

[JANUARY 11, 1860.]

the present time. It is a holy and a happy sign, full of blessing for to-day and of hope for to-morrow. In these meetings, while every home interest of the churches is remembered, we would not forget the Foreign Missions to be forgotten.

Pray for the mission-field! That field is the world. Not that large tracts without even one, much more extensive than those occupied.

Pray for those neglected fields! The harvest is thick and the days are swift; and much is falling and perishing, because no reaper comes! Pray, O pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into his harvest!

Were our Queen to resemble all her subjects, and, placing nominal Christians on the one hand and idolaters on the other, to propose the question, Who is God? The Lord is he God? or the idols are gods? The voices which would reply, the Lord he is God, they are gods! Pray then for the British Empire, for the conversion of its heathen states and subjects, especially in British India!

The river in which Moses was laid—the sea which God divided—the city in which the Saviour bled—the country of the seven churches—the scenes of the Gospel's first triumphs—are all under the power of the Moslem. Pray for the missionaries at Jerusalem, Jew and Greek, Armenian, Arab, and Turk, may be made monuments of the saving power of Christ!

China is opening! Pray that her people may be saved, and that Africa is becoming known: pray that the Gospel be sounded through all her nations, and the Slave-trade rage no more!

The West Indies have young and struggling churches: pray that they may be borne through all their trials, and made a focus of light for the African race!

The South Seas have many converts: pray that they may abide steadfast in the faith, and be enabled to spread the glad tidings to those who are still without Christ!

Japan is coming into the public view: pray that mighty wonders of grace may be displayed upon its shores!

British colonies are growing into giant strength by the side of, or near to, heathen lands: pray that each of them may become a land of righteousness, a light to the region round about! Nominal Christianity is in many places given to idolatry, in many full of dissimulation: pray that the Spirit of truth, poured out from on high, may overturn error and make the pure Gospel everywhere to triumph!

Missionaries are often lonely; one white man among blacks, one Christian among many heathen, one survivor beside fresh graves of departed brethren! They are often worn, and sick, and ready to faint: they are often pressed by the tempter, without home helps and Christian fellowship: pray that they may stand in the evil day, and, having done all, may stand!

This Christian country spends more in one year on hurtful indulgences than is spent in many years on missions to all the world. Pray that men may learn to sanctify their silver and their gold!

Young men for the army or commerce can be found ready to serve in any country; but many shrink from the mission-field. Pray that the Lord may write upon the heart of the multitudes the command, "Go into all the world!"

Worldly parents give up their sons and their daughters to seek a living in the most distant lands. Professed servants of God often grudge and forbid their children to become ambassadors of Christ to those who are far away! Pray that this reproach may be removed from all the churches!

Pray, above all, for the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon every missionary, every convert, every sanctuary, every school, every translation, every copy of the blessed Bible, in mission-fields! Pray that, by power from on high, one man may become stronger than a thousand! Pray, with your eye upon the throne of God and of the Lamb! Pray, believing the Lord's last words, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Pray, expecting the fulfilment of the promise, "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh."

THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES.—The second of the special Sunday evening services, in St. Paul's Cathedral, was held on Sunday evening under the dome. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Daniel Moore, M.A., incumbent of Camden Church, Camberwell, who selected for his text the 35th verse of the 24th chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel—"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away." The sermon, which was delivered with great energy, was listened to with marked attention by the vast congregation.—There was a large congregation also at Westminster Abbey, where the preacher was the Rev. Thomas James Russell, M.A. He selected for his text the 2nd chapter of St. Luke's Gospel, v. 49: "And he said unto them, How is this that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" The sermon was characterised with great earnestness, and was most attentively listened to.—At Exeter Hall, a large congregation assembled, composed principally of working men. The sermon was preached by the Rev. W. B. Mackenzie, M.A., of Magdalene Hall, Oxford, incumbent of St. James's Church, Holloway. His text was the 2nd verse of the 3rd chapter of Zechariah, "Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"—Victoria Theatre was for the first time opened for religious service on Sunday afternoon, when the Rev. William Lams preached to a very large and miscellaneous audience. There was a second service in the evening, in the same place, when the sermon was preached by the Rev. Samuel Minton, M.A., minister of St. George's Church, Whitechapel, in the afternoon, the Rev. George Smith, independent minister of Poplar, preached; and at a second service, in the evening, the sermon was preached by the Rev. C. S. F. Money, M.A., incumbent of St. John's, Deptford.—At Sadler's Wells Theatre was a service largely attended, which was conducted by the Rev. F. Tacker, B.A.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIBERATION SOCIETY IN LONDON.—An annual meeting will assemble on Tuesday, January 24, the Executive Committee intend convening a special meeting of their London supporters, for the purpose of acquainting them with the course proposed to be pursued during the Parliamentary Session. It may also be expected that some notice will then be taken of the attempts which have been made by some of the members of the Establishment during the last few months to prejudice the Society and its objects in public opinion. The meeting will not be public; it being intended to be an invitation to the London subscribers and other. Cards will be forwarded to the provincial members of the Council, and other persons, who may previously intimate their wish to be present; a Conference of the Ballot Society will be held the day before, namely, that several may visit the metropolis at that time. The meeting will be held at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill, on Tuesday evening, January 26th. As this meeting is likely to be as important as any which the Society has hitherto held, we hope that arrangements to be present will be made by its leading supporters. Communications may be addressed to "The Secretary, Ballot Society, Fleet-street, London."

MORTARA CASE.—We understand that a preliminary meeting of societies and others has been held at the Caledonian Rooms, considering the propriety of taking further proceedings in the case, by public meetings, deputations, or otherwise. It was decided to defer any steps till after the meeting of Parliament, when the merits of a Congress will be decided; and in the meantime instances of the arrest of the kidnapper at Modena will be as to the alleged arrest, Signor Mortara, now in London, in daily receipt of letters from his family, altogether untrue of this statement. He neither took any such step for himself or for his family.

DANCE AT BALLS.—Our attention has been called to two in which the names of clergymen are noted among the public balls. At the annual ball held at the Bull Inn, there were ten clergymen out of a company of 130. At the Ball, Downpatrick, the names of twenty-nine clergymen as among those to whom invitations were sent, and stated, "were present." "The dancing," it is said, "commenced at ten o'clock, and was kept up with great spirit until an early morning."—Record.

"BEATS TO LET."—On a recent Sabbath morning, a stranger visited one of our fashionably-built churches, for the purpose of worship, and on asking the sexton for a seat, he replied, "forgetting to let, sir!" The sexton, however, notwithstanding his outburst, vouchsafed to show the stranger to a seat. At the close of the service, the gentleman inquired for the Treasurer of the Society, and with the request that the seat might be "reserved for strangers!"—*Cambridge Chronicle.*

FUGITIVE SLAVES IN CANADA.—On Thursday, January 6, the Rev. W. Mitchell, coloured minister to the fugitive slaves, Toronto, Canada West, addressed a large audience at York-road Chapel, on "The Moral and Religious Condition of the Fugitives." He also gave many interesting and thrilling accounts as to the escape of fugitive slaves from the United States to Canada. At the close of the meeting, a collection was made of 137. 5s., in aid of erecting schools and chapels for the fugitives to whom he is a missionary.

ANNUITY TAX MARTYRS.—Mr. Hunter, confectioner, North St. Andrew-street, Edinburgh, and one of his journeymen, have been indicted to stand their trial before the High Court of Justiciary on Monday, the 10th instant. Messrs. Logan, Gifford, and Gorrie, are retained for the defence.—*Scottish Press.*

NATIVE CONVERTS IN INDIA.—We learn on credible authority that there are at Delhi a thousand native converts waiting to be baptized by the Baptist Missionary Society.—*Review.*

Religious Intelligence.

DERBY-ROAD, NOTTINGHAM.—The new Sunday schools recently erected in connection with Derby-road chapel were opened on Monday evening, last week. The building presents a well-varied outline, and is in the Georgian Gothic style. It is built of Bulwell stone, with advantage has been taken of this difference in the level to gain on the side a lower story, containing four class-rooms, the heating apparatus, coppers for tea-parties, &c. The chief entrance is from Victoria-street, and leads into the principal rooms, which are in the form of an L, that intended for the boys' school being 60 feet by 21 feet; doors. These rooms have very steep pitched open-timbered roofs, a very substantial and elegant appearance. The windows in this room are contrived in the angle communicating with the schools. This placed as to be easy of access from the boys' or girls' schools, and is fitted up with a gallery, which can be folded up, so that the room may be used for committee-meetings, &c. This room is about twenty feet square. The front portion of the building is of necessity flat, so that the view of the chapel may not be deteriorated. This difficulty has been successfully overcome by the architect, who has availed himself of this opportunity to gain a pleasing and varied outline. A separate entrance from Victoria-street has been made for the boys, carried up in a massive stone chimney shaft, which is made an ornamental feature. The gable ends will be surmounted by iron finials. The outer doors are of oak, with ornamental iron bands. The building reflects great credit upon all concerned in its erection. Mr. Ferguson was the contractor, Messrs. Haden supplied the heating apparatus, and Mr. Wheeler the plumbers' and glaziers' work. The total cost will be between £1,200 and £1,300. An exceedingly pleasant gathering took place on Monday evening, in commemoration of the opening of the schools. Ten was served to about three hundred persons; afterwards a public meeting was held, Mr. Alderman Stephenson having addressed the meeting, Mr. Alderman Birkin, the Rev. Mr. Matheson, the Rev. Mr. Stubbs, the Rev. Hugh Hunter, and the Rev. J. Martin, spoke. Last Sunday, sermons were preached in the Derby-road chapel, in the morning, by the Rev. J. Martin, B.A., and in the evening by the Rev. S. McAll.

CORSHAM, WILTS.—For several years past, the Baptist interest in this place has, from a variety of circumstances, been in a very languishing condition; but, through the blessing of God, the hearts of the brethren are now greatly rejoiced at beholding unmistakable evidences of approaching prosperity. At a recent meeting of the members, it was resolved, that the Rev. James Pooley, of the Upper Meeting, Westbury, Wilts, be cordially invited to accept the pastorate. The reverend gentleman at once entered upon his labours, and although the cause was encumbered with debt, he undertook the responsibility of having the chapel thoroughly cleaned and renovated. The improvements have not only rendered it comfortable to the large numbers who, from time to time, flock to hear the Word, but given the whole place a cheerful and inviting appearance. On Monday afternoon, Jan. 2nd, the annual tea-meeting of the members and their friends was held, when upwards of 300 persons sat down to tea. A social meeting was held in the evening, at which Mr. Pooley presided. The speeches were of the most varied and interesting character. The pastor, in his closing address, announced that by the blessing of God upon their efforts, the money necessary to clear off every liability had, with the exception of about fifty shillings, been collected.

PRESTON, RADNORSHIRE.—A great and extraordinary Revival of religion has just broken out in this town and neighbourhood. God's people have been stirred up to take hold of his strength, and many have been turned unto the Lord. Previous to this general awakening, evening prayer-meetings had been held for about six weeks at the Baptist chapel, which were characterised by deep earnestness and devotion. Other Dissenting bodies in the town then united with those worshipping there, and the consequence of their praying mightily and unitedly, in their several places of worship successively, has been that the arm of the Lord has been made bare, and numerous conversions have taken place. On Friday evening, the 6th inst., between four and five hundred assembled at the Baptist chapel for purposes of prayer and praise, many were impressed, and while many of the converts have, and will probably join the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist sections of the church, about thirty have expressed a wish to be buried with Christ in baptism, and thus claim the privilege of being ranked among his followers. May he who has begun this good work in them complete it until the day of Jesus Christ!

YORK-STREET, MANCHESTER.—An interesting tea-meeting was held on Monday, January 2nd, at York-street Baptist Chapel, Manchester, when a splendid timepiece, accompanied by an address, was presented to the beloved pastor, the Rev. Richard Chinery, by the members of the church and congregation, as an expression of their high appreciation of his unwearied labours during a period of ten years; the address also showing the esteem and respect in which he is held as a faithful minister of the gospel, and affectionate pastor. Addresses were afterwards delivered by the Revs. John George, and Arthur Mursell, and other friends. The proceedings were altogether of a deeply interesting character.

LONGTOWN, HEREFORDSHIRE.—On Sunday, January 1st, special services were held at this place, when three highly instructive and powerful sermons were delivered by the Rev. D. Jeavons, of Cradley. On Monday evening, a tea-meeting was held, which was attended by the members of the church and congregation, and other friends from the neighbourhood. After tea, the Rev. E. Edwards, of Llanvangel, was unanimously voted to the chair, and most appropriate and eloquent addresses were delivered by the Revs. T. Clark, of Pontypool College, and D. Jeavons, of Cradley.

ISLE ABBOTTS.—The Teachers' Annual Tea Meeting was held, Jan. 6th, in the Baptist chapel, Isle Abbots, when more than one hundred friends of Sabbath schools sat down to tea; and in the evening an excellent sermon was preached by Mr. Serle, of North Curry. The other part of the service was conducted by Mr. Teal, of Hatch, and Mr. Chappell, the minister of the chapel.

NEWPORT, MONMOUTHSHIRE.—On Tuesday, the 3rd inst., the teachers and elder scholars of the Baptist Sunday School, in this town, held their annual *soirée* in the school-room. The pastor, the Rev. W. Aitchison, and Messrs. Slade, Salter, Richards, deacons; Rowe, superintendent; Thomas and Jenkins, teachers, contributed largely to the enjoyment and instruction of the young people.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—The Rev. R. E. Elliot, has resigned his charge at Lydney, Gloucestershire, after a pastorate of twenty years. The Rev. H. H. Bourn, late of Wednesbury, has accepted the unanimous invitation to become the pastor of the Baptist church, Buckingham. The Rev. W. Hawkins, has given six months' notice of his resignation of his pastoral charge at Bradford-on-Avon, after labouring among them over eighteen years.—The Rev. B. Williams (late of London) wishes us to mention, that his address now is, Gwyer Villa, St. Clear's, Carmarthenshire.

Correspondence.

BAPTISTS IN CANADA.
To the Editors of *The Freeman*.

DEAR SIR,—Appended to a letter by the Rev. Dr. Fyfe, of Toronto, in *The Freeman* of the 2nd ult. is a postscript amounting to a communication of mine, which appeared under the above heading in your issue of Sept. 7th. My sincere respect for the writer does not forbid an expression of my surprise that, while calling in question my competency as a witness in the matter, he does not specifically dispute any one of my allegations of confessedly a comparative stranger in the province. I have formed my conclusions from personal intercourse, not only with Regular Baptists themselves, but also with worthy men whose experience in resisting the blandishments of popularity, and persistently asserting liberty of conscience in the matter of communion, has been long and painful.

The following editorial paragraph, however, from *The Union Baptist* of September, referring to Dr. Fyfe's letter as it originally appeared in *The Christian Messenger*, will surely not be deemed open to any objection on the score of the reliability of its writer; the periodical in which it appears (the organ of the Canada Baptist Union) being conducted by a brother whose long and intimate acquaintance with the Baptists of this continent renders him perhaps as competent an expositor of their practices as Dr. Fyfe himself:—

"THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER AND REV. JAS. GREEN.—A very coarse attack is made, in the issue of August 4th, on the correctness of some statements made by Mr. Green in a letter in *The Freeman*. If the representations contained in the extract given by *The Messenger* are 'absolutely false, from top to bottom, from centre to circumference,' then regular Baptists have the misfortune to have religious newspapers claiming to be their organs (and, by the way, we are informed in the number of September 8th, that *The Christian Messenger* is now the only organ of the Canadian Baptists) which convey false impressions, and more especially the procedure of many of their churches is liable to a similar charge."

I am, dear Sir, yours respectfully,
AN ENGLISH BAPTIST IN CANADA WEST.
London, Dec. 29, 1859.

GREAT REFORM MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

On Friday evening a public meeting was held in the Town-hall, Birmingham, for the purpose of giving an opportunity to the representatives of the borough, Mr. Scholefield, M.P., and Mr. Bright, M.P., of expressing their sentiments on the question of reform. The hall was densely crowded in every part, and the meeting was altogether of an enthusiastic character.

The MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM (Mr. Lloyd) occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. Bright and Mr. Scholefield. There were also present Mr. G. Edmonds, Alderman Baldwin, Alderman Sturge, Mr. Wright, Mr. Holland, &c. The platform was crowded by a vast number of gentlemen who take an interest in the question.

The MAYOR, having taken the chair, called upon Mr. Alderman Baldwin to move the following resolution: "That the necessity of parliamentary reform being acknowledged by all the great political parties, and her Majesty's government being pledged to introduce a reform bill during the ensuing session, it is the opinion of this meeting that any bill, to be useful to the country and satisfactory to the people, must provide for a large extension of the suffrage, for vote by ballot, and for a better apportionment of members to population."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. G. EDMONDS, and carried amidst the cheers of the meeting.

Mr. SCHOLEFIELD supported the resolution. In the presence of Mr. Villiers and Mr. Gibson in the present cabinet they might and would entertain the hope that the Reform Bill to be introduced in the next session of parliament would be based on a sound and honest principle. For his part he would accept an honest Reform Bill, without the ballot. With all its faults, he admitted that the present House of Commons was the noblest representative assembly in the world; but it would be much improved if some men obtained seats who more directly represented the working classes.

Mr. BRIGHT, who was most enthusiastically received, said he felt sure they would all agree with him that it was a wholesome thing for constituencies and their representatives to meet periodically, as they had met on that occasion, for the purpose of discussing great questions of vital interest to the community which must very soon come before parliament. But, if there were great questions affecting the vital interests of the community, which were to be determined, and could only be determined, by parliament, how necessary did it seem that parliament, to whose jurisdiction those questions were referred, should fairly represent the great interests and intelligence of the people of this country! He thought, he said, that he did not overstate the case when he said that for many years past there had been a growing conviction, not among the unrepresented classes, but among all classes, that the House of Commons—the chief house of legislation in this country—did not truly include within its representatives all the interests of all classes which belong to the great concerns of the great population of this kingdom, and they had the most conclusive evidence of the accuracy of this opinion in the fact that without any great agitation from any combination or series of combinations throughout the country the whole country had come at last to the conviction that another reform bill was needed, which should include such an extended franchise as would secure a more complete representation of the people. It was not until twenty years after the Reform Bill had been passed that Lord John Russell—by far the most eminent, the most distinguished, and, in his opinion, the most trustworthy of his party on this question—fully admitted the necessity that existed for an extension of the suffrage, and in 1852 his bill was introduced. Mr. Bright went on to discuss the circumstances which led to the withdrawal of the measure in that year, and the subsequent introduction of a reform bill under Lord Aberdeen's government. The withdrawal of the bill on that occasion was consequent on our being allowed to drift into a needless and sanguinary war. He went on to refer to the promise of a reform bill by the first administration of Lord Palmerston, and referred to the measure introduced by Lord Derby's government, into the discussion of which, he said, he would not enter, out of compassion and charity to its authors. The election which followed, the effect of Lord Derby's Reform Bill, he described as characterised by a power of corruption which he supposed had never been equalled. He alluded to the meeting at Willis's Rooms, in which pledges had been given that a better