



Wesleyan Methodist Anniversary

On Sunday last, two excellent Sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, Church-street, in this city, in behalf of the Wesleyan Foreign Missions, by the Rev. R. Sherwell, of Portsmouth, and the Rev. R. Alder, of London, one of the general Secretaries of the Parent Society. And on Monday evening, the eighteenth Anniversary Meeting of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society for the Salisbury Circuit was held. J. Dyer, Esq., of Chicklade Lodge, ably presided. The Report stated that the Society has, in different parts of the world, 177 stations. Number of Missionaries. 270, who are assisted by catechists, local preachers, assistants, superintendents of schools, schoolmasters and mistresses, artizans &c., to the number of 1660. The members of Society under the care of the Missionaries, exclusive of those in Ireland, is about 54,000; the members of the Mission congregations, not in Society, may be fairly estimated at an equal number; to these may be added the number under school instruction; making a total of more than 150,000 individuals, who are directly receiving spiritual advantage by means of the Society's Missions. In Ceylon, Southern Africa, in Tongataboo, and in New Zealand the Society has printing establishments. Valuable translations of the Scriptures, and of various other works, have been effected by the Missionaries; by whom, in about twenty different languages, the Gospel is preached to some of the most remote and idolatrous nations of the earth.

The receipts of the past year amount, in regular contributions, legacies, &c., exclusive of £8280. donations or annuities for life, to £61,916. 13s. being an increase above the preceding year of £8478. 17s. 10d.

The meeting, which was most numerous and respectably attended, was eloquently addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Sibley, Carvosso, Felvus, Alder, and others; whose affecting statements of the moral necessities of the heathen, and encouraging representations of the successes and prospects of the Society, produced a powerful effect. Collections were made, in furtherance of the objects of the Society, which exceeded those at any former anniversary.

On Wednesday evening, similar meetings were held at Amesbury and Winterbourne, which were well attended, and the sums collected surpassed those of last year.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – 16 May, 1836)