

and philanthropic gentlemen who devoted their midnight hours to the rescue of the unhappy victims of nocturnal vices in the great metropolis. It presents an array of facts which powerfully appeal to the pious, benevolent, and patriotic public, on behalf of the fallen and the miserable.

THE SONS OF TOIL AND THE CRYSTAL PALACE, in reply to Mr. Mayhew. By the Rev. JOHN HALL, 18mo. Pp. 40. London: John Snow, Paternoster-row.

A sensible and judicious lecture, addressed to the working-classes against the shallow reasoning and pernicious attempt of Mr. Mayhew to break down the sanctity of the Sabbath, and convert that sacred day into a season of pleasure and dissipation. It is only just to state that Mr. Hall's lecture is a complete triumph over the sophistical reasoning of his opponent.

THE INQUISITION IN SPAIN, AND OTHER COUNTRIES. London: The Religious Tract Society.

A faithful description of the systematic torture and murder practised by the Church of Rome under the name of Christianity. Every Protestant has here

an opportunity of learning, for sixpence, the awful atrocities of the Papal Inquisition, and we sincerely hope this opportunity will be extensively embraced. The work is well written, and replete with melancholy interest.

LAYS OF THE FUTURE. By WILLIAM LEASK. 12mo. Pp. 148. London: Partridge and Oakey, 34, Paternoster-row.

The book is well printed, and neatly got up; the general sentiments, too, are evangelical, and the poetry smooth and pleasing; but the theory of the personal reign of Christ is the leading sentiment, and this doctrine we do not hold to be Scriptural.

THE BAND OF HOPE REVIEW AND SUNDAY SCHOLARS' FRIEND. 1851 to 1852. Pp. 112. London: Partridge and Oakey, 34, Paternoster-row.

SUNDAY READINGS FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILIES. By DR. KITTO. London: 8, Amen-corner, Paternoster-row.

HOME THOUGHTS: A Monthly Magazine of Literature, Science, and Domestic Economy, especially adapted for the use of Families. Nos. 1, 2, 3. London: Kent and Co., Paternoster-row.

CONNEXIONAL DEPARTMENT.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE BETHEL CHAPEL, DURHAM.

HEARTILY do we congratulate our ministers and friends connected with the city of Durham that the important work so long desiderated has at last been accomplished. The foundation-stone of a commodious chapel is laid, and that under auspicious circumstances. Our worthy friends, to whom God has imparted a bountiful share of temporal favours, have come forward nobly with their contributions; and some of them propose to do still more, in order to reduce, or, if possible, to extinguish the debt—an important object and well worthy of a vigorous effort.

We feel delighted to see the name of our excellent and venerable friend Mr. Ward associated with those of Messrs. Love and Thwaites in this good work. His ardent and benevolent partner in life had her heart intensely set on this object; and if her ransomed spirit could have gazed

(and perhaps it did) on the scene that transpired on the 4th of May, sure we are, the spectacle would augment her joys. We have other worthy ladies in Durham and its vicinity to whom the event of a new chapel is deeply interesting, and who will give the good cause the benefit of their devoted labours and earnest prayers. Our heart's desire and prayer to God is, that the chapel may be made the birthplace of thousands of precious souls. The report of the ceremony, and the proceedings connected with its celebration, are extracted from the *Durham Advertiser*.

Wednesday, May 4th, was the day appointed for the performance of the above interesting ceremony; and the day being fine, a large number of people assembled on the occasion. The site is situate on the New North-road. The building will be a handsome and commodious structure,

and must prove a great ornament to the locality. Mr. R. Robson is the architect and contractor for the building. The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone was confided to J. Ridgway, Esq., of Caudon Place, Staffordshire Potteries. Previously to the appointed time the friends of the undertaking assembled at the Town Hall, and afterwards walked in procession to the spot. The proceedings were commenced with singing and prayer, after which the stone was lowered to its place amidst loud applause.

Mr. Ridgway then addressed the assembled crowd in an excellent and appropriate speech. He congratulated them upon the celebration of the auspicious event for which they had assembled; he trusted the noble work would be speedily and prosperously accomplished, and then in every respect they would be able to take their place worthily among the Christian communities of the city. After another hymn had been sung, the people separated, but again assembled in the New Town Hall, where a public tea-meeting had been arranged, under the presidency of the Mayor of Durham (J. Bramwell, Esq.). Between three and four hundred persons sat down to tea, which had been liberally provided by the ladies of the Connexion. After the repast, the mayor commenced the business of the evening by a speech of great power and eloquence, in which he alluded to his attachment to the principles of Methodism—his father having been a Wesleyan minister in Durham many years ago.

The Rev. Mr. LINDLEY said, it was not his design in rising to occupy much of their time, but simply to say a few words in explanation of the character of the building which was about to be erected. It was to be built in the Roman Ionic style of architecture, and would be sixty-four feet long by forty-five feet wide. It was calculated to seat 850 people, and would also have a vestry with an orchestral gallery above. Underneath the chapel would be three rooms for the use of a chapel-keeper, and a school-room to accommodate 200 children. The estimated cost of the building, including purchases of land, was upwards of £2000, to meet which the following subscriptions had been raised:—Mr. J. Ward, £200; Mr. R. Thwaites, £200; Mr. J. Love, £200; part proceeds of a bazaar, £60; other subscriptions (varying from £1 to £10), £50; and he might state that they had resolved not to cease collecting until they realized the sum required.

The Rev. W. FORD, after a few introductory observations, said it gave him

great pleasure to see presiding at that meeting a man whose father he had always looked upon as a great man and a good Christian. It gave him pleasure to see the chief magistrate of the city taking part with them on that occasion. They would see that their object in raising that place was not political, but purely spiritual and religious; but he would not say that it was improper for Christian men to think and feel on political subjects. But they must remember that they were only creatures of a day, and, as John Wesley had expressed it, "as an arrow passing through the air;" and they ought to pay more attention to the good of the soul than to any worldly affairs. He was sure such a motive had actuated their friends when they had thought of the building which was now in course of erection. It was that they might provide for the spiritual instruction of the people; and in following out that object no other feeling had actuated them. There was ample room for fresh labourers to come forward to work in those fields which were already ripe for the harvest; and their wish was that along with the other sections of Christians they might work for the conversion of men to God, and the advantage of his Church. They certainly had views peculiar to themselves. They had a distinctive denomination, and they were not ashamed to own what these distinctions were; but on the great principles of religion they held with other Christian denominations one faith, one Lord, one baptism, one spirit, and one God and Father of all. Instead of differing on minor points, he would go to the utmost extent to meet his brethren. He hoped to see the day when they would be all joined in one bond of brotherhood, even as Christ was one with the Father. In the great object they had in view, he was sure they would have the sympathy of every Christian denomination in that city. After other appropriate observations to the same effect, the reverend gentleman concluded by expressing his hope that their numbers would, by the accommodation that would be afforded by the erection of the chapel, be greatly increased.

Mr. JOHN RIDGWAY was the next speaker. He said the observations which had fallen from the chairman brought to his recollection the period when John Wesley passed through the place where he resided; and although a little boy at the time, he had a perfect recollection of his appearance, his interesting countenance and flaxen hair, and the grey horse he rode. He recollected his father lifting

him up, the good man, on his horse, and how he patted him on the head, saying, "God bless the lad!" and he had a perfect recollection of his death. He gave an account of the rise of the New Connexion of Methodism in Staffordshire, from their first service in a stable, and their gradual improvement, until they had now a beautiful chapel, capable of accommodating 3000 persons, with a beautiful organ, and an attendance of between 1000 and 2000 persons every Sunday morning; and he had no doubt that in Durham they would go on progressing in the same way until they found the chapel of which they had that day been laying the foundation-stone would be found too small to accommodate them.

J. LOVE, Esq., said he felt great pleasure in rising to address them on the subject of their meeting that evening. It was an object that had long been desired by him, and anxiously looked for, and he hardly thought there could be anyone present who experienced greater gratification at the laying of the foundation-stone of the chapel in that city, for the purpose of supporting and increasing the cause with which he was connected, than he did. His family had had an interest in the city for more than twenty years; and being interested in the welfare of the New Connexion, he experienced a degree of pleasure, after having been confined in the narrow and contracted place in which they had been in the habit of meeting, to think that before long they should have a beautiful and commodious chapel, where they might not be ashamed to meet for the purpose of worshipping God. The want of a site had been said to be the reason why they did not get a chapel before. However, he thought they had been fortunate in having got such a site as they had, in a quarter of the town where there was no dissenting chapel. That was a consideration which had great weight with him—he felt happier from that circumstance, because their object was not to draw from other denominations, but to draw from the masses of the people who attended no place of worship. In that quarter there was population large enough to fill a much larger chapel than had been marked out. Though it was at present stated they had exceeded their limits, yet if their people exerted themselves, and used their influence, there was population large enough to fill the place again and again; and, in his opinion, they had selected a most judicious site. He thought they had better have a chapel too large than too small; and if it was found to be too large at its opening, he

hoped, ere long, to find it too small to contain the number which would be drawn together to worship God. If this should be the case, it would prove, above every other consideration, a source of gratification and pleasure to him. It was his earnest wish to have the chapel out of debt, and he had made various calculations as to how that could be effected. There had been a list of subscriptions read to the meeting; but handsome though they were, he was afraid they would have to be larger. He told his friend Mr. Thwaites that his subscription of £200 would not do. Mr. Thwaites, Mr. Ward, and himself, would have to increase their subscriptions £100 more (hear, hear, and laughter); and when they got the chapel out of debt, they would have no difficulty in finding sufficient employment for two ministers. They had made their calculations and laid their plans; and he had no doubt that before long they would be the head of a Circuit, and be the means of diffusing the blessings of Christianity to many who at present knew but little of it. He had looked forward with pleasure to that day, and he must say that all his most sanguine expectations had been realized. And when he thought of the happy day they had spent, and the occasion of their meeting, his prayer to God was, that the work which they had that day begun might prosper and become a blessing to the community at large, and tend to the advancement of the Church of Christ on earth (loud applause). Although not resident in the city of Durham, he felt an earnest desire for its welfare and prosperity; and he hoped that the efforts which they had already made, and were about to make, for the completion of the object they had in view, would be crowned with ultimate success (hear).

The Rev. S. GOODALL expressed his pleasure at meeting with his New Connexion friends on that important occasion. He was glad to hear, as had been expressed, that they were going ahead, if not at first, at last. He thought after twenty years spent in endeavouring to gain the object they had that day met to celebrate, it was satisfactory to know they were now going ahead. He had been deeply interested in the proceedings of that day, in witnessing the laying of the foundation-stone of the proposed chapel, and in listening to the remarks that had been made on that occasion by Mr. Ridgway. He was glad to hear him testify that he and the Connexion were Protestant dissenters. Now he, Mr. G., was a Protestant dissenter, and he was happy to see a man stand on the same

side with him, nor need he be ashamed of the company he was in. For when they looked back they would find that the apostles were all dissenters from the Church, and in later days they found Martin Luther a dissenter, and he did not hesitate to say John Wesley was a dissenter: though he said he was not, yet he was. Though he as an Independent dissenter, and they as New Connexion dissenters, might differ on two or three points, their objects were the same; and he did not object to men holding different opinions provided they did so conscientiously, and agreed in the bonds of Christian unity. When he heard Mr. Ridgway remark that afternoon, in laying the foundation-stone, of the proximity of the chapel to the cathedral which looked down upon it, his eye glanced in another direction. He looked at the Red Hills, and he recollected that they, some five hundred years ago, were the scene of a bloody conflict, and these very hills were running with blood; and very likely on the very spot they were at that time standing the conflict had raged. When he looked on the ceremony they were witnessing, he thought it an emblem of the times. It would in those days have been considered madness to have built a chapel there, and it would have been daily expected to be burnt down by the first inroads of the Scots. But these times had gone by; and he hoped that the clarion of war would be heard no more throughout the length and breadth of the earth. After expressing his satisfaction at the cause of their meeting, and having made a few further observations, the reverend gentleman concluded.

The Chairman then called upon R. THWAITES, Esq., who said he had not the slightest idea that he should be called upon to say anything, and even if he had been aware, he thought after all that had been said, and at that late period of the evening, he had a sufficient excuse for not occupying much of their time. He could only say that so far as his own feelings were concerned, he thought no one present, not excepting his respected friend Mr. Love, who had already done so much for them, could feel a greater interest in the success of their undertaking than he did himself; and he would say, had his means enabled him, he should have been ready to endorse the proposition made by Mr. Love. He had made calculations, and from the increasing population in that quarter of the town, not only could they fill that chapel, but one six times as large. They had no desire to tread on the toes of their Christian brethren, but on the con-

trary wished them every prosperity, and he was sure that there was a field large enough in which they might all work. He quite agreed with what Mr. Ford had said relative to great exertions being required to accomplish their object, and he believed that those exertions would be met on the part of the members of other denominations in the town in a friendly spirit, and every disposition shown to assist them. God knew their motives, and he trusted that the erection of that chapel would have a tendency to improve the spiritual condition of a portion of their fellow-men, who were now destitute and ignorant of the way to salvation.

After a few words from the Rev. D. SHELDON, a vote of thanks was passed to the ladies who had so liberally provided the refreshments; and a vote of thanks having been also proposed to the Chairman, Mr. Ridgway, and the Rev. Mr. Ford, and suitably acknowledged, the meeting shortly afterwards separated.

MISSION ANNIVERSARIES.

MOSSLEY CIRCUIT.—On Easter Sunday, March 27, sermons were preached in our chapels at Mossley, Lees, and Oldham, by the Revs. J. White, of Ashton, D. Round, of Rochdale, and J. Orme, of Oldham.

A public meeting was held on Friday, March 25, at Lees, Henry Atherton, Esq., in the chair. Messrs. J. Andrew, J. Fielding, J. Rose, R. Yates, T. Hannam, A. Lawton, G. Atkins, W. and F. and E. Newberry, of Ashton, with the ministers of the Circuit, rendered the meeting their valuable aid.

The Mossley public meeting was held on Saturday, the 26th March, John Buckley, Esq., of Carr Hill, presiding over it. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. H. Watts, of Staleybridge, D. Round, J. White, Messrs. J. Prosser, of Manchester, H. Atherton, G. Atkins, J. Fielding, and the ministers of the Circuit.

Our meeting at Oldham took place on Tuesday, the 29th March, John Noton, Esq., in the chair. Several ministers of the town, besides many friends in the Circuit, rendered us efficient assistance. At each of the above places Juvenile meetings have been held, of which you may hear in the INSTRUCTOR. Meetings have also been held at Alt, Delph, and Roundthorn.

The collections at the public services, with the subscriptions, amount to, at Mossley, £40 16s. 11d., at Lees, £21 16s., at Oldham, £21 10s., Roundthorn, £3 9s. 7d., Delph, £1 11s. 6d.,