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Coke, Jr.: An Account of the Present State of the Methodist Church in

1801

186 from Stevens & Brown

AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
RISE, PROGRESS,
AND
PRESENT STATE
OF THE
METHODIST MISSIONS.

BY THE
Rev. Dr. C O K E,
*GENERAL SUPERINTENDANT OF
THESE MISSIONS.*

LONDON:

*Printed at the Conference-Office, North-Green, Worship-Street;
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1804.



*To the Subscribers for the Support of the Missions
among the Negroes in the West-Indies, the Ro-
man-Catholics in Ireland, and the Welch in
North-Wales,*

RESPECTED FRIENDS,

DR. COKE has been desired by the Conference to draw up an accurate Account of the Labours and Success of the Missionaries employed in the above-mentioned Missions: He, therefore, most readily and cheerfully complies with their request; not only from the veneration he has for that respectable Body of Ministers, but as considering it due to the generous Subscribers, who, by their pecuniary aid, have so greatly contributed to the success of these important Institutions.

When the Doctor failed from England in order to make a second visit to the Continent of America, at the request of his honoured friend Mr. Wesley, he was accompanied by three ministers, Messrs. Warrener, Hammet, and Clarke. But, violent gales, a leak in their ship, and imminent danger of wanting water, forced them to the West-Indies, after a very dangerous voyage of above thirteen weeks. They landed on the Island of Antigua, where Mr. Gilbert, once Speaker of the House of Assembly of Antigua, but who laid aside all his honours for the sake of the Gospel, had formed a Christian Society among the Blacks on the Methodist Plan. After his death, the Society were, in a great measure, as sheep without a shepherd: But Mr. John Baxter, a Leader of a Class of Methodists in Chatham, had, in the gracious Providence of God, gone to Antigua, and took upon him the care of the remains of Mr. Gilbert's Society. There the Doctor and his company met him, when they landed on that Island on Christmas-day, 1786. The Doctor immediately held a Conference with Mr. Baxter and his other Friends, which continued for several days; when Mr. Baxter agreed to sacrifice a lucrative office, that of Under-Storekeeper in English-Harbour, and to devote himself entirely to the Work of the Ministry: Mr. Baxter and Mr. Warrener were, in consequence, appointed to labour in that Island. The congregations in the Town of St. John were very large and very attentive during the continuance of the Doctor in that Island; who chiefly officiated on the occasion; and a prospect

of much good appeared, and was then and afterwards realized to the glory of God.

The Doctor being thus in a very providential manner, and without any design, brought into this Archipelago, considered it as his duty to improve the opportunity, and to endeavour to introduce the gospel into other Islands. He, therefore, took Messrs. Baxter, Hammet, and Clarke with him, and sailed for the Island of Dominica, where he and his Friends were received by the Coloured People with great joy; and, after preaching in the Town of Roseau, set off for St. Vincent's.

In the Island of St. Vincent, the Doctor and his Friends met with a Gentleman of the name of Claxton, who was Clerk to the Lower-House of Assembly, a man of considerable piety, who received him and the Missionaries into his house. In this Island the Doctor preached many times, and visited several of the Plantations, in all of which he was politely entertained, and a large door was opened for the preaching of the Word of God; and Mr. Clarke was left there to improve the advantages already gained.

From St. Vincent's, the Doctor, with Mr. Baxter and Mr. Hammet set off for St. Christopher's. In the way they again visited Dominica, going a little into the Country. A precious seed was planted, thro' Divine Grace, in that Island, during these two visits; but the number of Missionaries was too small to allow of a regular Mission at that time in Dominica.

When the Doctor and his Friends arrived in St. Christopher's, they were received with every mark of respect and kindness by Mr. Cable, a Mulatto gentleman, a Printer; and preached in the Court-house, at Bassé-Terre, to crowded congregations. Mr. Hammet was then left at St. Christopher's, to water the seed sown, and carry on the Work in that Island.

The Doctor then visited St. Eustatius, where his labours, as a private Minister, were, he thinks, more blessed, in proportion to the time he remained there, than in any other instance throughout his life. The Government of the Island would not suffer him to preach; but he spent his time, from morning till night, and from day to day, for about eighteen days, in lecturing and instructing small companies of Blacks, (from eight to twelve at a time,) at the house of a Free Black, where he lodged: and from St. Eustatius he sailed for the Continent of America.

In the year 1788, the Doctor made a second visit to the West-Indies, taking out with him Messrs. Lumb, Gamble, and Pearce. The first Island on which they landed, was Barbadoes: and as the Doctor intended to make some stay in this place, he requested Messrs. Lumb and Gamble to visit St. Vincent's, as by this time the Gospel had gained a gracious and extensive influence in that Island. The Doctor and Mr. Pearce were most kindly received

ceived at Bridge-town, the Capital of the Island, by Mr. Button, a Merchant. Soon afterwards, they found out a small party of soldiers, who were truly alive to God. The Doctor leaving Mr. Pearce to second his testimony for the Lord Jesus in Bridge-town, set off to visit the Plantations. Every Planter he waited on, received him with the greatest courtesy, and promised that his Negroes should be permitted to receive instruction from the Missionary. The prospect was highly pleasing; but by no means answered afterwards the expectations which were raised. But to enter into a succinct account of the causes of this failure in Barbadoes, which, for several years, operated as powerful obstructions to the Work in that Island, would too much swell the present statement, and perhaps had better be buried in oblivion till the great Day of Account.

St. Vincent's was the next object of the Doctor's attention. A change had taken place in the Stations, Mr. Baxter having been appointed for St. Vincent's. Soon after the Doctor landed, he set off with Mr. Baxter, Mr. Gamble, and Mr. Clarke, for the Caribb Country. The Doctor had found means during his absence in Europe, of establishing a School for the Children of the Caribbs, and had sent a School-master and School-mistress from Europe, (Mr. and Mrs. Joyce,) to superintend the School. The Legislature of the Island had also given an Estate for the support of the School; and a very fair prospect of success, particularly thro' the labours of Mr. Baxter, was opened among the Caribbs. But the Romish Priests at Martinico had infused ideas into the minds of the Caribbs, that the Missionaries were spies employed by our King; and their jealousy thereby was raised to such a degree, that it was judged prudent to withdraw entirely from that unhappy people. However, the Work among the Negroes, by the grace of God, flourished more and more thro' the labours of Messrs. Baxter and Gamble, who remained in the Island. The Glory of Jehovah arose on those benighted Africans; and a harvest of immortal souls, which amply made amends for the ill success among the Caribbs, was granted to their labours.

The Doctor, with several of the Missionaries, set off from St. Vincent's for Dominica. They met with a precious remnant in this Island, who, notwithstanding there had been no regular Mission established among them, had continued to meet together. However, Mr. McCorneek, a Missionary from Ireland, was now appointed to take care of the flock, and carry on the Work of God in that Colony.

Thence the Doctor and his Friends sailed for Antigua, an Island highly favoured of Heaven. Mr. Baxter had indeed been a second father, under God, of that great Work: but Mr. Warrener had, in two years, added a thousand members to the Society. The Work among the Field Negroes in this Colony, was rather superficial: But in the Town of St. John there was a large
 1 Society,

Society, which for the depth of vital religion, would have done honour to any Town in England.

A remarkable proof of the Reformation of Manners which has taken place in Antigua, should not be omitted. Formerly the Island was governed by Martial-Law on Christmas-day and the two days following, the Negroes being always allowed those three days for themselves, on which many tumults and even robberies had been committed; but Religion has now rendered this custom needless, and the declaration of Martial-Law is become a mere matter of form.

The Doctor and his ministerial companions leaving the care of the Work in Antigua to Mr. Lumb, made St. Christopher's the next object of their visit. They touched at Montserrat in their way; but the predominant influence of the Irish Roman Catholics in that Island, will render it exceeding difficult to obtain an opening there for the pure Gospel.

In St. Christopher's, Mr. Hammet had been greatly owned of God. In an Island, which was barren of all religion, when the Doctor and his Friends first visited that Colony, he raised in two years a Society of seven hundred members, a considerable part of whom, there was reason to believe, were members of Christ. When the Doctor and his Friends had visited the Country parts of the Island, they set off for St. Eustatius, Mr. Warrener being appointed the Superintendant of the Societies in St. Christopher's.

In St. Eustatius, the Work which the Doctor had been so successful in carrying on by private meetings on his former visit, was wonderfully advanced, under the blessing of the Most High, by a poor slave called Harry. But how mysterious are the ways of Providence! The Lord permitted the Government of the Island to persecute the Children of God in the most cruel manner; and had it not been for a Letter which Josiah Dornford, Esq. of Deptford, had obtained from Lord Dover, addressed to the Government of Holland, intelligence of which had just arrived at St. Eustatius, the Doctor would have been thrown into prison for preaching the everlasting Gospel, and have probably perished there thro' the heat of the Climate.

The Doctor and his Brethren returned from St. Eustatius to St. Christopher's, and thence made two visits to the Island of Nevis, where they suffered many inconveniences. The Doctor preached in Charleston, the Capital of the Island, and visited, with his Brethren, the country parts; and God was pleased to open an effectual door for his Gospel; and Mr. Owens, from Ireland, was appointed to prosecute the Work.

The Doctor, with Mr. Hammet and Mr. Brazier, after touching again at St. Christopher's, landed on the Island of Saba, where the Governour and Council petitioned to have a Gospel Minister stationed among them. Mr. Brazier was accordingly appointed.

appointed. But the persecuting fury of the Governour of St. Eustatius, who was Governour General of the Dutch Islands in that part of the West-Indies, did afterwards compel the Government of Saba, with reluctance and sorrow, to part with Mr. Brazier. The Letter which the Governour and Council of Saba wrote to the Doctor on the occasion, was exceedingly affecting.

The Doctor, with Mr. Hammet, then visited the Island of Tortola, and found the Negroes in this Colony ripe for the Gospel. Never in his life has he met with a people, without exception, so rejoiced, so overjoyed to receive the Gospel as the Coloured People of Tortola. He intended to take Mr. Hammet with him to Jamaica; but it was impossible for him to resist the importunities of the dear people, that Mr. Hammet might be stationed among them. The call of God was too evident to be resisted for a moment. The Doctor, however, took Mr. Hammet with him to Santa Cruz, a Danish Island, where an old Quaker Lady, Mrs. Lilly, opened her house for him to preach in. The people flocked to hear with delight; but the Government of the Island threw in his way invincible obstructions to the establishment of a Mission there at that time.

The Doctor returned from Santa Cruz, and made a second visit to Tortola; and then leaving Mr. Hammet behind him, sailed for Jamaica. On the 19th of January 1789, he landed at Port-Royal, when Mr. Fishley, then Master Calker of the Dock-yard, and once a member of the Methodist Society in Plymouth-Dock, recognized him, and received him hospitably. At Kingston the Doctor preached in the house of Mr. Treble, whose father was a member of the Methodist Society in London. Afterwards he preached in a Concert-Room belonging to Mr. Burn, a Merchant and Roman Catholic. In the latter place his congregations were very large, and the presence of God was remarkably manifested. A great awakening took place among the Blacks; but his time for visiting the Continent of America was arrived, and he accordingly sailed for Charleston in South Carolina. One evening while he preached in the Concert-Room, a company of young Gentlemen greatly intoxicated, came in with an evident intention to destroy him, and would probably have perpetrated their horrid design, if a Lady had not, at the awful crisis, stepped between, and with all the holy intrepidity of a saint of God, poured upon them a flood of sacred oratory, till she had shamed them out of the Room.

In the Autumn of 1790, the Doctor again set off from England for the West-Indies, with two Missionaries, Mr. Werrill and Mr. Lyons. Both of them were young men of considerable talents, and had travelled in Ireland with great acceptance. The former was deeply pious; but the latter, alas! became vain and conceited; and tho' he did not fall into any of the grosser sins, it was soon necessary to recall him. The Doctor and his companions

panions landed at Barbadoes, where Mr. Pearce had raised a Chapel, and been useful in the midst of persecution.

From Barbadoes the Doctor took Mr. Werrill with him to St. Vincent's, leaving Mr. Lyons behind, and desiring him to meet him at St. Christopher's. In St. Vincent's the Doctor found a very gracious and progressive work under the ministry of Mr. Baxter and Mr. Lamb; and, after travelling very extensively thro' the Island, as far as the Caribb Land, and preaching often, he took Mr. Baxter with him, and sailed for the Island of Grenada, in order, if it pleased God, to open a door for the Gospel in that Colony.

The prospects in Grenada were very flattering. The Rector of St. George's, the Capital of the Island, was a great friend to Religion, and entertained the two pilgrims at his house, in the most hospitable manner. The Governour also was exceedingly kind and liberal. Mr. Owens, from Ireland, who proved himself for eleven years a very useful and valuable Missionary, was soon afterwards appointed to labour in that Island.

From Grenada the Doctor and Mr. Baxter sailed for Antigua, touching at St. Vincent's, and taking with them Mr. Lamb and Mr. Werrill. There they were all at home, among as loving a people as, perhaps, can be found upon the face of the earth; and the Work of God was making progress. From this Island the Doctor, with all the Missionaries then in Antigua, sailed for St. Christopher's, in order to hold a Conference there. In their way they touched at Montserrat, but met with no greater encouragement than on the Doctor's former visit.

When they landed at St. Christopher's, they found that three of the Preachers, expected to come to the Conference, had not yet arrived. The Doctor, therefore, taking Mr. Baxter with him, set out for St. Eustatius, being exceedingly desirous of establishing a regular Mission in that little Island, where he had met with a people, who were so willing to receive the Gospel, and so many, who, thro' his feeble labours and those of *Harry the Black*, had already felt its renovating power: But meeting with very rude treatment from the Governour, and finding from inquiry that the truly serious had liberty to meet together without molestation, he judged it best to leave the Island as quietly as possible. But the Doctor's poor dear colleague, *Harry the Black*, had been severely tormented by that great enemy of God and Man, the Governour, and sold off the Island to the Captain of a Spanish Merchant-ship.

From St. Eustatius the Doctor sailed with Mr. Baxter for the Island of Nevis, where the Lord had raised for the furtherance of his Work, a pious White gentleman, Mr. Robert Nesbitt. They found the Work of God in this Colony in a progressive state; and, after spending a little time in the Town and Country, returned to St. Christopher's.

At

At St. Christopher's the Doctor and the Missionaries held a Conference for three days; after which he set out for St. Vincent's with Mr. Werrill; and, after spending his Christmas there, sailed again with Mr. Werril for Montego-Bay, Jamaica; and soon afterwards arrived at Kingston. Here a very large Chapel and an excellent Society had been raised by the indefatigable labours of Mr. Hammet, who had probably been an instrument within a few years, of awakening not less than sixteen hundred Negroes. But "let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." From this time he must be left to his own Master. However, after leaving Mr. Werril and Mr. Brazier in Jamaica, the Doctor took with him, by the advice of a Physician, Mr. Hammet, who was exceedingly ill, to the Continent of America, for the recovery of his health.

On the 12th of December, 1792, the Doctor sailed from New-York, in a ship bound for St. Eustatius, with his very worthy brother Mr. Black, Superintendant of the Methodist Societies in Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick, whom he intended to station in the West-Indies; but the importunities of the Preachers in Nova-Scotia, prevailed for his return and continuance among them.

In St. Eustatius, the implacable enmity of the Governour had roused him to commence a fresh persecution against the people of God. He pursued them by his black soldiers from corner to corner, to their own little huts, and to the most secret places in the Mountain near the Town, to put an end to all public prayer; and by torture and every means he could invent, entirely succeeded. Here then was no field of action for the Doctor. He therefore sailed immediately for St. Christopher's; and hearing there that Mr. Lumb, the missionary, was in prison in the Island of St. Vincent's, for preaching the Gospel, he instantly hastened to that Island.

On his voyage, the Doctor first touched at Nevis, and after conversing some time with Mr. Pattison, the missionary then stationed there, and with some other Friends, he proceeded on his voyage. As he was obliged to coast the Island of Dominica, he stopped at Roseau, the capital, and spent four hours on shore, in order to see whether he could find out any of the flock of his dear deceased brother Mr. M'Cornock, who had taken his flight to heaven, about three years before. About twenty, of the fruit of that holy man's labours, soon assembled. If he could have stayed another hour, he would have had a congregation; but his call to see his imprisoned friend, superseded every other consideration. He prayed and sung with the little company, and the power and presence of God were assuredly in the midst. That dear man, Mr. M'Cornock, had, in a few months, been the mean of awakening about 150 souls; and then he left them for a better place. The sword was too sharp for the scabbard.

On the 6th of January, 1793, the Doctor reached St. Vincent's, and hastened to his imprisoned friend, who had been committed, for thirty days, for preaching the Gospel to the Negroes. The Legislature of the Island had passed a Law, that for the first offence of the above kind, the offender should be punished by a fine of ten Johannes, (£18 sterling:) for the second, with such corporal punishment as the Court should think proper to inflict, and banishment: And, on return from banishment, with DEATH! But our dear, honoured, and most excellent King, in about a year afterwards, repealed the execrable Law. Mr. Lumb bore his imprisonment with all the cheerfulness of a martyr. The very Justices who committed him, would have paid seven Johannes out of the ten, (which was the fine,) if he would have suffered them; and our worthy friend Mr. Stuart, a Merchant of that Island, but now resident in London, would have paid the whole; but Mr. Lumb would not consent, determined to do nothing, and consent to nothing, which might, in the least degree, be construed as a voluntary submission to the Law. There were, at this time, about 1000 of the Negroes in Society in this Colony.

Just before the Doctor left St. Vincent's, Mr. Abraham Bishop, a holy young man, arrived there from Nova-Scotia. The Doctor immediately took him with him to Grenada, where he intended to leave him; and where a very precious Society had been raised, under God, thro' the labours of Mr. Owens.

From Grenada, the Doctor sailed for Nevis, from thence to St. Christopher's, and thence to Tortola, and found the Work flourishing in each of these Islands, and his own ministry, thro' the grace of God, abundantly blessed. He then took with him Mr. Harper, (whose praise is in all those churches,) and Mrs. Harper, and Mr. and Mrs. Owens, and returned to St. Christopher's. Thence he again went with his company, enlarged by the addition of Messrs. Warrener, Black, and M'Vean, to Nevis: and thence sailed, with all his company, to Antigua. There a Conference was held, the Preachers from the Windward Islands being arrived. The numbers in Society, at this time, in that whole Archipelago, amounted to 6570, almost all of whom were Coloured People; and the regular congregations probably amounted to not less than thirty thousand.

The Doctor and his Brethren, on a candid inquiry, had reason to believe that the Members of the Society in general, had been brought, thro' grace, out of heathenish darkness, to a knowledge of themselves. They had left, as far as was known, all their outward sins, even polygamy itself; and a considerable part of them gave so clear and rational an account of their conversion, and of the influence of religion upon their hearts and lives, as was exceedingly animating and encouraging to their Pastors, the missionaries.

After spending some days more in Antigua, the Doctor sailed with Mr. Graham, a new missionary from Ireland, and Mr. Pearce and his family, for Barbadoes. In their way, they made another visit to St. Vincent's: There the Doctor was informed, that, if he would only ask the Governour for leave to preach, it would be granted him. But this might have been considered as in some degree a tacit consent to the horrid persecuting Law still existing, and therefore he declined it; and contented himself with visiting from house to house.

At Barbadoes the Doctor visited the Country parts of the Island extensively, and then sailed for Jamaica. After preaching several sermons at Kingston, and spending his time with a very precious Society, he set off with his much esteemed friend and brother Mr. Fish, in order to travel round the whole Island, and to have a tolerable knowledge where Missions might, in future, be planted. Mr. Fish could not bear his mode of travelling in that hot country, and being seized with a violent head-ach, and some fever on the first night, returned back to Kingston. The Doctor, however, accomplished his design, and hopes that journey will still be of some advantage to Jamaica. At Montego-Bay, where he continued for some time, he saw fruit of his labours. After labouring much in that considerable Island, and doing every thing there in the ministerial way, which, as far as he knew, the will of God required of him, he set off for England, leaving his very worthy brother, Mr. Fish, to superintend the Societies

It may now not be unacceptable to the Subscribers, if a few Specimens of the Loyalty of the Missionaries, and of the Members of the Society, be laid before them.

1. Soon after the commencement of the French Revolutionary War, the Governour of the Island of Tortola received information, that the French of Guadeloupe meditated a descent on that Island. He immediately sent for Mr. Turner, the Superintendent of the Missions in Tortola and the other Virgin Islands, and informed him of the intelligence, adding, that there was no regular force in the Island adequate to the defence of it against an invading foe, unless they armed the Blacks; but they were afraid to do this, unless he, (Mr. Turner,) would put himself at the head of them. Mr. Turner was conscious that such a step was not *directly* within the line of his ministerial office; but he considered that the Island was in imminent danger, and that, if it were conquered by the French, all the religious privileges and blessings, which even the Negroes enjoyed under our excellent King and Constitution, would, most probably, be entirely lost; and also, that this was only a defensive business; and for these reasons, joined with a genuine spirit of Loyalty, he consented, and was accordingly armed, with all the Negroes. In a fortnight after

this, a French Squadron made its appearance in Tortola Bay; but the French, being, probably, informed by some emissaries, of the armed force of the Island, which far exceeded their own, gave up their design, and retired.

2. Soon after the above event, the Governour General of the Leeward Islands, sent to the Missionaries in those Islands, to desire them to make a return of all the Negroes in their Societies, who were able to bear arms: The return was accordingly made, and a great part, if not all of them, were armed for the defence of the Islands respectively, from the confidence which the Governour-General had in the Loyalty of the Missionaries and their Flocks.

3. Several of the soldiers, in the famous regiment of Blacks, who so remarkably signalized themselves in the taking of Martinico, were members of the Methodist Society. One of whom was left on the field mortally wounded at the conclusion of one of their victorious battles. Three days after this, a party of soldiers found him on the spot, still alive. He had lived upon berries for that time, by creeping from bush to bush, and was now just expiring. The soldiers were going to carry him off, but he cried out to them, "O let me alone, for I am going to my Jesus; I shall soon be with my Saviour;" and soon afterwards he expired.

4. When the Missionaries, in the Leeward Islands, addressed Lord Lavington, on his re-appointment to be Governour-General of those Islands, his Lordship, in his answer, expressed very great confidence in their Loyalty and Fidelity, from their past conduct. And Mr. Thompson, President of the Council in St. Christopher's, who had been Governour-General of the Leeward Islands ad interim, in his answer to an Address of Thanks, which the Missionaries had presented to him on his giving up the General Government to Lord Lavington, expressed his approbation of their conduct in very strong and pathetic language indeed. The Addresses and their Answers were published in the public Newspapers in the Leeward-Islands.

The limits of a Report of this nature will not admit of a minute detail of the Labours and Success of all the Missionaries who have been sent to the West-Indies on this great Work. It may be sufficient to conclude with Extracts of the Letters of the Missionaries, for a year or two past, and their Stations, and the Numbers in Society, as settled at the last Conference.

Ist. EXTRACTS of LETTERS from ANTIGUA.

1. *From Mr. Baxter, June 11, 1809.*

"Our friend, Mary Darby, died in the full triumph of faith, on Thursday, aged 82. Two other old persons have been taken off in the same way."

2. *From*

2. From the same, July 28, 1803.

“ Agreeably to what I wrote to you in my last, I went to Dominica. Mr. Richardson was recovering from his dangerous fever. But they had not a dollar in the house, and had pressing accounts to settle. Mr. Shepley was obliged to part with all the money which should have paid the quarterage of the Preachers; so that they were in great distress. I gave them the money I drew on you for, and Mr. Shepley paid ninety-nine pounds and some shillings to settle their accounts. There is a great Work begun at Prince Rupert’s Bay, in Dominica. Many are truly converted to God, and numbers are in distress, and seeking pardon. I bless God the Work is not declining with us [in Antigua.] I buried a young woman last night, who died in child-bed, in the full assurance of faith. You call our Island *sickly*, but it is reckoned the healthiest Island in the West-Indies.”

3. From the same, June 12, 1804.

“ I shall give you all the information I can, respecting the spiritual state of the Mission in this Island. The number in Society has been large, but we have been obliged to exclude many who had run well for years, for forming improper connections. Nevertheless, I can say with truth, there is a wonderful change for the better, within these twenty-six years. We have, at present, many young women in Society, who are an ornament to their profession, and in their behaviour manifest both chastity and purity of manners. And many of the aged prove that they have held fast the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end. I believe we shall now have a sifting time, as we are determined to pay a strict regard to discipline.

Many of the Society have died this year: I believe more than three hundred. Among these was our sister Euphemia Chapman, a young White woman, who had been a member of our Society two years, and was buried, April 16. She was much enlightened and affected under the preaching, and gave up the vanities of the world in the prime of life. Six months before her death, she caught a violent cold, and lost the use of her limbs. She bore her affliction with Christian patience and resignation, in hope of a resurrection to eternal life.

The next day I buried the remains of John Quash Gilbert. He had been a member of the first Methodist Society in Antigua, and was a seal of Mr. Gilbert’s ministry. He had been in Society three-and-thirty years, and walked as became the Gospel, soberly and uprightly. He was a faithful trusty servant, a good husband, and a loving father. Being deaf for some years, he could not converse much. He always attended the means of Grace; and tho’ he was ninety years old, he laboured for his master till a fortnight before his death. He observed to his wife

in

in his sickness, 'I have not much to say; but my Great Master is preparing a place for me, and is going to take me to himself.' He requested to be interred among his children, which was willingly agreed to, altho' they had seven miles to carry his corpse. His body was followed by his family and many friends. I preached a Funeral Sermon on the occasion, which, I hope, was of use to the living.

I bless God, I and my fellow-labourers labour together in love. And I am as well at present, as when I left England: But I have had two severe attacks of the fever last year, and feel the infirmities of old age advancing upon me."

4. From the same, July 23, 1804.

" My fellow-labourers and myself are labouring, thro' the grace of God, to root out sin, and stir up the people to seek the Lord. We have good congregations; but we do not see that spiritual Work spreading, which our souls long for. We know a Paul may plant, and an Apollos water; but God must give the increase. I bless God we are all well. If my health continue, I will stay here; but if not, I hope I may have leave to come home, on an allowance to support me when I am not able to labour."

IIly. EXTRACTS of LETTERS from St. CHRISTOPHER'S.

1. From Mr. Brownell, June 9, 1803.

" On Sunday, the 22d of May, Mr. Thompson and myself went down to Sandy-Point, to assist Mr. Pattison, who wished to have a sort of opening of the new addition to the Chapel. The addition is nearly as large as the body of the former Chapel, and so constructed as to make it respectable and commodious. There were present, I think, about a dozen Whites, fifty Coloured People, and between four and five hundred Blacks. I suppose the dedication of Solomon's Temple was scarcely matter of greater joy to the Jews, than the Chapel of Sandy-Point was to them. And, indeed, when I reflected that I had preached to a few poor despised people in a private house seven years ago, and that the ablest Preachers that ever were in St. Kitt's, had been ready to shake off the dust of their feet against this place; and when I compared these things with what I saw now before me; the past seemed like a dream, and I was ready to say, 'This is indeed the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes!'

" It is but justice to acknowledge, that Mr. Owens began this work, by removing the Chapel from Deep-Bay to Sandy-Point, Mr. Shepley carried it forward, and thro' the blessing of God, gave a stability to the Work, by residing on the spot; and Mr. Pattison has, thro' divine grace, almost perfected it by his attention to the people."

2. From

2. From Mr. Thomas Pattison, June 13, 1803.

“ In a former Letter, I informed you of my intention of enlarging the Chapel at Sandy-Point. Through the blessing of God, it is now finished. It is very commodious, and I suppose will contain about five hundred people. And I doubt but the Lord, who has stirred up some to befriend us, that we did not expect, will still prosper our endeavours. The congregations are large, some are joining us, and the Lord is carrying on his Work in the hearts of many.

My labours have chiefly been confined to Sandy-Point and Old Road; but now we have agreed to go upon the itinerant plan. This will make an increase of labour, but we hope it will be rendered a blessing to the people in general. Yesterday I preached here: The congregations were large, especially in the afternoon. In the evening I met the Society, and the Lord was truly with us. It would greatly rejoice your heart, to spend a little time with the different congregations in St. Kitt's. When I reflect on what the Methodist Missionaries have done in the West-Indies, I see the power of the Lord has been exerted in a remarkable manner. The work is truly his own, and he makes use of us poor instruments to effect it. When I look forward, I think I see a glorious day: A time, when the Lord will give his Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for his possession. Yes, even this part of the heathen world, where, not long since, ‘the people sat in darkness,’ hath ‘seen a great light.’ My desire is, that I may be more abundantly useful in bringing poor sinners out of darkness into light. I see, every day, the Work to be greater than ever, and have often cause to lament my small abilities, and much more my want of grace, but, thro’ the Lord’s help, I endeavour to preach Christ crucified as a Saviour for all, but actually the Saviour of none but those that repent and believe in his Name. And I bless the Lord, the word does not return void: but answers, in some measure, the end for which the Lord sends it.”

3. From Mr. Brownell, October 10, 1803.

“ We had very solemn and profitable meetings at Basse-Terre, Old-Road, and Sandy-Point, in the course of the week; in which places, none of the Chapels were large enough to hold the crowds of people that attended. Mr. Turner is a pleasing, popular Preacher, which appears to me to be one of the least of his good qualifications.”

4. From the same, March 2, 1804.

“ I bless God, the Work still flourishes in this Island, altho’ we are much pressed with temporal difficulties, on account of enlarging

enlarging two Chapels last year, and building a house. But we have ventured all in faith, and trust a gracious God will help us over them all. For my own part, I have spent near nine years in the Torrid-Zone, and bless God that I ever came to the West-Indies."

5. From Mr. Evans, May 4, 1804.

"With respect to the Work of God, nothing very particular has taken place since I came; but I believe it to be deepening in the hearts of the People who are in Society; We have had some to exclude, and some to take into Society, so that the number is much the same. I have reason to think that things are in a mending way, but am unwilling to draw hasty conclusions. In a little time, I shall be able to judge better: But I think the Preachers, who have laboured here, are worthy of great honour; for they have, thro' the blessing of God, got things into a much better state, than the people at home would imagine; and I make no doubt, but you would be much pleased to see the order and attention manifested in the congregations."

6. From Mr. Dumbleton, June 14, 1804.

"Some souls have been awakened here lately, and brought to believe in Jesus Christ to their great comfort. God hath dealt bountifully with many in this Island, who, I hope, are but the first-fruits of a plentiful harvest."

7. From Mr. Joseph Taylor, June 16, 1804.

"After my last to you from Nevis, we had a good work, and a great increase of the Society on that Island. Between Christmas and the first of May, many joined, some of whom were Whites and Free People of Colour, but the most of them were slaves. Several came to offer themselves, for they scarcely knew what, but care was taken that no one might get a note of admittance, who had not 'a desire to flee from the wrath to come.' And if we consider the abominations the poor Blacks have formerly lived in, we have a strong proof that God is working with them even by their becoming willing to submit to our rules. It appeared that many were much reformed,—and, what is far better, several experienced a clear sense of the pardoning love of God. But few, comparatively speaking, [in Nevis,] enjoy real religion; yet it is to be hoped that better days will come. May our Lord hasten them!

"The Work on this Island, [St. Christopher's,] does not prosper as it does in Nevis. Of late it has been at a stand, and there are fewer members and smaller congregations than have been in this Island. Yet many adorn the gospel of our Lord. You will, perhaps, think it strange that I have been as well in health since I came here, as ever in England. My duty was never more my delight

light than now; and I am enabled, thro' the grace of our Lord Jesus, to devote my time, my all to him. As I enjoy a sense of his love, my situation is comfortable; and, I believe, I am in the way our Lord would have me to be in. The People are loving, and, since my arrival in this Country, have shewn me every attention."

III. Hdly. EXTRACTS of LETTERS from NEVIS.

1. From Mr. John Taylor, March 10, 1803.

"I am happy to inform you, that, in general, since I arrived in the West-Indies, I have had my health better than in my own country. But what is better than that, the work of God has been prospering for some time amongst us, and still continues to prosper, I think, more than ever before. Our Chapels are so crowded, that, many times we know not how to find room for the people, and I have sometimes joined to the Society from ten to twenty in a day, both in St. Christopher's and Nevis, where I have been labouring for near three years. We have very good prayer-meetings. Mr. Bradnock and I have been labouring together since last April, and, I believe, we have added about four hundred in that time. We have also built a fine new Chapel. But it is already too small. We hope to see even better days still: For not only the Blacks and Coloured People join us, but the Whites also; which is a kind of miracle here. But when God works, who can hinder? May the Lord work more abundantly, both in England and in the West-Indies!"

2. From the same, May 7, 1803.

"Mr. Turner having arrived here, I am preparing, and, in a few days, expect to sail for St. Vincent's. For the time I have been in this pleasant little Island, God has wrought for his Name's sake among the inhabitants, both Blacks and Whites, a wonderful, and I hope, a lasting change. Hundreds of the former have joined the Society, and scores of the latter have, with seriousness, attended the preaching of the Word; and some of these also have joined us. Sunday is the common market-day in the West-Indies: But many of the White People now shut up their stores and shops, and keep the Sabbaths of the Lord, by attending his service. The Negroes, who used to spend that sacred day in dancing, drinking, &c. which generally ended in fighting, now attend God's house, and learn to sing his praise. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. In some parts of the country, the change is equally visible, and those that were persecutors, are become friends. Surely the Lord has wrought wonderfully for us! Unto his Name be the glory!"

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3. From Mr. Edward Turner, May 7, 1803.

“ I and my family arrived here in safety, on the 9th ult. and found brother John Taylor well, and the spiritual and temporal state of the Society prosperous: Thanks be to God for all his mercies.

I was glad to find, on my arrival here, that a plan, respecting our expenditure, was ready made to my hands. We all meet once a quarter in St. Kitt's, to settle our temporal and spiritual affairs. This meeting is attended with much good. I have already been at one, and we regulated all our matters in the most amicable manner.”

4. From the same, June 11, 1803.

“ Several have joined the Society since my arrival here. Our congregations are good, and I like my Circuit very much. We have a lovely situation.”

5. From Mr. Joseph Taylor, August 1, 1803.

“ We sailed from Liverpool, May 29, and arrived at Barbadoes, July 10, where we found Mr. Hawkshaw. The congregations in Barbadoes are not large, but the members of the Society are very steady. On the 21st, we sailed for Nevis, touching at Antigua in our way. At Antigua they have large congregations, and the good work continues to prosper. On the 28th, we arrived at Nevis, where I met Mr. Turner. I have preached twice since I came. The congregation quite fills the new Chapel, and the numbers in Society are increasing, praised be the Lord.”

6. From Mr. Turner, August 3, 1803.

“ I have been in this Island nearly four months, and like my situation very well. I trust I have grown in grace, and in the knowledge and love of God, since I came here; and I have reason to believe that my labours have not been in vain. Two White Persons, and sixty or seventy Blacks have joined us since my arrival. Our congregations are large, and I think generally increasing. Many respectable White People attend, and behave with the utmost propriety. Last Thursday, Mr. Joseph Taylor landed on our little friendly Isle. He appears to be a man of deep piety, and I hope he will be a useful and an acceptable Preacher.”

7. From the same, June 15, 1804.

“ All is well here. Our Society increases every week, and the congregations are remarkably good. It is thought that Methodism was never so respectable in this Island as now. I do hope that great good will be done. The new Chapel is
too

too small every Sunday morning. This Island can well support a married and a single Preacher. But we have not accommodations for two married men at present; nor should we be able to support them."

IVthly. Extracts of Letters from Tortola and Spanish Town, two of the Virgin Islands.

1. From Mr. Itham, Spanish Town, April 8, 1803.

"On the 12th of November last, I arrived at Tortola, and was received and treated kindly by Mr. Murdock and Mr. Sturgeon. I spent a few days with them there, and then, with the approbation of Mr. Murdock, departed for this Island, and I was kindly received by the Society and congregation, among whom I live in peace and love. I bless God, I continue to enjoy a degree of his salvation, and long to experience more, and to see Zion in prosperity. Last Sunday, we had a comfortable meeting of the Society, and several spoke of what God had done for their souls. Part of Monday, and the whole of Tuesday and Wednesday, I spent, in a small Island, called Anegada, which is about seven or eight leagues from this, and in which we have a small Society, the members of which appear to love our Lord Jesus Christ, and, I trust, are endeavouring to glorify him on earth, and to find the way to heaven."

2. From Mr. Murdock, Tortola, June 18, 1803.

"The Work of God is prospering here. I bless God I enjoy good health at present, and am, by the blessing of God, able to visit Joe-Van-Dykes, Guanna, Iceland, Cammanus, Carrot-Bay, and Fathog Bay, [small Virgin Islands.] Many are earnestly crying for mercy, and backsliders are returning with weeping and supplication.

"Some of the Gentlemen of this Island mentioned to me lately the inconveniencies they labour under for want of a school-master, and said, that if a Preacher were here who would teach the White Children, they believed he would be liberally supported."

3. From the same, Tortola, Nov. 9, 1803.

"I have attended all the places, [all the small Islands mentioned above,] which the two Preachers used to attend, oftener than they were usually visited then; but with this difference,—I visit these small Islands on the week-days, whereas they usually went to them on Sundays; but this circumstance has rather increased than diminished the congregations. At present, we are going on prosperously."

4. From the same, April 14, 1804.

“ I inclose you the Account of our receipts and expenditure. The number in Society is upwards of 2,100. About 440 of these attend the Supper of the Lord. Many have died this year, it being a sickly season, and not a few of them happy in the Lord. Some have removed to other Islands.

Mr. Thompson arrived here on the 28th of January, and shortly after, I was seized with a fever, which confined me four weeks. The Physician who attended me, gave me up as past recovery: But it pleased God to spare me a little longer. March 15, Mr. Thompson was seized with a fever, having taken cold at the Court-house. He still lingers under it, but I hope there is no danger of his life.”

5. From Mr. Iham, Spanish-Town, June 11th, 1804.

“ Since I came to this Circuit, [the Virgin Islands,] I have spent most of my time between this Island, and the Island of Anegada; in the latter of which we have a people in Society, who, I trust, are endeavouring to adorn the religion of the Lord Jesus.

“ In this Island [Spanish Town,] we enjoy the goodness of our God: We have love and peace in our Society: Several have been lately added; and, from what I have heard and seen, I trust that our Emmanuel is carrying on his Work, in a glorious manner, in the hearts of many in this and other Islands.”

Vthly. Extract of a Letter from Mr. Dobson, St. Bartholomew's, Feb. 10, 1804.

“ All the People, in the country-parts of this small Island, are French; and, in the Town, the greatest part are Swedes and French. We have very few English, and, therefore, we have no opportunity of having a large Society: Yet, if it had not been for the war, we should have had two hundred in Society long before this time; but as fast as we have joined them, they have been obliged to go to other places. Our little Society does very well, only they are very poor. Therefore, the minister who is in this Island, must not attend to his little Society alone, but must teach a school. Religion, I hope, is gaining ground in the West-Indies, glory be to God.”

Vithly. Extracts of Letters from DOMINICA.

1. From Mr. Shepley, May 21, 1803.

“ I sit down to write in a weak state of body. The Lord has been trying us, in Dominica, in the fire of affliction. Both brother Richardson and myself have been ill of the fever at the same time. But, blessed be God, I am so far recovered as to begin to labour a little, and brother Richardson is also rather better

better. We have joined near five hundred people in Society at Prince Rupert's Bay, and they are crying out, on every hand, for mercy. Many of them can already rejoice in God their Saviour, and others are earnestly seeking the same salvation; so that they will not let us rest in our beds at night; but come and beg us to get up, and either help them to praise God, or pray to him for mercy for them. I never saw so great a prospect of good being done in any place. We change every fortnight on account of that place being so sickly. It is about thirty miles from Roseau. And surely never was a Chapel more wanted any where; for there is not a place of worship of any kind within near 30 miles of it. And the only place which we have for the people to meet in, is a small thatched house, which will not contain a fourth part even of the Society, much less is there room for many others that attend. I am sure, if our friends in England, who wish well to the Redeemer's Kingdom among these poor heathen, did but know how frequently they stand weeping without, in the midst of torrents of rain, and crying to God, at the same time, for mercy, they would not withhold their help, but readily step forward to assist in building them a house in which they may worship God."

2. From Mr. Shepley, July 8, 1803.

"I embrace the present opportunity of informing you of the recovery of both Mr. Richardson and myself from our late indisposition of body, tho' we are both but very weak. Blessed be the Name of the Lord, we have now begun again to labour a little; and, what is best of all, the Lord is with us, both to wound the sinner, and heal the broken-hearted. The last time I was at Prince Rupert's-Bay, I joined upwards of one hundred and thirty in Society. So mightily is the Lord working in this part of the Island! For many of them are not only joined in Church-fellowship with each other; but are joined to the Lord in one spirit, and can give a very clear account of the pardoning love of God to their souls: And many others of them are truly convinced of sin, and seeking redemption in the blood of Jesus. To his Name be all the glory! It is not quite twelve months since I first went among them; and there are now about 600 in Society in that part of the Island. What has the Lord wrought among these poor heathens! Glory be to his Name for ever! I trust, that by the end of this year, if the Almighty please to spare our lives, and continue to give his blessing to our labours, we shall have at Prince Rupert's-Bay near 1000 in Society. But, as I said in my last, we are in great want of a Chapel there; and it is not in the power of the poor Negroes to build one without considerable help from our Friends in Europe."

3. From

3. From Mr. Richardson, Sept. 3, 1803.

“ Having been prevented by sickness from going into the Country, I cannot give you a particular account of the Work of God there; yet, praised be his Name, I believe it continues to prosper much, and our expectations are enlarged.”

4. From Mr. Shepley, Dec. 8, 1803.

“ The Lord continues to carry on his Work in this Island: To his Name be ascribed all the glory! Pray for us, that God may hasten the day, when Ethiopia shall more fully stretch out her hands unto God!”

5. From the same, January 14, 1804.

“ I shall now, as far as I can, give you an account of the Work of God in this Island. We increase a little in the Town of Roseau, but at the other end of the Island, I never saw such a work of God before. The people on every hand are crying unto God for mercy, while others are praising him for his goodness towards them. So that he is, indeed, working powerfully among this people; But that part of the Island is very sickly. It was there brother M'Cornock died, and there brother Richardson got the putrid fever, which, at last, took him off, and by going there, I have had the fever five times in about eight months. Yet, blessed be the Lord, I am not discouraged, nor weary in well-doing. For, if I had all that I have gone thro' to begin again, I would cheerfully endure it, thro' the help of God, for the salvation of immortal souls. I feel my body too weak to attend the people as often as I could wish, and as would be profitable to them: but I trust the Lord will send me help in his own time.”

6. From the same, July 3, 1804.

“ We have 4 Whites, and 1003 Coloured People and Blacks in Society. Glory be to God for the Work he has wrought. I believe about 400 of them can rejoice in God their Saviour, and many more are on full stretch for the pardon of their sins. There is a blessed prospect of good being done.”

“ We have been so unfortunate the last year as to have our preaching-house blown down. On the 12th of last August, we had a little hurricane, which drove seven vessels on shore in Roseau harbour, and did other damages, in different parts of the Island. Among others, we had to suffer the loss of our preaching-house at Prince Rupert's Bay, and have not been able to rebuild it to this day. We have about 750 in Society there, and only about twelve of them free: So that they say, it is not in their power, by themselves, to put up a building of that kind; tho' they are willing to do what they can towards it. And if something be not speedily

speedily done, the whole will be ruined. It is ten thousand pities that such a society should go to ruin for want of help. There is no place of worship, of any kind, for near thirty miles round; so that we have the whole country to ourselves."

VIIthly. Extracts of Letters from St. Vincent's.

1. From Mr. John Taylor, May 31, 1803.

"I arrived in this Island on the 18th, and was very kindly received by the members of the Society. The day following, I was taken sick of the fever, but thro' mercy, soon recovered. I think I shall love this Island and people very well, and, I trust, we shall have a revival of religion. But the wretched habitation we have to dwell in, is but 14 feet by 11, and the chamber not near as large, and neither the roof, nor windows, nor door will keep out the rain. As for the kitchen, you would hardly think it good enough to put coals in, in England. And unless the Chapel get a thorough repair, it will soon be as bad as the rest of the apartments. Mr. Sturgeon, I believe, has been labouring very faithfully since he came here, and he gives me every encouragement for doing the same. I trust we shall labour together in unity and love, and shall see the pleasure of the Lord prosper in our hands."

2. From the same, April 7, 1804.

"We have cause for thankfulness, that the Work of God prospers in this Island. Our congregations are larger than they were, our Society increases in number, our Classes are better attended, and I believe there is more harmony and concord among us than heretofore. We have added in all, since I came, nearly three hundred. But still our number is not equal to that given in last year: For I have been obliged to deny tickets to many, on account of their lukewarmness, and neglect of the means of grace. Many of these, however, have since returned, desiring to be tried again, and promise amendment. It is true, the slaves have many hindrances, Sunday being the chief day for them to cultivate their ground, to wash their clothes, and go to market. O that this evil might soon be removed! Yet notwithstanding, God does convince of sin, and savingly convert to himself many of these poor Africans; and some die, not only with an hope of heaven, but triumphing in full assurance. Very lately two, on one Estate, made a good exit.

"On Sunday last, it was my turn to go to the Windward part of the Island. Here we have about a thousand in Society, and only a Negro's house to meet in: So that crowds of people are obliged to stand out of doors, enduring the hot beams of a vertical sun; which would make an Englishman faint; perhaps would strike

strike him dead: For scores have been struck dead with the heat of the sun: But Negroes can endure it better. And many of them stood, this day, about five hours from first to last. And you would have been delighted and astonished to have heard the poor Africans tell their experiences, and signify how they never knew, till lately, that they had a God to serve."

3. From Mr. Sturgeon, August 13, 1804.

"I send you an account of the number we have in Society, which is about 2170. We have nothing extraordinary here, but some increase of number in the society, and, I trust, of the grace of God."

VIIIthly. Extracts of Letters from Barbadoes.

1. From Mr. Hawkshaw, June 3, 1803.

"Methodism is gaining repute in this Island, the congregation is increasing, and the Work of grace deepening, in the hearts of the people. It would have done your soul good, to have heard the People, the last evening in the Class, speak of the deep things of God. I do not remember to have heard or read of clearer experience respecting Christian holiness, than was spoken both by Whites and Blacks, members of the Class. I think there is a greater prospect of an increase of White members than of Black; and probably the former may in time be a mean of an increase of the latter. There are several among the Whites, Coloured People and Blacks, who have very acceptable gifts in prayer, and one of our Coloured Free-men will make an acceptable Local Preacher, thro' the blessing of God."

2. From Mr. Bradnock, April 30, 1804.

"On my arrival here, I found a large Island, with more than one hundred and twenty thousand souls; but only twenty-four in our society, with about forty hearers, and a debt of thirty pounds for some repairs lately made. Truly the change to me is great from my situation in Nevis, where I had the comfort of addressing sixteen hundred hearers, and had more than twelve hundred in society. But many are the inconveniences and hindrances, which the work of God in Barbadoes, has long had to contend with! We have not a convenient Chapel, nor a Burying Ground, and have no house for the Preacher.

On the 18th, I visited the honourable President, and presented to him my Credentials and Certificate with the City Seal. He acted the part of a worthy Magistrate, promising me the enjoyment of every privilege due to my office, and every encouragement in his power to give. As I had taken the liberty to call upon one of the Peace-officers, the Sabbath before, with a view to prevent dancing and drum-beating, I informed his Honour of the same, he said, "By all means they should be prevented;" and gave me an order, in writing, to command all constables to discharge

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charge their duty, in preventing stores being opened, as well as dancing on the Lord's-day. I have accompanied the Constables these two Sundays, in order to stimulate them to their duty. We have had good success and no opposition as yet. And, altho' by this I shall expose myself to some danger, and be much reproached by wicked men, yet I am determined, with God's help, to be an enemy to sin and satan, while I continue in this vale of tears. I had a very large congregation the last Sabbath; as many are coming to hear what the babbler will say. I have begun to put up twelve pews in our inconvenient Chapel. If by any means I may induce some more to attend to hear the word, which is able to save their souls. I have divided my little number into three classes, and, having three Leaders, I have begun a Leaders'-meeting once a week. I have also begun to catechize the children, and have a prospect of being useful to the rising generation, if not the aged. I have also once visited the Country, and had a very kind reception at the house of a friend, and at night a good congregation of very well behaved people. There is a prospect of an opening in many places in the Country, but I have no horse, therefore cannot go except when I have one sent for me. *Grace* and *Money* are two valuable things, and much wanting with me here; and without both, I fear Barbadoes, for lack of one noble effort, must still continue in her low estate."

8. From the same, July 28, 1804.

"I have laid out £66 for erecting Pews and a Vestry-Room for the Preaching-house, and established Discipline: And, blessed be God, I have joined thirteen Whites and seven Coloured People. We have crowded congregations, much persecution, and a good prospect. I have tolerable good health, I bless God. Having many invitations to the country, I am going to purchase a horse: And if our kind friends at home, will comply with my request to give some money towards a Burial-ground, I have no doubt but, with God's blessing, Barbadoes which has long been so barren, will bring forth fruit.

IXthly. Extracts of Letters from Grenada.

1. From Mr. Dumbleton, June 4, 1803.

"This Island is favoured above any I have been at, having two Gospel Ministers, viz. Mr. Dent and Mr. M'Fair, and yet continues barren and unfruitful. I have great cause to be thankful to the Giver of all good, for his manifold mercies to me and my family, tho' I feel many infirmities, and am inclined to think at times that I am usefess, &c."

N. B. Mr. Dumbleton is a very pious and useful Man, notwithstanding his diffidence concerning himself.

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2. From the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Dent, President of the Council of the Island of Grenada, and Rector of the Parish of St. George in that Island.

“ I received your kind favour by Mr. Hallett, [one of the Missionaries,] on the 29th of July, and received *him*, I may truly say, with joy and gladness. His arrival will, I trust, be of service to the society, which, I am sorry to say, has not yet quite recovered the shock of Mr. T—’s conduct. Mr. Dumbleton was not wanting in zeal and exertions, but is of too mild a spirit for *some* tempers, and came here before the ferment was over. Mr. Hallett’s more intimate knowledge of the People will be useful in this respect; and, with some hints which I can give him, may be instrumental in convincing gainsayers, and eradicating some Antinomian principles, which, I fear, have crept in.

“ Mr. Hallett’s coming here at this time, is also a great comfort to me, as I stand quite alone in this Parish, and have had the duties of Commander in Chief to perform for more than two years. I have been relieved by the Lieutenant Governour for a little time; but he is called away on military service, and I am now his *Locum-tenens*.

N. B. The worthy Writer of the above Letter has been since removed to his reward.

3. From Mr. Hallett, August 31, 1803.

“ Barbadoes was the first place where we landed, after leaving England. We afterwards touched at St. Vincent’s, where I spent a few days on my way to Grenada. In this Island, I recollected, with a mixture of gratitude, pleasure, and pain, the favours I received, and the persecutions I endured, when stationed in it; and I bless God that I have reason to believe that my labour there was not in vain. Messrs. Taylor and Sturgeon, with their families, are well. They were very busy erecting a dwelling-house for two preachers with families. At present, they are uncomfortably situated. When I arrived in Grenada, I was very kindly received by the Society, and my other friends: [He is a native of the Island,] and I humbly hope, that the great Head of the Church will make me a blessing to this Colony. I found my old tried and faithful friend, (I should rather say father,) Mr. Dent, Commander in Chief of the Island. He immediately, with Mrs. Dent, renewed his former kindnesses in a particular manner; his elevated station having made no change in his mind. I am sorry to observe, that Methodism, in this Island, is not what it was some years ago, tho’ Mr. Dumbleton’s conciliating manner has contributed to ameliorate the face of things. The aspect is, however, still unfavourable. We have five Classes, making, in all, 100 members; [They never exceeded 150.] The congregation is much smaller in proportion, and the chapel in a very ruinous condition;

condition; and to complete this deformed picture, there was not a farthing in hand when I arrived. I have been much indisposed, but, thro' the goodness of God, and the attention of an eminent Physician, I am abroad again. I bless God, I feel no fear of death, and am willing to live to preach that gospel which I know to be the power of God unto salvation."

Xthly. Extracts of Letters from Jamaica.

1. From Mr. Fish, Nov. 23, 1803.

"The Kingston Society continues to increase, altho' not rapidly. Our congregations are large, especially at the Lectures at five in the morning, which, for some time past, have been better attended than I ever knew them before."

2. From the same, April 12, 1804.

"You express a concern for the safety of brother Williams. [A very pious and useful Local Preacher.] God has for ever delivered him out of the hands of the wicked. [Mr. Fish then describes the nature of his illness and death, and adds,] After I had preached from 2 Sam. xiv. 14, a large company attended his corpse to the grave. While we stood round it, singing, "And must this body die, this well-wrought frame decay?" &c. a lively believing view of the glorious resurrection, seemed to be enjoyed by many. The little flock, at Morant-Bay, still continue steadfast. We do not doubt our having a place in the hearts and prayers of multitudes."

3. From the same, April 26, 1804.

"You will not be surpris'd at the number of backsliders, when you consider how greatly the poor people are deprived of the means of grace; the Prayer-Meetings in particular, of which we used to have six in the week. The situation, also, of several of the slaves is such, that neither their Leaders nor myself can have access to them."

4. From Mr. Warren, a very good man, and a very useful Local Preacher. Kingston, May 19, 1804.

"The number of our People, who live at the Bay, [Morant Bay,] amount to about 30. A few more live just nigh, who are those whom I generally see when I go up; and I can say for them, that they are still endeavouring to please God, with the exception of about four or five, who are not such as they should be. With regard to the other people, of whom the Morant-Bay Society consisted, [before the dreadful persecution, which put down the preaching of the Gospel throughout the whole Island of Jamaica, except the district of Kingston,] I mean

those belonging to the Estates,—I can say but very little of them. Some, I hear, are holding on; and others, I hear, have fallen. We are lifting up our head, at present, in anxious expectation of comfortable news by the Packet. O what a difference will it make, when we shall have liberty to preach the Gospel without fear!

N. B. As we have reason to fear that the Persecution in Jamaica is not yet at an end, we shall reserve the minute statement of that melancholy business, for our next Report.

XIthly. Extracts of Letters from New-Providence.

1. From Brother Anthony Wallace, brother James Jones, and brother John Moore, three of the Leaders, July 6, 1803.

“ We are happy to embrace this opportunity to write to you, and to let you know, that every proceeding respecting our Society, goes on well; and we hope that, thro’ the blessing of God, things will continue so to do. Our Society was in a weak state, till Mr. Turton came to us. But, blessed be God, we have been brought into a more enlightened state, thro’ the means of his perseverance and good attention. We have strove all in our power to propagate the Gospel of Christ, which, glory be to God, is now well established here. We have lately erected a new Meeting-house easterly of the Town, [Nassau,] called Ebenezer.”

2. From Mr. Turton, Dec. 31, 1803.

“ Our congregations are very large, particularly at the little Chapel, which I built in the suburbs of the Town. It often astonishes me to see the people stand without cover, on dark and wet nights, when the house is full; and that they will not leave the place till the service is over. I am sure, if the house were three times as large, it would do no more than hold the congregation. It was with reluctance that I drew on Dr. Coke a little time ago; but necessity obliged me to do it. And altho’ I have enlarged my school, in order that I might live, without having recourse to the Mission Fund, I find I shall be obliged to draw upon it the coming year. The Members of the Society, on whom God has wrought a wonderful change, and who are much united to each other, are willing to do what they can; but being mostly poor, have not been able to give me any quarterage for a year and an half. They are in number 162, and among them are many that love God, and rejoice in the redemption which is in Christ Jesus. I read the Circular Letter, and the Minutes of the Conference, (of 1803,) with delight. I am glad to find such a spirit of piety and loyalty among the preachers and people. Blessed be God, in this corner of the globe, where we are but few in number, we are sensible of the privileges we enjoy as Britons, and consequently cannot fail to pray for our happy Constitution.”

3. From

3. From the Same, May 8, 1804.

“With respect to the Work of God in this Island, considering the great disadvantages I have laboured under, I cannot complain. The Lord has wonderfully opened a way for me. Prejudice is now, in a good degree, removed, and people begin to respect the work, and seem willing it should go forward. Our Society, at present, consists of 10 Whites, 10 Coloured People, and 147 Blacks; among whom are several who enjoy the love of God in their hearts. Others are hungering after it; others are awed by fear; and others, no doubt, are unprofitable branches, whom we must bear with for a season, and endeavour to bring to a sense of themselves, and their Redeemer. Three, I believe, have died in the faith.

“One observation I must make, before I conclude. We are surrounded with many Islands, and many of them are peopled, and, I believe, good might be done among the inhabitants; but they are very poor, and live in a very low way; so that it would be very expensive to have a Preacher employed among them. But I am sure, if the Brethren saw these People in their real situation, without any spiritual help, they would do all they could to impart to them the knowledge of a Saviour. Should the Conference see meet to favour the Bahamas with a preacher, I would request liberty to go to Antigua, and settle my affairs there. But if it be thought more advisable for me to remain in my station, I resign myself without any dissimulation, hoping it is the will of God.”

XIIthly. Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick.

From Mr. James Mann, July 25, 1804.

“Send us what help you can. There are some pleasing prospects in some parts of this country. From Shelborne, where I spent the last Winter, and where several were converted before I left them, I received the pleasing account a few days ago of five more, all in one family, having lately found the peace of God, and also of some others inquiring the way to the Kingdom. The Lord is kind and good to me, and the prevailing desire of my soul, is to be holy and useful, and to spend the remnant of my days in his blessed service.”

N. B. Mr. William Black has been a great instrument of God in carrying on the Work in Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick. His labours have been abundantly blessed. But he has been lately employed on other Missionary business; and therefore there are no late Letters from him concerning the Work in those parts. From the last accounts, we are informed of his return to Nova-Scotia.

XIIIthly.

XIIIthly. Extract of a Letter from Mr. Bulpitt in Newfoundland, August 26, 1804.

“ There is a prospect of doing much good in those parts of this Island where I labour, if there were Preachers to supply the congregations. But I stand here by myself,—not one to help me. Some of our Chapels are shut up, because I cannot get men to read or give an exhortation to the People. There are about six thousand who sit under my preaching! I have been striving, in dependence on the grace of God, to do good to all, in running from place to place, with the glad-tidings of the Gospel.”

N. B. A Preacher has lately sailed for Newfoundland to help him: And if one be not sufficient, he shall, as soon as possible, have more. It must also be observed, that Mr. George Smith, and Mr. William Thoresby were very useful, and greatly honoured of God, in that Island, previously to Mr. Bulpitt's being sent there.

The Stations of the Preachers in the British Dominions in America.

1. *Nova-Scotia and New Brunswick*, William Black, General Assistant.—James Mann, John Mann, Duncan M'Coll, William Bennett, Joshua Marsden, William Sutcliffe.

2. *Newfoundland*, James Bulpitt, John Remmington.

3. *Antigua*, John Baxter, Thomas Patterfon, George Johnson.

4. *Dominica*, Richard Pattison, Thomas Gilgrafs.

5. *St. Vincent's*, John Taylor, William Sturgeon.

6. *Grenada*, Francis Hallett.

7. *Demerara*, John Hawkshaw.

8. *Barbadoes*, Joseph Taylor, jun.

9. *St. Christopher's*, Archibald Murdock, Joseph Morrisson, Henry Evans.

10. *Nevis*, Edward Turner, Thomas Isham.

11. *St. Bartholomew's*, Thomas Dobson.

12. *Tortola, Spanish-Town, and the other Virgin Islands*, John Brownell, Thomas Dumbleton, Edward Thompson.

13. *Jamaica*, William Fish, Isaac Bradnock.

14. *New Providence*, William Turton, John Rutledge.

The Numbers in Society, in the British Dominions in America.

1. *Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick*, 900

2. *Newfoundland*, - - - - 510

WEST-INDIES.

	Whites,	Coloured People & Blacks.
3. <i>Antigua</i> , - - - -	22	3516
4. <i>St. Christopher's</i> , - -	17	3000
5. <i>Nevis</i> , - - - -	14	1400

6. *Tortola*,

	Whites;	Coloured People and Blacks.
6. <i>Tortola, Spanish-Town, and the other Virgin Islands,</i> }	38	2070
7. <i>St. Bartholomew's,</i> —	—	120
8. <i>Dominica,</i> -	3	1000
9. <i>St. Vincent's,</i> -	9	2160
10. <i>Barbadoes,</i> -	-	24
11. <i>Grenada,</i> -	-	103
12. <i>Jamaica,</i> } <i>Kingston,</i>	14	506
		105
		160
13. <i>New Providence,</i> -	-	
14. <i>Bermuda,</i> -	105	
Total,	1692	14164

Total of Whites and Blacks, 15796.

A short Account of the Mission in Ireland among the Roman Catholics, in the Irish Language, with Copies of two Letters from the Missionaries.

For fifteen or sixteen years Dr. Coke had a great desire to establish a Mission among the Roman Catholics in Ireland, in their own language, and made several unsuccessful attempts for that purpose. At the Conference held in Dublin in 1799, he opened his mind at large, as he had done before, to the Conference, and found his Brethren ready and zealous to assist him. Two very proper Missionaries, Messrs. Graham and Ouseley, were then found out, who were immediately employed in that great undertaking. Afterwards, four others were added, three of whom were obliged to desist, thro' the excessive labour attending the Missions, and one thro' family-circumstances. Two more, however, have been lately raised, thro' the Providence and Grace of God, Messrs. Hamilton and Bell, who, with Messrs. Graham and Ouseley, are now employed in this arduous Work, the latter having been appointed to labour in the provinces of Connaught and Leinster, and the former in the province of Ulster.

A considerable number of the Roman Catholics have been already brought out of the depth of superstition and vice, to be ornaments of the Christian Religion. But, what is perhaps of still greater importance, much light has been cast on the minds of myriads of that misled people. A general inquiry after truth is gone forth thro' the land: And if the testimony of Jesus and his truth can be persevered in, it must prevail. The Plan is so approved of by all ranks of people in Ireland, that the Clergy of the Established Church in general, the Magistrates, and the Officers of the Army, are all ready to protect the Missionaries in time of danger. But as the four Missionaries are married and have children,

children, the expense is very great. Two Letters are given underneath, that the Subscribers may form some idea of the exertions of these faithful labourers of Christ.

I. From Messrs. Bell and Hamilton.

“ Brother Hamilton and I would have written to you before now, only we waited for more useful information. On my way from Drogheda, I preached in Kingscourt, August 1. Many hundreds listened attentively; some were weeping, and a respectable merchant, before whose door I preached, treated me, after preaching, very lovingly. I spoke partly in Irish. The Lord gave me liberty in declaring his counsel. Sunday, August 5, I preached in Enniskillen, as the people were coming from mass. A Magistrate heard for a little time, and after enquiring who I was, he walked off. A religious friend afterwards told me, that an ungodly Roman Catholic heard profitably, and said his own Clergy had never been so useful to him. He already wanted to know when there would be preaching again in Town. Next morning, a Roman Catholic woman came to preaching, and said some person had told me all the sins she had committed. Saturday, August 11, brother Hamilton and I went to the General of the District: We got no decisive answer respecting liberty to preach in the street, until the next day. After waiting on him, he gave full permission; and as the people came from Church and Mass, we spoke in the street: vast numbers heard attentively. Brother Graham and Ousely had been prevented here a few years ago, from preaching publicly. As this is my native country, at first, I felt a degree of timidity in addressing the people, but glory to God, he helped his dust! Saturday, August 18, we preached in Ballyshannon-market: Vast numbers listened, and a solemn awe rested upon the people. There are nearly 2,000 of the army in this town, and vast numbers of them heard the Word of Life. Eord's-day, August 19, we spoke again in the street, and a number of the officers heard: The General and his aid-de-camp, and the most respectable people in Town, shewed respect to the Gospel. We sung a few verses in Irish: I addressed the people in that tongue, and used it in prayer: It is evident the Lord is striking fifty hearts, and melting some to tears: Our inviting the people to the preaching-houses, after preaching, proves effectual in drawing many to hear. Our own people, the Methodists, are enlightened, and the report of the Irish Missionaries causes a noise in the country; so that numbers of all persuasions, are stirred to reason on the subject of Religion from place to place. August 20. We preached on a fair-day, in a town called Lahey: worldly business did not prevent a vast number from hearing profitably. The Rector of a parish, near this place, is an encourager of vital religion, and well affected to our people. The poor Roman Catholics hear well: Near this place, there is a young lad called

Tolan now preaching the good word of life, who was, a few years ago, a Papist. August 21, about five in the afternoon, we preached in Ballintra-Street: brothers Graham and Ousley, had been insulted here, some time ago, by a Magistrate, but he is not now in the way: people of various descriptions flocked to hear; while we cried out, "The world passeth away," &c. Tears flowed from many eyes; the poor Catholics heard in their own tongue: and as brother Hamilton preached next morning, about ten of them came to hear what they must do to be saved.—Lord's-day, August 26, we preached after the Church Service in Swadlinbar: about a hundred Methodists assembled: Catholics and our own people kneeled in time of prayer: we told them in English and Irish, "Their iniquities had separated between them and God." The spirit of prayer seemed to fall on the listening crowd! Monday, August 27, we preached in the fair of Monea, about four miles west of Enniskillen, on, "Buy the Truth." Two men contended at some distance; one knocked the other down: it was remarked, they were both very great enemies to our people. Satan, perhaps, employed them to draw off our congregation: however, the people heard in general well. We sung part of an Irish Hymn; and after we had ceased, a constable asked to see my Irish Testament: he read it a little; and we were told that he had been instructed for a Priest: He fears God in a degree. We invited him next day to preaching. Some said he would come to dispute; but when he came, he frankly acknowledged he had an evil, wicked heart. It is a loss that we have no small Tracts to distribute gratis. Wednesday the 29th, we preached to a large congregation near Churchill, at a Mr. Ridley's; the Lord was surely in the midst, the house was filled with prayers, cries and tears. We gave out for preaching next morning in Churchill, about half way between Enniskillen and Ballyshannon. The Post-master, a respectable man, is deeply convinced of sin. Another is awakened. The greater part of the people of the Town are Publicans, I mean persons who sell spirituous liquors, &c. All assembled. We told them, "He that committeth sin is of the devil:" Some of them told us they would turn to God. In every Congregation, (almost) we have Roman Catholics to hear. I am studying, reading, and conversing from time to time, in order to reclaim the Irish, by the power of God, through the channel of their own language, &c. Excuse my prolixity. If we had small, religious Tracts to give away gratis, they might be useful.

JAMES BELL,
WILLIAM HAMILTON."

Near Ballyshannon, August 31, 1804.

2. From Mr. Graham.

Dublin, September 22, 1804.

“ I sit down to let you know a little of our progress. After the Conference, we returned to the Wicklow Circuit according to appointment; where numbers of every description were glad to see us. We began our market-business in New-town-barry; and truly it was astonishing to see the effect preaching had on the market people. The power of God fell upon them in a very remarkable manner while they heard the Word. A Catholic man came forward, and took Mr. Ousley by the hand, and took his hand, and roared out. Mr. Ousley preached on, and cried on with the poor man, until the whole crowd was bathed in tears; and the power of God seemed to be felt by all. The poor man followed us to our lodging; and when he came in, he fell on his knees, and with lifted hands and streaming eyes, he cried to Heaven for mercy. This indeed was a time of the outpouring of the Spirit of God. From New-town-barry we went to Enniscorthy, where the work is still going on, and the number of persons convinced and converted, increasing. We took the street on the market-day, which happened to be very wet; the rain streamed on the people, yet they stood to hear. A Catholic man followed us to a friend's house, desiring to talk with us. He said, ‘ I never heard you before, but I find you spoke truth; and truly our Priests are wrong; there is something wanting among us, nor do they care how they treat us.’ This man opened his mind to us, and was resolved to hear us again. O what mercy to see a Town that was full of rebellion and murder, become subject to the Gospel! This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. The work began to spread round the Country, and many Catholics came out to hear, and seemed greatly alarmed and broken down. O Lord! send labourers to this perishing harvest, nor suffer them to go on in the dark, and die without the knowledge of thyself!

“ In Wexford many joined the Society. The work was spreading rapidly in despite of all opposers. Many conversions have been of late in and near Wexford. There a rigid Catholic desired to talk with us in our lodging, but it was to defend the doctrine of Transubstantiation, and some other points, which he considered we made too free with; or rather, said he, you blaspheme our Church in the street: but at our return to Wexford, he had the hard fate of hearing it over again: never did religion make such a noise in that Country! The Sovereigns, (that is the Mayors,) of Wexford and Ross took part with us together with the Military Officers; nor would they suffer any one, to molest or annoy us in the streets; but said we were welcome to preach as often as we pleased. This is of the Lord: may he

he blefs them with the bleffings of the Gospel of peace. We can never be grateful enough for the great privileges we enjoy. We had fruit of our labour in Rofs alfo, and a great appearance of more. The people were greatly stirred up, and many convinced of fin, and thankful that ever we visited that Town. In Waterford, we had great Congregations both in the houfe and in the ftreets. Many respectable Catholics heard us, and we were told, followed us to the houfe at night, and alfo fome Quakers. I doubt not but much good was done. We preached three nights in it, and it appeared to be three times too little. When we were there before, a Catholic woman heard us, and went to Mafs no more. She is now confined to her bed, and our people attend and vifit her. Another faid, ſhe would forſake all, and give herſelf to the ſervice of God. All that can be done by their Clergy will not keep them from hearing us; and I verily believe the ſeed that we are now ſowing, will appear after many days, to the praiſe and Glory of God.

“Another Catholic young woman who heard us the year before the laſt, told us when we met her, and ſhe heard us again, ſhe would turn to the Lord, and join the people. I may obſerve on the whole, we had great ſucceſs in our laſt tour. Notwithſtanding that I have been tried and tempted, the good Lord has not forſaken me. O that I were able, without reſerve, to caſt my care and burden on him. I left Mr. Ousley at Arklow, as he wiſhed to ſpend a few days at the Sea.”

CHARLES GRAHAM.

A ſhort Account of the Welch Miſſions.

In travelling annually, for many years, thro' North-Wales, in his way to Ireland, and on his return, Dr. Coke felt exceedingly for his countrymen the Welch, and wiſhed that the everlaſting Gospel of Jeſus Chriſt might be preached univerſally among them. It is true, there are many pious Clergymen in the Churches of Wales, and many pious Diſſenting Miniſters in that Principality. But he was, notwithstanding, fully ſatisfied, that myriads of the Welch were ſtill in ſpiritual darkneſs, and lived in the practice of vice, to whom Miniſters, on the Itinerant Plan, might find acceſs thro' the bleſſing of God, when the ſettled Miniſters were not able to reach them, from their reluctance to receive the Gospel in the firſt inſtance, unleſs it were brought to them, as it were, in the highways and hedges. He was at the ſame time convinced, that no extenſive good could be accompliſhed, unleſs Itinerant Preachers were found, who were Maſters of the Welch Language. Soon after, the Doctor was incited to enter upon this undertaking, by the arguments of a pious perſon in Angleſea. He then requeſted his worthy and highly eſteemed friend, Mr. Owen Davies,

to go and travel thro' North Wales, if the Conference should consent, and a proper colleague were found out to travel with him.—Mr. Davies complied, and the Doctor then proposed his plan to the Conference.—The Conference most readily gave him their utmost support: And Mr. Hughes, a very suitable colleague for Mr. Davies, having offered himself, the Missionaries immediately commenced their labours. Mr. Davies's Letter, which is added to this Account, will give some idea of this very prosperous Mission. The Doctor has visited some of the principal Societies in North-Wales, and is fully satisfied that the representation made by Mr. Davies, is rather below than beyond the truth. The Doctor has engaged, God willing, to make a more general visit thro' North-Wales the next Spring, and in the next Report, will enter into the more minute particulars of this important Mission.

From Mr. Gwen Davies,

Denbigh, October 15, 1804.

“ I should have been glad to have had it in my power to give you a particular account of the spiritual state of our Societies in North-Wales, but there are so many of them which I can never visit, and others which I can visit but seldom, that I can only have a general knowledge of them. My brethren the Preachers, in their different Circuits, must be better acquainted with the spiritual state of our people, than I can be, because they are more among them, and frequently meet their classes: Therefore, I have long since requested them to take accounts of remarkable conversions, and particular openings of Providence for the spread of the Gospel in these parts. And some of them began so to do; but by so doing, they were obliged to speak so often of themselves as instruments of those blessed effects, that their modesty will not suffer them even to let me have a sight of their journals. I mention these things as the reasons why I cannot answer your Letter in so circumstantial a manner as I could wish to do. However, I can say, from what my eyes have seen and mine ears have heard, since my return from Conference, I have reason to conclude that our Societies, (with very few exceptions,) are growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I have an opportunity of meeting the public bands often in Denbigh, and have reason to believe that our friends here are strengthened, settled, and established in grace. We have been slandered of late in this Town, to a very high degree; and I have been urged by some to enter an action against the offender; but could not get over our Lord's advice, ‘ Bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use and persecute you.’ However, I think it has been a mean of uniting us together more than ever. I find our Society

in Ruthen, is in a good way: They have had remarkably refreshing seasons of late. Our Society in Mould was never in a more prosperous state. We have a few friends in that town, who may be truly styled, 'The excellent of the earth.' Brother Games was giving me yesterday a pleasing account of the depth of piety he found among some of our friends at Llysfarn. I was highly pleased some time ago, in meeting a Class in a country Society, in which there was an old man, I suppose, about fourscore years of age, expressing himself as having only lived about two years; but from that time, he had lived the life of heaven on earth. So great was his consolation, that it prevented him, the preceding night, from having one moment's sleep. At the same time, a young boy spoke like a father in Christ, rejoicing in God his Saviour with joy unspeakable and full of glory. I just mention this as a specimen of the genuineness of the work on old and young. And the same work has taken place on some of the rich as well as of the poor. Indeed, Sir, there are hundreds who can testify that Jesus Christ is exalted a Prince and a Saviour, and has given them repentance and remission of sins; the truth of which is evidently seen by their fruits.

"Brother Bryan and I intended to have gone, sometime ago, towards the South for a few weeks, to try to get an introduction into fresh places; but the time of giving tickets drawing nigh, prevented us from stopping so long as we intended: However, we went so far as evidently to see that there was a great want of preaching in those parts: Among other places we spent a sabbath in Llanvylling. Brother Bryan preached at two o'clock out of doors, and, I believe, most of the town were present, who behaved in the most respectful manner. It was truly pleasing to see hundreds on their knees in the streets, uniting with us in supplicating the Majesty of Heaven for his blessings. I preached in English at six; and a very solemn season it was, for the night came on before the service was ended; the shades of which, together with the stillness of the people, the calmness of the evening, and the Moon rising upon us, made it pleasingly awful. Perhaps it was the more so to me, as I expected some persecution. Mr. Bryan had preached in this town about three years before, and was much interrupted. Mr. Hughes and I had been there about two years before, with an intent of preaching, but no door was open to us; however, the Lord, at length, has given us favour in the sight of this people. I have taken the liberty of calling out two more preachers since Conference: one to be united to Ruthen Circuit, and the other to Caernarvon. In a few days, brother Bryan and I intend setting off on a tour thro' Montgomeryshire, as far as Cardiganshire: And at the same time, brother Edward Jones, Senior, who will take a local preacher with him, will go through Merionethshire, and will meet us at Aberistwith: and without penetrating

penetrating any farther, I am in hopes we shall find in a little time, work and support for the two preachers. And should our Mission succeed in those parts, we shall, in effect, cover the whole of North-Wales.

“We held our Quarterly-meeting for Anglesea at Beaumaris, on Friday the 28th of last month: and as most of our temporal business was transacted the night before, we devoted almost the whole of the day to preaching to the people; who were so numerous, that we were obliged to preach four of the sermons out of doors. At night we had a Love-feast; and it was a time that will be long remembered by many. We held our Quarterly meeting for Caernarvon at Pwllhilli, on Tuesday the 2d inst. Here, we proceeded much in the same manner as we had done at Beaumaris. A scaffold was erected for the preachers, who were seven in number. Five of us preached in the course of the day, to far greater congregations than we could have expected, and God was very present with us. I have no doubt, but that many will have cause to bless God eternally for the grace received on that day.

On Monday 8, we held our Quarter-day at Wrexham, and were glad to find a good Chapel, and a good house, for a preachers' family almost finished. On Wednesday the 10th, we held our Quarter-day, at Ruthin; and the next day at Denbigh; and through mercy found, on taking an account of our members in each Circuit, that we are increasing in number. On Friday the 12th, I went to open Lanrwst Chapel: and although it is large, and has three galleries, it would not contain the people assembled on the occasion: and I was glad to find that every pew was taken before the Chapel was finished. Surely the Lord deals tenderly with us in giving us such favour in the sight of the people. God only knows the pain of mind I have often had through fearing that our Chapels would bring a greater burden on our friends than they could bear: And yet I could not but encourage the building of them, knowing that, humanly speaking, it would be impossible for the work to prosper without them. I have often said within myself, Ah we have got to the summit of our prosperity: We shall be going back as fast as we have been increasing: but hitherto God has been to me better than my expectations. Every Quarter brings forth an increase of inhabitants to Zion. O that all who begin in the Spirit, may be found faithful unto death!

“I have just had a letter from brother Hughes, who informs me that there are upwards of two hundred and fifty members in the Welch Classes in Liverpool, and about sixty in Manchester.

“The Lord does certainly smile on our Missions, and honours us with abundant success. And I am encouraged to hope, that his Word will still run and be glorified. I believe there are more praying people in Wales than there ever were: Therefore, I am
led

led to hope, that the Lord will rain down righteousness upon us. I am far from considering it a trivial thing to be able to complete seventeen preaching-houses, unto the Name of the Lord our God, and to be engaged in building eleven more. It is no trivial thing to have raised about fourscore Societies as spiritual houses for the King of Saints to dwell in. It is no small mercy to have about twenty Local, and ten Travelling Preachers to run to and fro in the Principality, that knowledge may increase: And all this within four years! O that the Lord, with whom is the residue of the Spirit, would so pour it out from on high, on our Country, that every soul may be born of the Spirit, and each body become the temple of the Holy Ghost!

OWEN DAVIES."

THE Subscribers, and the Public at large, have now laid before them an accurate View of these important and successful Missions, as far as the compass of a Report will admit of it. The great Expence of such Undertakings must obviously appear to every one: But the Advantages which have already arisen from them, infinitely overbalance all the cost.—To those who sincerely desire the Enlargement of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, (and to such this Report is addressed,) nothing more, perhaps, need be added at present; and therefore, to their candid, impartial Consideration, the whole is now submitted.

THOMAS COKE,

General Superintendent of the Missions.





