SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

WESTERN FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

READ AND ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING,
MAY 6, 1834

PITTSBURGH:
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1834.
WESTERN FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

This Institution, whose object it is to aid in conveying the gospel to Pagan and Anti-Christian portions of the globe, was organized by the authority of the Synod of Pittsburgh, in November, 1831. Its organization is ecclesiastical: its Board of Directors, to whom the appointment of all its executive officers and the general superintendence of its concerns belongs, being chosen, a part of them by the synod, (while the society remains in its bounds,) and the remainder by the several presbyteries connected with the society. The synod elect two ministers and two elders annually, to serve three years; and each presbytery belonging to the society appoints one minister and one elder, to serve for two years. The annual meetings are to be held at any place which the board may appoint, and no alterations in the constitution can be made without the concurrence of a majority of the presbyteries connected with the society. The present synodical and presbyterial members are:

Rev. Francis Herron, D. D.
James Blytho, D. D.
Thomas D. Baird,
Robert Patterson,
Luther Halsey,
Alan D. Campbell,
David Elliot,
Duncan Brown, D. D.
Samuel Tait,
William Jeffrey,
John Moore,
William Maclean,
Charles C. Beatty,
Samuel M'Ferran,
James Roland,
Simeon H. Crans,
Archibald Craig,
John B. Patterson,
John Peebles,
John Gray,
Benjamin F. Spillman,
Andrew O. Patterson,
Elisha P. Swift.

Hon. Harmar Denny,
John Hannen, Esq.
Mr. Samuel Thompson,
Mr. James Wilson,
Mr. Richard Edwards,
Mr. Francis G. Bailey,
Mr. J. M'Farren,
Mr. A. Johnston,
Mr. Alexander Scomla,
John Reynolds, Esq.
Mr. J. Whitesell,
Thomas Henry, Esq.
David Hoge, Esq.
Col. Abraham Pollock,
Mr. S. Davis,
Hon. Judge Dunn,
Thomas M'Keen, Esq.
Mr. W. A. G. Posey,
William Montgomery, Esq.

The honorary members of the board are either such as are chosen at its annual meetings, or so constituted by the requisite contribution of $50, if Clergymen, and $100, if Laymen.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Ministers.
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Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D.
Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D.
Rev. James Blytho, D. D.
Rev. Joshua L. Wilson, D. D.
Rev. Wm. W. Phillips, D. D.
Rev. Robert G. Wilson, D. D.
Rev. George A. Baxter, D. D.
Rev. J. J. Janeway, D. D.
Rev. Elisha Macurdy.

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Hon. John Kennedy,
Robert Ralston, Esq.
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Edward Ward, Esq.
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" David Comfort,

Hon. HARMAR DENNY, President.
Rev. THOMAS D. BAIRD, Vice-President.
" ELISHA P. SWIFT, Corresponding Secretary.
" CHARLES C. BEATTY, Recording Secretary.
Mr. SAMUEL THOMPSON, Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
Rev. FRANCIS HERRON, D. D., Chairman.

Rev. Robert Patterson, Mr. John Hannen,
" Thomas D. Baird, " James Wilson,
" Luther Halsey, D. D. " Francis G. Bailey,
" A. D. Campbell, " Richard Edwards,

And the Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary, ex officio.

The Executive Committee meet statedly in Pittsburgh, on the last Tuesday of each month, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The 2d annual meeting of the Western Foreign Missionary Society, was held in the city of Pittsburgh, on the 6th and 7th of May, 1834.—The Annual Report was read, and appropriate addresses delivered on Tuesday evening; and the annual sermon, by the Rev. David Lewis, on Wednesday morning. On the evening of that day, also, the Society of Inquiry of the Theological Seminary, held its semi-annual meeting, when an essay was read by one of the members, an address delivered by another, and the whole concluded with remarks by Drs. Brown, Herron, and Halsey, and Messrs. Elliot and Campbell. The address of the Rev. A. W. Black, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, on Tuesday evening, and the discourse of the Rev. Mr. Lewis, were listened to with peculiar interest; and the gratification of those who attended these different exercises was not a little increased, by the judicious selection of appropriate music, and the skilful performance of the choir of the church. The board adjourned to hold its next annual meeting in Philadelphia, on the Tuesday preceding the 2d Thursday in May, 1835, at 3 o'clock, P. M. The Rev. Robert J. Breckenridge, of Baltimore, or the Rev. W. W. Phillips, D. D., of New-York, his alternate, was appointed to preach the opening sermon on that occasion.
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The revolution of a year, as it respects the predicted advancement of the Redeemer’s kingdom upon earth, has now become a period comparatively long, and replete with varied, eventful, and important consequences. It is long, as it indicates the prolongation of the time for which six hundred millions of immortal beings are waiting to receive the gospel of salvation, as twenty millions of them must annually go down to the grave whether it is conveyed to them or not. It is eventful in the results which it unfolds, as it marks the rapid approach of those great movements on the surface of society, which are to prepare the way for the political, and moral, and spiritual regeneration of the earth, and fulfil the promise that nations shall be born in a day, as the mountain of the Lord’s house rises upon the tops of the mountains. And it is important, as it numbers fifty-two days of Sabbath and sanctuary privileges to the church on earth, and twelve seasons of monthly concert, at which her members may offer with one heart the incense of their united and fervent prayers for a perishing world, and on which they are invited by the occasion, to renew and redouble their exertions and their offerings for the extension of their Master’s kingdom.

To take a brief survey of the events connected with the progress of this work in its diversified character, and in the various departments of religious improvement to which they refer, both at home and abroad, during that year which we, as a society, terminate to-day, would be both profitable and delightful, as it might serve to awaken our gratitude to God, and animate and quicken us in the work in which we are engaged, but the circumstances of the occasion require us to limit our attention to the operations of our own society.

The Executive Committee, this day, meet their brethren before the Lord on this anniversary, deeply sensible, they trust, that he is to be
praised for having graciously permitted the society to prosecute its work, amidst the increasing support and co-operation of the churches, the gratifying augmentation of missionary laborers, and the continued indications of the Redeemer's favor. Through the good hand of God upon it, this society, in this the second entire year of its existence, has been permitted to send out sixteen persons, exclusive of Mr. Savage, to aid in bearing the tidings of everlasting life to the benighted heathen, and the number and zeal of its friends and supporters has constantly increased. In view of the actual necessities of the heathen world, the ability of our churches, and the efforts of some other missionary institutions, this result is indeed small—and small, we trust, in comparison to what it will be hereafter; but, while it is fitted to bury us in the dust of deep humility before our gracious Lord, it certainly shows, that to the full extent of our reasonable expectations, He has prospered the work of our hands upon us, and given us reason to rejoice in him, and in unison of feeling to offer unto him our fervent thanksgivings.

But on earth, emotions of joy and circumstances of encouragement seldom exist, unmixed and unconnected with others of a different character. The past year has numbered with the dead, one of the oldest and most venerable of the vice-presidents of this society, in the instance of the Rev. Dr. John M'Millan—one of its earliest life-members, in the decease of T. T. Skillman, Esq., of Lexington, Kentucky—and a highly esteemed member of the India Mission, in the person of Mrs. Louisa A. Lowrie. Though dead, they speak to us to-day of the duty of girding on afresh the celestial armor, and renewing, with redoubled effort and earnestness, the Master's work; while the mighty hand which has been let down to lift them to heaven, seems to suspend over us the tokens of mortality, and to turn our eyes to death and judgment, as the near and solemn end and final ordeal of all our mortal actions.

In proceeding to lay before the board, a general view of the missions already established, or in contemplation, the committee adopt the order of the dates of their permanent commencement, and the period at which the purpose of their establishment was formed.

MISSION TO NORTHERN INDIA.

The Mission to Northern India, according to this arrangement, first claims our attention. The last annual report stated, that the Rev. Messrs. William Reed and John C. Lourie, with their wives, were expected to leave this country in a few weeks afterwards, to commence their contemplated mission in Hindostan. Arrangements were accordingly made for their embarkation in the ship Star, of the port of Philadelphia, in May last. Never, it is believed, was the mind of the christian public in that city, more deeply interested in the foreign missionary enterprise, than during the presence of the mission there, and the
religious exercises which were connected with their final departure from it. The closing meeting will long be remembered by many, as well from the peculiar circumstances which tended to give effect to it, and the divine influence which seemed to pervade it, as the early and lamented removal of that excellent woman, who then, for the last time on earth, participated in the exercises of the sanctuary. This little band finally bid adieu to their native land, and the ship Star put to sea on the 30th of May, and arrived at Madeira on the 24th of June following. The temporary abode of the missionaries at that fertile and lovely spot in the ocean, tended not only to mitigate the fatigues of a long sea voyage, but somewhat to recruit the strength of Mrs. Lowrie, whose health had begun to be so far impaired, during the last few weeks of her residence in this country, as to threaten a confirmed pulmonary affection. The voyage was resumed on the 15th of July, and the Star arrived in the port of Calcutta on the 15th of October. The change of air incident to her passage into the southern hemisphere, and severe gales in doubling the Cape of Good Hope, appeared, the committee regret to state, to confirm all the fears which had been entertained as to the character of Mrs. Lowrie's illness, and from that period she began gradually to waste away, so that before the arrival of the Star in port, all hopes of her recovery were blasted.

The mission was received at Calcutta with every mark of respect and affection, and to the Rev. William H. Pearce especially, will they and their friends in this country feel long and deeply indebted, for the hospitality and kindness which were shown them. They were immediately taken into his family, and amidst the assiduous and affectionate attentions of Mr. and Mrs. Pearce and their friends, Mrs. Lowrie lingered until the 24th of November, when she expired; and from his hospitable mansion her mortal remains were borne to the house appointed for all living. To her deeply afflicted husband, thus early bereft of a partner in a strange land, to the other two surviving members, to the society and the cause of missions in India, the death of this amiable, intelligent, and devoted woman, must be regarded as a very severe affliction. Her desires to devote herself to the spiritual good of the heathen were fervent, and her qualifications for the station were, to human view, uncommon; but He, for whose glory she left her native land, and bore her feeble, exhausted frame half round the globe, was pleased, doubtless for wise reasons, to disappoint her earthly hopes, and to require her earthly associates, a few short weeks after their arrival, to consign her to the dust, there to proclaim, as she sleeps in Jesus on India's distant shores, the compassion of American Christians for its millions of degraded idolaters; and to invite others from her native land, to come and prosecute the noble undertaking in which she fell.

The committee were led, from the information which they had previously obtained, to direct these brethren to seek some eligible
position in the northern provinces of Hindostan, as the field of their labors; but they were authorized to make a different selection, if, on arriving in India and consulting with the friends of missions at Calcutta, it should be found expedient to do so.

After mature deliberation, and taking the advice of many judicious and well-informed counsellors, they came to the conclusion that the original designation of the committee was decidedly the best, varying from it only in the selection of an adjoining province, somewhat further to the northwest, and inhabited by a people less bigotted in their attachment to paganism. Besides this feature in the religious character of the people—their docility and desire to become acquainted with the English language—the comparative healthfulness of that part of India—its entire destitution of missionary instruction—and its proximity to, and commercial intercourse with, Afghanistan, Cashmere and Tibet, extensive and populous regions as yet entirely unoccupied, are all considerations of importance, and going to show the propriety of the selection.

Ludeeana and Umbala, the two cities in Lahore, which have been mentioned, as the two best positions, are, both of them, distant probably more than one thousand miles from Calcutta, and nearly as far from Bombay; but, as measures are now in progress to open the navigation of the Indus and its tributaries, and as Ludeeana stands on the navigable waters of the Sutledge, one of its principal branches, and as there is now a plan on foot for a steam communication from Bombay to England, through the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, this part of India, and especially Ludeeana, may eventually become of more easy and frequent access to us than Calcutta itself.

Of the climate, and government, and inhabitants of the province of Lahore, it is stated that it consists of two parts; the one of which is the mountainous tract in the northeast, stretching south and east from Cashmere; and the other comprising the low and flat tracts near and south of the Sutledge, called the Punjab. The former has a climate much resembling that of middle Europe, but is thinly peopled in comparison to the other, which is by far the most productive, though less salubrious. It comprises a territory of seventy thousand square miles, and a population of four millions, and is said to contain many fine villages and some large towns; but the latter, with the exception of Amristar, the holy city of the Seiks, are in a declining condition. Lahore is under the government of a native prince, by the name of Runjeet Singh, formerly one of the most formidable enemies of the Anglo-Indian government, but now on terms of friendship with it.

The Seik nation, numbering from one to two millions, occupies a considerable part of Lahore, besides a part of Moftan, and those districts of the province of Delhi which lie between the Jumna and the Sutledge, and holds a conspicuous place among the inhabitants of India. The term Seik signifies disciple, and the tenets of Nanak, the
founder of their religion, who lived in the fifteenth century, comprise a mixture of Mahometanism and Hindooism, permitting its proselytes from these two sects to retain some of their former observances. The Seiks are an active, courageous, and warlike people, more indulgent towards the female sex than either of the two sects from which they sprung, and less given to sensuality. Their language is the Punjabee, which would seem to be Hindostanee with a slight intermixture of Persian. Their trade with the other parts of India is inconsiderable; but if christianity were once to become prevalent in Lahore, the commerce of that province with Afghanistan, Cashmere and Thibet, on the north, and with Persia on the west, would promote its circulation in these extensive and populous regions. The territory of this people being between 28° 40' and 32° 20' of north latitude, and not remote on the north and northeast from the southern slope of the Himmaleh mountains, must be far less exposed to the hot enervating winds and the humid atmosphere which prevail in other parts of India.

The political changes which have recently taken place in respect to India, the increasing desire of persons of distinction among the natives to give their children an English education, and the disposition of the constituted authorities to encourage the settlement of educated and intelligent missionaries in all parts of that country, are to be regarded as truly auspicious circumstances. Although these considerations, connected with the power of the press among a people having a written language, augment the prospects of ultimate usefulness, yet the peculiar genius of the Hindoo character, and the general state of society, should lead us to anticipate rather a gradual and permanent advance of the light and power of the gospel, than such a sudden and rapid renunciation of prevailing superstitions, on slight grounds, as would be likely to occur in the same circumstances in some parts of Africa.

The brethren readily obtained permission of the Governor General of India, to reside in the province which they had selected; but as the season least favorable for making the journey was about to commence, and as they could spend the intervening time profitably in the study of the language, they had concluded, on consultation with their friends in Calcutta, to remain in the vicinity of that city until June next. They express, and that repeatedly, the hope that additional missionaries may be speedily sent out to join them; and the decease of one of their valued members, and the importance of the field itself give great force to this solicitation. The committee are happy to say, that they have it in prospect to send a reinforcement in the course of the ensuing autumn. In the meantime, it would be highly useful to provide for that station, a printing press to be sent out from this country, with the view of obtaining a fount of type in the Punjabee at Calcutta; and charts, maps and globes, and other apparatus, for the High School which the mission intend speedily to establish,
would be extremely serviceable. "If one hundred additional missionaries could be sent out, there would be," say these brethren, "an abundance of work to employ them all."

MISSION TO WEST AFRICA.

We now proceed to notice the principal events connected with the Mission to West-Africa, since the last report.

In July last, Mr. John Cloud, and Mr. Matthew Laird, who had been previously received under the care of the board as candidates for the missionary service, were designated as a reinforcement to the African Mission, and shortly afterwards, the Rev. J. B. Pinney unexpectedly returned to spend a few months in the United States, and to go back to his station in the fall. The reasons assigned for this step by Mr. P., were approved by the committee, and from the valuable information which they received from him, they were enabled to select two stations, whose relative situations, both as to the colony and the interior nations, are such as to afford great facility for the dissemination of the gospel in Western Africa. The information received from Mr. P. as well as from other sources, sufficiently show that in its indolent, vicious, and repulsive habits, and its great debasement as to intellectual and moral culture, the state of society among these miserable tribes is not only among the lowest and least inviting on the globe, but one which calls most earnestly for the compassionate aids of a civilized and Christian people; and to none more justly, or directly, than those of the North American Continent, where the wrongs of the African race have been so extensively seen, and we trust, have been so sincerely deplored. The committee have been led to the conclusion, also, from what they have learned, that primary schools, for the instruction of the natives in the elementary principles of the English language, can be established with as much prospect of success as among any people so degraded in their character, and inhabiting a country presenting such formidable obstacles to the enjoyment of health and comfort.

After spending sometime in visiting the churches, these missionary brethren, together with Mrs. Laird and Mr. James Temple, a young man of color and a candidate for the gospel ministry, under the care of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, who had been received as an assistant, were regularly organized in the city of New-York, in October last, and sailed from Norfolk, Va., for Liberia, on the 6th of November following. The organization and departure of this mission, gave, especially in the eastern cities, new strength and vigor to that impulse which has been increasingly felt for some time past, in behalf of Africa, and the fact that missionaries from two other societies in this country, repaired to the Western Coast of that benighted continent about the same time, must be regarded as an auspicious circumstance, in respect to the future prospects of that necessitous portion of the globe.
Mr. Pinney, shortly before his embarkation, received from the Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society, the appointment of temporary agent and governor of Liberia, and after consulting with the Corresponding Secretary and other friends of the society, it was judged best that he should consent to act in that capacity until a permanent agent could be obtained and sent out to Africa. This arrangement was assented to, on the part of Mr. P. and his advisers, with some degree of reluctance, on account of its being likely, for a time, to deprive the mission of the benefit of his counsel and his assistance, at a time when they would be peculiarly needful. On the other hand, his declination might, it was believed, leave the colony in a disastrous situation, and in one which might impede the operations of the missions which were about to be commenced within its territory. Mr. P. is now, therefore, in the exercise of the duties of the Colonial Agent, but he expresses in his last letter, the hope that other arrangements may soon be made by the Colonization Society.

The _Jupiter_, in which the missionaries, and several other passengers, besides about fifty emigrants, embarked, arrived at Monrovia, after a passage of fifty-six days, on the 31st of December. The brethren were enabled, soon after their arrival, to rent a suitable tenement for their accommodation during their stay in Monrovia, and all the members of the mission soon experienced, in succession, the attacks of the African fever. In most instances, the fever has been uncommonly mild in its character, the past winter, at Monrovia, and much fewer cases of mortality have occurred among the emigrants, than in former years. Most of the members of the mission had, however, experienced one or two returns of the disease, and it is generally understood, that during the first year of a residence in the colony, little can be done to any advantage, as physical and mental effort, and exposure to rain or the heat of the sun, is almost invariably followed by relapses, more protracted and dangerous to the subject, than the first term of illness.

The missionaries, at the date of their last letters, appeared to have entertained encouraging hopes of being able to pass the usual period of acclimation in safety. They speak favorably of the general state of morals in the colony, and express an earnest desire that the interests of education, and especially the establishment of a high school, may engage the attention of the friends of Liberia. The colonists are said to be, some of them, anxious on this subject, and to have expressed regret that the missionaries did not expect to remain, but repair to the interior.

Mr. _A. H. Savage_, then of Cincinnati, offered, early in the year of 1833, to put himself under the care of the board, as an assistant in a mission to Africa; but the operations of the society not then requiring his services, his application was, with his own consent, deferred. Under the influence of an ardent desire to do something for its degraded tribes, he resolved to go out to Liberia on his own responsibil-
ty, and set up a school for the benefit of the natives, sustaining himself by his own industry. Mr. S. repaired to the colony, with the New-Orleans expedition, eight months ago, and endeavored as far as the circumstances of the case permitted, to labor for the good of Africa. He was the attendant of the Rev. Mr. Cox, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in his last moments, and "for his kind attentions to Mr. C.," says Mr. Spaulding, "he will ever consecrate his memory among the pious."

When the mission left this country, in November last, they were apprized of the previous application of Mr. Savage, the conversations of the members of the committee respecting him, since he repaired to Africa, and the rumor of his intended speedy return, and they were verbally advised, if he should still be in the colony—if the way appeared open, and his own wishes and Christian character accorded with such a measure, in the meantime to receive him conditionally, and until a formal disposition of his case should be made, as an assistant in the mission, agreeably to the desire expressed in his previous application to the committee. On their arrival, they found him at the Government House, alone and in a very debilitated state. They immediately took him into their family, and afforded him, in his exhausted condition, every possible attention, for which he seemed extremely grateful. He was "too far gone, however, to be restored, and after enduring, with almost unprecedented Christian fortitude, much pain and suffering, until the morning of the 7th of February, he then, without a sigh or a groan, closed his eyes on mortality, to open them, we have no doubt, upon the happy scenes of the New-Jerusalem."

MISSION TO THE WESTERN INDIANS.

The Executive Committee, on turning to a review of their proceedings in relation to the Mission to the western Indians, would congratulate the board on the more favorable condition in which the before scattered remnants of the smaller tribes are likely to be placed, by their concentrated location on the reserved tract by the general government, and also on their apparently increasing disposition to receive religious teachers. It was stated in the last report, that the Rev. Wm. D. Smith, one of the two missionaries then under the direction of the society, was about to start on a tour of exploration, through the Indian territories west of the Mississippi.

Mr. Smith spent most of the summer, in visiting and conferring with the Shawnees, Delawares, Kickapoos, Kanzas, Ottawas, Weas, Ihoways, and Omawhaws; and the results of his exploration were approved by the committee. They finally determined to select the Weas, as the tribe among which their operations should be commenced; and arrangements were accordingly made to despatch a mission to that station in November last. Providential circumstances having, in the estimation of Mr. Smith, precluded the fulfilment of his original design of personally embarking, as a per-
manent member of this mission, in connection with Mr. Joseph Kerr, the Rev. Wells Bushnell, late pastor of the Presbyterian church in Meadville, who had previously resigned his charge and offered himself as a missionary to the heathen, was appointed to that field, and Mr. Kerr having been ordained to the work of the holy ministry as a missionary to the heathen, these two brethren and their wives, with Miss Nancy Henderson and Miss Martha Boal, were, on the 4th of November last, duly organized as a mission family, and left this city for the place of destination on the 6th. After experiencing one or two disasters, one of which became the accelerating cause of such a state of impaired health, in respect to Miss Boal, as made it necessary to leave her on the way, the missionaries arrived at Independence, a town in the state of Missouri, about forty miles east of the Wea village, on the 21st of December following.

Having ascertained that some delay would necessarily occur in the preparation of a suitable dwelling for the family at the station, and that the furniture and other supplies had not been sent up the river, (it now being too late in the season for navigation,) the brethren concluded to pass the winter in Independence, occasionally visiting the Indians, and making other preparations for the commencement of their labors early in the spring. By the latest advices from them, it appears that they have been considerably among the Indians, preached to them through an interpreter, and have learned much of importance connected with their character.

It is the intention of the committee, to form local school establishments among the Weas and such other smaller tribes in their vicinity, as are not already provided with the means of instruction; but they consider the present location of the principal establishment among that people as but temporary, and as preparatory to a more advantageous position, to be determined after the emigrations shall be more complete, and the circumstances and the dispositions of some of the larger tribes shall be better understood. Mr. Henry Bradley, a young man whom the committee had previously accepted as an assistant in the agricultural department, has been recently sent on with additional supplies, to join this mission; and the committee hope to have it in their power still further to enlarge their operations in the west, during the present year. The adoption of a resolution by the Synod of Pittsburgh, at their last annual meeting, to sustain the society in attempting the immediate supply of every unsupplied and accessible tribe of the Western Indian Reservation, with the means of grace; and the favorable disposition on this subject entertained by the general government, as appears from our correspondence with the war department, lead the committee earnestly to desire that suitable missionaries for this field may be speedily obtained.

The Executive Committee are now engaged in maturing a plan for the commencement of a mission at Trieste, an important com-
commercial mart, and a free port in the Austrian dominions, at the head of the Adriatic. The Rev. Joseph Huber, a member of the presbytery of Transylvania, and a native of Switzerland, who has for some time sustained the office of Professor of Modern Languages in Danville College, recently communicated to the committee some important suggestions in respect to that field—most of them the results of his own observation—and tendered himself to the society as their missionary to it. Mr. Huber has since been duly accepted by the committee, and is now engaged in visiting the churches in Kentucky, as an agent of the society. The accession to the missionary corps, of one qualified and inclined to associate himself with Mr. Huber, in this important enterprise, is an event of anxious concern at the present time.

The constitution of this society contemplates missions, as well to Mohammedan and papal, as pagan countries; and in so far as the rule of Protestant nations, to tolerate a freedom of conscience in matters of religion, is reciprocated by Catholic powers, it certainly becomes the duty of Protestant missionary societies, to extend the means of grace to such of their fellow-men as may be inclined to receive them. On the South American republics, where toleration and free institutions seem likely to rise or fall together, the attention of the committee has been constantly fixed, with peculiar solicitude; and they rejoice in the hope, that soon a door may be opened and laborers secured for the commencement of a mission among our brethren in these interesting republics.

Encouraged by a special and eloquent appeal on the subject, from the Rev. Josiah Brewer, missionary at Smyrna, the committee, some months ago, resolved to commence a mission in Asia Minor, as soon as a way should be opened in providence, for such an undertaking; and more recently, a similar resolution has been adopted, in respect to a mission to China: without intending, however, to occupy either, to the exclusion or even the preference of more important and encouraging openings, should any be in the meantime presented.

Imperious, however, as may be the necessities of our benighted fellow-men, and loud and importunate as may be the call of distant lands for the everlasting gospel, the march of evangelization can be accelerated only in as far as well-qualified and devoted missionaries come forward and surrender themselves to the call of their heavenly Master, and as the means of their support are provided by his churches. In two instances, during the past year, the expectations of the committee have been blasted by the indisposition of two young men, who were to have been employed in the missionary work; and several presbyterial and congregational arrangements, for the maintenance of missionaries are now at a stand for the want of the laborers to be employed. Through its Corresponding Secretary, the wants of the society, in this respect, have been made known to several of the colleges and theological seminaries of our
land, from which its future heralds of salvation to the heathen have been expected to proceed; and although the present number of candidates for the missionary service is unusually small, we are happy to learn, that there is a large and promising band of pious young men, in the less advanced stages of academical and theological education, in whose hearts the hallowed spirit of the missionary enterprise seems to be enkindled.

The progress and present state of the financial affairs of the society are encouraging. The total receipts, during the past year, have amounted to $16,296.46, and the disbursements, including a pretty large advance on the Mission to Northern India, to $15,369.44; leaving in the treasury, including the balance at the commencement of the year, the sum of $4,963.52.*

* In compliance with the request of several members of the board, the corresponding secretary would here add a note of explanation, in reference to the general subject of missionary expenditures. Many persons, but little acquainted with subjects of this kind, are not aware of the expenses necessarily connected with the establishment of missions in some foreign countries. It has been requisite in founding missions in the Sandwich islands and in West Africa, to send out from this country, not only furniture, and stores, and provisions, but even the materials for houses to shelter them; and where the freight of articles would usually far surpass their original cost. The price of a passage singly to and from Calcutta, has commonly varied from $200 to $600 per passenger. And when a mission, like the one to Northern India, has arrived at its destination, it must perhaps immediately incur the expense of rearing a dwelling, where one of very moderate dimensions could hardly cost less than from 500 to 700 dollars. Similar expenditures must also occur in the outfit and commencement of Western Missions. In West Africa, articles of provision and clothing, mechanical labor, &c., are so high, that for the present, at least, supplies can best be provided from this country, notwithstanding the cost of freight. It may be proper also to observe, that the price of passage to foreign ports has a fixed rate, to those only, to and from which packet-ships regularly sail. In all other cases, this is a matter of special contract, varying according to circumstances. In the expenses usually incurred, there was in the sending out of our first mission to Africa, a nett saving to the society of from 150 to 200 dollars. The sum paid last spring, for the conveyance of our missionaries to Calcutta, though regarded, in Philadelphia, "but as a fair compensation," to use the words of one of its oldest and most respectable merchants, was then supposed to be somewhat higher than it might have been from some eastern port, and by a detention of three or four weeks later in the season; but when it is considered that these brethren were personally anxious to sail from that port, at that time, and in that ship, and that they had voluntarily relinquished, in favor of the society, from the usual sum allowed as an outfit, more than this difference in the price of a passage, it would hardly have been regarded as a virtue in the society, to disappoint their wishes; and more especially when it is remembered, that many ministers and elders, then attendant on the General Assembly, were anxious to participate in the interesting scenes connected with their embarkation—when their friends from a distance were waiting the painful hour of separation, and when every delay beyond the proper season might be attended with peril. Nor is this all. Persons at all conversant with business, know very well that the lowest price does not always, in fact, imply the cheapest article, nor does it create the same sense of obligation, to study the comfort of passengers, a thing so desirable on a long voyage. Hence, when a mission is in readiness to depart, the destination of a vessel, her accommodations, and the time of her sailing, are things of greater moment, than the place of her departure or the price of passage. The question, whether Boston, or New-York, or Philadelphia, or Baltimore, is, in point of economy, the cheapest place from which to send missionaries, when they go to foreign countries; or whether a conveyance by land or water is the best, when to the western tribes, is one of very small practical consequence, so long as every society has alike the
The committee have found it expedient to establish committees, or boards of agency and correspondence, in the principal cities, both in the East and West; and it is their design to obtain the services of three or four general agents, to each of whom a certain district may be assigned, and by whom the churches may be organized into some systematic form of contribution. Considerable progress has already been made in this arrangement, and the hope is entertained that in the course of a few months, provision may be made for the stated presentation of the claims of the foreign missionary cause to all such churches co-operating with us, as are not regularly applied to by their respective presbyteries.

During the last winter, the Rev. A. G. Fairchild has been employed as an agent in the south-western states, and the Rev. Mr. Smith in Ohio. Our Missionaries, Messrs. Pinney, Laird, and Cloud, each spent some time in this service, previously to their embarkation for Africa, and Messrs. Huber and Wilson are now similarly engaged. These brethren have all been received with kindness and affection by the churches, and a general interest in behalf of foreign missions has been manifested. The Presbytery of Huntington, and the First Presbyterian Church in the city of New-York, have exceeded the stipulated amount for the support of a missionary, and the Presbytery of Miami have likewise promptly redeemed their pledge. The Female Missionary Associations in the cities of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Natchez, are also entitled to the thanks of the Society, for the example of active co-operation which they have set. The committee would state in this connection, not only that one of the members of the Western Mission, was, at the time of her engagement, and still is, in the communion of the Associate Presbyterian Church, and that one of the congregations belonging to the Reformed Presbyterian Church, numbers itself as among the most liberal contributors to our funds, but that an association has been recently formed in Mercer county, in this state, for the support of a Missionary in the foreign field, in which the pastors and churches of these two bodies, and those of the Associate Reformed and General Assembly

choice of either, and would never think of preferring one to the exclusion of the others. The indirect benefit to the cause of missions, connected with the departure of interesting missions from different ports, and their passage on different routes, may more than compensate for any slight variation in expenditure, even if no reference is had to the claim which the friends and supporters of the cause, in different places, have to participate in the religious exercises which are often connected with scenes of this description. Accordingly we find, that though the principal foreign missionary boards in this country, are located in Boston, yet their missions are as often despatched from other places as from that—and the reason is obvious. The moral effect of an occasion of this kind, in a more distant port, more than counterbalances the difference of cost. To say that a society at Pittsburgh can conduct western missions cheaper than one at Boston, because it requires 500 miles less expense of travel and of transportation, would be reasoning to very little purpose, so long as the intercourse of missionaries with the churches, as they move on to their respective fields of action, becomes a very useful if not necessary means of advancing the cause itself.
Presbyterian are united in the undertaking. The committee rejoice that the principles and constitution of this society are such as to admit the presbyterial judicatories and congregations of these respectable bodies, as well as those of the Reformed Dutch Church, on the same footing as those belonging to the General Assembly, and without any change in their denominational peculiarities or ecclesiastical relations; and they entertain the hope that it may form, in respect to many, a point of concentrated effort in behalf of the benighted heathen.

In the month of March, of last year, the Executive Committee resolved to issue a small monthly journal, under the direction of the Corresponding Secretary, to make known the plans and proceedings of the society, and to cherish and extend missionary feeling and action. To this publication, a respectable list of subscriptions has already been made, but to its profitable continuance, and its desirable usefulness, it needs a much more extended circulation. It will hereafter be prepared for the press by the assistant clerk, under the immediate direction of the Executive Committee.

In what method the Christian public can be best supplied with missionary intelligence, the Committee would not take it upon them to say; but as to the fact of a great and lamentable deficiency of information among the majority of religious people, in respect to the wants of the world, and the means and the duty of disseminating the gospel, there can be no question. In view of this fact, the committee have noticed with pleasure, the commencement of a plan by the students of Jefferson College, annually to provide and distribute a Missionary Tract among all the families in Western Pennsylvania, and the adjacent parts of Ohio and Virginia, willing to receive it; and the adoption of a similar arrangement, more recently, by the students of Danville College, in reference to the state of Kentucky. They hope that similar efforts will be eventually made by Presbyteries, Congregations, and benevolent individuals, to diffuse abroad the spirit of the missionary enterprise; as well to enlist and direct the supplications of those who call upon the Lord, as to enforce upon those whom God has made the stewards of his bounty, the duty and privilege of aiding to fill the earth with the Redeemer's glory.

Such, in conclusion, is the statement of the operations of the society during the past year, which the committee would submit; and if the results which it discloses attest the increase of the foreign missionary spirit among us, they furnish the occasions of regret that it is so feeble in its manifestations, and so limited in its influence. They teach us that if there is, ere long, to pervade the entire household of faith, a common feeling of determination, by the grace of God, to fulfil at once, the command of Christ—to make a sincere and strenuous and holy effort to disenthrall the millions of mankind, and establish the claims of the Savior of the world, then it is but too manifest, that in many of our churches, as well as in other places, the spirit of this enterprise has
but begun to appear. The binding obligation of personal duty—the constraining influence of the love of Christ, and the inward fervor of a renewed soul to honor God, by unfolding to the darksome mind of sin-beclouded man, the true light of his perfections and his salvation, are emotions yet to be felt in their clearness and power! The solemn realities of eternity—the worth of a Savior's blood—the temporal blessings which his gospel gives, and the glorious immortality which it alone reveals, are too little considered by professing christians of these times, when crowds are treading the paths of wealth, and pleasure and ambition, to produce, by the force of contrast, a becoming commiseration for nations held in barbaric degradation, and immortal souls shut out from the light of revelation. They read, indeed, of their Master's tears over a world lying in wickedness—his earnest injunctions to "disciple" "every creature"—of the blood of prophets, apostles, and saints, freely spilt in this noble cause; but in vain, do these considerations appeal to their tenderness and compassion, as the reputed partakers of the same spirit. When they survey the extent of "the land yet to be possessed," and the formidable obstructions in the way of its acquisition, which every where exist, their "faith staggers at the promises;" and if they pray for an issue to them so improbable, it is with a cold and unbelieving heart, and if they yield their contributions, it is with a reluctant hand.

How otherwise shall we account for that indifference to the acquisition of missionary intelligence—that languid inattention to the monthly concert, and that reluctance to aid in this hallowed cause, which here and there still exist; exist, however, the committee are happy to say, with scarcely an effort at palliation, and with less and less prominence every revolving year. In works of public usefulness and christian charity, the Presbyterian church has not heretofore lingered in the rear, and if any thing shall prevent her from pouring the main tide of her liberality into this noble channel, with the volume and the velocity which these eventful times require, it will doubtless be the number and the pressure of her other objects of benevolence. She will not, however, fail to move in a line with the other large evangelical denominations of our land, each of which, in its distinctive character, is girding on the heavenly armor. Indeed, the entire kingdom of the Son of God, on earth, appears to be waking from its long trance, and turning its slumbering resources to their proper and legitimate end, and it would now be idle to anticipate any other result. On the bosom of the mighty ocean, tidings of the transcendant excellence and power of the religion of Jesus, have been borne to distant lands, and at the period when ancient superstitions are falling into disrepute, and the despotisms that sustained them are crumbling away. The human mind, weary of its wrongs—its oppressions—its dreary existence, seems every where impatient to yield itself to the master principle of its emancipation. The church of God, must therefore, in good earnest, unfurl her ban
ner, and set forward her apostolic soldiery, at those points to which Providence so distinctly leads, or prepare herself for the time when these moral elements, let loose from the sway of a hated and despotic superstition, may be expected, if then unblessed by her influence, to pour upon her the fury of their storms. The onward roll of this solemn—unequalled crisis, nothing can impede; and partial and irresolute efforts to fulfil so high and glorious a destiny, are entirely out of the question. Ruin, or redemption—atheism or an elevated grade of piety—the prevalence of deadlier crime and deeper despair—or the rapid growth and diffusion of all that is excellent and glorious in the ascendency of the gospel, would now seem to be, in respect to extensive portions of the Pagan world, the only alternative. Amidst the millions of India, the ancient fabric of Hindooism is shaken to its foundation. A spirit of inquiry pervades the empire of Burmah and the coasts of China. From island to island in the broad Pacific, and amidst the tribes of continental Africa, and New Zealand, attachment to existing systems is yielded to an intense desire to receive the heralds of the cross: and to what a state of things will they doubtless return, if to them the gospel of salvation is denied? Shall these oppressed fellow-men escape the degradation and pollution of Paganism, only to lapse into the horrors of infidelity—or wear the chains of a sensual and vindictive Islamism?—or will Protestant America, regarding itself, in connection with Protestant Europe, as the last hope of liberty, and of the church of Christ on earth, nobly meet the exigencies of the occasion, and solemnly resolve to overcome every difficulty? This great question remains not undecided before Him who “sitteth on the throne.” In his singular Providence, the way is preparing for the nations, and the word of promise which has proceeded out of his mouth, cannot return unto him void. The period of the Redeemer’s reign, as sketched by all his prophets, is one of unwonted holiness, as well as of unequalled felicity, and to this, his visible kingdom must instrumentally rise through the fearlessness and self-denial, and importunity which the great achievement itself elicits. The spirit of avarice, and selfishness and worldliness must be exiled from those who pledge their faith to each other, and to the Master at the communion board, that the chief end of life to all, may be to glorify God, and enlighten and save their fellow-men. Universal love, thus impelling them to earnest prayer—and growing vigilance, and Christlike charity and self-consecration, will also abridge their superfluous wants—purify their lives and elevate their piety. Heart must combine with heart in effectual prayer, and willing offerings flow into the treasury of the Lord. Christian parents, as they pronounce around their domestic circles, in connection with the story of Calvary, the thrilling utterance ye are not your own, ye are not ours, but are “wholly given unto the Lord,” must breathe the spirit of this enterprize into the bosoms of their children, until their eyes glisten with emotion, and their hearts melt in compassion.
for the heathen. Shame and self-denial; separations and diseases, trials and privations, must be regarded as the marks of honor, when endured for the sake of the world’s redemption, and every heart and hand must unite and commingle its best and holiest efforts in the work of God. Then will He who keeps the “book of remembrance” listen to the voice of his servants, and pour out his Spirit from on high, “as showers that water the earth.” Impressed with his providential “tokens,” and swayed by his invisible hand, Indian tribes, and Tartar hordes, and Arabian caravans, shall pause and listen to the accents of his gospel, as in the wilderness, and the desert, and in the cliffs of the mountains, it comes to their rude souls in the “demonstration of the Spirit and with power.” And then, when the requirements of Christ and the spirit and action of his church meet each other, and the excellency of the power is felt to be of God, will the “temple” rise—will the day of redemption open—will the “kingdom” widen, until all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Per order of the Committee.

E. P. SWIFT, Cor. Secretary.

Pittsburgh, May 6, 1834.