

# THE CHRISTIAN HERALD.

Vol. IV.] Saturday, February 28, 1818. [No. 23.

## ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

### STATE OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

#### *French West Indies.*

The Directors, in their last Annual Report, informed the subscribers, that by an additional article to the Treaty with France, of November 1815, the High Contracting Parties agreed to concert, without loss of time, by their Ministers at London and Paris, the most efficacious measures, for the entire and immediate abolition of the slave trade. In furtherance of this object, the King of France has recently issued an ordinance, by which every vessel, whether French or Foreign, that shall attempt to introduce negroes into any of the French Colonies, shall be confiscated; and the Captain, if a Frenchman, shall be deemed incapable of afterwards holding a command. The whole cargo is in like manner subject to confiscation, although it does not consist of slaves; and the negroes thus imported are directed to be employed on the public works in the Colony. The Directors earnestly hope that this decree may immediately be carried into complete effect.

Their anxiety on this subject has been recently much increased, by their having learnt, from unquestionable authority, that in direct violation of the treaty of November, 1815, negroes have been lately imported into some of the French West-India Islands in considerable numbers; and that several vessels have been fitted out, by French subjects, for the purpose of procuring a further supply of slaves for those islands.

Several instances of this kind are detailed. It is then added:—

A representation on this subject has been made to his Majesty's Ministers; and the Directors trust that measures will be taken to induce the French Government, effectually to prevent, in future, so flagrant a violation of its recent decree against this traffic. Without this, such infractions of a solemn treaty are likely to increase to an unbounded degree.

#### *Portugal.*

The Directors have again to regret, that they are unable to state any thing satisfactory to the general meeting, respecting the further restriction of the Slave Trade, carried on by Portuguese subjects. That trade still exists to a very great extent.

#### *Spain.*

The subscribers will recollect, that a treatise on the slave trade, as applied to the circumstances of Spain, and her Colonies, written by Mr. Blanco White, was some years ago printed, by order of the Directors. For a long time, great difficulties were opposed

and encouraging anticipation of the future, in preference to a captious discussion of the past; to a settled, firm, and immovable conviction, that the good or evil management of former times can have no other effect, in the revival of contentious questions respecting it, than to create disunion between the otherwise concurrent advocates of the common cause. I take this colony, therefore, as it is; and, looking steadily to the great objects which it was from its first settlement intended to promote, am WELL CONTENT.

“There is no doubt much, very much, to deplore, on the score of religion, on the score of morals, on the score of manners, or of the social tact, as derived from both religion and morals; on the score of depraved, but inveterate habits, and of lingering barbarism, and tardy improvement: yet I distinctly perceive all the principal elements of social order and effectual civilization in existence and vigour; requiring only the care of a skilful hand to mould them into form, and to collect from them, in that state, the early fruits of a successful and rapid cultivation.”

It is with the deepest regret that the Directors have, within these few days, received intelligence that the able and upright magistrate who expressed these sentiments is now no more. His loss to the colony cannot be too much lamented.

#### FUNDS.

The Directors must again appeal, and they trust not without effect, to the liberality of the British public, in behalf of a cause in which the nation has so frequently and unequivocally testified its deep interest—an appeal which, notwithstanding all the obloquy that has been so largely and unjustly heaped on the institution, they are disposed to believe will not be in vain. Let our own suffering countrymen be the first objects of a Briton's consideration; but let him not forget the duty which is owing, and which he is nationally pledged to discharge, towards his brethren of Africa; and let him also recollect, that a comparatively trifling sum will enable the institution to go on in its great work of extending civilization, and spreading light and information upon that extensive continent.

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#### FROM THE MISSOURI.

In a letter, lately received from the Rev. John Matthews at St. Charles, dated December 25th, we were informed of the constitution of a Presbytery in the Missouri Territory, formed agreeably to a resolution of the Synod of Tennessee. This is good news. May the desert soon rejoice and blossom as the rose. Some additional information is found in the following

*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Salmon Giddings, at St. Louis, Missouri Territory, to the Editor, dated January 17th, 1818.*

“For several weeks after receiving your paper, I was confined to my room: I was indeed brought to the borders of the grave. It has pleased a holy and righteous God to restore me; and I hope

that he will make me useful among his people. So soon as my health would permit, I met with the people for the purpose of forming a Church in this place. The desirable object was effected on the 15th of November last, and the sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered on the 23d instant, for the first time, in the church. It is no small satisfaction to me to behold a branch of that vine, which beareth fruit unto eternal life, planted here, where wickedness abounds and a free scope is given to the licentious passions and vile imaginations of the depraved heart. Immediately after, I went into some of the southern counties, and commenced the formation of a church about forty miles southwest of this place; but, on account of the severity of the weather, did not complete its organization, but deferred it till April next.

“Through a great proportion of this country, there is an increased attention to religion. The people appear more anxious to hear the word of God preached, and to enjoy the means of grace. When I came to the country, in April, 1816, there was not a Presbyterian church nor clergyman in the territory. Now, there are four regularly organized churches and four clergymen. We met on the 18th of December, according to appointment of Synod, and constituted a Presbytery, known by the name of “Missouri Presbytery.” We prepared an address, which will be published, probably next week, in the Missouri Gazette printed at this place. I mention these things, as you may not have heard them, and as they may afford satisfaction to you and the friends of Zion; and that thus you and we, who are labouring in this hitherto neglected part of the vineyard, may rejoice together that our labours not in vain in the Lord.”

[*Chil. Rec.*]

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GRACIOUS ANSWER TO PERSEVERING PRAYER.

The information contained in the following extract of a Letter from the Rev. Thomas Hoge of Washington County, Pa. to the Editor, dated the 2d instant, is calculated to encourage praying societies, to persevere in humble, fervent supplication for the rich effusion of Divine grace, even though, for the present, they are not favoured with any visible tokens of the mighty power of the Holy Spirit in the midst of them.

“Within the last 9 months, a very considerable attention to divine things has appeared in this congregation, (Upper Ten Mile.) In the beginning of last summer, it appeared that in one small section of the congregation, several individuals were under deep convictions. About three years before that time, a few in that very corner of the congregation, had agreed to meet once a week for prayer and praise; and covenanted at the same time with God and each other, that they would continue to meet for these exercises, though there might be but two persons to lead in them. And indeed, this was often the case afterwards, and frequently those who attended were so few in number, that they were ready to give it