISSION HOUSE.

There will be found appended to this Report the closing accounts of the new Mission House, from which it may be seen that, in addition to the possession of a most convenient and suitable structure for the use of the Mission and the Denomination, a considerable sum remains to be employed as a working capital. The change of residence has been effected not only without loss, not only without making any demand on the liberality of the friends of the Society; but a pecuniary gain has accompanied it of a substantial and gratifying kind. The proceeds of the sale of the old Mission House

have sufficed to purchase and erect the present commodious premises, with the two adjoining houses; to make a grant of £2,000 to the Mission Fund; and to supply the means of carrying on our operations, to a certain extent, without the necessity of borrowing money in those parts of the year when the income of the Society is slow in coming in.

#### THE MISSIONARIES.

One eminent missionary, the Rev. Andrew Leslie, has been called to his rest, after forty-one years of arduous service in India. A preacher of the gospel, a pastor in the Church of God, a translator of the Divine Word, he filled each office with great ability. His self-denial, his zeal, his consecration to the service of his Master, placed him in the first rank of those who have been called to be Christ's messengers to the heathen. The Committee have also to mourn the loss of the Rev. R. F. Laughton, of the Chinese Mission. His missionary life extended only to a period of seven years. Short as it was, it was sufficient to give promise of distinguished results. His prayers and conversation showed how great he esteemed the privilege of being a labourer in the vineyard of the Master, while he brought to the work strong common sense, a vigorous mind, great earnestness of purpose and deep piety. An active church of about forty members, the majority of whom were baptized by Mr. Laughton, remains among the proofs of his zeal and success.

Reference must also be made to the decease of Mr. William Thomas, of Calcutta, a native of India. He was brought to the knowledge of the truth through the instrumentality of the Serampore Missionaries, and about fifty years ago was sent by them into the district of Jessore. Subsequently he was employed for nearly a quarter of a century in the villages to the South of Calcutta, preaching in the markets and among the congregations of the district. His patience, perseverance, and usefulness, deserve the highest commendation. After several years of weakness and bodily infirmity he entered into the joy of the Lord.

The Committee have also to lament the death of Mrs. Martin, the amiable and devoted wife of the Rev. T. Martin, of Serampore. She was removed in the noontide of her life, and was ever in spirit and act a true self-sacrificing missionary of the cross.

One addition only has been made during the year to the staff of missionaries, Dr. W. Brown, the first medical missionary sent out to China by the Society. As soon as the language has been acquired, a knowledge of which Dr. Brown is striving with zeal and diligence to gain, he will combine with direct missionary work the exercise of his profession, with the

hope of bringing the hearts of the afflicted to Christ. The Rev. E. Johnson, with some assistance from the Committee, returned to India in August last, accompanied by two brethren, and though not formally in connection with any Missionary Society he and his companions will labour none the less actively and zealously to open new fields, preaching everywhere within reach the gospel of the grace of God.

#### ITINERANT LABOURS.

From all quarters of their mission-field in Northern India the Committee have received gratifying accounts of the itinerant labours in which, with few exceptions, all the missionaries engage. It is not possible to ascertain the entire results of this wide and incessant proclamation of the Gospel. A hundred and twenty thousand persons in Backergunge, seventy thousand in Jessore, unnumbered myriads in other districts, and in the large melas and cities of Bengal and the North-West, are reported to have listened to the preachers of the Word; but who can tell the depth or extent of the impressions that have been made, or the power of the convictions that have been awakened? The number of baptisms in the various stations gives but a slight clue to the effects produced. With only one exception, that of the Agra district, where Mr. Gregson reports that the people remain apathetic and indifferent, all the missionaries who speak on this subject report an increase of interest and attention. Thus the Calcutta auxiliary says, "There is, on the whole, a greater willingness to listen to the preaching, and more intelligence and thought are indicated by the questions asked and objections made." Mr. Martin, writing of his work in Serampore College, says:—"Every teacher of Hindus expects to witness a good deal of apathy and scepticism; but I was often astonished at the amount of attention which our students paid to the exposition of the Epistles." Referring to the preaching at melas, and other large gatherings of people in the district of Backergunge, Mr. Sale states:—"The interest evinced was remarkable, very especially so at a large mela some forty miles south of Barisal, where the great mass of the people were Mohammedans." This is the more striking, because Mohammedans usually exhibit the most intense hostility to the Gospel. "Nearly every day," says Mr. McKenna of his journeys about Dacca, "I returned to the boat, quite hoarse and used up, but the people followed me through the sun, sometimes a mile and upwards, for further information, for Scriptures and tracts, and for conversation. If large, inquiring, and very attentive audiences are to be regarded as a hopeful sign in connection with the spread of the Gospel, then on these journeys I had reason to be thankful." "At the Sonapore mela," Mr. Lawrence writes, "Great crowds listened to the

preaching at times, some very interesting discussions also were held, and many seemed much interested in what they heard." The increasing confidence felt in the missionaries, as their object and message are better understood, is adduced by Mr. Williams as a sufficient proof of the impressions that are made. In the large idol-worshipping city of Benares, the holy place of Hinduism, whither pilgrims come from all parts of Hindustan, Mr. Heinig states "That a great desire and delight in hearing of the only Saviour of men is always shown by all classes of the inhabitants, whether Mohammedans or Hindus, male or female. It often has occurred that when one or the other male attendant wished to argue—say, in regard to worshipping God in the heart, in spirit, and in truth—a female would boldly, yet respectfully, come forward and set the arguer to rights." A great blow has been given to idolatry, by the challenge of a learned native to the Brahmins and Pundits to show that idolatry is enjoined by their Shastres. Through his daily conversation the whole city is said to have been "confounded, and in a great measure silenced on the subject." Mr. Broadway, speaking also of the Sonapore mela, confirms the "eagerness" of the people to hear the Gospel. Lastly, Mr. Parsons reports of Delhi that "the middle classes generally, and many of the higher classes of natives, manifest so much interest in listening to the preaching of the Gospel, and our opportunities of declaring the truth are so favourable, that we feel persuaded a good work is going on in the minds of many." A house to house visitation in less than one-third of the city has led to the discovery that "several hundreds" of natives are to be found "who seem steadily, earnestly, and perseveringly groping their way towards the truth." Even the hostility and persecution that sometimes have been displayed in Jessore, in Patna and other places, bear witness to the interest which the ministration of the Gospel has excited, the result often being, as in Backergunge, a more earnest regard to the Divine message of peace. Mr. Supper even reports that in one of his journeys he found many readers of the Bible in the interior of the country, and "some who read it as regularly as pious people do at home, though they do not profess to be Christians as yet."

With such testimonies in our hands it is not possible to doubt that these constant and reiterated utterances of Divine truth are producing a profound impression. It is the leaven of our Lord's parable, hidden for a time in the three measures of meal, but hidden for a time only, until it shall have fermented the entire mass and prepared it for final use.

#### INDICATIONS OF A NEW LIFE.

Other indications are not wanting of the force by which the inert

mass of Hinduism is being stirred into life. It will be unnecessary to do more than allude to the increasing influence of Brahmoism under the vigorous leadership of Keshub Chunder Sen, the gradual decay of caste, the constant inroads on the ancient customs of the people, the cessation of many of the viler and the most cruel rites of idol-worship, and the growing power of the native press which is resolutely bent on schemes of reform. Mr. Kerry mentions the remarkable increase of clubs, or associations of educated young men, formed for literary purposes, and for the discussion of subjects of social and religious interest. "There are scores," he says, "of such clubs in and around the city (of Calcutta). They are among the many indications of ever-quickenng life and activity in the Hindu mind." He may well add, "It is, indeed, a grand thing to have anything to do with such quickening, and to be able, by God's own truth, to give direction<sup>2</sup> and force to the new life." Of one such club Mr. Kerry has been elected an honorary member.

Nor does the testimony of missionaries stand alone. From other sources of unimpeachable authority we obtain similar statements, and, if anything, yet more emphatic. The eminent Professor of Jurisprudence in the University of Oxford, H. S. Maine, Esq., who recently occupied the position of law member of the Supreme Government of India, referring to the usages of the Hindus, assures us that "this remarkable society, pregnant with interest at every point, and for the moment easily open to our observation, is undoubtedly passing away. Just as, according to the Brahminical theory, each of the Indian sacred rivers loses in time its sanctity, so India itself is gradually losing everything which is characteristic of it." Again, speaking of the influences which constrain the Government of India to promote a constant increase in Indian legislation, he says, "Most people would admit that, for good or evil, the country is changing rapidly, though not at uniform speed. Opinion, belief, usage and taste, are obviously undergoing more or less modification everywhere." \* If, as another eminent writer affirms, changes in the ideas of a people must precede any outward revolution, and are both its cause and its justification, then assuredly is the mind of India undergoing such changes as must ultimately issue in the formation of a new social and religious life, wholly different from that which now exists. And there can be no doubt that those ideas are fashioned in a most influential degree by the truths and ethical principles of the Gospel of Christ, taught in the schools, preached in the bazaars and markets, recognised in legislation, and stamped on the literature, both sacred and secular, which is now acquiring vast proportions in the presidency towns.

\* "Villago Communities in the East and West." Six Lectures delivered at Oxford, Pp. 24 and 209. London, Murray, 1871.

The share of our brethren in this great and peaceful revolution is not confined to preaching alone. In Serampore College; in the Intally and Benevolent Institutions of Calcutta, and in numerous village schools, some three thousand children and youths are daily instructed in Divine and human knowledge. From our Mission Press is issuing a perennial stream of Inspired truth, tracts, school-books, and other works conducive to the improvement and regeneration of the people. The number of professed believers in Christ, if slowly, is yet, year by year, increasing. More than one hundred and fifty persons have this year openly by baptism professed their reception of the Gospel, to be added to the two thousand already gathered into the membership of the Churches; and not a few have become honoured and useful labourers among their fellow-countrymen, having their qualifications for the ministry increased by the instructions given by the missionaries, or in the class long and devotedly taught by the Rev. G. Pearce. Last, though not least in value among the agencies at work, is the Zenana Mission. The domestic life of the people has at last been touched. In Calcutta, Monghyr, Benares, Delhi, the wives and daughters of our missionaries have entered the long-barred doors of the secluded women of India, and are daily bearing the light of Divine truth, as well as general information and industrial arts, into the darkest recesses of the Zenana.\* For the details of these varied labours, the Committee must refer to the subsequent pages of this Report. It is sufficient here to indicate, that by "patient continuance in well-doing," our missionaries are contributing in full measure to the spiritual and social revolution which Indian society and life are undergoing.

#### THE NATIVE CHURCHES.

The independence of the Native Churches that have been gathered in India, has continued to receive the anxious attention of your Committee. They are happy to report that some progress has been made in securing this important object. In the villages to the south of Calcutta five churches have signified their acceptance of the plan adopted last year by the Committee. They have chosen pastors, and will endeavour to supplement the yearly diminishing grant of the Committee by their own voluntary contributions. They plead their poverty. It is their only objection; but they know that what is urged upon them is Scriptural, and, on the whole, says Mr. Kerry, many of the people like the idea that they and their ministers should really stand

\* These agencies are chiefly supported by the Ladies' Association for the support of Zenana Work and Bible Women in India. Lady Lush is treasurer of the Association; Mrs. Angus and Mrs. Frank Smith are the hon. secretaries.



in a direct relation to the Lord Jesus, and not seem to have the Missionary as their master and ruler. Four of the brethren, who have been set free from all pastoral engagements, are now employed as evangelists, and for the present will be entirely supported by the Society. In other respects a commendable degree of liberality has been evinced. At Khari, money to the extent of 100 rupees has been raised for the restoration of the chapel damaged by the cyclone two years ago, and the work has been partly done. At another village a member of the Church has undertaken to rebuild the chapel at his own expense. Also, at Lukhyantipore, the people are moving in the same way.

In Jessore, under the guidance of our native missionary, Gogon Chunder Dutt, the members of the church at Kudumdi have raised 100 rupees towards the rebuilding of the chapel, and are about to elect a pastor to be sustained by their own funds. For some time past they have been served by a native brother without remuneration. The Chela people have also declared themselves ready to pay the entire salary of their pastor from the commencement of next year. Thus, in Jessore, three churches will shortly become independent of the Society's funds.

The church in Delhi, from various local causes, has not made the progress so earnestly desired. Lately a native pastor was chosen with apparent unanimity, and a salary, too large it is feared for their means, was promised him by the people. To raise the amount they seem to trust chiefly to the contributions of European friends in India, a proceeding that will probably prove both disappointing and injurious. The Committee cannot but record with gratitude the promptitude and self-denial of the Rev. James Smith, who, under these circumstances, early in the year resolved to return to his post, to secure success, if possible, for the plan he originated before he left Delhi for the restoration of his health. It is evidently most difficult to secure self-reliance where dependence has for so long a time been the rule. Still it cannot be doubted that under the Divine blessing a return to right principles will in the end be both salutary and successful.

#### SPONTANEOUS EXERTIONS OF THE CHURCHES.

The Committee note with pleasure that the reports of the missionaries record more cases than usual in which the native converts have made spontaneous efforts to promote the Kingdom of God. A few instances have already been mentioned. "There is coming up to notice in Calcutta," say the brethren there, "an increasing amount of voluntary and gratuitous mission work, which should cheer and stimulate the friends of the cause of Christ..

The labours of the Rev. Goolzar Shah in this direction ever deserve honorable mention." In addition to the gratuitous services he has for years rendered the native church in South Colingah as its pastor, he has established at Simla, in the mountains, a very prosperous mission among the Bengalis resorting thither, and among the hillmen. It is carried on by his own personal labours and by contributions which he has raised in Calcutta and elsewhere. "Other native brethren are from time to time engaging in the same noble employment. Mr. W. Greenway has continued his nightly preaching by Mulali Durga, and has been joined by other both paid and unpaid preachers of the Gospel." An interesting body of Nagpore people have been met with in Dinagore by Mr. Page, and twenty-four of them baptized. They have made arrangements to sustain the Gospel amongst them at their own charges. Mr. Sale reports that the Churches of Backergunge "have done more to help our work than has been done for some years. Money, gifts of rice, and personal labour, have all been given in many of the churches." At Ashkor, the people are promising help to build a chapel, and one brother has already given more than four months' salary. The Dacca Church, a church of thirty-seven native members, though it has failed to establish a native pastorate, has nevertheless contributed liberally to the spread of the Gospel. In Delhi, Seetal Dass has faithfully and zealously laboured as an unpaid agent. He has preached the gospel in several hundreds of villages, over a very extensive territory, the people supporting him wherever he went. He reports about fifty candidates for Christian baptism, and a number of inquirers as the result of his labours.

The Allahabad Report presents us with the following interesting statement concerning our worthy native brother Subha Chund, of Rona. He has made over his farm to the care of his eldest son, and, having purchased a camel to carry his books and himself, has gone forth on a long journey to spread the light of the Gospel. He has been out many months, and no word has been heard of him. His resolution was, he said, to take the knowledge of Christ to the wild desert of Rajpootana, among people who as yet had never seen the face of any Christian, or even British subject.

These voluntary gifts and spontaneous exertions for the spread of the Gospel are full of encouragement, and form a new and striking feature in the Indian Mission.

#### THE SONTHAL MISSION.

The Sonthal Mission continues to present very interesting features. Towards the end of the year 1869 a Church was organised of fifteen members'

During the past year it has received by baptism an addition of twelve persons, the conversion of some of whom presents a striking illustration of the power of divine truth to overcome the dark superstitions of a pagan people. The Rev. E. Johnson has rejoined the Mission, and has commenced a new station at Juntarah, Mr. Simmonds, one of his companions, entering on the work at Ebenezer. Much affliction has befallen the Mission families, and Mrs. Skrefsrud has been removed by death. Two young converts have devoted themselves to evangelistic labours. Another native Christian has opened up new ground at Mookrampore. He is a man of proved consistency, and has the full confidence of the missionaries. The funds for this encouraging work are raised chiefly in India, and, under the name of the Indian Home Mission, it appeals to the liberality of Christians of all denominations. The entire expenditure for last year was about £322.

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#### CHINA.

Notwithstanding the great loss sustained by this Mission by the decease of the Rev. R. F. Laughton, and the commotion in North China occasioned by the frightful massacre at Tien-Tsin, which for a time confined the missionaries of every denomination to the treaty ports, the Word of God has proved its power to bring sinners to the Saviour. Seven persons have put on Christ and joined the Church, openly braving the hostility of their countrymen. Three native brethren assist in the promulgation of the truth. There are several inquirers, and the professed members of the Church, now thirty-nine in number, if judged by their liberality in spreading the Gospel, are growing in the Christian virtues of faith and love. It is gratifying to know, that during the panic which followed the Tien-Tsin affair, the native Christians exhibited great firmness and decision of character. The members in the country did not leave their homes or exhibit any wish to conceal their connection with the hated foreigner. Of two candidates for baptism one fell back, but the other never wavered in his determination publicly to avow himself a Christian. Before the end of the year the fear of any further disturbances was over, and Mr. Richard, with another missionary, was able to take a journey of fifteen days into the interior of the country to sell Bibles and to preach.

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#### AFRICA.

The Rev. A. Saker has been busily engaged during the year in carrying to a conclusion at the press his version of the Old Testament Scriptures, and he has revived the meetings at John A'Kwa's town, from which place, some

time ago, Mr. Fuller was driven by the plundering habits of the people. Death has borne away from their labours three missionaries labouring on the river Calabar; but our brethren have been spared, although constantly exposed to the fatal miasma of the swamps which they not unfrequently traverse, as well as to the deadly passions of the barbarians around them. On several occasions they have been the instruments of making peace between contending tribes, or between the native traders and the merchants who purchase their produce. But they have sometimes been constrained to be unwilling witnesses of the atrocious cruelties that a pagan people can inflict on those who are hostile to them. Amid these dark scenes there are some bright spots, where the missionaries have obtained a footing. Recalling the past and comparing the present with it, the missionaries rejoice over many persons rescued from the power of Satan, and a general improvement in the character of the tribes more especially under their instruction. Many of the people exhibit great anxiety to place their children under the care of the missionaries. These children are trained in habits of industry as well as in the simpler elements of knowledge, and in numerous cases they become truly converted to God, and examples to their pagan countrymen of the Christian life.

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#### CEYLON.

In February, last year, the Rev. C. Carter returned to Ceylon and resumed his work in Kandy. Mr. Waldock was thus set free to take charge of half the Colombo district, in which the year has again been one of advance in all departments of Missionary labour. Each week fifteen more services have been held, with an additional attendance of 400 persons. There have been 55 persons baptized, being nine more than last year. The contributions for all purposes at the native stations are about £190 more than last year. The new station at Medampe promises to be flourishing, and soon self-supporting. Land for mission premises worth £100 has been given, and the erection of a chapel, to cost £200, has been begun; and there are several candidates for baptism. At the 14 stations and 54 minor stations, occupied by the native preachers and the Missionaries, there are 540 members. The number of day schools is 17. Most of these are assisted by Government grants. The grants are given strictly for secular knowledge, without any reference to religion, and simply on the results as ascertained by a Government examination, without dictating the mode of teaching to be adopted. The Missionaries are left by the Committee at liberty to avail themselves of this aid, and they accept it without violence to their consciences; nor does it interfere with the religious training which is

their principal object in taking the oversight of these schools. The two churches in this district which have for some years been independent of the Society's funds, the Committee are happy to learn are prosperous, and their pastors are very creditably sustained by the free contributions of their people. In the Kandy district Mr. Carter also reports good progress. Much of his time has been occupied with the revision and preparation for the press of his Singhalese version of the Old Testament, for which a liberal grant of £200 has during the year been made by the Bible Translation Society. The churches in the district contain about 100 members, and one church maintains itself independently of the Society's funds.

#### THE WEST INDIES.

With regard to the Missions in the islands of Trinidad and Hayti, the Committee regret that they have been unable to fill up the vacancies which were occasioned by deaths reported last year. The labours of the Rev. W. H. Gamble, in Trinidad, have, however, been largely blessed. Forty persons have been added to the Churches, which now consist of nearly 450 members. The purely Native Churches, with very slight exception, continue to maintain the means of grace with sufficient liberality; and though the pastors are somewhat deficient in educational advantages, they very worthily fill the offices to which their brethren have called them.

The Committee have to express their gratitude to the Rev. Thomas Lea, of Jamaica, who at their request visited Hayti in the spring of 1870, for the able and interesting report with which he has furnished them. Though deprived of the services of a European minister, the Churches of Jacmel, St. Raphael, and Dondon, have revived their meetings, long hindered by the revolutionary anarchy that has afflicted the country. The re-opening of their places of worship has been followed by considerable accessions of members, and a very gratifying spirit of hearing has displayed itself. The native pastor, Metellus Menard, reports the baptism of twelve persons, and forwards a most pressing request from the people for speedy help.

In the Bahama Islands, the decay of trade and the increasing penury of the people, give the Committee the greatest anxiety as to the future of their numerous congregations. Particularly is this the case with the Turks Islands' group, where the people are literally starving, and the resources both of the Government and of the manufacturers of salt, the staple produce of the islands, are failing, and in some cases are destroyed. From this cause, the hope expressed in the last Report, that Mr. Pegg would be supported by the

Churches, can no longer be cherished, and measures must immediately be taken either to maintain him from home, or to abandon a field where a great blessing has followed the labours of the brethren who have passed away.

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#### JAMAICA.

The Committee are happy to report the continuance of the Divine blessing on the Churches and congregations of Jamaica. More than eleven hundred baptisms testify that the Word of God has not lost its power to save, while the additions to the class of inquirers, mostly consisting of young persons, evidence the interest which is felt in the message of peace. In some few places a spirit of fanatical excess has in a measure reappeared, but steps have been taken to check its growth, and to prevent any mischief arising from its spread. The net increase to the 95 churches now on the roll of the Jamaica Baptist Union, after deducting losses by exclusion and death, is 895. The entire membership of these Churches is now stated to consist of 20,599 persons. In reviewing the year, the members and delegates of the Churches, in their annual session, record their humble and adoring gratitude to God for the large success with which He has been pleased to crown their efforts during the year. They refer with pleasure to the important and extensive repairs of chapels and other mission property, effected at a cost of £2,000, which have been liberally accomplished by the people; to the increasing congregations in many localities, necessitating the enlargement of many places of worship, and the building of new ones; to the renewed life and growing stability of the Churches, as new indications of the Divine blessing upon the Word preached and other efforts put forth. But prosperity entails larger responsibilities, and our brethren have earnestly appealed to the Churches at home to aid them to fill up the districts still needing the Word of God. By the resolution passed at Cambridge, last autumn, the Committee have been directed to render such assistance, and though at present the response of the Churches has not equalled their expectations, nor the necessity of the case, they hope during the present year to accomplish in some degree the object desired. One brother, Mr. T. L. Rees, of Haverfordwest College, has been accepted for the work, and will depart for Jamaica in the autumn; but three more are at least required.

#### MORANT BAY MISSION.

The success of this interesting effort to meet the emergency arising from the disturbances of 1865 has been highly encouraging. Three churches,

consisting of 645 members, have been formed, and two of them, it is expected will during the present year elect pastors educated at the Kingston Institution, for whose support they are making very liberal arrangements. Mr. Teall will thus be set free for similar labours in other destitute parts of the island.

#### CALABAR COLLEGE, KINGSTON.

The Committee continue to receive the most encouraging accounts of the progress of this institution, so important in its bearing on the future welfare of the churches of Jamaica, as well as on the general condition of the island. "Of the work done by the students," the president, the Rev. D. J. East, reports, "I may say that I never remember a more satisfactory year in the history of the college than the last. Indeed, the greater stimulus which our young brethren have in the new position of the institution has told most usefully upon them." The industrial training has been found very salutary, while the students find ample occupation in Christian work, preaching occasionally at East Queen-street, stately at Port Royal, and in neighbouring congregations. Five or six outdoor preaching stations are also regularly kept up on the Lord's day.

In the labours connected with the increasing Church and congregation in East Queen-street, Mr. East reports the kind and efficient assistance of Mr. Thomas Oughton and others. A large Sunday-school, several Scripture readers, and a District Visiting Society, are among the agencies employed to gather souls to Christ. On special occasions, the spacious chapel is often very inconveniently crowded with hearers, while the ordinary services are attended by an ever-growing number of persons drawn from the neglected portions of the population of Kingston.

The day school, supported partly by fees, has been very successful, and contains about 150 children. The high school, with thirty-nine scholars, has succeeded beyond expectation. These lads are of a higher class, and pay a higher fee. An infant school of seventy-three children completes the system. The whole system of schools, together with the Normal school department, is most efficiently conducted by the Rev. R. S. Roberts.

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#### EUROPE.

Notwithstanding the war which has desolated the eastern and northern districts of France, the work of the Society has not been much hindered in Brittany. One native assistant was summoned to the field, soldiers have

been quartered on the missionaries and on the members of the church, and they have all had to bear, more or less, the burdens and anxieties that have fallen on unhappy France. But God has borne witness to His Word. Seven persons have put on Christ. Many soldiers on the march have received copies of the Holy Scriptures, and others have been consoled by the visits and conversation of the brethren, in the hospitals and in their homes of distress and penury.

In Norway the Word of the Lord has had free course and has been glorified. In accordance with the resolution of the meeting held at Cambridge in the autumn, two additional brethren have been engaged, and two more will be employed as soon as suitable men present themselves. Not fewer than 12 Churches have been formed since the commencement of Mr. Hubert's labours, which now contain 225 members. Upwards of 70 persons have been baptized during the year, and the prospect of a still wider extension of the kingdom of God is most encouraging.

A few months since the Committee consented to become the channel for conveying to the Rev. J. Wall, about to proceed to Rome, the contributions of Christian friends in England. The sum of £151 9s. 8d. has been received, of which only £51 9s. 8d. remains unexpended. The information sent the Committee by Mr. Wall is of a very gratifying nature. He has found an open door before him, and a ready acceptance of the message of peace. In Rome, the city of superstition and traditions that pervert the Gospel of Christ, he has not only been permitted to preach freely the Word of God, but has been enabled by the baptism of eight persons to form a Church, founded on the pure teachings of Holy Writ. Thus, again, is heard in Rome the "Gospel" of the Apostle of the Gentiles, "the preaching of Jesus Christ."

The Committee cannot close their report without urging on the churches the necessity for a speedy reinforcement of their staff of Missionaries, and the filling up of the vacancies that death has made. India, China, Trinidad, Hayti, Jamaica, all cry out for help. Offers of missionary service are not so frequent as they could desire; but were devoted men forthcoming, would the Churches sustain them? The Committee plead for more faith, more consecration, more prayer. Everything invites to strenuous effort. This report abundantly testifies that "God is with us." Let not His people be backward to obey His call.