

## RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

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**PENANG.**—Of the religious condition of Penang, a friend who has long resided on that island, says, "it is a land of darkness; and apparently a barren waste. We have many difficulties and discouragements to meet. Satan seems to reign triumphant in the hearts of the various inhabitants around us. Nothing but the almighty power of God can make the means of grace effectual to their conversion. May the divine influence of the Holy Spirit descend in copious showers on these desolate fields, that the people who sit in the regions and shadow of death may rejoice."

After giving this dark picture, our friend proceeds to notice the interest, which the government and some individuals have manifested, in the measures that have been adopted to improve the character of the native inhabitants. For about thirteen years, schools, both for Malay and Chinese children have been opened; and one of them has been kept in an idol's temple. The Holy Scriptures, as well as many other books, have been put in circulation.

The good, which foreign residents in the East may do, by countenancing and supporting schools and the circulation of books, is very great. This subject has been overlooked, and greatly neglected, though it is

one of much importance. It certainly should, and we wish it might, receive greater attention.

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**SANDWICH ISLANDS.**—The first christian teachers, who went to the Sandwich Islands, were instructed by those who sent them forth, "to aim at nothing short of covering these islands with fruitful fields, and pleasant dwellings, and schools, and churches, and raising up the whole population to an elevated state of christian civilization; also to introduce, and get into extended operation and influence among them, the arts, institutions, and usages of civilized life and society; above all, to convert them from their idolatries, and superstitions, and vices, to the living God." Thirteen years have not yet passed since these men entered on their labours; then, it was difficult to find a people in a lower state of degradation; they were without letters, and all the comforts of civilized life; now, they have books, schools, and written laws; churches have been built, useful arts and institutions introduced; and they are taking rank with the civilized and christian nations of the earth.

Our latest accounts from the islands are to Sept. 16th; by which we learn, that the various improvements which have

been commenced, continue to progress; and that a deputation had been sent to the Marquesas, and the Society islands, with a view to promote benevolent operations there. The reinforcement arrived at the islands on the 17th of last May; the annual meeting of the missionaries was held immediately afterwards; fifty-two were present, five only being absent. At the solemnities of the sacrament, 4000 natives were present, of whom 300 were communicants, and partook of the sacred emblems of our Lord's death. Kaahumanu, regent, died on the 5th of June; her biography, it is expected, will be published.

In regard to the charges which have been brought against the missionaries at the Sandwich and South sea islands, by Kotzebue and others, we are glad to see the mild, candid, and completely triumphant vindication which has been published by Mr. Ellis.

**BOMBAY.**—We have letters from Bombay and Belgaum to about the middle of last Aug. From one dated at the latter place, we have interesting particulars concerning the progress of truth at Poonah. Not long ago, the government would not admit missionaries into that place; and a quantity of tracts, which were sent thither for distribution, were "seized by the magistrate there, and forwarded to the government at Bombay, who wrote to the missionaries, prohibiting their sending any more. The persons, who took the tracts for distribution were marched out of Poonah under guard."

Now, there are two missionaries seated in that very place; others are at stations more in the interior; and still others, at other places in the vicinity; "and within the last two or three years several missionary tours have been taken in various directions; the tidings of salvation proclaimed in the name of the Lord Jesus, and portions of Scriptures and Tracts widely distributed. Thus the good seed of the everlasting Gospel has begun to be sown in these parts, and means are using daily, for the still more general diffusion of the knowledge of christianity.

"It remains for us to persevere in labour, and to be earnest in prayer for a blessing from above, so that the seed may take root, spring up, and bear fruit to the glory of God in the conversion and salvation of immortal souls. He who has thus opened a wide field for labours, removed every obstacle to the free communication of his word, who has raised up and sent forth labourers into the field, doubtless, can and will, in His rich mercy, and by the power of his Spirit, cause the work to prosper. "His holy word sent forth, shall fly the spacious earth around; and every soul beneath the sky shall hear the joyful sound." —Yes; not only *hear*, but the idols shall be banished—they shall be cast away as unprofitable things. Idolatry shall be abolished, and all the inhabitants of the earth shall come under the dominion of Christ, and unite in ascribing to him power, glory, and crown *Him* Lord of all."