

SUPERSTITION IN BRITANNY.

THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

The Leicester Autumnal Missionary Meetings.

IN the retrospect of the recent Autumnal Missionary services, on Tuesday, October 2nd, in Leicester, we feel we have abundant reason for thankfulness and encouragement; for the presence and power of the Divine Master were manifested in a very memorable manner.

Very early in the day—at the special service for young men in Charles Street Chapel—the right keynote was struck by the Rev. R. H. Roberts, B.A., of Notting Hill, in his masterly exposition of the words:—

“Say not ye, There are yet four months and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest.”

“*The Lord's harvest sacrificed to procrastination.*”—Few, indeed, who had the privilege of hearing the burning, soul-stirring words of the preacher, as he discoursed on this solemn subject, could have left Charles Street Chapel without deeper convictions of the terrible consequences of delay, and holier resolutions to press immediately forward to the fields white already to harvest.

The closing words of the preacher indicate the burden and spirit of his discourse:—

“Let us, then, have done with this dilatory and dawdling policy. *Now* is duty at the door and in the form of Him whose scarred hand forces its way through twining thorns of neglect to knock. *Now* the isles are waiting for His law. *Now* the scattered sheep upon the mountains who also are His elect bleat after the comforting crook of the ‘Bishop of souls,’ and ‘the pastures of tender grass beside waters of tranquillity.’ *Now* Gentiles are turned towards His light, and the languid eyes of burdened kings and statesmen crave wearily the crescent promises of His coming. We do live in Pentecostal times, but the ‘feast of tabernacles’ is in front with the prophecy of the still richer and final ingathering of the ‘fulness of the nations,’ and it is the Sovereign of the Pentecostal ages who challenges us to make the advance. Let us accept the challenge and test it to the uttermost. Awake and arise, for the dawn hath put on

her beautiful garments, and the 'accepted time' pauses at the Lord's right hand, watching, with standard lifted up, for the 'people willing in the day of His power.' Shall this 'willing people' be found among us, or are ye saying 'four months and *then* cometh harvest'? Oh, listen—listen to Him who solemnly protests, 'The fields are white, and already he that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal.' And 'Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that He may send forth labourers into His harvest.' And in thy prayer, bend over Moriah's altar, a meek and unreserved oblation, pleading 'Here am I; send me.'

"Thus may 'the Father's Kingdom come, and His will be done on earth as it is done in heaven'—through Jesus Christ. Amen."

Of the Missionary Breakfast, in the Temperance Hall, at nine o'clock, on behalf of the China Mission (under the chairmanship of Alexander McArthur, Esq., M.P.), we can only say it was a season long to be remembered.

It was the earnest desire of the Committee that this meeting should be rather an appeal to the heart than for immediate giving, it being their confident conviction that an intelligent acquaintance with the work of our brethren in China would necessarily produce sympathy and practical support—not as the consequence of spasmodic appeal, but rather as the natural outcome of intelligent apprehension.

The remarkable addresses of Mr. Jones and Mr. Glover cannot fail to produce lasting results.

"*The Call of God to Go Forward*" was indeed a fitting sequel to the discourse at the early morning service, and the vast congregation that overcrowded the Temperance Hall seemed spell-bound as Mr. Glover poured forth an address so full of sanctified eloquence and lofty inspiration that it is difficult to find terms in which adequately to characterise it.

We ask for this address the careful and prayerful perusal of all our readers, under the clear conviction that its consideration must result in a far truer estimate of the paramount claims of Mission work, and in a far higher realisation of the blessed privilege conferred upon every individual Christian by the risen Lord in committing such an enterprise to human instrumentality.

In referring to this meeting we desire also to express our grateful appreciation of the thoughtful kindness of the Rev. J. Jenkyn Brown, of Birmingham, who, having regard to the lateness of the hour, declined to deliver his address, in order to make way for Mr. Jones and Mr. Glover.

In view of the great difficulty of providing breakfast for so large a number, it may be well, perhaps, on future occasions to consider the wisdom, or otherwise, of dispensing with breakfast altogether, so that a

longer time may be devoted to the real objects of the meeting, which, in that case, might begin at ten o'clock punctually.

Of the Rev. Dr. Allon's sermon, preached at noon in Victoria Road Chapel, from the words "*The field is the world,*" we feel it is very difficult, in a brief notice, to do anything like justice to it. In order to rightly appreciate this noble discourse it *must be read*, and we commend its perusal most earnestly to all our friends. It is the intention of the Committee to print the sermon and give to it a wide circulation.

In the afternoon the Committee of the Society had a prolonged meeting for the consideration and despatch of Mission business.

At this meeting a new missionary for the Congo was appointed—Mr. H. G. Whitley, of Byculla Park, Enfield, a young brother, who, in the judgment of the Committee, is very specially adapted for African pioneer Mission work.

Mr. Whitley, the son of well known and highly respected parents, and the nephew of the Rev. T. G. Rooke, LL.B., of Rawdon College, is relinquishing excellent business prospects at home for work which for many years past has been increasingly dear to him, and to which he has now resolved to devote his life. He anticipates embarking for the Congo about the middle of the current month.

At the same meeting of the Committee the offer of Miss Gwen Thomas, of Hampstead, for school teaching at Cameroons, West Africa, was also accepted. From childhood Miss Thomas has been associated with Camden Road Chapel, and the ministry of the Rev. Francis Tucker, B.A.

Although the realisation of the dream of some years past that, as the wife of the lamented Mr. Hartland, of the Congo Mission, she might be permitted to labour for the benighted peoples of the Dark Continent on the banks of the mighty Congo river has been denied her, yet Miss Thomas will still have the joy of devoting her life and labours on behalf of Africa, and so of fulfilling the sacred resolves of years gone by, and the growing longings of her later experience.

Miss Thomas will, in all probability, leave England for Africa in company with Miss Comber early in next year.

The Mission services at Leicester were brought to a most fitting close by a densely-crowded missionary meeting in the Temperance Hall, under the presidency of the Mayor of the town, W. Hewett, Esq.

All the speakers, except the Chairman, were themselves missionaries: the Rev. J. Smith, of Delhi, the noble veteran, earnest and eloquent, grown gray in the service; the Rev. J. J. Turner, who for seven years has been labouring in China amid all the sad horrors of the terrible

famine ; and the Rev. J. J. Fuller, who, after more than forty years of missionary toil in Western Africa, seems to have lost none of his fine enthusiasm or fiery vigour. And so ended a day long to be remembered, worthy alike of the greatness of the missionary enterprise and of the hearty welcome and generous Christian sympathy of the Christian churches of the good town of Leicester.

Writing to the Secretary, concerning the Leicester missionary gatherings, an old and generous friend of the Society says :—

“For more than fifty years the gracious Master has permitted me the privilege of attending missionary services in all parts of the kingdom, and with growing years my interest in this blessed enterprise has deepened and strengthened.

“Your missionary day at Leicester has been to me a crowning joy. Surely never before have the presence and spirit of the Crucified Christ been so manifested. All through the various services He seemed to be felt so powerfully as a living presence. The grand central truth—Christ and Christ Crucified—was so prominent, the old Gospel of the Cross, and Christ the only power under heaven to save and regenerate mankind. What a noble meeting in the evening to close with.

“How we all felt, as Mr. Turner told the marvellous tale of his experiences in China, that it is the simple message of the love of God, in the life, sufferings and death of Christ, that alone can touch the human heart all the world over ; the old, old story, rest for the weary and peace for the sin-stricken and distressed.

“May God continue abundantly to prosper our noble Society ! It is His work ; and it seems as if at last our churches were resolved to realise their responsibility and privilege in regard to this grand enterprise.”

OUR PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION.

The extinction of the debt, and the promise of funds to meet the initial expense of outfit and passage of the FOURTEEN new missionaries to be sent to China—as was plainly stated at Leicester—only *adds a heavier weight of responsibility* upon the churches to provide, by new and largely augmented periodical subscriptions, the means absolutely required to *maintain the fourteen* new missionaries and establish an equilibrium between present income and expenditure.

In the private appeal made by the Secretary for help towards the entire liquidation of the debt it was stated that,

“should the debt be extinguished, the whole energies of the Committee might then be devoted to the adoption and working of carefully devised plans for securing more deepened interest and systematic organisation throughout all the churches of the denomination with a view to secure such a *regular and permanent* increase of income as should *prevent the creation of a new debt in*

March next, while at the same time permitting the Society not only to maintain its present greatly enlarged agencies in India, China, and Central Africa, but allow of still further extension in response to beseeching appeals from nearly all parts of the vast mission-field."

In order to secure this, an increase of

£15,000

to the annual income is needful.

This will be seen at once if the churches remember that an increase of **£5,000** is needed to MEET EXISTING EXPENDITURE,

£7,000 will be required to meet the allowances for the fourteen new missionaries to China, including all the various expenses incidental to their stations and work, while a further

£3,000 is absolutely demanded by the immediate reinforcement of the Congo Mission; leaving little or no margin for India and Japan.

This, then, is the work that URGENTLY PRESSES, and it is to secure this increase of regular income that the earnest endeavours of the Committee are now being directed.

By the plans recently adopted by the Committee, after prolonged and careful consideration, the churches of the denomination will be canvassed throughout, and most earnest efforts made to introduce systematic organisation into every church, so that small, as well as large, periodical contributions may be regularly collected, and missionary interest excited and maintained by the regular circulation of the MISSIONARY HERALD, and other sources of missionary information. As an example of how county districts may be systematically worked in the interest of the Mission, we have much pleasure in reporting the result of a Conference of Norfolk Pastors held at the house of the Rev. Thos. A. Wheeler, of Norwich, and convened by him, for the special purpose of putting into practical operation the plans recently adopted by the Mission Committee.

CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS HELD AT UNTHANKS ROAD, SEPTEMBER 20, 1883.

Present—Revs. T. Turner, Attleborough; G. Pilgrim, Bacton; A. W. Ager, Carleton Rode; F. Harvey, Great Ellingham; W. Halls, Fakenham; A. M. Hertsberg, Ingham; A. T. Osborne, Lynn; E. Slipper, Neatishead; T. Bullimore, Norwich; B. Taylor, Pulham St. Mary; S. Porter, Thetford; E. Tucker, Great Yarmouth; C. Stovell, Martham; R. B. Horne, Aylsham; J. Green, Old Buckenham; S. Howard, Downham Market; R. L. McDougall, Gorleston; H. Viner, Foulsham; T. J. Ewing, Kenninghall; E. Mason, Lowestoft; T. H. Sparham, Neston; T. A. Wheeler, Norwich; J. Wilkins, Swaffham; J. Jackson, Worstead; and C. Hardy, Great Yarmouth.

Resolved—

"1. That we Baptist ministers of Norfolk, assembled in Conference, hereby

pledge ourselves to attempt to secure weekly or monthly subscriptions from all the *several members of our churches and congregations* on behalf of the Baptist Foreign Mission, or by other methods to augment the contributions already made to the Missionary Society.

“2. That the county be divided into the following districts, and that the brethren hereinafter named be appointed secretaries of those districts:—

- (1) *Yarmouth* (Secretary, Rev. C. Hardy, Yarmouth)—includes Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Gorleston, and Martham ;
- (2) *Worstead* (Secretaries, Revs. J. Jackson, Worstead, and R. B. Horne, Aylsham and Buxton)—includes Worstead, Aylsham, Ingham, Buxton, Bacton, Neatishead, Mundesley, and Ludham ;
- (3) *Swaffham* (Secretaries, Rev. J. Wilkins and Mr. T. Moore, Swaffham)—includes Swaffham, Dereham, Fakenham, Foulsham, Necton, and Tittleshall ;
- (4) *Lynn* (Secretaries, Revs. A. T. Osborne, Lynn, and S. Howard, Downham)—includes Lynn, Downham, and Upwell ;
- (5) *Norwich* (Secretaries, Revs. J. H. Shakespeare, Norwich, and T. Turner, Attleborough; R. Bryant, Esq., Besthorpe Hall, Attleborough; and Rev. T. A. Wheeler, Norwich)—includes Norwich, Attleborough, Kenninghall, Ellingham, Thetford, Pulham, Shelfanger, Carleton Rode, Wymondham, Costessey, Saxlingham, Salhouse, &c.

“3. That the Secretaries of these districts meet as soon as possible to report progress and confer on methods of work.”

R. Bryant, Esq., of Besthorpe Hall, Attleborough, kindly invites the secretaries to meet at his house on Thursday, October 25th.—T. A. WHEELER.

It only needs that the entire country should be in like manner systematically worked so as to embrace *every church*, however small or poor, and the pressing, growing claims of the dark places of the earth to-day calling on all hands for the light brought home to every individual church member, however humble or obscure, and the needful increase of £15,000 would be speedily and easily secured.

A *missionary box in every Baptist household*, and every member of the household esteeming it a joy and privilege to regularly contribute to it, on the first day of each week or otherwise, a *regular weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual subscription*, however small, from every church member in the Baptist communion, would surely produce all that is required, and provide ample funds for considerable extension also.

Most earnestly do we appeal to all the readers of the HERALD to help in this effort.

In the almost last words of David Livingstone:—

“This mission enterprise is not the work of a class or an order only ; it is the paramount, proximate duty and privilege of *every individual Christian*.”

To neglect it, to refuse to sympathise with it in practical service and sacrifice, is to be traitor to the Lord whose work it is, and whose commission and command stands to-day in unrepealed and undiminished force: 'Go, Go into all the world: If ye love Me, keep My commandments.'

REINFORCEMENTS FOR CHINA.

In addition to the extinction of the debt, the Secretary was in a position, at Leicester, to make a further gratifying announcement relating to the outlay for the outfits and passages of the fourteen new missionaries the Committee have resolved to send to China.

The following letter from Mr. Charles Wathen, of Ashley Down, Bristol—who, it will be remembered, met the entire cost of the preliminary Congo pioneering expedition, and provided half the cost of sending out twelve new missionaries, three years ago—was read by Mr. Baynes at the China Breakfast Meeting in Leicester:—

“Ashley House, Ashley Down, Bristol, *September 22nd*, 1883.

“DEAR MR. BAYNES,—Your statement of the needs of the China Mission I have read with great interest. I appreciate the difficulties which must weigh heavily on the minds of the Committee—the difficulty, on the one hand, of making any forward movement, when the present income barely reaches your expenditure, and when further heavy outlay on the Congo seems imperiously demanded; the difficulty, on the other, of declining a request from China, which the great work, the splendid service, and the great success of the brethren there give them every title to ask, and give us every reason to respond to.

“I venture to hope that the call from Africa will not be unheeded, and I will have pleasure in giving £100 for passage and outfit of a man to supply the place of Mr. Hartland. I trust also that the call from China will receive a prompt and hearty response. It has occurred to me that possibly it might assist the realisation of your wishes if I were to take the same course with regard to the fourteen men you now need for China which three years ago I took with regard to the twelve men you then sent out to the East. I understand that the passages and outfits of these fourteen men will cost £150 each, making a total of £2,100. Should the response of the churches to your appeal, and the consecration of valuable men, permit the Committee to send out these fourteen, I shall have much pleasure in giving the £1,050 necessary for the passages and outfits of one-half of them.

“I should propose to follow the same line as in the former case, and meet the costs of each alternate man who is sent out.

“I trust others may supply the amounts needed for the despatch of the other seven men; and, what is more important still, that individuals and churches should give such increased amounts as will warrant the Committee in making this great enlargement of their work.

"Praying for a blessing on the work of the Society, and with kind regards to yourself,

"To A. H. Baynes, Esq."

"I am, yours very truly,

"CHAS. WATHEN.

A letter from the Rev. Richard Glover, of Bristol, to the following effect, was also read :—

"Bristol, September 23rd, 1883.

"MY DEAR FRIEND,—Please note enclosed particulars of promises given me on behalf of the Missionary Society *towards the proposed extension of our mission work in China.*

"You will observe that these sums provide a thousand guineas, and a little over, which, with the thousand guineas so kindly promised by Mr. Wathen, will make the total sum required for the passage and outfit of the fourteen men so urgently needed for China.

"I trust you may find as great readiness in others to contribute the amount necessary for the support of these men as I have found in those who have thus contributed to their going forth.

"I remain, my dear Friend,

"Yours very sincerely,

"A. H. Baynes, Esq., London."

"RICHARD GLOVER.

The list of promises enclosed was as follows :—

Messrs. E. S. and A. Robinson, Redcliffe Street	£250	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Robinson, Westfield Park (outfit and passage of one missionary)	150	0	0
N. D. (outfit and passage of one missionary)	150	0	0
A Friend (outfit and passage of one missionary)	150	0	0
Miss Leonard, Rockleigh House	50	0	0
Miss Katharine Leonard, Rockleigh House	50	0	0
Miss Gotch, Pembroke Road	50	0	0
Mr. John Robinson, Backwell	50	0	0
Mr. Charles Townsend, J.P.	50	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Shirley, Ashbourne House, St. John's Road	26	5	0
Miss Florence Shirley, Ashbourne House, St. John's Road	5	5	0
Master Arthur Shirley, Ashbourne House, St. John's Road	5	5	0
Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Sargent, Cornwall House, Osborne Road	25	0	0
Maud and Percy Sargent, Cornwall House, Osborne Road	5	0	0
Mr. Joseph Gould, Brislington	15	0	0
Mr. J. S. Rose	10	10	0
Mr. G. M. Carlile	10	0	0
Miss Brown, West Park	5	5	0
Rev. Richard Glover	10	0	0
Mrs. Richard Glover	10	0	0
Miss L. M. Davies	10	0	0

These sums make a total of £1,037 10 0

THE EXTINCTION OF THE DEBT.

AT the Breakfast Meeting on behalf of the China Mission, at Leicester, the Secretary reported that the accounts of the Mission for last year, made up to the 31st March, 1883, closed with a debt on the General Account of the Mission of £2,575 17s. 10d. This sum a few weeks afterwards was reduced by £300, Colonel and Mrs. A. Angus Croll having specially contributed this sum in aid of its liquidation.

With a view to entirely clear the remaining deficiency of £2,275 17s. 10d., the Treasurer, Joseph Tritton, Esq., intimated a few weeks ago to Mr. Baynes his intention to contribute one-third of the amount (viz., £758 12s. 7d.); and at the same time gave expression to the earnest hope that other friends might be found willing to contribute the other two-thirds (viz., £1,517 5s. 3d.)

Under these circumstances the Secretary communicated with a few well-known supporters of the Mission, and received such a generous response that not only was the £1,517 5s. 3d. contributed within a week, but also sufficient, in addition, to extinguish the debt of £334 9s. 10d. on the Widows and Orphans' Fund.

The list of friends through whose help this most encouraging result has been secured is as follows:—

The Treasurer	£758 12 7
Mr. Jeremiah Colman	200 0 0
A Friend	125 0 0
A Friend	100 0 0
Mr. James Benham	100 0 0
Mr. T. S. Child	100 0 0
Mr. Geo. E. Foster (and £150 for General Fund) ...	100 0 0
Mr. Chas. F. Foster (and £150 for General Fund)...	100 0 0
Mrs. Kemp	100 0 0
Mr. T. B. Mead	100 0 0
Mr. E. Rawlings	100 0 0
Mr. W. R. Rickett	100 0 0
A Friend	50 0 0
Mr. Thos. Coats	50 0 0
Mr. T. Marnham	50 0 0
Mr. Marcus Martin	50 0 0
Mr. W. Middlemore	50 0 0
Mr. and Mrs. T. Procter	50 0 0
Mr. John J. Smith	50 0 0
Mr. A. J. Harvey	25 0 0
Mr. H. Trevor	20 0 0
Mr. Alfred H. Baynes	50 0 0
Other sums	186 5 0
	<hr/>
	£2,614 17 7

A Superstition in Brittany.

(See *Frontispiece*, p. 366.)

A PARISIAN, a Meridonal, or any stranger to Lower Brittany would, on arriving at St-Carré, St-Jean-du-Doigt, Rumengol, &c., on a pardon day, believe he is in a heathen country. The imperfect drawing here enclosed is that of St-Carré, one of the places we have mentioned.

Every one can see, on the great day of expiation (Pentecost Sunday), women of all ages on their naked knees going five or six times round the church. Some of these devoted, ignorant, and superstitious people impose upon themselves this strange torture, which they called "a mortification." Some of the rich people pay these poor creatures to mortify themselves in their stead. For a few pence poor women will go thirty, forty, or fifty times on their bare knees round the church. This is a heart-breaking sight. It is even indecent and shameful; heart-breaking, for one cannot witness without disgust the sight of this procession of human creatures, disfigured by suffering, dragging their legs amongst the mud or on the stones red with their blood; crying, and at last falling utterly exhausted on the roadside.

This, my dear friend, is what the Church of Rome has done in this country, and this is how they pretend to represent the religion of Jesus, which, as we know, really consists of worshipping the Saviour in spirit and in truth.

G. LECOAT, Breton Missionary.

St. Carré, Côtes-du-Nord, Brittany, *Pentecost Sunday*.

God's call to us.

(Address delivered at the Autumnal Missionary Breakfast, in Leicester, on October 2nd, on behalf of the China Mission, by the Rev. RICHARD GLOVER, of Bristol.)

A MISSIONARY meeting is a time of great solemnity for those who hear and those who speak. I feel especially the solemnity of this occasion, having regard to the crisis which our secretary has represented this morning. For two years successively our income has fallen short of our expenditure; not, happily, through the lessening of our funds—for, despite of agricultural depression and other things tending to lessen people's power of giving, there was a larger amount contributed last year than in any previous year—but through increase of our staff in India, in

China, and through the great cost of work in Africa ; through enlargement of our work in Italy, through increase of our work of education, and generally through the enterprise which has been lately marking the work of this society. Still there are these deficits embarrassing the committee, depressing us at home, and in a greater degree our brethren abroad, as they seem to reflect on the work they do, and hinder them in their great desires to carry the work still further. So we have, on the one hand, deficit. On the other hand, our short-handed work in Africa, crushing men with its burden, killing one of them already, calls upon us to do what we may to increase the number of men there, and keep from death lives that are invaluable. A million of lives last year perished through the African slave trade. Nothing will end that but Christian missions. And in face of our partial guilt and responsibility for that slave trade, and in face of the fact that the gospel is the power that can end it, we are called to Africa. Then we have an appeal for reinforcement for Japan. We shall probably have another to-night for more men for India. And we have this appeal which Mr. Baynes has submitted to us, for fourteen additional men for China. So we stand to-day where two roads meet. There is the deficit, saying: "Halt! Retrench." There are success, need, grace, love, bidding us go forward. To which voice shall we listen, and which obey? I know not when, in the history of the society from the beginning, we have stood in a crisis so important—where we must go bodily backward or forward, shrinking to do much less, or mounting to do more than we have done. The question is not exclusively one of the state of the exchequer. Are we, or are we not, called of God to go forward? That is the question. It is not statistics, not balance-sheets; it is the leading of the Lord that we are to ask about. I have thought on this matter. I, for one, think we are called, and that God is saying: "Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward." I will tell you why I think that; and, as sober men, judge ye what I say. First, I think, as Christian men, we have a call to go forward in the gift of Leaders whom we ought to follow. There is no greater gift God gives to the Church than men who, by blended courage, wisdom, and mercy, are fit to lead the way in all gracious enterprises. On the Chinese field there are three or four men just gone, who will be worthy helpers of those at their head. We have two men who have been foremost in this work—one here this morning. Do we know what work they have done? Do we value aright the qualities they have shown? I say they have every attribute of leaders, and we will be responsible to God if we fail to follow them. They quitted, eight years ago, the comparative safety of a consular

port, feeling their way at great risk for the interior, for it was a few years only after the massacre of French missionaries at Tien Tsin. By their kindness, courtesy, skill in ministering to the sick, and graciousness to all, they made good their footing. Then came the terrible famine, slaying its many millions. It came to pass that, more than any other Englishman, our friend Mr. Richard had an honourable part in ministering to the awful needs by which he was surrounded. Two years, night and day, denying himself of his rest, facing all the horrors of want, pestilence, and death, he and our friend ministered there. Do you think that the 20,000 people saved by them from death have not a different idea of Christianity than they had before? Do you think they did not read the marks of a heavenly anointing in their power to heal the broken-hearted, and in the Love which sought to save the perishing? And when they saw Mr. Jones, with his family of 400 orphans, when the famine was over—think you when the eye saw him it did not bless him, and when the ear heard him it did not bear witness to him? They evidently have a leader's mercy, and have, by the work they have done, gained great love for, and great love from, the Chinese around in a way which gives them great influence over them. Then they have shown the rare wisdom of sympathy in their work. I don't know what ecclesiastics would say about the keys of the kingdom of heaven. I believe the keys of the kingdom of heaven are sympathy with God and with man. Our friends have had these keys, have been full of the spirit of the Apostle, which made him to the Jews a Jew, and to those without law as without law. There are some here and abroad that can so speak the Gospel as to raise resentment without conveying conviction. There are some not less orthodox, holding the same Gospel, who can so speak as to awake no resentment; who kindle in people the wish to believe the message they proclaim. Our friends there had that sympathy in a large degree. They have shown themselves possessed of an immense power of work, and have worked as few men have ever wrought. God has set His seal on them. If they had come and told us of two or three little churches gathered during the last eight years with a few members each, we should have been profoundly thankful. Moffatt, Williams, and others worked ten years before getting a convert. A measure of success, inconceivable but for these circumstances I have described, has been given to our brethren—800 members, gathered with almost the certainty of persecution attending each one of them, have proved their steadfastness and the reality of their conversion by their efforts to extend that light to others who lack it. These are the seals of their ministry. What shall we say to our God

in heaven, if with a talent of leadership such as these men have, we bury it in the earth? Such men are the Pillar of Cloud by day and of Fire by night, which we ought to follow. And I say that when that cloud moves, and men with such an entrance to the human heart, lead us forward, we have in that fact one unmistakable proof of a call from God. Then you have I think a call of God, secondly in the claims of the converts for further instruction. Of these 800 members, gathered in about 50 little churches, only one in seven can read the Bible. They only know, as it were, *one verse*: "That God loves us—gave His son for us, and whoso believes in Him is saved." But the Bible picture to them has no perspective. Law is mixed with Gospel, Moses with Paul. Their fervour cannot avoid being fanatical, their joy presumptuous. Probably they think all the Bible saints Englishmen. They are beset like the Apostolic Churches with liability to go seriously astray. Have they not a claim for the further instruction that eighteen centuries of Christian experience enables us to give them? Ye parents, bring up these your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Then, in addition to the claim of the converts for further instruction, there is the claim of the inquirers as well. If there are 800 converts gathered in six or seven years, there must be at least 8,000 enquirers asking the biggest question that can torture and enlarge the human heart—asking, Is God love? Is the new message that makes heaven bright with hope and sweet with mercy, is it, can it be true? There are those men in thousands wanting to know the name of God, and whether Jesus, the friend of sinners, is the name by which they are to know Him? We, by the work of our brethren, have raised these questions. Are we not bound to aid them in finding the answer to them? Am I right? and are we, because there are not a sufficient number of sovereigns in the exchequer, to say, "We won't help you to the answer"? Is there not a call of God in this? Then I think, further, there is a call of God in what these good people may do if we marshal them. It is an army asking for officers. Shall we not listen to them? The Chinese are a marvellous race, numbering one-third of the inhabitants of the earth; the oldest nationality which the world has seen. It has witnessed the rise and decay of Assyria, Babylon, Rome and Greece, and it has survived the decay of these empires of which it saw the rise. Let us do all justice to every good thing about them, but do not let our charity have any make-believe about it. They know not the Father. They know the one great God and are His children. But the worship of Him is reserved exclusively for the Emperor, who, as High Priest, enters once alone, every year, into the Temple of the Supreme to worship;—all

the rest of the 400 millions betaking themselves to inferior deities. They are the nation, of all other nations in the world, most burdened and darkened with superstition. Woman has the same degraded position as in every heathen land: infanticide is common. Archdeacon Gray came across a notice over a farm pond in the neighbourhood of Canton: "Children may not be drowned here:" Significant, is it not? Guilt wants the shadow of the Cross; bereavement wants comfort and the light of Christ's empty grave. Now put all that together—the need of the Chinese people; fitness of the converts to carry on the work; the zeal shown by our brethren; their assured and revealed power of leading; and I think, I hope at least, all here will be led to feel that in the appeal of our brethren there is a Call of God. All may not be convinced, for some people need a tremendous amount of demonstration to prove to them that anybody is their neighbour. But there are generous hearts that find it easily proved, and that find the nearness of need, and the power to help it, a sufficient proof that the man who wants it is his neighbour. Am I right? Somebody says, "God always gives funds where He wants work to be done." I may not have the experience some people may have in this direction. But I should be inclined to say the very opposite of that: "God never gives the money before we attempt to do the work." Have you ever the power before you have the duty? or in the supreme moment of its acceptance and its discharge? "Stretch forth thine hand," says Christ to us, as it is withered to-day, and does not look as though it were competent to stretch out and save those needing our help. Shall we say our hand is withered? It is, and it will not be sound before you stretch it forth; but in the moment of supreme effort to obey the call of mercy the power will come. Had Moses the power to invade Egypt when he had nothing but a wife, and an ass, and two sons, and the rod of God in his hand? Had he? Ah, no! God's calls are always to something quite above us, and quite beyond us. We have not strength, nor patience, nor meekness for any work before we do it, but we find these in the effort to do it. Duty does not find power. It makes it. So to-day I say, God never does give funds before you want them. What have we to do, then, when these funds are insufficient? Not lessen the work, but enlarge the giving. I know the state of trade; I do not think my congregation is at all as wealthy as it was ten years ago. What of that? We must make up for poorer purses by larger hearts. Whatever we do, we may not neglect God's call. It is the greatest dignity that can be conferred upon us to have such a high calling in Christ Jesus. If through fear we fall back, we shall lose our present power, and joy and hope; but if humbly, tremblingly we endeavour to follow where God leads,

then this high calling will itself work wonders for us : Though we have lien among the pots, our wings will become like the wings of the dove, our efforts will work power to love and power to labour. We do not realise the force which in the Gospel is in our hands. In one man's lifetime, that of my own father, the West Indies have been lifted from heathenism to spiritual life like that of England ; a large part of Madagascar has been won for Christ ; and to-day more than 100,000 members in India are on the list of the Christian churches. We here take forty-five years to double our members ; but the Church of Christ is doubling itself every ten years in India ; so rapidly, in fact, that even if the rate does not accelerate, and if my little child lives to be my father's age, she will see India as Christian as England is to-day. China, in 1845, had six converts ; it now has 20,000. "Our Father worketh hitherto." If we had ears to hear we should hear Him say, "Behold I make all things new ;" and if we had eyes to see, we should discern a springtide freshness on this wintry world. We must change our missionary text, and instead of making it "A thousand years are as one day," we must make it, "One day is as a thousand years." "A short work is God working in the earth." God grant we may have the manhood, the tenderness of heart, the allegiance, the love to take our share in this work. We give too little : our gifts ought to be sacrifices to this work. Give nothing, or else what costs us something. Be either cold or hot ; do not give what you can spare. If you do not give more than that, give nothing. The sacred hand of Christ demands a larger gift. We must seek to gather larger gifts. Remember, so much gold as you can get out of any one, so much grace you can get into him. Let us by thus giving, and thus gathering, seek to respond to this great call. I am glad there has been no asking for contributions at this meeting, for many reasons : partly because I think that fifty men who would get up and say, "I will give £10," will, if they take till to-morrow, find themselves able to give £20. We want you to put your thought and conscience into it. If it is worth your help, help it ; if it is not, refrain. I trust that, if, as I believe we have, we are enjoying the loving lead of God, we will have grace to follow Him faithfully.

"The Lord Loveth a Cheerful Giver."

WE have again thankfully to acknowledge the receipt of many gifts during the past month, indicating growing interest in the work of the Mission.

"An Evangelist" working in the St. Albans district sends a gold chain, and writes :—"Please sell the enclosed chain for the noble missionary cause. I am striving to do all I can to stir up a missionary spirit wherever I go."

"A Domestic Servant at Dulwich" sends a pair of gold earrings for the Congo Mission, and writes:—

"Lord, take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold."

For the Congo Mission, "A Servant of the Lord" sends £100; our ever generous friend, Mr. Wilson, of Clifford, near Sheffield, £200; Mr. Arthur Robinson, of Bristol, £25; "One whom God has prospered," £10; Mrs. Searle, Truro, £10; Mr. and Mrs. Kudgell, £10; and Rev. S. Murch, £5.

"A Widow" sends two small gold rings, with the words:—"May the gracious Lord accept these trifles for His blessed Mission cause. I cannot tell you with what intense delight I give these for the work of the Congo Mission."

"A Friend of Missions" writes, sending £5:—"I have been deeply interested in reading the accounts of the Leicester Missionary Meetings, and my eyes filled with tears of joy as I read the debt had been cleared off."

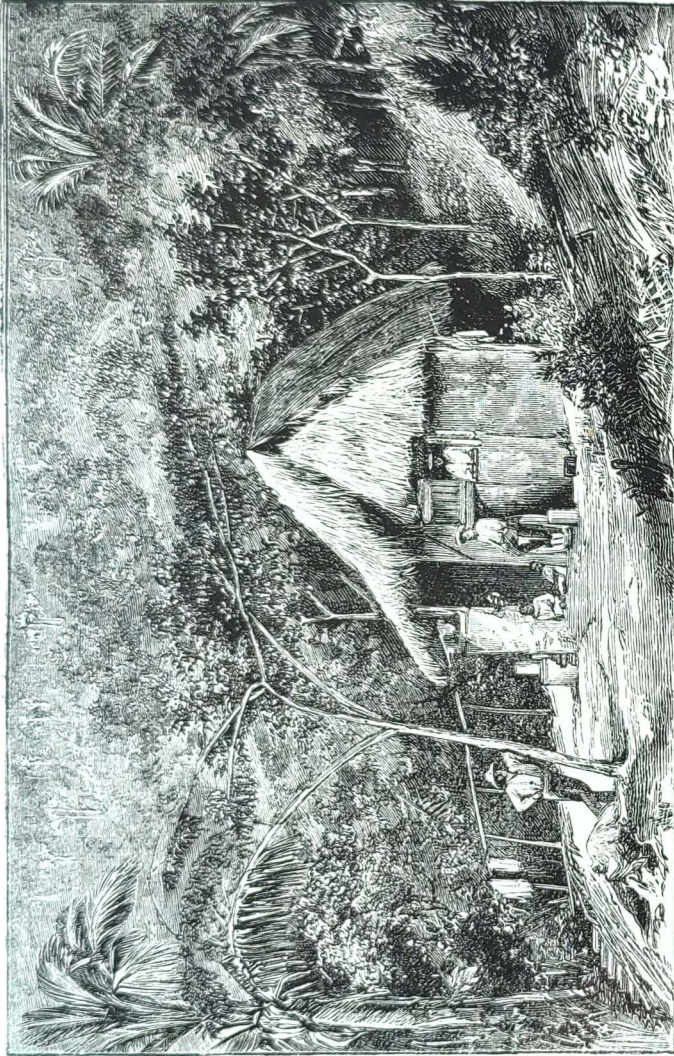
"A Sick Girl" in the Brompton Consumption Hospital sends a small brooch, "the only valuable thing she has," for the Congo Mission; and "A Hospital Nurse" £1 for the same work. "A Friend" sends £5; "N. N.," £75; Mr. W. E. Lilley, £200; A Friend, £200; A Friend in Scotland, £10; Mrs. Feversham, £10 10s.; Mr. B. Watson, Rochdale, £20; and Mr. W. B. Rickett, £120 for the outfit and passage of Mr. Alfred Terchmann, missionary to India.

"A Sailor" sends a small gold chain, saying:—"I should very much like the enclosed chain to be sold for the Mission. I have been reading some back numbers of the MISSIONARY HERALD, when on my last voyage, that my little girl brought home from the Sunday School, and my heart longs to help this good work. I am become a 'Blue Ribbon' man now, and hope during my next voyage, please God, to save a few pounds for the Congo Mission."

For the Special China Fund Mr. George Angus, of Newcastle, sends £50; and the Rev. E. L. Forster, of Hereford, £5, praying earnestly that "ten thousand members of Baptist Churches would do the same."

A Native Hut, Trinidad.

THIS hut, photographed by an American artist, is a fair specimen of the kind of houses in which the black and other coloured people of Trinidad live, in villages at some distance from the towns, and in isolated parts of the island. It is constructed of upright posts, wattling, and mud, and thatched over with carat. It has a door and windows, one of which is thrown open, disclosing one of its inmates. The children in the doorway, as well as the men, are dressed in European style, but their clothing is necessarily slighter than that worn here. In the towns, on Sundays and holidays, the latest London and Parisian fashions are worn, while many of the houses are well built and ornamented. The background of the photograph will give some idea, but only a faint one, of the quantity of vegetation in the island, which is abundant and luxuriant. The bulk of the area of the island is still covered by the primeval forests. W. WILLIAMS.



A NATIVE HUT IN TRINIDAD. — (*From a Photograph.*)

Disastrous Cyclone in the Bahamas.

THE following letter has just been received from the Rev. Daniel Wilshere, of Nassau:—

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—I write, *vid* Cuba, to inform you of a most disastrous cyclone which raged here on the 8th inst., in which every building suffered more or less, and scores of the houses of the poor were utterly destroyed.

"All the shipping in the harbour was injured, and many of the island vessels which were here to receive the corn furnished by government to assist the inhabitants, whose crops are ruined by nine months' drought, were sunk *with the corn on board*.

"Will you therefore please appeal

to the churches to help us, as they so generously did Jamaica in the like case? The Bahamas has suffered drought whereby all ground produce was killed; now all the fruit-trees are injured or destroyed, so that outside Nassau the evil will be unparalleled. Particulars I am unable yet to furnish.

"May God put it into the hearts of the friends to come speedily to our help; I am doing all I can meanwhile. —Yours very faithfully,

"DANIEL WILSHERE.

"A. H. Baynes, Esq.,

"Sept. 12th, 1883."

The *Nassau Guardian*, of Saturday, September 8th, states:—

"One of the most fearful cyclones with which our colony was ever visited passed over this island to-day, creating great devastation all around. It was squally the whole of yesterday, and the sun at setting shed a lurid glare over the western sky. There were occasional showers during the evening, and a breeze sprang up from E.N.E., increasing till midnight, when a gradual fall in the barometer commenced. This caused the inhabitants to batten up their doors and windows, while the owners of vessels used their best endeavours, when almost too late, to secure their craft. The efforts of the latter, however, with few exceptions, were unavailing, for their vessels and boats are now lying in heaps all along the shore. Had proper precautions been taken at the first note of warning, which was given by Captain Stuart, as early as 2 a.m., many of the smaller vessels might have been removed to securer anchorages. At 11.30 the wind gradually

shifted from N.E. to N.W., and the cyclone was at its height at 2 p.m., the barometer indicating 28.868. It then began to rise, and the wind veered to W.S.W. at 6.30, blowing in that direction for four-and-a-half hours. The rain fell heavily nearly all day, and caused great destruction of property by beating into the houses and stores. There is scarcely a house which has not sustained damage. Walls, fences and trees have been blown down in all directions, and many of the houses of the poor completely prostrated.

"All the retaining walls of the wharfs, from the barracks to Captain Lightbourn's, have been injured, and the wooden wharfs at the Board of Trade yard and No. 1 are destroyed; and we regret to state that the destruction of shipping far exceeds that during the hurricane of 1866. Indeed it is quite impossible at present to estimate accurately the terrible amount of loss and damage inflicted."

In a second letter, written a few days after this terrible visitation, Mr. Wilshere says:—

“You will receive by this mail the *Nassau Guardian*, which will give you some idea of the awful visitation we have suffered. I was anticipating something of the kind, and so at daybreak had the chapel and house closed as far as possible, but the wind just laughed at our defences. The old chapel shutters went to splinters; the glass in the old sashes followed, I fear, beyond repair. We must have new sashes and shutters.

“The house has shutters and sashes; everything upstairs blown away to some unknown locality. We fought with the vessel sails to keep the window holes covered, but had tons of water, in which floated the furniture, and did vast damage. The western house wall is so shaken, I feel it must be taken down and rebuilt; it bulges 6 in. from the upright 30 ft. from ground, and leaves a yawning chasm between wall and floor upstairs. Kitchen and south wall destroyed, roof damaged, all outbuildings greatly shaken.

“The Mission schooner was docked securely against ordinary weather. On N. and S. the wind and waves took her like a toy, dashed her over, jamming the stern rail, and running her into a new vessel on the ways, smashed the rudder, ripped off the brass, bilged out one of the planks, and other damage; but she is less injured than almost any vessel in the harbour.

“From 3 a.m., when the barometer went below 30°0'0", I was incessantly stirring, as one defence gave way to substitute another. At 5 p.m., when the wind lulled a little, I went out in the midst of the falling wrecks of houses to the boat.

“Such horrible destruction I had never thought possible except by earthquake. At midnight we picked out the driest places on the lower floor, and tried to go to sleep.

“5 a.m., I went west and south to see if our people were much injured, but had to return as the water stopped my further progress. Putting on rubber leggings, I started again by New Road, Banis and Grant's Towns, the water over my knees, wrecks of houses and trees everywhere; by this means I had some idea of the awful damage done.

“We have helped with food, &c., every applicant to this date. About 30 members have lost houses, clothes, everything, while 150 others have houses seriously injured; their families make this a large number of sufferers. I am waiting to see what steps the Governor takes before I do anything to help to rebuild their houses.

“More sad is the story of wreck and loss. Here, indeed, we get the full woe. Vessels smashed or sunk; the little all of the owners, and, in many instances, the only means of intercourse with the world possessed by the Settlement. After a drought of nine months all the islands were destitute even of seed-corn; to receive a share of some imported by the Government these vessels were here, the corn *was on board* in some instances, ready to leave for the starving localities—these vessels are all sunk, the only means of transit, as well as the provisions, gone.

“I am compelled to-day to draw a bill for £100, which I trust the Committee will approve, and have much more than that returned in special donations in our aid, so as not to render this action any burden to the ordinary funds of the Society.

"I am too completely exhausted to go further into details; by the great mercy of God the family escaped uninjured, and I have only bruises. I send this, *via* Cuba, as our English mail does not leave until the 28th. God

bless you, and give the churches a liberal spirit to answer our call, for our need is indeed urgent.

"I am, affectionately yours,

" DANIEL WILSHERE.

" A. H. Baynes, Esq."

Any contributions in aid of the sufferers in Nassau and the out-stations connected with the Mission will be most thankfully received and remitted to Mr. Wilshere without delay.

Recent Intelligence.

On Wednesday the 17th of last month, the Rev. J. H. and Mrs. Anderson, and family, Mrs. Barrow and children, Mr. Alfred Teichmann, and the Misses Bush, Cooke, Jennings, Symes, Spinks and Thomas (Zenana missionaries), left London in the s.s. *Rewa*, for Calcutta.

Embarked in the same ship are the Misses Willis, St. Legier and Groves, about to be married respectively to Mr. Herbert Thomas, of Delhi, Mr. G. Kerry, of Barisal, and Mr. Arthur Wood, of Agra. Miss Hannah Evans, daughter of the Rev. Thos. Evans, of Monghyr, is also a passenger, in addition to many friends of the Mission who are returning to India after a season of rest and change at home.

A letter from Mr. H. M. Stanley, dated July 14th, has been received, in which he reports the discovery of a new lake, called Mantumba. He has also explored the river marked in the maps as the Ikelemba, but which is really the Malundu, and finds it to be a deep, broad, navigable stream. Mr. Stanley expresses his increasing surprise at the *vast density of the population* in the equatorial portions of the Congo basin, and says if what he has seen may be taken as representing the state of things generally, there is a population in this river basin alone of 49 millions.

We are pleased to report that the Welsh churches are taking action with a view to raise their quota towards the desired addition to the income of the Society. During the past month two conferences have been held, one at Swansea for South Wales, and the other at Rhyl for North Wales, when Mr. Myers had the opportunity to meet the secretaries and presidents of the Welsh associations. The brethren entered very heartily into the discussion of the best methods to be adopted for securing larger and more general contributions; and resolved to urge the claims of the mission at the next quarterly meetings in their respective counties, and to arrange a visitation of the churches. It was evident from the remarks of the speakers that the Society has a warm place in the hearts of our brethren of the Principality; and we are hopeful that the co-operation which has been so kindly promised will bring about substantial results. It is due to the friends at Swansea and Rhyl that we thankfully recognise the hospitality they so generously displayed.

By the death of the Rev. James Acworth, LL.D., at Scarborough, on October 13th, the Society has lost one of its most devoted and deeply interested supporters. For a long term of years Dr. Acworth was a very active and influential member of the executive committee of the Mission, as its official records abundantly testify, and almost to the last day of his life he maintained a lively interest in all that related to the work of the Society, and watched with unflagging zeal its operations in all parts of the world. During later years as an honorary member of the committee, and a generous supporter to its funds, Dr. Acworth has given practical expression to his intense sympathy with the Society. Only in July last the Secretary was permitted the privilege of intercourse with him, when, amid much suffering and weakness, the Doctor delighted to refer to missionary memories, and brightened into quite a glow of delight as reference was made to extending work and unlooked-for success. Later still, and only a brief while before he entered in through the gates "into the city," his old friend and ever respected colleague, Sir Morton Peto, had hallowed intercourse with him, and found that even then his thoughts delighted to recur to the varied work of what he always termed our noble Society. His last words to the Secretary of the Society may be confidently taken as the key to his life and the spring of his joy—"No work so noble as work for Christ, no joy so great as joy in Him." Quietly and peacefully, as a shock of corn fully ripe, has he been gathered into the everlasting garner, leaving behind the beautiful memory of a life of consecrated service for Christ, and a spirit gentle, tender, courageous, and sympathetic. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord."

Mrs. Daniel Jones, the wife of our Missionary Brother, the Rev. Daniel Jones, of Agra, writing to advise the despatch of a box of presents from the Summer Hill Chapel Sunday School, Maindee, Newport, Monmouthshire, for the children of the Mission Schools in Agra, says:—"Please, my dear Mr. Baynes, to forward this box to my husband in Agra as soon as possible, so that it may reach Agra by Christmas, when the children get their annual treat. We feel greatly rejoiced at the hearty response to the appeal for these Christmas presents; and as we have seen the children on former occasions receiving such gifts, we can picture their joy on getting possession of our pretty English toys—for the children to whom they will be given, as a rule, are too poor to buy even their own country toys. We are delighted, therefore, to send out such things to encourage them and help to make them happy. Then, our English school materials—such as are in the box—will be very pleasing to the children who have been accustomed to use boards instead of slates, and pointed sticks, dipped in wetted whiting instead of slate pencils. I am sure you will be glad to know the missionary spirit is growing at Summer Hill, under Mr. Cook's good influence, and we are told that the subscriptions this year will probably be more than double that of any previous year! We had a 'show' this week of the contents of the box, together with such Indian curiosities as we could collect, and had quite a large number of friends present, at a charge of one penny each for admission. I wonder, if this were made known through the pages of the MISSIONARY HERALD, would it stimulate other Sunday Schools and friends to do likewise, and send out a box or boxes of things to Agra, or any other of our many Mission Stations in India, say, in time for Christmas of next year, 1884?"