

CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

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Religious Miscellany.

LONDON JEWS SOCIETY.

Abstract of the Sixteenth Report of the London Society for promoting Christianity amongst the Jews. May, 1824. [ABRIDGED FROM THE JEW. EXPOS.]

Domestic Intelligence.—Under this department your Committee have the pleasure to state, that they continue to receive from various parts of the kingdom, assurances of a growing interest in the cause of the Society. Evidence of this fact has appeared in the increased attendance at the anniversaries of Auxiliary Societies, and, generally speaking in the increased amount of contributions on those occasions. The cause of the Society is decidedly on the advance. Its friends are increasing in number, and strengthening in attachment, and there prevails a daily extending opinion, that the conversion of God's ancient people to the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, is essentially interwoven with the prosperity and glory of his church.

Your Committee feel persuaded that this progress will continue to become more manifest, in proportion as the proceedings and prospects of the Society shall become more generally known.

The Society has been gaining, during the year, an accession of strength by the formation of several new Associations.

The beneficial results arising from the sale of Fancy Work at the Repositories in London, and other parts of the kingdom, are well worthy of notice. That in the metropolis alone, in the month of April last year, produced 254*l.* A similar Repository, under the superintendence of the Gloucester Ladies' Association, early in last month, yielded upwards of a hundred guineas in two days of sale, besides articles of considerable value, which were remitted to the stock of the Repository in London.

Ireland is still the warm and liberal friend of the Jews, and the contributions to the funds of the Society from that country, have not fallen short of last year.

Scotland has also renewed her claim to the character of a valuable Auxiliary, by the liberal donations which have been received.

Nor must your Committee here omit to notice the receipt of 75*l.* as a contribution to the Hebrew Testament Fund, from the Portland Society, in the United States of America.

To the exertions of its various friends in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, your Society is indebted for an amount in contributions of 12,426*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, being an increase beyond that of last year of 1,502*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*

Into the Society's Schools for the education of Jewish children, there have been admitted, since the last Report, 4 boys and 1 girl. During the same period, 3 boys and 4 girls have been placed out as servants or apprentices. There are at present in the school 33 boys and 46 girls.

Two new tracts have been published by the Society. Two tracts previously on the Society's list have been re-published. Several other tracts for the instruction of the Jews, have been printed during the past year at foreign presses, but at the Society's expense.

The issues from the Depository of the Society during the past year have been—Scriptures, in whole or

part, 9,559—Hebrew, German-Hebrew, and English Tracts, 136,622—Quarterly Jewish Records, 94,235.

In the *Missionary Seminary* belonging to the Institution, there are at present seven Students, three of whom have been admitted since the last Anniversary. Four missionaries have gone forth in the service of the Society during the year past, the Rev. Alexander McCaul, accompanied by his wife and Mr. O'Neil, Rev. Charles Neat, together with his wife and Dr. George Clarke, an Irish physician.

The total number of Christian labourers at present employed under the direction of the Society, or in connexion with it, is eighteen.

Foreign Proceedings.—These have been carried on chiefly in *Holland, Germany, Prussia, Poland, The Mediterranean, Palestine, and India.*

Circumstances have occurred of an encouraging nature, in regard to the prospects of usefulness in Holland. A small Association has been formed in Amsterdam, for the purpose of raising contributions to the funds of the Society.

The Directors of the Synagogue at a town in Guelderland, had applied to the Rotterdam Society for Hebrew New Testaments, and Tracts in Polish and German Hebrew.

Mr. Thelwall has lately employed a converted Jew in circulating Tracts among his brethren.

Germany.—During the course of last summer, Mr. T. visited some parts of Germany, in company with Mr. McCaul.

In a letter written towards the conclusion of his tour, Mr. T. says, "Thus far we have reason to bless God, that wherever we have been, we have met with really Christian people, who were willing to show us kindness and love for the Lord's sake. But what is more to the purpose of our journey and of our communication is, that almost in every place we find some traces of the great work that is going on among the Jews at present, which we cannot but consider as preparatory for greater things, and at least hail as a sure token that we have not entered upon the great work in which we are engaged at all too soon. We meet with abundant proofs that the time to sow the seed is fully come, and this is our business."

A principal object of Mr. Thelwall and his fellow-traveller in their visit to Germany was, to ascertain the state of the institutions said to have been formed, for the benefit of the Jews near Dusseldorf.

They say, "We are convinced of the necessity of such an institution; being well aware that as soon as a Jew takes any decided steps towards a profession of Christianity, he is cast out by his relations, naked and destitute upon the world:—for professing Christians will not receive him—and the Jews in Germany being totally ignorant of mechanical employments, have no means of gaining their bread."

Your Committee feel the difficulty of pronouncing upon the expediency of such institutions as those of Dusselthal and Stockham. A question so embarrassed in itself, can be satisfactorily decided by the result of experience alone.

The cause of the Society advances steadily in the Saxon territories. Mr. Goldberg, the Jewish convert, is still engaged at Dresden, chiefly in the work of a schoolmaster, which he prosecutes in a truly Christian spirit.

The same tender compassion seems also, in a very remarkable manner, to influence many of the Christian inhabitants of Dresden.

At a recent baptism of a Jewess and her seven children, sixteen Jewish converts were present, and a good impression seemed to be made on the minds of many other Jews who attended.

Prussia.—The Berlin Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews, continues to enjoy the most decided marks of the favour of his Prussian Majesty.

The Society has printed 3000 copies of the New Testament in German-Hebrew from stereotype plates furnished by your Society.

The interests of the Society have been most essentially promoted by the labours of Professor Tholuck. His time, talents, and extensive acquirements in Oriental literature, are largely occupied in publications of various kinds, designed to further the cause of Jewish conversion. Amongst others, he has commenced a periodical work in German similar to the Jewish *Expositor*, entitled, "The Friend of Israel!"

In a letter dated the 1st of February, in the present year, Professor T. states, that the number of Jews instructed and baptized in Berlin alone in the course of the last eighteen months, amounts to fifty.

Professor Tholuck writes;—"It is in general a new cheering phenomenon of our day, to see among students in divinity so many sons of Abraham. The number of them at Breslau is considerable." He mentions three such Jewish students with whom he himself had become acquainted.

Societies in connexion with the central Institution at Berlin.—One of these is at Detmold, in the Principedom of Lippe. Its immediate operations, however, are restricted to the Prussian provinces of Westphalia.

The Detmold Society commissioned Mr. Petri, a converted Jew, who had for some time been employed as a Missionary to his brethren in the adjacent provinces, to visit Altona and Hamburg.—In the course of this visit he circulated upwards of 2000 Tracts and New Testaments, and met with several interesting cases of a favourable disposition towards Christianity, especially among the younger Jews.

A Branch Society has been formed also at Breslau, the capital of Silesia, where the cause of Israel has found a most zealous and able friend in the person of Professor Steffens.

Mr. Smith writes from Breslau, under date of June 7—"One part of the town, and that not a little one, is inhabited by Jews almost exclusively, to whom, as soon as I found a convenient opportunity, I made my object known. *From that time till the present moment they have been coming to me for books, &c. from morning till evening, and some of them have repeated their visits a great many times; and on the whole I have never seen in any town such a favourable disposition among the Jews to Christianity.*

In a letter written a few days later, Mr. Smith says, "*To-day, from very early in the morning till late in the evening, I have had Jews constantly calling for books, &c. and explanations of some passages.*"

And again, three days after, "*To-day and yesterday crowded with Jews the whole of the day, requesting books on the subject of Christianity, whom I could not supply, not having an arrival, as I expected.*"

A circumstance particularly interesting is the anxiety for instruction shewn by the Jewish youth at Breslau. He mentions that many of the students at the University, and of the boys belonging to the Gymnasium, or Free-School, had applied to him for books and information, and he says of the latter, "*I have rarely seen boys of their age so thoughtful on the subject of religion, among those born of Christian parents.*"

From Great Glogau Mr. S. writes:—"In this town they were equally pressing for books; my room was crowded to excess." He adds afterwards, "*Many of the Jews here appear to be Christians at heart, and only wait for each other.*"

Poland.—Mr. Handes spent some time in the course of last summer at Posen, in Prussian Poland. "The Jews visited him daily in crowds," applying for books or for religious instruction. Several young persons in particular manifested an anxious desire to embrace Christianity.

During his stay, Mr. H. had the satisfaction of learning that several Jews met on a stated day, for the purpose of reading the New Testament; and that in the public school for the education of Christian boys, free places had been appointed for Jewish children, fourteen of whom attended, and appeared desirous of Christian instruction.

At Inowraklaw, he had unusually numerous visits from Jews, some of whom were teachers: was even permitted to deliver an address in the Synagogue, which was afterwards found to have been not without good effect.

At Crotoszyn, also, he met with considerable encouragement. Numbers, both of Jews and Christians, sought opportunities of conversing with him. On various occasions his apartments were "crowded with Jews, Jewesses and children."—A number of persons, of all ranks, came to him also from the environs of Crotoszyn, applying for tracts; and several young men with greater earnestness entreated him to give or lend them copies of the New Testament to read. When he was preparing to leave the place, a number of Jews assembled round him, wishing him the blessing of God, and expressing an anxious desire to see him soon again.

Whilst Messrs. Wendt and Hoff were labouring in the north of Poland, Mr. Becker continued stationary at Warsaw; visited by Jews and Jewesses in increas-

ing numbers. He continued also to circulate Tracts and the Scriptures, both of the Old and New Testaments, as opportunity offered.

Mr. M'Caul, with his wife and Mr. O'Neill, reached Warsaw on the 19th of last September.

On their way they spent some days at Posen; where they had the gratification of learning that, tho' comparatively little progress had been made with the *elder Jews*, efforts respecting the rising generation had been attended with much success. There are now 15 Jewish children educating in various Christian schools, at the Society's expense.

In a subsequent letter Mr. M'Call writes: "The affairs of the mission go on uniformly; Jews visiting us, and being visited by us. We see continually some fresh instance of secret belief amongst them."

Mr. M'Caul strongly urges the sending out more missionaries to Poland. When at Pisen, he advised the making that city a missionary station, on account both of the number of Jewish inhabitants, and of a Society established there.

Of a journey undertaken, in Poland, early in the present year, by Mr. Becker and Mr. O'Neill, the latter writes, under date of February 2d; "Mr. Becker and I left Warsaw on the twelfth of last month for this place; during the whole of our journey we met nothing but encouragement to go forward in our work, unfurl the banner of the cross, and say unto the people of Israel 'Behold, thy salvation cometh.' In every village the Jews gathered round our waggon, asking for books, and those who could afford it always paid for the New Testament.

"At Philopowo, a small town on the Polish frontiers which contains 2000 Jews, we were received by them with the greatest joy.

"In Ratska we were also well received by the Jews, who gave us a pressing invitation to visit their synagogue, and to speak to them there about the Messiah."

Mr. Moritz, the Jewish convert employed as a missionary among his brethren by the emperor Alexander, continues to labour with zeal and perseverance in that capacity: and has been instrumental in awakening, or confirming religious impressions in not a few Jews in various parts of Russia and Poland.

The education of Jewish children has begun to engage the serious attention of Christians in the Russian capital.

We have about 160 boys and 70 girls on the books, says Mr. Knill, but we dare not go one further for want of room. The master and mistress are warm hearted Christians, and are abundant in endeavours to do good to the bodies and souls of the children.

Mediterranean.—Mr. Neat and his estimable coadjutor have commenced their labours among the Gibraltar Jews.

It is certainly very encouraging that they have been treated with marked civility, both in public and private; and in various instances, received the most courteous invitations to renew their discussions.

Your Committee rejoice to report the formation of a Society for the spiritual benefit of the Jews, in the Island of Malta. The avowed object of this Institution is to form a centre of union and communication between Asia, Europe, and Africa, for all purposes and plans in connection with the conversion of Israel.

For the present, the object is to obtain all possible access to the scattered Israelites so numerous in Palestine, in Egypt, and the northern coast of Africa, by means of the Scriptures and other books which it may be found expedient or practicable to disseminate among them; also to maintain a Depository of necessary books at all times to facilitate the communications between Jewish Societies and their Missionaries in the Mediterranean.

The immediate impulse of this auspicious undertaking was given by the Rev. Lewis Way, who arrived there in May last, on his way from Italy to Palestine.

[REMAINDER NEXT WEEK.]