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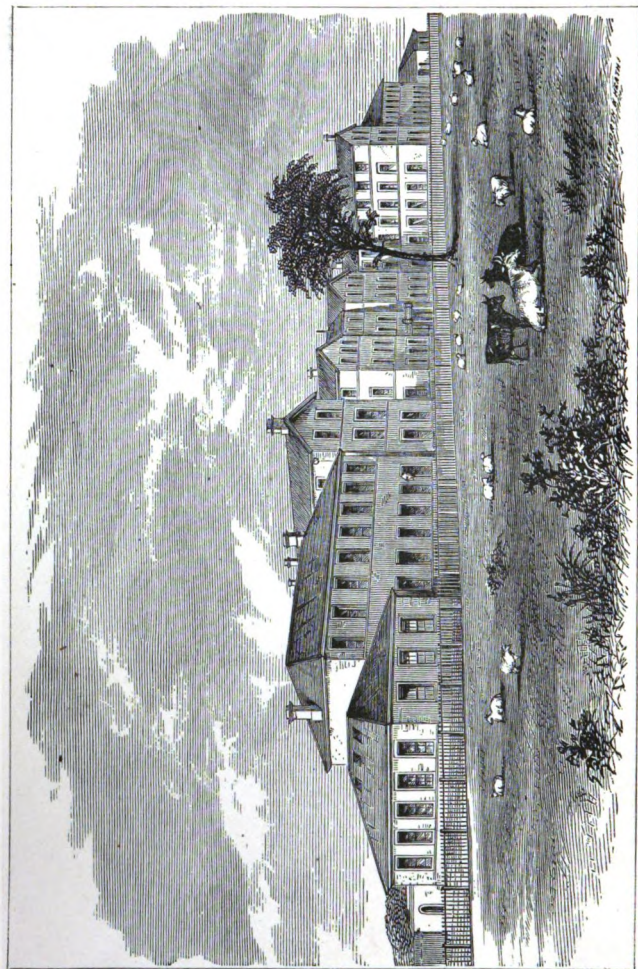
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THE BRISTOL ORPHAN HOUSES,

ASHLEY DOWN.



THE FIFTH ORPHAN HOUSE, ASHBY DOWN.

THE
BRISTOL ORPHAN HOUSES,

ASHLEY DOWN.

The History of the New Orphan Houses on Ashley Down, Bristol,

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

MR. GEORGE MÜLLER.

BY W. ELFE TAYLER.

REVISED AND ENLARGED EDITION.

With Views of the Five Orphan Houses.

LONDON: MORGAN AND SCOTT,

(OFFICE OF "The Christian,")

23, WARWICK LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW.

And may be ordered of any Bookseller.

George Adair Somerset

See 47.



PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

THE Orphan Establishment on Ashley Down, Bristol, is a great fact; and as such invites the attention of every friend of humanity, every believer in the Son of God. The writer of the following pages has been acquainted with the Institution from the first; and the more he has studied it the stronger has been his conviction, that the extraordinary history with which it stands associated is fitted to produce the most important and blessed results wherever it becomes known.

It is with this object that the present "Memorials" of that remarkable work have been published. It should be stated, however, that this volume is by no means intended to supersede the "Narrative" which Mr. Müller himself has given to the world. On the contrary, the Author would strongly recommend the reader, who has the leisure, to peruse that also, it being a work of the deepest interest, and of intense

truthfulness, and containing a far more copious account of Mr. Müller's life and labours than the book now before him.

It may be proper to add, that the writer of the following pages has no connexion whatever with Mr. Müller, and that the book has been written entirely without his knowledge.

MONTPELIER, BRISTOL,
December, 1860.

PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION.


IN issuing a Third Edition of this work, some alterations have been made, rendered necessary by the changes which have taken place within the last few years. In addition to these, the work has been also considerably enlarged, and now contains an account of the erection of the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Houses, with a review of the later history of the Institution.

August, 1871.

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INTRODUCTORY SKETCH.

BOUT forty years ago, a young German student stepped on shore from off the deck of a steamer just arrived in London, whose future life was destined, in the providence of God, to exercise a mighty and most beneficial influence upon the Christian Church and the world at large. His name was George Müller: he was born in the kingdom of Prussia, in the year 1805. Up to his twentieth year, God had allowed him to remain "dead in trespasses and sins,"—and his profligate life at this period stands out in strange contrast with his remarkable devotedness since. But at length, while at the University of Halle, he experienced that change of heart without which none "can see the kingdom of God;" and from that period his chief object seems to have been to glorify God.

Mr Müller's first desire was to go out as a missionary to the Jews. It was with this intention that he arrived in London, in the spring of the year 1829, and entered himself as a student in a college for training missionaries to the Jews in the outskirts of the metropolis. Here his superior classical education gave

him an advantage over the other students, and enabled him to devote his whole energies to the acquisition of Hebrew. Twelve hours a day, he tells us, he spent in studying the Hebrew, Chaldee, and the Rabbinical languages, often breaking off to kneel down and implore a blessing on his labours.

Even at this early period of his life, Mr Müller seems to have learned the power of prayer—that mighty weapon by means of which he was afterwards to accomplish such wondrous results. The spirit of God enabled him to grasp with firm hold that promise of our Lord,—“All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” And whether engaged in study, or seeking the advice of a medical man in periods of sickness, he looked up to God for His help and blessing.

In the midst of his studies—about two months after reaching England—the young student was laid prostrate on a sick-bed. He had arrived in London weak in body, and this, joined, as he tells us, with such incessant labours, occasioned an illness which at first threatened to prove fatal. But the Lord had work for him to do. After the lapse of a few weeks, he was able to leave his room; and was then ordered to the south of Devon, for change of air.

Mr Müller continued some months in Devonshire, and his visit there may be viewed as the turning-point in his life. He became acquainted at Teignmouth with a band of godly men—men “full of faith, and of the Holy Ghost;” under whose teach-

ing he made great advancement in the Divine life, and acquired unusually clear and full perceptions of "the truth as it is in Jesus." Here, too, he saw, for the first time, a young Scotch minister, the late Henry Craik, with whom he speedily formed a close intimacy; and who for thirty-six years proved his faithful friend and worthy associate in the work of the ministry.

On returning to London, he resumed his studies—much improved both bodily and spiritually. "My prayer," says he, "had been, before I left London, that the Lord would be pleased to bless my journey to the benefit of my body and soul. This prayer was answered in both respects; for in the beginning of September I returned to London, much better in body; and, as to my soul, the change was so great, that it was like a second conversion." Not long after his return, under the influence of certain conscientious objections respecting his connexion with the Jewish Missionary Society, he sent in his resignation, and received a kind and honourable dismissal.

In the mean time Mr Müller had returned to his beloved friends in Devonshire; and soon afterwards he commenced preaching in a chapel at Teignmouth. He at length offered to settle down as the stated minister of the place; and though his knowledge of English was but imperfect, and his pronunciation very defective, his simple faith and earnest piety led the people gladly to accept him.

Whilst preaching the Gospel at Teignmouth, Mr

Müller became acquainted with a young English lady, whose brother, Anthony Groves, Esq., had just abandoned a profession which yielded fifteen hundred a year, in Exeter, with the view of labouring as a missionary in the East. Unwilling to be under the control of any Society, he went out as the servant of Christ alone; and the Memoirs of his life, which have been published,* afford plain proof that his missionary course was a noble and successful one. Miss Groves fully sympathized with the principles of her brother; and ere long an attachment, founded on a similarity of character, sprung up between Mr. Müller and this Christian lady, and they were married in October, 1830. The late Mrs. Müller, with one daughter—the only surviving child—for many years assisted Mr. Müller in certain departments of the Orphan House work, which forms the subject of the present volume.

We shall not dwell on the events which marked Mr Müller's life during the two years of his ministry at Teignmouth, but follow him to Bristol, the scene of his more important labours. In the spring of 1832 Mr Craik, whose name we have already mentioned, was engaged in preaching the Gospel in Bristol, for a time. Whilst thus occupied, he wrote to Mr Müller, urging him to follow him to that city, as a more suitable sphere for his labours than Teignmouth. After much prayer and deliberation, Mr

* Memoirs of Anthony Norris Groves, late Missionary to the East. London, 1859.

Craik's advice was followed, and Mr Müller paid a short visit to Bristol.

The popularity which these Christian ministers enjoyed from the very commencement of their labours in Bristol was truly astonishing. It may have been, to some extent, assisted by some peculiarities of manner, and by certain novel practices: but there can be no question, we conceive, that the chief causes of the effect produced by their preaching lay far deeper. Great earnestness—remarkable simplicity of character—singleness of eye to God's glory—unquestionable zeal for the good of souls—a clear insight into the meaning of the Word of God—and a large amount of spirituality of heart and life,—these were the real causes which drew such crowds to hear them. The result of a fortnight's stay in Bristol was a most pressing request, from the people amongst whom they laboured, that Mr Craik and Mr Müller should take the joint oversight of them, as ministers of Christ.

Here was a question raised which required prayerful deliberation. It was, however, ultimately decided that they should both return to Devonshire first, and then determine what course to take. In an Autobiography of his life, which Mr Müller has published, he speaks thus of his state of mind at this eventful crisis.

“April 27.—It seems to us the Lord's will that we should go home next week, in order that, in quietness, without being influenced by anything we see here, we may inquire into the Lord's will concerning

us. It especially appears to us much more likely that we should come to a right conclusion among the brethren and sisters in Devonshire, whose tears we shall have to witness, and whose entreaties to stay with them we shall have to hear, than here at Bristol, where we see only those who wish us to stay. Some asked me to stay with them while brother Craik goes home ; but it seems better that we both should go together." He then adds in brackets :—"I observe here that it was evident that many preferred my beloved brother's gifts to my own ; yet as he would not come except I came with him, and as I knew that I also had been called by the Lord, for the ministry of the Word, I knew that *I* also should find my work in Bristol ; and that though it might be a different one, yet I should fill up in some measure his lack, whilst he supplied my deficiencies, and that thus we might both be a benefit to the Church and to the world at Bristol. The result has evidently confirmed this."

Mr Müller and Mr Craik accordingly returned to Devonshire, and after much prayer and deliberation, they saw it their duty to remove altogether to Bristol ; which they did towards the end of May, 1832. We may add that their joint labours in that city were remarkably blessed of God. Very many additions were speedily made to the number of believers under their charge. A second large chapel was rented for the accommodation of the crowds who attended their ministrations ; and in some years, we believe

as many as a hundred members were added to the church.

It may be interesting here to state, that both Mr. Müller and the late Mr. Craik, from the commencement of their ministry in Bristol, continued to carry out the plan first adopted by them in Devonshire, of receiving no fixed income from their flock for their pastoral labours. They objected to a fixed salary, because in such cases the money is usually derived from pew-rents, which appear from James ii. 1-6 to be unscriptural; and also because such money is often paid of necessity and grudgingly, rather than from free will and cheerfully. As these Christian ministers, however, have no means of their own, they continue to receive the voluntary gifts of their people towards their temporal support. There are boxes placed in the chapels for the contributions of the people for the poor, the rent, and incidental expenses. Any one who desires to contribute towards the support of any of those who minister among them, wraps up the money in a paper in which is written the name or names of the individuals for whom it is intended, and drops it into one of the boxes. When the boxes are opened, the money is appropriated according to the wishes of the donors. It must be allowed that such a step as this required no ordinary faith at first. But, from all we can learn, God has honoured these faithful servants of His for their conscientious objections, and they have gained, instead of being losers, by the adoption of this mode of support.

About two years after removing to Bristol Mr Müller, in conjunction with Mr Craik, established an Institution, having for its objects the education of the poor *on Scriptural principles*, the circulation of the Scriptures and Religious Tracts, and the assistance of Missionaries at home and abroad.

This Institution differed from the Religious Societies of the day in some important particulars, For instance, there was from the first nothing like a committee, membership, voting, &c. It was resolved to seek no patronage from people of rank or influence, if unconverted. It was also determined to ask for no pecuniary assistance from unbelievers; to employ none but Christian men and women in the work, and never to enlarge the field of labour by contracting debts.

The Institution thus established is called "*The Scriptural Knowledge Institution for Home and Abroad.*" It was founded on March 5, 1834. In his Journal, Mr Müller records, under the above date, the following particulars:—

"This evening, at a public meeting, Brother Craik and myself stated the principles on which we intend to carry on the Institution which we propose to establish for the spread of the Gospel at home and abroad. There was nothing outwardly influential either in the number of people present, or in our speeches. May the Lord himself graciously be pleased to grant His blessing upon the Institution!"

Probably few Religious Institutions ever had a more humble commencement than that just described. After it had existed several months, Mr Müller records :—

“ Our little Institution, established in dependence upon the Lord, and supplied by Him with means, has now been seven months in operation, and through it have been benefited with instruction :—

“ 1st, in the Sunday School, about 120 children ; 2nd, in the Adult School, about 40 adults ; 3rd, in the two Day Schools for Boys, and the two Day Schools for Girls, 209 children, of whom 54 have been entirely free ; the others pay about one-third of the expense. There have been also circulated 482 Bibles and 520 New Testaments. Lastly, £57 have been spent to aid Missionary exertions” . . . The total amount of Funds received on account of the Institution during the first seven months was £167 10s. 0½d.

About eighteen months after the commencement of the Institution, the Orphan House work was begun in connexion with it. The Scriptural Knowledge Institution continued to prosper, and grew rapidly each year of its existence. At the expiration of ten years from its foundation the income was at the rate of *Two Thousand Pounds* per annum ; that is to say, about Thirteen Hundred Pounds for the support of the Orphan children, and Seven Hundred Pounds for the other objects above named. Ten years after this an enormous increase had taken place. The

income for the whole work during one year amounted to upwards of *Twelve Thousand Pounds*. And this large annual income has gone on increasing till of late it has exceeded *Twenty Thousand Pounds per annum* !

From the Report published in the summer of 1860 we gather the following particulars of the present condition of this Institution :—

1. *The Schools for the Instruction of the Poor.*

Since March, 1834, there have been 6945 children in the Day Schools. In the Adult School there have been 2952 persons. The number of Sunday School children amounts to 3227. So that, independently of the Orphans, “13,124 souls have been brought under *habitual* instruction in the things of God in these various schools ; besides the many schools in the various parts of England, Ireland, Scotland, British Guiana, the West Indies, the East Indies, &c., which have been to a greater or less degree assisted.”

2. *The circulation of the Holy Scriptures.*

The number of Bibles, New Testaments, and portions of the Holy Scriptures which have been circulated during the previous twelve months was as follows :

579 Bibles have been sold.

1120 Bibles have been given away.

409 New Testaments have been sold.

725 New Testaments have been given away.

63 Copies of the Psalms have been sold.

248 Other portions of the Holy Scriptures have been sold.

There have been circulated since March 5, 1834, through the medium of this Institution, 24,768 Bibles, 15,100 New Testaments, and 2595 copies of portions of the Holy Scriptures.

3. *Assisting Missionaries at Home and Abroad.*

During the past year the sum of £5019 6s. 1d. has been spent for this object. 101 Missionaries have been, to a greater or less degree, assisted. Of these about 70 are labouring in this kingdom; 10 in Italy, including Sardinia; seven in British Guiana; three in Canada and Nova Scotia; two in France, one in Switzerland, two in Belgium, and the remaining four in China and the East. Mr Müller adds that he has received during the past year about 600 letters from these Missionaries, and at least one half of the number recorded instances in which their labours had been blessed! A number of deeply interesting particulars are given—pages 43-60 of the present Report, which we greatly regret our limits will not allow us to quote.

4. *The Circulation of Tracts and Books.*

During the past year the sum of £1650 11s. 4½d. has been expended on this department. The number of Tracts and Books circulated by means of this outlay has been 2,562,001. The Revival in Ireland and elsewhere is particularly referred to by Mr Müller as having caused a very great increase in this branch of the Institution. "So great," says he, "has been the

call for Tracts, that of late we have sent out repeatedly 100,000 in one week for gratuitous circulation.”

5. *The Education and Support of Destitute Orphans.*

For details respecting this extraordinary work, which is the principal branch of the Scriptural Knowledge Institution, we must refer the reader to the following pages. He will there find minute particulars of the origin, progress, and present state of this remarkable Establishment. He will learn the novel means by which the large funds are derived for its support, and the vast scheme at present in contemplation for the enlargement of the work. All which particulars have been obtained from the Narrative of his life, which Mr Müller has published, and the numerous Reports of the Scriptural Knowledge Institution, which have appeared from time to time.

It may be interesting to know that ample provision has been made by Mr Müller—so far as is practicable—for the future continuance of the Orphan Houses. The whole of the property is vested in the hand of Trustees, and enrolled in Chancery. The deed contains, we believe, minute directions as to what course should be followed by the Trustees in the event of Mr Müller’s decease. It is well known that Franké’s Institution for Orphans in Germany was carried on, after his death, by his pious son-in-law ; and has been continued to the present day—a period of more than 150 years. Why may we not hope for a similar blessing to attend the Institution on Ashley Down ?

THE
NEW ORPHAN HOUSES AT BRISTOL.

CHAPTER I.

OF all the marvellous facts which we hear of in this age of wonders, there is perhaps nothing more truly fitted to awaken astonishment than the Institution for Orphans, founded in 1835, more than thirty-five years ago, by Mr. George Müller.

On the summit of one of those numerous hills, which diversify and adorn the environs of the ancient city of Bristol, stand what are called "The New Orphan Houses of Ashley Down." This world-renowned Institution consists of five large buildings, erected by Mr. George Müller, for the special use of destitute Orphans. Externally considered, they are by no means distinguished for architectural beauty or display, but appear rather to have been erected with a view to economy, utility, and

convenience. They are plain, substantial, and well-designed buildings; and all situated near each other.

There are about two thousand and fifty Orphans, without either father or mother, supported and educated in these houses, from the earliest age of infancy till they are fit for active life. Mr. Müller's care extends to putting out the boys also, as apprentices to some useful trade, when arrived at their fourteenth or fifteenth year. The girls are brought up to house-work and nursing, and are placed out to service when about eighteen or nineteen years of age.

Such is a brief sketch of this marvellous Institution, which a local newspaper has styled with truth, "THE BRISTOL MIRACLE." Since its commencement the enormous sum of THREE HUNDRED AND TWO THOUSAND AND FORTY-ONE POUNDS, except a small balance, has been expended upon these Orphans. The current expenses for the Orphans amounted, during the past twelve months, 1869-70, to between NINETEEN AND TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS! And Mr. Müller estimates that in another year the annual expenses of the Institution will be far greater still owing to the reception of more Orphans into the last erected houses.

And now comes the *miraculous* part of this work. Whence come the funds which provide these vast sums? What source furnished the £100,000 which

these five buildings have cost? Who furnished the THIRTEEN thousand, SIXTEEN thousand, and NINETEEN thousand pounds which have been expended on the Orphans during the past three years? Whence, we ask, are the funds of this great Institution derived? Are there large endowments in land or house property, bequeathed by will or otherwise given for the support of these Orphan Houses, as in the case of the Universities, and many other old Institutions? or is the Institution under the distinguished patronage of a number of royal and titled personages? or is there a large wealthy board of directors—supported by a goodly list of annual subscribers, who guarantee the maintenance of this noble charity?

In reply to these natural inquiries, we have to inform the reader that there are no endowments—there are no royal or titled patrons of the Institution—there is no board of directors—no committee of management—no list of annual subscribers. It is carried on by the same individual who first originated it. He is, moreover, a poor man, being entirely without any property of his own—and even without any income, except what is voluntarily contributed for his support. The only means Mr. Müller employs to obtain funds is to entreat the God of the Orphan to dispose men to furnish him with money. He never has been known to appeal to the public in the usual manner for support, nor has he ever asked a single

individual to help him ! What is perhaps still more extraordinary, he *never incurs debts*. From the very first, it has been a fixed and invariable principle with him, never to take credit for anything.

Such is the mode in which the Institution which forms the subject of this book is carried on ; and by the good hand of God upon him, Mr. Müller has just concluded the thirty-sixth year of its existence. Instead of experiencing any deficiency, any falling off, the funds have every year improved ; and last May he had some thousands in hand for the requirements of the ensuing year.

Now it must be granted that all this is very strange—very novel—very startling. An Institution for destitute Orphans exists—and has existed for about thirty-six years, the expenses of which are already upwards of NINETEEN thousand a year ; and yet this Institution possesses no endowments—no fixed income—and no subscribers ! The only source of support being the free-will contributions of those whose hearts God touches ! Surely, here is something for even worldly men to wonder at, in an age when all sorts of wonders seem to abound.

To the Christian reader there is room for something more than wonder. He is called upon—as he contemplates this work of mercy—to adore the faithfulness of God in thus condescending to hear the prayers of His servant, and His goodness in uphold-

ing him so long under the varied trials and difficulties which he has experienced. Nor will he fail at the same time to offer up earnest supplication, that Mr. Müller may still be helped, and be blessed yet more abundantly in his labours of faith and love.

CHAPTER II.

ORIGIN OF THE INSTITUTION.

WE are about to relate the early history of an Institution altogether *unique* in its character —one which, so far as we know, has no parallel in the annals of the world. Thirty-six years ago the founder of the New Orphan Houses on Ashley Down resolved, with the help of God, to open an asylum for destitute Orphan children. The mode by which he proposed to support these little ones was altogether novel. Instead of canvassing the city, and applying by letter or otherwise to the wealthy and benevolent inhabitants of Bristol, Clifton, and the country at large, he addressed himself to God. He besought the Father of the fatherless to incline men to send him money for this great object. He issued a prospectus detailing his plans, and simply stating the fact that he was willing, and would be thankful, to receive contributions ; but he made no personal application to any individual for means.

He asked God to send in what was needed for the work ; and He in whose hands are the hearts of all men, and who has said the silver and the gold are His, heard the prayers of His servant. Money and other contributions abundantly poured in. "The people were made willing in the day of His power."

The Orphan House established by Mr. Müller had a very small and insignificant beginning. At the commencement a private dwelling-house in Wilson Street was rented and fitted up for the accommodation of thirty children only, but since then the work has grown to such an extent as to astonish all who first beheld it. Like those majestic streams of which we read, that where they rise in some lofty mountain the traveller can step across them with ease, but after traversing many countries they increase to such a size as to bear the fleet of an empire on their waters ; so this vast and astonishing Institution, from commencing with only one private dwelling-house with thirty Orphans, now comprises five vast piles of buildings, erected at an expense of more than a hundred thousand pounds, and capable of accommodating two thousand and fifty Orphans ! Surely then, when standing on Ashley Down and surveying the enormous piles of buildings devoted to the noble purpose of ministering to the temporal and the spiritual necessities of so many poor helpless Orphans, and reflecting on the humble commencement

of the Institution, we may well say, "What hath God wrought!"

And now that the Institution has been in existence for a period of more than thirty-five years, it will be interesting to review its past history, to investigate its character, and to trace its steady progress; while the record of these facts will serve in some degree to erect a memorial of God's faithfulness in thus far helping His faithful servant. It may be that this simple retrospect of the labours, trials, cares, and successes of thirty-five years from the pen of one quite unconnected with the work may serve in some slight degree to encourage the heart, and strengthen the hands, of one whom God hath so signally blessed. It may be that this little work may refresh the minds of that Christian band of men and women who are the fellow-labourers of Mr. Müller in his arduous and self-denying work. And it may be that its publication, in the providence of God, may be the instrument of introducing the knowledge of this noble Institution to some who have hitherto remained ignorant of its existence. Not only may fresh sources of support be thus opened for that most deserving charity, but other and greater good may result. The lofty principles on which the director of this Institution has ever acted may, through the power of Divine grace, awaken a response in the reader's heart; and he may learn for the first time

that *it is a blessed thing to trust in and to wait upon God*; and that He is now, as He ever was, the living God, able and willing to hear and answer the prayers of all who come unto Him through Christ Jesus.

It was at the commencement of December, 1835, that Mr. Müller first made known his intention of establishing, by the help of God, an Orphan Asylum for children bereft of both parents, and in destitute circumstances. In that remarkable Autobiography, first published in 1837, he records the following under December 2:—"I have taken this day the first actual step in the matter, in having ordered the bills to be printed, announcing a public meeting on December 9th, at which I intend to lay before the brethren my thoughts concerning the Orphan House, as a means of ascertaining more clearly the Lord's mind concerning the matter." On December 7th the first donation of one shilling was given towards the Institution; and two days afterwards the public meeting was held. There was purposely no collection, but at the close an individual gave 10s. for the work, and a Christian female offered herself as a teacher. "I went home," says Mr. Müller, "*happy in the Lord, and full of confidence that the matter will come to pass, though but 10s. have been given.*"

The next morning, Mr. Müller put into the press a paper containing the substance of what he had stated the previous night, which he called a "PRO-

POSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ORPHAN HOUSE," &c. From this document, which he has reprinted in his Autobiography, we make the following extracts :—

“That to which my mind has been particularly directed is to establish an Orphan House, in which destitute fatherless and motherless children may be provided with food and raiment, and Scriptural education. . . . The very gracious and tender dealings of God with me, in having supplied, in answer to prayer, for these last five years, my own temporal wants, without any certain income ; so that money, provisions, and clothes have been sent to me, at times when I was greatly straitened, and that not only in small, but large quantities ; and that not merely from intimate friends, but from individuals whom I have never seen ; all this, I say, has often led me to think, even so long as four years ago, that *the Lord has not given me this simple reliance on Him* merely for myself, but also for others. . Often when I saw in Teignmouth poor neglected children running about the streets, I said to myself, ‘ May it not be the will of God that I should establish schools for these children, asking Him to give me the means ? ’ However it remained only a thought in my mind for two or three years. About two years and six months since, I was particularly stirred up afresh to do something

for destitute children, by seeing so many of them begging in the streets of Bristol, and coming to our door. It was not then left undone on account of want of trust in the Lord, but through an abundance of other things calling for all the time and strength of my brother Craik and myself; for the Lord had both given faith, and had also shown by the following instance, in addition to very many others, both what He can and what He will do.

“One morning while sitting in my room, I thought about the distress of certain brethren, and said thus to myself:—‘O that it may please the Lord to give me the means to help these poor brethren!’ About an hour afterwards, I had £60 sent me, as a present for myself, from a brother whom up to this day I never saw, and who was then and is still residing several thousand miles from this. Should not such an experience, together with promises like that in John xiv. 13, 14, encourage us to ask with all boldness, for ourselves and others, both temporal and spiritual blessings? The Lord, for I cannot but think it was He, again and again brought the thought of these poor children to my mind, till at last it ended in the establishment of ‘THE SCRIPTURAL KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTION FOR HOME AND ABROAD;’ since the establishment of which I have had it in a similar way brought to my mind, first about fourteen months ago, and repeatedly since, but especially

during these last few weeks, to establish an Orphan House. My frequent prayer of late has been that if it be of God, He would let it come to pass; if not that He would take from me all thoughts about it. The latter has not been the case, but I have been led more and more to think that the matter may be of Him. Now if so, He can influence His people *in any part of the world* (for I do not look to Bristol, nor even to England, but to the living God, whose is the gold and the silver) to entrust me and brother Corser, whom the Lord has made willing to help me in the work with the means. Till we have *them* we can do nothing in the way of renting a house; furnishing it, &c. Yet when once as much as is needed for this has been sent us; as also proper persons to engage in it, we do not think it needful to wait till we have the Orphan House endowed, or a number of yearly subscribers for it; but we trust to be enabled by the Lord, who has taught us how to ask for our *daily* bread, to look to Him for the supply of the *daily* wants of those children whom He may be pleased to put under our care. Any donations will be received at my house, No. 6, WILSON STREET, BRISTOL. Should any believers have tables, chairs, bedsteads, bedding, earthenware, or any kind of household furniture to spare, for the furnishing of the house; or remnants or pieces of calico, linen, flannel, cloth, or any materials, useful for wearing apparel; or

clothes, already worn ; they will be thankfully received.

“ Respecting the persons who are needed for carrying on the work, a matter of no less importance than the procuring of funds, I would just observe that we look for them to God himself, as well as for the funds ; and that all who may be engaged as masters, matrons, and assistants, according to the smallness or largeness of the Institution, must be known to us as true believers ; and moreover, as far as we may be able to judge, must likewise be qualified for the work.”

After a few unimportant particulars, Mr. Müller, in this prospectus, concludes with an expression of his willingness to receive advice from any Christian friends who may feel disposed to assist by their counsel ; and also to avail himself of the experience of any who have been engaged in similar Institutions, so far as their views were considered Scriptural.

I have judged it important to place before the reader of these pages almost the whole of the original Prospectus of this remarkable Institution, not only because at this distance of time—about thirty-five years—it is interesting to trace the beginnings of that work which has since so mightily increased, but also, and still more, in order to point out how entirely this first sketch of the great undertaking, which had occupied Mr. Müller's thoughts for years,

contains the leading principles on which it is still carried on at the present day. The same characteristics which distinguished the New Orphan Houses on Ashley Down from all kindred Institutions in the world are found in this Prospectus, published in December, 1835. The founder of the Institution plainly and unmistakably declares his resolution to avoid all debt, to ask for no endowments or annual subscriptions to the cause, and also his purpose to employ no assistants in the work of whose piety he was not fully convinced. With almost prophetic foresight, too, of what has since repeatedly occurred, Mr. Müller says, God "can influence his people in any part of the world (for I do not look to Bristol, nor even to England, but to the living God, whose is the gold and the silver)." If we only open one of the Reports which are published by Mr. Müller usually every year, we shall find him constantly acknowledging the receipt of money, sometimes in large sums, from every quarter of the globe. Not only Italy and Sweden, Germany and Switzerland, but even Palestine and India, Australia and New Zealand, as well as various parts of North and South America! There is perhaps no part of the world from which contributions at some time have not come in for the destitute Orphans under Mr. Müller's charge.

Five or six weeks afterwards a "*Further Account*

respecting the Orphan House intended to be established in Bristol" was published, which it is unnecessary to give here. There are, however, one or two things mentioned in this second document which it may be desirable to notice.

One thing evident from this "Account" is, that originally it was not Mr. Müller's intention to occupy his whole time in the Orphan House work, as he has done for many years. His idea was, that God "would provide not merely the means, but also suitable individuals to take care of the children, so that his part of the work would take only such a portion of his time as, considering the importance of the matter, he might give, notwithstanding his many other engagements." So long as the Institution continued in its infant state, this plan of Mr. Müller's was quite practicable. But when the work began to increase, and afterwards attained a magnitude which could hardly have been expected, it was certainly most desirable that its original founder should give up his time unreservedly to the management of the Institution. In this judgment we are satisfied that all will concur who have any idea of the extensive and complicated nature of the work connected with the New Orphan Houses, and who are likewise acquainted with the extraordinary sagacity, shrewdness, and business capacity which distinguish Mr. Müller.

Another matter deserving of notice is mentioned in this document,—viz. the remarkable prayer offered up just before taking the first steps towards the establishment of the Orphan House. We will relate it in his own words:—"I was reading Psalm lxxxi, and was particularly struck, more than at any time before, with verse 10, '*Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.*' I thought a few moments about these words, and then was led to apply them to the case of the Orphan House. It struck me that I never had asked the Lord for anything concerning it, except to know His will respecting its being established or not; and I then fell on my knees, opening my mouth wide, and asking Him for much. I asked in submission to His will, and without fixing a time when He should answer my petition. I asked that He would give me a house—*i.e.* either as a loan, or that one might be given permanently for this object. Further, *I asked Him for a thousand pounds*, and likewise for suitable individuals to take care of the children. . . . When I was asking the petition I was fully aware what I was doing, *i.e.* that I was asking for something which I had no natural prospect of getting from the brethren whom I knew, but which was not too much for the Lord to grant."

The reader will agree with Mr. Müller here, that he was indeed "asking for something which he had *no natural prospect of getting.*" A more improbable

desire for one in his circumstances it would be difficult to conceive—*looking at it in a mere worldly point of view*. But the prayer was put up *in faith*, and that faith was founded on the promise of Him “who cannot lie.” The prayer was heard, and although many months elapsed before it was granted, yet in due time the large sum, to him, of one thousand pounds was contributed, and Mr Müller had cause to exclaim, “I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplication.”

The above paper is dated January 16th, 1836. Many contributions had already been received—as well as articles of furniture and clothing. After the publication of this document they flowed in more rapidly still. One brother sent £100, but the greater number of donations of money were still small: crowns, half-crowns, shillings, and even pence predominated in these early days of this now noble Institution. The articles of furniture were of the most varied description—affording the plainest proofs that those who were poor in this world, but rich in faith, were the first supporters of the Orphan House. We give the donations of one month only, that the reader may have some idea of their nature.

“*April 2nd.*—1s., 2s. 6d., 6d., 6d. ; also six blankets, two counterpanes, four sheets, eight bonnets, five frocks, six pinafores, six chemises. *April 4th.*—

4s., 1s., 1s., 8d., 1s., 1d., 1s., 3d., 6s., 2s. 6d., £1, £1 3s. ; also fourteen tippets, three pinafores, one frock, three chemises (two more promised), six flannel petticoats ; also six stuff petticoats (and six chemises promised) ; also a sheet. *April 5th.*—£2, 7s. 6d., 6d., 4d., 4d., 1d., 4d., 6d. *April 6th.*—One dozen washing basons, and a jug. *April 7th.*—2s. 2d., 3s., 1s., 2s. 2d., 1s. 1d. *April 8th.*—10s., 10s., 6d., 1s., 2s. ; also a bench. *April 9th.*—4d., 4d., 4d., 4d., 2s. ; also three knives and forks, also some marking ink. *April 10th.*—Two patent locks. *April 11th.*—4s. *April 12th.*—1s. 8d., 2s., a jug ; also twelve bonnets, and six tippets. *April 13th.*—A set of fire-irons, a tea-kettle, a coal-box, a tin saucepan, a tripod, a teapot, three cups and saucers, a wash-hand bason, three small basons and two plates. *April 15th.*—10s., 10s. *April 16th.*—£5 ; also £1, and twenty-two hymn books. Also, anonymously, were sent two dozen pocket handkerchiefs, also a hymn, ‘The Orphan’s Hope,’ in a frame. *April 17th.*—A cask, also a hundredweight of treacle, also 36 lbs. of moist sugar. *April 18th.*—4s. *April 19th.*—2s. 6d., 1s. *April 20th.*—A new bedstead. From Clapham were sent £21 and £11 ; likewise three flannel petticoats, some print, six frocks, four pinafores, seven tippets, twelve caps, fourteen chemises, twenty-four furnished work-bags, twelve pocket handkerchiefs, sixteen pairs of stockings, one pair of sleeves ; besides this was

sent with an orphan child from Clapham, a complete outfit for her.

“*April 21st.*—£2, 2s., 1s. 6d., 6d., 6d., 6d., 5s., 2s. ; also two candlesticks, a pepper-box, and a handkerchief. *April 22nd.*—1s., 10s., 2s. 6d., 2s. 2½d. ; also a long-handle brush and 6d., also an ironing-blanket, and thirty-two yards of flannel. *April 23rd.*—£2, 5s., 10s. ; a cheese, and eighteen pounds of beef. *April 25th.*—1s., and eight plates. *April 26th.*—6d., 6d., 5s. *April 27th.*—10d. *April 28th.*—1s. ; also two tons of coals, also two patchwork quilts, fifteen work-bags and pin-cushions, twelve needle-cases, three little bags, one tippet, two pairs of stockings, one kettle-holder, also six pairs of worsted stockings.”

Such were the donations of April, 1836, the month in which the Orphan House was opened. All the contributions, as Mr Müller observes in his narrative, were the results of prayer, “without any one having been asked by him for one single thing, from which he had refrained, not on account of want of confidence in the brethren, or because he doubted their love to the Lord, but that he might see the hand of God so much the more clearly. For as the work had been begun without any visible support, in dependence only upon the living God, *it was of the utmost importance to be sure of His approbation at the very commencement.*”—(p. 162.)

The house No. 6, Wilson Street, St Paul's, was the one chosen to commence the work in. It was selected as being, on account of its cheapness and large size, very suitable, and was rented for one year only. Having furnished it very plainly, for thirty children, they began to take in children on April 11th, and on April 21st *the Institution was formally opened by a day being set apart for prayer and thanksgiving.* There were on the 18th May following, twenty-six children in the house, under the care of a matron and governess. The amount of money received up to this date was upwards of £450.

On the 18th of May a third paper was issued by Mr Müller, detailing the whole of the contributions both of money and goods, up to that period. It stated also the intention of the founder of the Orphan House—"in the name of the Lord, *and in dependence upon Him alone for support,* to establish an Infant Orphan House, as soon as suitable premises could be obtained."

In proposing the establishment of this second Orphan House, Mr Müller adds:—"I do it in the same simple dependence upon God alone, as in the case of the former. And feeling my own weakness, and knowing that it is not in my power to give faith to myself, *I ask the brethren to help me with their prayers,* THAT MY FAITH FAIL NOT."

It was not until November 28th, that this second

house, for Infant Orphans, was opened at No. 1, Wilson Street. This did not arise from want of sufficient funds. Far from it; the difficulty was in finding a suitable female to fill the office of matron. Under the date of October 19th, Mr Müller writes:—"To-day, after having many times prayed respecting this matter, I engaged at last a matron for the Infant Orphan House, never having been able, up to this day, to meet with an individual who seemed suitable, though there has been money enough in hand for some time past for commencing this work, and there have been also applications made for several infant orphans."

In May, 1837, the Autobiography to which reference has been made—"A Narrative of some of the Lord's Dealing with George Müller, written by himself"—was on the point of being put to press. Accordingly, the author was naturally desirous to have it in his power to say, that the £1000, for which he had prayed more than twelve months ago, had already come in. "As the whole matter," says Mr Müller, on May 28th, "about the Orphan House had been commenced for the glory of God, that in this way, before the world and the church, there might be another visible proof that the Lord delights in answering prayer; and as there was yet a part of the £1000 wanting; and as *I earnestly desire the book might not leave the press before every shilling of*

that sum had been given, in answer to prayer, *without one single individual having been asked by me for anything*, that thus I might have the sweet privilege of bearing my testimony for God in this book; for these reasons I say, I have given myself earnestly to prayer about this matter since May 21st." Then follows a list of several donations: £7 10s., £3, £40, &c. We give the account of the completion of the £1000 in his own words:—

"*June 15th.*—To-day I gave myself once more earnestly to prayer, respecting the remainder of the £1000. This evening £5 was given, so that now *the whole sum is made up*. To the glory of the Lord, 'whose I am and whom I serve,' I would state again, that every shilling of this money has been given me without one single individual having been asked by me for anything During eighteen months and ten days this petition has been brought before God almost daily. From the moment I asked it, till the Lord granted it fully, *I have never been allowed to doubt that He would give every shilling of that sum. Often have I praised Him beforehand, in the assurance that He would grant my request.*"

The marvellous success which had attended Mr Müller's labours and prayers encouraged him to plan the establishment of a third Orphan House, for the reception of *boys*. Under the same date—June 15th,

1837, we find the following record :—“ As the Lord has dealt so marvellously with me, in condescending to listen to my prayers, and as I *consider it one of the particular talents which he has entrusted to me to exercise faith upon His promises as it regards my own temporal wants, and those of others* ; and as an Orphan House for boys about seven years of age seems greatly needed in this city ; and as also without it, we know not how to provide for the little *boys* in the Infant Orphan House, when they are above seven years of age ; I purpose to establish an Orphan House for about 40 boys, above seven years of age.”

In October of the same year, a suitable house was obtained in the same street as the other two, and soon afterwards was opened for the reception of boys, according to the plan detailed above.

It thus appears that, up to this time, everything prospered. There were, however, some faint-hearted brethren connected with Mr Müller, who predicted a falling off of funds when the work should have lost the charm of novelty. “ It has been more than once observed to me,” writes Mr Müller, “ that I could not expect to receive large sums ; for that persons, when first such an Institution is established, might be stirred up to give liberally, but that afterwards one had to look to a number of regular subscribers, and that if those were lacking, it was not likely that such a work should go on. On such occasions I have said

but little ; but I have had the fullest assurance, that it is a small matter for the Lord to move a second, or third time, those to give liberally who had done so already, if it were for our real welfare." He then mentions an individual who had twice given £50, and another who had given, first £50, then £40, and promised £40 more at Christmas. The subsequent history of the Institution affords abundant proof of the spiritual discernment of Mr Müller. For not only shall we find the same individuals repeating large sums year after year, but in many cases making those sums five or ten times as large as they originally were !

Such was the origin of that remarkable Institution;—a memorial of whose existence for a period of thirty-five years it is the object of the present work to furnish. The present magnitude of the Institution invests with deep interest and importance the commencement of the work. What is most important, however, to observe in the foregoing imperfect sketch of the origin of this undertaking is the fact, that *the principles on which it was first started are precisely, identically, those on which it is still carried on.* Not only the very same opinions and convictions are expressed in the "Accounts" printed in the year 1836 as in the "Brief Narrative" which in the year 1870 issued from the press, but these opinions are expressed in the very same words.

"It may be well to enter somewhat more minutely

than my journal does upon the reasons which led me to establish an Orphan House. Through my pastoral labours among the saints in Bristol, through my considerable correspondence, and through brethren who visited Bristol, I had constantly cases brought before me which proved that one of the especial things which the children of God needed in our day, was *to have their faith strengthened*. For instance, I might visit a brother who worked fourteen or even sixteen hours a-day at his trade, the necessary result of which was, that not only his body suffered, but his soul was lean, and he had no enjoyment in the things of God. Under such circumstances I might point out to him that he ought to work less, in order that his bodily health might not suffer, and that he might gather strength for his inner man, by reading the word of God, by meditation over it, and by prayer. The reply, however, I generally found to be something like this, 'But if I work less I don't earn enough for the support of my family. Even now, whilst I work so much, I have scarcely enough. The wages are so low that I must work hard in order to obtain what I need.' There was no trust in God. No real belief in the truth of that word, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.' I might reply something like this, 'My dear brother, it is not your work which supports

your family, but the Lord ; and He who has fed you and your family when you could not work at all on account of illness, would surely provide for you and yours, if, for the sake of obtaining food for your inner man, you were to work only for so many hours a-day as would allow you proper time for retirement ; and as it is not the case now that you begin the work of the day after having had only a few hurried moments for prayer ; and when you leave off your work in the evening, and mean then to read a little of the word of God, are you not too much worn out in body and mind to enjoy it, and do you not often fall asleep whilst reading the Scriptures, or whilst on your knees in prayer ?' The brother would allow it was so ; he would allow that my advice was good ; but still I read in his countenance, even if he should not actually have said so, ' How should I get on if I were to *carry out* your advice ?' I longed, therefore, to have something to point the brother to as a visible proof that our God and Father is the same faithful God as ever He was ; as willing as ever to prove Himself to be the LIVING GOD in our day as formerly *to all who put their trust in Him*. Again, sometimes I found children of God tried in mind by the prospect of old age, when they might be unable to work any longer, and, therefore, were harassed by the fear of having to go into the poor-house. If in such a case I pointed out to them how their

Heavenly Father has always helped those who put their trust in Him, they might not perhaps always say that times have changed; but yet it was evident enough that God was not looked upon by them as the LIVING GOD. My spirit was oftentimes bowed down by this, and I longed to set something before the children of God whereby they might see, that He does not forsake, even in our day, those who rely upon Him. Another class of persons were brethren in business, who suffered in their souls and brought guilt on their consciences, by carrying on their business almost in the same way as unconverted persons do. The competition in trade, the bad times, the overpeopled country, were given as reasons why, if the business were carried on simply according to the word of God, it could not be expected to do well. Such a brother, perhaps, would express the wish that he might be differently situated; but very rarely did I see *that there was a stand made for God, that there was the holy determination to trust in the living God, and to depend on Him in order that a good conscience might be maintained.* To this class likewise I desired to show by a visible proof that God is unchangeably the same. Then there was another class of persons, individuals who were in professions in which they could not continue with a good conscience, or persons who were in an unscriptural position with reference to spiritual things;

but both classes feared on account of the consequences to give up the profession in which they could not abide with God, or to leave their position, lest they should be thrown out of employment. My spirit longed to be instrumental in strengthening their faith by giving them not only instances from the word of God of His willingness and ability to help all those who rely upon Him, but *to show them by proofs* that He is the same in our day. I knew well that the word of God ought to be enough, and it was by grace enough to me; but still I considered that I ought to lend a helping hand to my brethren, if by any means by this visible proof to the unchangeable faithfulness of the Lord, I might strengthen their hands in God; for I remembered what a great blessing my own soul had received through the Lord's dealings with His servant, A. H. Franke, who in dependence upon the Living God alone established an immense Orphan House, which I had seen many times with my own eyes. I, therefore, judged myself bound to be the servant of the Church of Christ in the particular point on which I had obtained mercy; namely, *in being able to take God by His word and to rely upon it.* All these exercises of my soul, which resulted from the fact that so many believers with whom I became acquainted were harassed and distressed in mind, or brought guilt on their consciences, on account of not trusting in

the Lord, were used by God to awaken in my heart the desire of setting before the Church at large, and before the world, a proof that He has not in the least changed; and this seemed to me best done by the establishing and carrying on of an Orphan House. It needed to be something which could be seen even by the natural eye. Now if I, a poor man, simply by prayer and faith, obtained, *without asking any individual*, the means for establishing and carrying on an Orphan House, there would be something which, with the Lord's blessing, might be instrumental in strengthening the faith of the children of God, besides being a testimony to the consciences of the unconverted of the reality of the things of God. This then was the primary reason for establishing the Orphan House. I certainly did from my heart desire to be used by God to benefit the bodies of poor children bereaved of both parents, and seek, in other respects, with the help of God, to do them good for this life. I also particularly longed to be used by God in getting the dear Orphans trained up in the fear of God; but still the first and primary object of the Institution was, and still is, that God might be magnified by the fact that the Orphans under my care are provided with all they need only *by prayer and faith*, without any one being asked by me or my fellow-labourers, whereby it may be seen that God is FAITHFUL STILL


and HEARS PRAYER STILL. That I was not mistaken has been abundantly proved since November, 1835, both by the conversion of many sinners who have read the accounts which have been published in connexion with this work, and also by the abundance of fruit that has followed in the hearts of the saints, for which from my inmost soul I desire to be grateful to God, and the honour and glory of which not only is due to Him alone, but which I by His help am enabled to ascribe to Him."

And this leads us to observe that the extraordinary success of the Orphan Institution established by Mr Müller thirty-five years ago, is to be ascribed not only to the remarkable faith which that great and good man has for that whole period uniformly exemplified—but to the faithfulness of God to those great and precious promises which His Word contains. The Most High has given us the most absolute and unlimited promises to hear and answer all the prayers of His people when put up in faith. "WHATSOEVER ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will do it." "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and YE SHALL HAVE THEM." "Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it." Mr Müller at this early period of his life had the spiritual discernment to perceive that these, and many similar, passages of Holy Scripture contain absolute and unlimited promises of good to those who ask

aright; and the grace of God gave him that mighty faith which enabled him to seize hold of and appropriate them to himself. Hence we have no hesitation in saying that there is no limit to the extent to which funds—the needful funds—may be expected from God for the support of the New Orphan Houses on Ashley Down. Mr. Müller states in his Report for 1860, that there will probably be needed TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS to carry him through the ensuing year 1861. Some of our readers may think it very unlikely that so large a sum should be given to him. But we entertain no doubt whatever that, so long as God shall help him to trust in Him, there will be no lack of money for all necessary purposes connected with the work, whether the sum required be twenty-five thousand pounds or double that amount.

CHAPTER III.

EARLY DIFFICULTIES AND TRIALS.

E have already described the leading circumstances connected with the ORIGIN of the Orphan Asylum under Mr Müller's direction. We have pointed out the small beginning in which that wondrous Institution commenced. It now becomes our task to follow the history of this work of God, during the early years of its existence. And, if we shall find that Mr Müller and his Christian associates in this labour of love were at times called upon to endure trial and to exercise patience, we must not feel surprised. In all ages the servants of God—especially those who have been most distinguished by His favour and regard—have had to experience disappointment and difficulty, trials and crosses. It was so with Moses and Daniel—with Paul and with Luther,—and it would be strange indeed if, in these last days, one who has faithfully endeavoured to serve his generation had escaped what has been the common lot of great and good men in every age of the world.

It was about the middle of the year 1838 that the

faith of the founder of this Orphan Asylum, and that of his associates in the work, was first tried. Until this period, Mr Müller mentions that the hand of God was plainly seen in *the abundance* of the means which poured in for the support of the destitute orphans. "He was pleased," says Mr Müller, "to supply me with the means for maintaining nearly 100 persons. Now, however, the time is come when the Father of the fatherless will show His especial care over them in another way. The funds, which were this day twelvemonth about £780, are now reduced to about £20; but, thanks be to the Lord, *my faith is as strong, or stronger*, than it was when we had the larger sum in hand; nor has He at any time, from the commencement of the work, allowed me to distrust Him." This is on record under the date of July 12th, 1838.

The following month, August, was a time of sharp trial. Still, in reading the Report, published afterwards, we find that, though help was long delayed, the means required invariably came in before it was too late. On August 31st, Mr Müller writes:—"I have been waiting on the Lord for means, as the matron's books from the Girls' Orphan House have been brought, and there is no money in hand to advance for housekeeping. But as yet the Lord has not been pleased to send help." Under these circumstances one of the associates in the work gave £2 of his own for present need.

Again, under date of September 1st:—"The Lord in His wisdom and love has not yet sent help. When it is to come need not be my care. But I *believe* God will in due time send help. His hour is not yet come. As there was money needed in the Boys' Orphan House also, the same brother just alluded to gave £2 for that also. Thus we were delivered at this time likewise. But now his means are gone. *This is the most trying hour that as yet I have had in the work*, as it regards means, but *I know that I shall yet praise the Lord for His help.*"

On September 5th, Mr Müller wrote:—"Our hour of trial continues still. The Lord mercifully has given enough to supply our daily necessities; but He gives *by the day* now, and almost *by the hour*, as we need it. I have besought the Lord again and again, both yesterday and to-day. It is as if the Lord said—"Mine hour is not yet come." But I have faith in God. I believe that He surely will send help, though I know not whence it is to come. Many pounds are needed within a few days, and there is not a penny in hand . . . As I was praying this afternoon respecting the matter, I felt fully assured that the Lord would send help, and praised Him beforehand for His help, and asked Him to encourage our hearts through it. I have also been led yesterday and to-day to ask the Lord especially that He would not allow my faith to fail.

A few minutes after I had prayed, brother Thomas came and brought £4 1s. 5d. which had come in, in several small donations. He told me at the same time, that to-morrow the books will be brought from the Infant Orphan House, when money must be advanced for housekeeping. I thought for a moment it might be well to keep £3 of this money for that purpose. But it occurred to me immediately 'sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.' The Lord can provide by to-morrow much more than I need; and I therefore sent £3 to one of the sisters, whose quarterly salary was due, and the remaining £1 1s. 5d. to the Boys' Orphan House for housekeeping. Thus I am still penniless. My hope is in God, He will provide."

The following day, Thursday, £1, and also a few provisions, came in. This money was sent to the Infant House, on Friday, together with 2s. 2d. more. On Saturday, no further supplies were received, and Mr Müller writes:—"Yesterday and to-day I have been pleading with God eleven arguments why He would be graciously pleased to send help. My mind has been in peace respecting the matter. Yesterday the peace amounted even to joy in the Holy Ghost. But this I must say, that the burden of my prayer these last days was, that God in mercy would keep my faith from failing. My eyes are up to Him. He can help soon. *One thing I am sure of: in His own way, and in His own time, HE WILL HELP.*"

On Monday morning, September 10, Mr Müller records that still *nothing had come in!* It is evident that a solemn crisis was fast approaching. It was felt as such by the director of the Institution; and it appeared needful for him to take some steps to meet it. That all the brethren and sisters engaged in the work should be called together, and, what had not been done before, the state of the case placed before them, inquiry made as to what money was really needed, and united prayer be offered up for deliverance. About ten o'clock, however, whilst once more in prayer for help, a sister called, who gave to Mrs Müller two sovereigns for the Orphans, stating that "she had felt herself *stirred up to come!* A few minutes afterwards, she saw Mr Müller, and gave him two sovereigns more. Very shortly afterwards, a call was made for money for the Infant Orphan House, to which £2 was sent, and £1, and £1 0s. 6d. to the other Houses! It should be stated that the Orphans all this time had as abundant food (and that of the same quality as usual) as if there were hundreds of pounds in hand.

A few days afterwards Mr Müller, finding the trial still continue, thought it necessary to tell those associated with him in the work about the state of the funds, and to give directions as to avoiding all debt. This was accordingly done, and after united prayer they separated, full of peace and comfort.

On September 17, we find from Mr Müller's Journal that the trial still continued, but those associated with him in the work assisted by contributing a little which was still left them. "This evening," writes the founder of the Institution, "I was rather tried respecting the long delay of larger sums coming; but being led to go to the Scriptures for comfort, my soul was greatly refreshed, and my faith again strengthened, by the thirty-fourth Psalm, so that I went very cheerfully to meet my dear fellow-labourers, for prayer. I read to them the Psalm, and sought to cheer their hearts, through the precious promises contained in it."

The next entry is particularly instructive. We shall give it without omitting a word. "September 18.—Brother Thomas had 25s. in hand, and I had 3s. This £1 8s. enabled us to buy meat and bread, which was needed, a little tea for one of the Houses, and milk for all; no more than this is needed. Thus the Lord has provided not only for this day, but there is bread for two days in hand. *Now, however, we are come to an extremity. THE FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED!* The labourers, who had a little money, have given as long as they had any left. Now, observe how the Lord helped us! A lady from the neighbourhood of London, who brought a parcel with money from her daughter, arrived four or five days since in Bristol, and took lodgings *next door to the Boys' Orphan*

House. This afternoon she herself kindly brought the money, amounting to £3 2s. 6d. *We had been reduced so low as to be on the point of selling those things which could be spared*; but this morning I had asked the Lord, if it might be, to prevent the necessity of our doing so. That the money had been so near the Orphan Houses for several days is a plain proof that it was, from the beginning, in the heart of God to help us, only, *because He delights in the prayers of His children*, He had allowed us to pray so long; also, to try our faith, and to make the answer so much the sweeter. It is indeed a precious deliverance. I burst out into loud praises of thanks, the first moment I was alone, after I had received the money. I met with my fellow-labourers again this evening for prayer and praise: their hearts were not a little cheered. This money was to-night divided, and will comfortably provide for all that will be needed to-morrow." It is impossible, we think, to read such narratives as the above without being led to utter the exclamation:—"This is the finger of God!" Short-sighted persons may be content to ascribe it all to chance. But no reflecting individuals who calmly consider the very critical circumstances in which the Institution was situated just at the very moment when help arrived, can fail, we think, to acknowledge an over-ruling Providence. This conviction will be strengthened if we reflect on the mighty

results which have subsequently sprung from these providential deliverances. Of several of these seasonable donations of money, even of many that were small—not more than one or two sovereigns—it may be truly said, Had not this money come in just when it was needed, the Institution must have come to nought! for Mr Müller would never have consented to have incurred debt for the purchase of provisions; and if the Orphans had been without food one day only, the work must have been pronounced a failure; it must have been at once abandoned; and that noble Christian charity on Ashley Down, on which far more than one hundred thousand pounds have been expended, would never have called forth the wonder of the present generation.

This period of trial seems to have had little intermission for the remainder of this year, and even the early part of 1839. It is unnecessary, however, to proceed with the narrative here. Those who wish to read the record, as given by Mr Müller himself, can see it in his published "Narrative," part 2nd, pp. 54-78 (Nisbet, London). It may be desirable, however, to furnish the reader with one extract—in which the experience of this servant of God is summed up.

"Though now (July, 1845) for about seven years our funds have been so exhausted, that it has been a *rare* case that there have been means in hand to meet the

necessities of more than 100 persons for *three days* together ; yet I have been only once tried in spirit, and that was on September .18, 1838, when, for the first time, the Lord seemed not to regard our prayer. But when He did send help at that time, and I saw that it was only for the trial of our faith, and not because He had forsaken the work, that we were brought so low, my soul was so strengthened and encouraged, that I have not only not been allowed to distrust the Lord, but *I have not even been cast down when in the deepest poverty* since that time. Nevertheless, in this respect also, I am now, as much as ever, dependent on the Lord ; and I earnestly beseech for myself, and my fellow-labourers, the prayers of all those to whom the glory of God is dear. How great would be the dishonour to the name of God, if we, who have so publicly made our boast in Him, should so fall as to act in those very points as the world does ! ”

Such were the trials and difficulties experienced by the founder of this Institution and his associates in the early days of its existence. If the question be asked, “Why was such severe pressure and poverty felt in carrying on an undertaking which the result proves to have been well-pleasing in the sight of God ? ”—the answer is plain. God had an object in view in all this, namely, to strengthen the faith of those concerned in the work, and fit them for yet

greater things. In regard to Mr Müller especially, it is impossible to say to what extent the remarkable faith and trust in God which the more recent Reports of the Orphan Houses show, may be owing to those continued and severe exercises of faith which he had to undergo in the infancy of the work.

The reader cannot fail to observe, in perusing the extracts from Mr Müller's Journal which the foregoing pages contain, how evidently the hand of God is to be seen in furnishing these helpless children with supplies. How often have the funds been quite exhausted! Yet, in every instance donations have invariably come in, in time to prevent the Orphans from being in any need. The Reports published by Mr Müller contain still more abundant proof of this. None, we think, can seriously consider the artless tale which they relate, without feeling constrained to say, "This is the finger of God!"

On one occasion, for example, in the infancy of the Institution, in two of the Houses there was not sufficient bread for tea. Whilst Mr Müller and his associates were in prayer for help, a letter is brought into the room, containing £10 for the Orphans! On another, the money was all spent—they had no means even to procure food for dinner, when behold a letter is brought by the post, containing an order for £50, from India! Again, one morning when there was not enough money to take in the usual quantity of

bread, and no means of buying milk in the afternoon for the Orphans, a visitor took an opportunity of dropping a five-pound note into one of the boxes.


One night Mr Müller records in his Journal that *before nine o'clock the next morning they would need more money to buy milk.* Now observe the hand of God. About eight o'clock the next morning, a Christian man, in going to his business, *had gone already half-way*, when *he felt himself constrained to go back and give three sovereigns* to one of the masters for the Orphans' support! Truly does Mr Müller remark, "Never did the help of the Lord come more manifestly from Himself."

On another occasion, *at half-past eight o'clock on Saturday night*, there was no bread in any of the Orphan Houses for the approaching Lord's-day. Suddenly a brother minister arrived at Mr Müller's house, and gave him 10s. from a friend at Barnstaple, for the Orphans. Thus, before it was too late, bread was procured, between nine and ten o'clock at night!

These are not the only instances, by very many, in which help has come in just at the critical time, when utter failure would have been the result, had no means arrived. The published Reports abound with similar cases. And to those Reports we would earnestly commend all who feel interested in watching the hand of God thus manifested.

CHAPTER IV.

THE BUILDING OF THE FIRST ORPHAN HOUSE ON ASHLEY DOWN.

ARELY, if ever, in the history of the world, has a Building been erected under such extraordinary circumstances as that whose history we are about to relate. The whole narrative reads more like a romance than a real matter of fact. Fifteen years ago a Christian minister, without any funds in hand, with upwards of a hundred destitute Orphans and their teachers constantly dependent on him for support, conceived the design of erecting a large Building, for the accommodation of 300 Orphans, and those who should be entrusted with the charge of them. The cost of such a Building, together with a tract of land for necessary purposes, he found would be about *Ten thousand pounds!* Instead of being dismayed at the largeness of the sum, however, Mr Müller felt, he tells us, as assured that the Lord would enable him to set it up "*as if he had already seen the new premises before him!*"

In addition to the difficulty which Mr Müller had

to contend with—arising from the large amount of money thus necessary to be raised—there seemed, looking at it naturally, another serious objection to the proposal. Would not the contributions to the erection of the Building divert the stream of benevolence from the support of the Orphans? Might it not be reasonably expected that the individuals, whose contributions from day to day were the means of furnishing 120 Orphans with food and clothing, would be led to curtail their donations, in order to enable them to give somewhat towards the £10,000 required for the new building?

Mr Müller did not overlook this objection. He is far too shrewd, too calculating, and far-seeing a man not to perceive that this consideration must be taken into account. But he felt it to be a *right* thing to build this house; he was fully assured that it was the *will of God* that he should do so. And having once satisfied himself of *this*, he “conferred not with flesh and blood” (Gal. i. 16), but at once began to pray for the money to be sent, and to make known, as opportunity offered, what his intentions were. What a lesson does the conduct of this truly apostolic man offer to those timid “worldly-wise men” of the present day, who shrink from the plain path of duty, *for fear of consequences*.

The building of the first Orphan House, on Ashley Down, was in the first instance occasioned by the

following circumstance :—A gentleman residing in Wilson Street, the locality of the four Orphan Houses already established, wrote to Mr Müller, complaining, in kind and courteous terms, of the serious inconvenience which the inhabitants of the street experienced, from the congregating together of so large a number of children in the four dwellings occupied by the Orphans in Wilson Street: and left it to the judgment of Mr Müller whether it was not right that he should remove the Institution elsewhere. This letter was received on Thursday, October 30th, 1845.

The following week Mr Müller took this subject into serious consideration, and devoted some hours to prayerful meditation upon it. He afterwards wrote down, at considerable length, the reasons which appeared to exist both for and against the proposed removal. In his ninth Report, and also in his "Narrative" (Part iv. p. 47), Mr Müller has published the whole of these reasons *in extenso*. It would hardly consist with our limits to give them here. Suffice it to say that he came to the full conclusion to build this house of mercy as soon as the Lord should furnish him with the cost of the building. The following is Mr Müller's own account of this important decision.

"After I had spent a few hours in prayer and consideration over the subject, I began already to see that the Lord would lead me to build, and that

His intentions were not only the benefit of the Orphans, and the better ordering of the whole work, but also the bearing still further testimony that He *could* and would provide *large* sums for those who need them, and trust in Him for them; and besides, that He would enlarge this work, so that if I once did build a house, it might be *large enough to accommodate* 300 *Orphans*, with their teachers and other overseers, and servants needful for the work. Concerning this latter point, I think it important to remark, that during no period had the number of the applications for the admission of Orphans been greater than just before I was led to think about building, so that it was quite painful to me not to be able to comply with the wishes of all the many persons who applied for the admission of Orphans."

That evening the subject was formally brought before Mr Müller's fellow-labourers in the Church. All judged that he ought to leave Wilson Street, and none saw reasons against building.

Mr Müller then commenced, the very next day, to meet with his wife for prayer in reference to the subject. He first asked for clearer light concerning the particular points connected with it, and then, being assured that it was His will that he should build the house, he began asking the Lord for means. This meeting for prayer continued to be held fifteen days without a single donation coming in; yet he was in

nowise disheartened. "The more I prayed," says the man of God, "the more assured I was that the Lord would give the means. *Yea, as fully assured was I that the Lord would do so, as if I had already seen the new premises actually before me.* This assurance arose, not from some vague enthusiastical feeling, the mere excitement of the moment; but,—1st, From the reasons already related, and especially from the commandment contained in Philip. iv. 5 ('Let your moderation,' or yieldingness, 'be known to all men'); for I saw that I should not act according to the mind of our Lord Jesus if I did not, as soon as I could, remove the Orphans from Wilson Street, as it had been stated to me, in the letter above referred to, that their living there was an annoyance to some of the inhabitants in that street. 2nd, This assurance that I should build an Orphan House arose, further, from the whole way in which the Lord has been pleased to lead me, in connexion with the Scriptural Knowledge Institution for Home and Abroad, since its beginning on March 5, 1834; *i. e.* He has been leading me forward, as by an unseen hand, and enlarging the work more and more from its commencement, and, generally, without my seeking after it, and bringing things so clearly before me, that I could not but see that I ought to go forward. 3rd, Lastly and chiefly, this my assurance that I should build to the Lord this House of Mercy, arose also particularly from

this, that having strictly examined my heart as to the motives for doing so, I found that, as before God, I could say that my only motives were His honour and glory, and the welfare of the Church of Christ at large, the real temporal and spiritual welfare of destitute Orphans, and the welfare of all those who might take care of them, in the building to be erected. And finding that, after prayer again and again about the matter, I still remained in perfect peace, judged it to be the will of God that I should go forward : thus, I say, I obtained assurance in the last place as to the matter being of God.”

It was not long before contributions were sent towards the erection of this vast building ; and it is remarkable, that the very *first* donation for this new object was one of no less a sum than ONE THOUSAND POUNDS ! This princely gift to the cause of humanity and of religion was received on December 10th, 1845. “When I received it,” says Mr Müller, “*I was as calm, as quiet, as if I had received one shilling ;* for my heart was looking out for answers. Day by day I was expecting to receive answers to my prayers ; therefore, having faith concerning the matter, this donation did not in the least surprise me. Yea, if FIVE thousand pounds, or TEN thousand pounds, had been given to me, instead of *One* thousand pounds, at once, it would not have surprised me. And I expect to receive yet larger sums than one thousand

pounds at once, if the Lord shall condescend to continue me in this blessed service ; in order that it may be more and more manifest that, even in regard to the obtaining of means, there is *no better, no happier, and no easier way than to deal with God himself.*”

Before the month closed, another donation of ONE THOUSAND POUNDS was received. Thus within less than two months from the time when this man of prayer began to wait upon God for means to build this large Asylum, upwards of one-fifth of the whole sum had come in.

These large donations encouraged Mr Müller to purchase land for the building ; but considerable difficulty was experienced in finding what was, in all respects, suitable. At length, on February 3, he found some that appeared exactly what he was looking for, and a purchase of nearly seven acres was soon effected. A remarkable incident connected with this transaction, which had considerable influence in lessening the cost of the land, is thus related :—“ This evening (Feb. 4) I called on the owner of the land, but he was from home. As I, however, had been informed that I should find him at his house of business, I went there, but did not find him there either, as he had *just before* left. I might have called again at his residence at a later hour, having been informed by one of the servants that he would be sure to be at home about eight o'clock ; but I did not do so,

judging that there was the hand of God in my not finding him at either place; and I judged it best, therefore, not to force the matter, but to 'let patience have her perfect work.' "

"Feb. 5.—Saw, this morning, the owner of the land. He told me that he awoke at three o'clock this morning, and could not sleep again till five. While he was thus lying awake, his mind was occupied about the piece of land respecting which inquiry had been made of him for the building of an Orphan House, at my request; and he determined within himself that if I should apply for it he would not only let me have it, but for £120 per acre, instead of £200, the price which he had previously asked for it. How good is the Lord! The agreement was made this morning, and I purchased a field of nearly seven acres at £120 per acre." Thus by the *apparently* accidental circumstance of a sleepless night, on the part of the proprietor of the land, a saving to the Institution is effected of *upwards of five hundred pounds!*

From this time donations continued to flow in, and at length, about the middle of the year, the sum of TWO THOUSAND POUNDS was given to the building fund. "This is the largest donation," says Mr Müller, "I have yet had at once for the work; but I expect still larger ones. . . . *It is impossible to describe my joy in God, when I received this donation.* I was neither excited nor surprised, for I look out for

answers to my prayers. *I believe that God hears me : yet my heart was so full of joy that I could only sit before God and admire Him, like David, in 2 Sam. vii. At last I cast myself flat down upon my face, and burst forth in thanksgiving to God, and in surrendering my heart afresh to Him for His blessed service.*”

The stream of liberality continued throughout the year. Besides a vast number of small donations, a great many came in from £50 to £300, and at length, at the end of December, another thousand pounds was handed over to Mr Müller, for general purposes. Only £800, however, were set apart for the object of building the new residence.

The 25th of January, 1847, was a memorable day in the history of this first Orphan House, on Ashley Down. The following extract from Mr Müller’s Journal under this date will best describe what we mean. “The season of the year is now approaching when building may be begun ; therefore, with increased earnestness I have given myself to prayer, importuning the Lord that He would be pleased to appear on our behalf, and speedily send the remainder of the amount which is required ; and I have increasingly of late felt that the time is drawing near when the Lord will give me all that is requisite for commencing the building. All the various arguments which I have often brought before God I

brought also again before Him. It is now fourteen months and three weeks since, day by day, I have uttered my petitions to God in behalf of this work. I rose this morning in full confidence, from my knees, not only that God *could*, but also *would*, send the means, and that soon. Never, during all these fourteen months and three weeks, have I had the least doubt that I should have all that which is requisite. And now, dear believing reader, rejoice and praise with me. *About an hour after I had prayed thus, there was given to me the sum of TWO THOUSAND POUNDS for the building fund.* Thus I have received altogether £9285 3s. 9½d. towards this work. I cannot describe the joy I had in God when I received this donation, —it must be known from experience in order to be felt.”

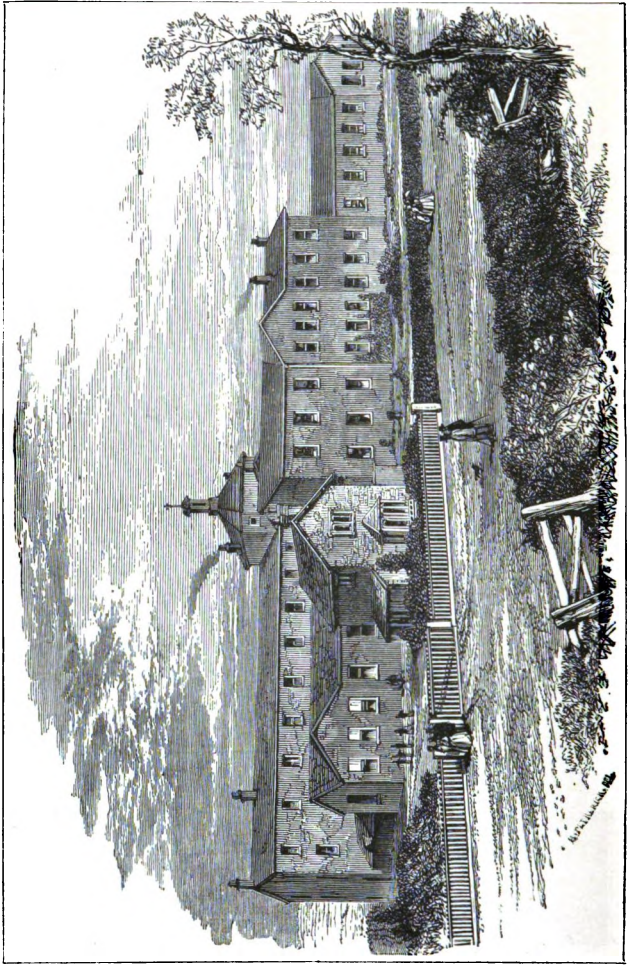
The hand of God continued to be stretched out for good to this infant Institution, and by the end of May, 1848, the means which had come in for the building fund amounted to upwards of Eleven thousand pounds. It was now considered time to commence the building. It is true Mr Müller had found his first estimate of Ten thousand pounds fall short of the actual sum needed for the work. The whole expense, it appeared,—for the house, the fittings, the furniture, &c., would be upwards of Fourteen thousand pounds. Still, as the additional sum would not be wanted for many months after the commence-

ment of the House, it was thought well at once to proceed with it.

On the 5th July, 1847, the new building was commenced, much to the gratification of the founder of the Institution and all who felt an interest in its welfare. As the building proceeded, the funds still continued to increase. Another munificent gift of One thousand pounds, for general purposes, came in the following November. Of this, six hundred pounds were appropriated by Mr Müller to the building fund.

On February 9th, 1849, another princely donation was received, amounting to *Two thousand pounds!* In connexion with this remarkable gift, Mr Müller makes the following instructive remarks:—"The New Orphan House is now almost entirely finished. In six weeks, with the help of God, all will be completed. On this account I have been, during the last fortnight, much occupied in making the necessary arrangements for fitting it up and furnishing it; but the more I have been occupied about this, the more I have seen how large a sum the whole of the fittings and the furnishing will require; and this consideration has led me still more earnestly of late to entreat the Lord that He would be pleased to give me the means which may yet be needed for the completion of the whole. Under these circumstances, a brother in the Lord came to me this morning, and after a few

minutes' conversation, gave me *Two thousand pounds*, concerning which sum he kindly gave me permission to use it for the fitting up and furnishing of the New Orphan House, or for anything else needed in connexion with the Orphans ! I have placed the whole of this sum, at least for the present, to the Building Fund. Now, dear reader, place yourself in my position. Eleven hundred and ninety-five days it is since I began asking the Lord for means for the building and fitting up of an Orphan House. Day by day have I, by His grace, since that time continued to bring this matter before Him ; without one moment's doubt or misgiving, or wavering, have I been enabled to trust in God for the means. From the beginning, after I had once ascertained the will of God concerning this work, have I been assured that He would bring it about ; yea, as sure have I been, from the beginning, that He would do so as if I had had already all the means in hand for it, or as if the house had been actually before me, occupied by the children. But though to faith, three years ago, the whole work was accomplished, to sight there remained many and great difficulties to be overcome ; and even at the commencement of this day there remained many difficulties, in the way of means, as well as in other respects ; and therefore I was on the point of giving myself again especially to prayer, at the very moment when I was informed that the donor of the



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above-mentioned two thousand pounds had called to see me. Now I have the means, as far as I can see, which will enable me to meet all the expenses, and in all probability I shall have even several hundred pounds more than are needed. Thus the Lord shows that He can and will not only give as much as is absolutely needed for His work, but also that He can and will give abundantly."

It is remarkable that this large sum was originally intended to be left to Mr Müller for the use of the Orphans after the donor's death, and had been for years on his last will! Also, so anxious was he to keep his name concealed, that he paid the whole amount in cash, instead of using a cheque upon his bankers!

At length the New Orphan House was completed, under the careful superintendence of Mr Müller himself, and was opened on the 18th of June, 1849. In the course of the week commencing with the above date, the children quitted Wilson Street, and took up their residence in the new abode. But, although numbers of others were waiting for admission, it was not thought expedient to receive any fresh children until some few weeks afterwards. Mr Müller was desirous of ascertaining the best mode of regulating the economy of the house. Having, in the course of about a month, completed his arrangements, Mr Müller admitted 170 fresh Orphans into

the Institution ; making, with the 118 removed from Wilson Street, the sum total of two hundred and eighty-eight.

The New Orphan House was at once placed in the hands of eleven trustees, chosen by Mr Müller, and the deeds were enrolled in Chancery.


Having mentioned at the commencement of this chapter that Mr Müller receives no remuneration from the funds of the Orphan House for his valuable services, although we believe almost the whole of his time and his best energies are devoted to the work, it may be well to quote here what he has said on this subject in the Report published in 1860.

“It is now about thirty years since I was led to give up my salary, in connexion with the position I held in labouring in the ministry of the Word ; and since then I have had no regular income, either in connexion with the ministry of the Word, or as director of the various objects of the ‘Scriptural Knowledge Institution for Home and Abroad’ (of which Mr Müller considers the Orphan House work a branch). But whilst I have had no fixed salary, the Lord—in dependence upon whom alone I began this course thirty years ago—has most abundantly supplied all my temporal necessities ; yea, has caused me so to abound as that, if I had sought with all my might to have a good fixed income, it is not at all likely that I should have had as much as I have

had by simply trusting in Him. To show to the reader that I have served a very kind Master, and that even with reference to my own personal affairs or those of my family, my trusting in the Lord has been abundantly honoured, as well as in reference to the 'Scriptural Knowledge Institution,' I am glad to refer to this subject."

CHAPTER V.

HOW THE ORPHANS WERE SUPPORTED IN THEIR NEW ABODE.

E have already seen the hand of God manifestly stretched out for the support of the destitute Orphans during the infancy of the Institution. Let us now watch the dealings of God towards the Institution in its enlarged state. As Mr Müller somewhere remarks, unbelief and natural reason might say—"If, when the children were in the rented houses, and only about 120 in number, there was often scarcely any means in hand, how will it be when their number is increased to 300?" But what signify numbers in a matter where God has given His word? Mr Müller rested on the promises of Him who cannot lie; and the result has proved that "He is faithful who promised!"

On the 26th May, 1850, when the accounts were closed—just twelve months after the opening of the New Orphan House, described in the previous chapter—the balance in hand for the support of the Orphans amounted to £150 7s. 10d., a sum much larger than

was in hand before under similar circumstances. Still this sum, though comparatively large, was really very small. Upwards of 300 persons in the Institution had to be provided with all they needed, besides many incidental expenses connected with an establishment of that magnitude. So that this hundred and fifty pounds was only sufficient to defray the current expenses of another fortnight. "Place yourself, dear reader," says Mr Müller, "in my position. Three hundred persons daily at table, and £150 in hand! Looking at it naturally, it is enough to make one tremble; but, trusting in the living God, as by His grace I was enabled to do, I had not the least trial of mind, and was assured that God would as certainly help me, as He had done fourteen years before, when the number of Orphans was only the tenth part as large. The following record will show that I was not mistaken; and thus another precious proof is furnished to the believing reader, of the truth of that Word,—'Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.'"

The record referred to was published during the summer of 1851, and from this "Brief Narrative," as Mr Müller terms his Report, we gather the following particulars:—

Up to the close of June, the sum of £193 4s. 5d. had come in, in a great number of donations; so that amply sufficient was in hand to meet all necessary

expenses. In the middle of August Mr Müller, when going from home for change of air, met at the railway station a Christian donor who gave £50 for the Orphans. Two days afterwards he received, in two donations, £130 for the same object. In addition to these large sums, various small amounts came in; so that there was abundance in hand again for all the need of this large household.

On Mr Müller's return, about a fortnight after, we read that *One Thousand pounds* altogether came in, in sums of various amount, thus placing the Institution beyond the reach of want for some months to come. During the following October and November, the donations received were very inconsiderable, indeed, so very small was the income of the Institution that, but for the very large amount received in September, the consequences would have been serious. But all this was foreseen by Him who has styled Himself "The Father of the fatherless," and the emergency was amply provided for beforehand.

The experience of Mr Müller at this period of inadequate income is very instructive. Under the date of November 27, 1850, he says:—"For seven weeks the income has been very small in comparison with what has been expended. There has come in for the Orphans £187 16s. 2½d., and the expenditure has been £477 2s. 11d. . . . What was to be done under these circumstances? I gave myself to prayer: God whom

I have now been enabled to make my refuge, and my only refuge, for more than twenty years, I have besought day by day. And when now, day by day, I still have received only small sums, and sometimes nothing, or scarcely anything at all, the only effect that it has had upon me has been, *to pray the more earnestly*. My confidence in God is not at all shaken. I have never had a thought that He would not help me: nor have I even once been allowed to look upon these seven weeks in any other way, than that the Lord, for the trial of my faith, has ordered it thus, that only so little should come in. *I am sure that, when He has tried me sufficiently, there will come in again larger sums.* In the mean time, how good has the Lord been, not only to have given all I have needed, but I have, even now, money in hand; and as to our stores in the New Orphan House, they are full as usual. We have at least 150 sacks of potatoes in the house, twenty sacks of flour, thirty-three barrels of oatmeal, each containing about 200 lbs., about 300 new pairs of shoes (besides about 900 pairs in use), about ten tons of coals, a large quantity of soap and rice, and so all other parts of the stores in proportion. . . . My judgment is that it will now soon please the Lord to send in larger sums. . . . Let me see the result!" The very next day, this "judgment" of Mr Müller's began to be realized! Early in the morning *a donation of £200 was received!* And to

mention no other donations, on the evening of Jan. 4, only a few weeks afterwards, the incredible sum of *Three Thousand pounds* was given! "I have had," says Mr Müller, "very many donations of £100, and of £200, several of £300, one of £400, several of £500, some from £600 to £900, four of £1000, two of £2000, and one of £2050. But I never had more than this sum given to me at one time: yet I have expected more than £2050 in one donation, and accordingly it has pleased the Lord to give me £3000 this evening. I now write again, that *I expect far larger sums still*, in order that it may be yet more and more manifest that there is no happier, no easier, and no better way of obtaining pecuniary means for the work of the Lord than the one in which I have been led. How great my joy in God is, on account of this donation, cannot be described; but it is not in the least coupled with excitement. I take this donation out of the hands of the living God; I continually look for His help, and am perfectly assured that I shall have it, and therefore is my soul calm and peaceful, without any excitement, though this donation is so large. This donation is, however, like a voice from heaven, speaking to me," &c.

During the winter of 1850—51, the expenses on account of the Orphans were very considerable. In one month only the outgoings were upwards of £380. For the first two months, nearly *four* times as much

was spent as came in. Still the large donations that had been recently received, enabled Mr Müller to provide all that was required; and the Report published during the ensuing summer gives a very favourable account of the work. Notwithstanding all the great outlay, there remained, at the close of May, when the books were made up, a larger balance than on any similar occasion.

In the month of February, 1852, we find the following extract from Mr Müller's Journal. "When the accounts were closed (May 26, 1851), there was in hand £970 13s. 11½d., and there came in since then £1242 19s. 8d. Up to this time I had had an abundance of means in hand to meet all the current expenses of the New Orphan House, and there were still £126 3s. 8½d. in hand. But though I had this yet in hand, the *certain* expenses of this week alone were £102 0s. 4d., besides what might be otherwise needed. Under these circumstances, a godly merchant at Clifton gave me this evening, through his son, a Christian brother, a fifty-pound note for the benefit of the Orphans. This donation has greatly refreshed my spirit, for, though we were not in actual need, there being yet £126 3s. 8½d. in hand to meet the expenses of £102 0s. 4d., which I expected to come upon me this week, yet there would then only have been left £24 3s. 4½d. towards meeting the current expenses of an establishment with more than

300 inmates. So little there had not been in hand since the New Orphan House was first opened."

During the following four weeks, the contributions were very inconsiderable—amounting altogether to about £130 only. At length *all the money was gone*, and, as Mr Müller says,—“On March 16, more money was needed, but *there was none in hand*, except the balance which was last year left from the building fund, which I might use, but which I was most reluctant to do, and concerning which I asked the Lord that there might be no need for using it, as I wished to take it for the intended New Orphan House, the number of destitute Orphans who were waiting for admission being so great. Now, observe how God helped me! *Just before I was called on for money*, I received this morning from a noble lady, as her own gift, and that of two of her friends, £15.”

The very next day also we find the following record extracted from his Journal:—“For about six weeks past, the Lord has been pleased to exercise my faith and patience much . . . But now He has greatly this day refreshed my spirit by the donation of £999 13s. 5d., which being left to me for the Lord’s work, I took of it for the current expenses of the Orphans £200.”

From the extracts which follow, it appears that from this period no further difficulties, as regards means, were experienced to the close of May, when

the accounts were again closed, preparatory to issuing the Report. One donation of £200 is mentioned, another of upwards of £70, and a third of £50; besides a large number of other amounts contributed of £10 and under. So that when the usual public meeting was held, in the summer of 1852, Mr Müller was able to state, that after meeting all the expenses connected with the support of about 330 persons during the last twelve months, he still had a balance in hand of £130 8s. 10½d.

The published narrative of Mr Müller contains many striking instances of the particular providence of God during the following period, but our limits forbid our enlarging here. He also states that although the work is very much larger than in former years, still the principle of trusting in God, and waiting upon God for all needful supplies, is acted upon the same as ever. "If," says he, "it was formerly a work of faith on a small scale, it is now a work of faith on a large scale. If we had trials of faith formerly about comparatively little things, we have now trials of faith about comparatively great things. If we formerly had no certain income, so now we have none. We have to look to God for everything in connexion with the work.

During the very first month of this period upwards of £350 came to hand, in ninety-two different donations. There was, indeed, abundance of means in

hand during the whole of this summer ; nor was any scarcity of funds experienced until October 7, when we find only £8 remaining to meet the very large expenditure of the New Orphan House. Mr Müller expressly states, however, that this deficiency did not arise from any falling-off of donations, so much as from the fact of his having devoted almost every amount, which was sent in for general purposes, to the building fund.

The next day we find the following extract from the Journal :—“ The Lord has already been pleased to add £8 5s. to the little stock in hand, which is now increased to £16 5s. This evening the matron told me that to-morrow she would need to have more money. I generally advance £30 at a time for housekeeping expenses, but I had now only £8 14s. left, as I had to pay out £7 11s. 6d. This I purposed to give to her, should it not please the Lord to give more ; in the mean time, being assured that before this amount was gone He would give more.”

“ Oct. 9.—This morning,” continues Mr Müller, “ Luke vii. came in the course of my reading before breakfast. Whilst reading the account about the centurion, and the raising up from death of the widow’s son at Nain, I lifted up my heart to the Lord Jesus thus :—‘ Lord Jesus, Thou hast still the same power now. Thou canst provide me with means for Thy work in my hands. Be pleased to

do so.' *About half an hour afterwards*, I received £230 15s. I am now amply provided for meeting the demands of this day."

A variety of small donations were soon afterwards received, and on Oct. 12 the sum of £200 was given by a gentleman, of whose name Mr Müller was quite ignorant. A legacy of £100 came in a few weeks afterwards. On December 20th, however, the funds had fallen so low that only about £16 remained in hand. Still, before this was exhausted fresh funds arrived, and to the end of the year no lack was experienced.

At the beginning of January (1853), we find the heart of Mr Müller refreshed by the intelligence that the large amount of £8100 would be paid to him, as *the joint donation of several believers*. Accordingly, the first instalment of this sum, consisting of one quarter, was paid during this month; but only a portion of it was used for the support of the Orphans; the remainder being devoted to Bible and Missionary work, and the fund for building. The following three months several hundreds of pounds more came in, so that the Orphans were amply supplied up to the close of this period—May 26, 1853.

We can only afford space for a few more particulars, and shall then close the present chapter. When the accounts were closed, at the end of May, 1853, it appears there was in hand a balance of £117 10s. 9d. Towards the middle of June, how-

ever, this money was gone, and they were again very poor. "Not, indeed, in debt," says Mr Müller, "nor was all the money gone, for there was still about £12 in hand (new donations having come in); but there needed to be bought flour, of which we generally buy ten sacks at a time, 300 stones of oatmeal, four cwt. of soap, and there were many little repairs going on in the house, with a number of workmen, besides the regular current expenses of about £70 per week. Over and above all this, on Saturday, the day before yesterday, I found that the heating-apparatus needed to be repaired, which would cost, in all probability, £25. It was desirable, therefore, humanly speaking, that I should have £100 for these heavy extra expenses. But I had no human prospect whatever of getting even 100 pence. In addition to this, the day was Monday, when generally the income is little. But in walking to the Orphan House this morning, and praying as I went, I particularly told the Lord in prayer, that this day, though Monday, He could send much. And thus it was: *I received this morning £300 for the Lord's service.* The joy which I had cannot be described. I walked up and down in my room for a long time, *tears of joy and gratitude to the Lord running plentifully over my cheeks as I walked,* whilst I praised and magnified the Lord for His goodness, and surrendered myself afresh, with all my heart, to the Lord for His blessed service."


From the above date to the end of August, donations were received amounting altogether to above £800. But during the remainder of the year the funds were replenished very slowly—or rather, the expenses were so great that, although more money than usual came in, the Institution was often very poor. The Orphans literally *lived by the day*, though they knew it not themselves. Mr Müller has given a minute account of the dealings of God with him during this period, for about three weeks; a period when, it will be remembered, “*flour was twice as dear as for several years before, and when other expenses were much greater than usual.*” From this statement it appears that, on more occasions than one, *every penny was spent* for housekeeping. Yet, marvellous to say, help always came in time. Money invariably was sent before it was actually needed!

Such was the chequered state of things in connexion with this remarkable work on Ashley Down. The reader, perhaps—as he reflects on the continual necessities of the Orphans—may feel disposed to think Mr Müller’s must have been a *very trying life*,—one of which most persons would *very soon get tired*. But they should hear what he himself has said in his “Narrative,” on this point. “*I do not find the life in connexion with this work a trying life, but a very happy one.* It is impossible to describe the abundance of peace and heavenly joy

that often has flowed into my soul by reason of the fresh answers I have obtained from God, after waiting upon Him for help and blessing; and the longer I have had to wait upon Him, or the greater my need was, the greater the enjoyment when at last the answer came, which has often been in a very remarkable way, in order to make the hand of God the more manifest. I do, therefore, solemnly declare that I do not find this life a trying life, but a very happy one, and I am, consequently, not in the least tired of it: straits and difficulties I expected from the very beginning. Before I began this service I expected them; nay, the chief object of it was, that the Church at large might be strengthened in faith, and be led more simply, habitually, and unreservedly to trust in the living God, by seeing His hand stretched out in my behalf in the hour of need."

CHAPTER VI.

ERECTION OF THE SECOND ORPHAN HOUSE ON ASHLEY DOWN.

HE Second New Orphan House—that which the visitor *first* comes to on the *left* hand side of the road—was opened on November 12, 1857. It is fitted up for 200 infant female Orphans, and for 200 elder female Orphans.

A very short time only had elapsed from the time of opening the Orphan House No. 1 (which took place in June, 1849), when Mr Müller entertained serious thoughts of erecting another House of Mercy—of the same kind, but of much larger extent.

The first mention of this subject occurs in his Journal of December 5, 1850. Under the date of January 4, 1851, also, about eighteen months after the completion of the first House, it occurs again. The receipt of £3000 in one donation, which the last chapter records under that date, seems to have strongly impressed him with the desirableness and practicability of enlarging the work. “This dona-

tion," says he, "is, however, *like a voice from heaven*; speaks to me concerning a most deeply important matter, respecting which I am seeking guidance from the Lord—the building of another Orphan House."

On the 14th of the same month we find the following entry:—"I have still, day by day, been enabled to wait upon the Lord with reference to my enlarging the Orphan work. I have been, during the whole of this period, also in perfect peace, which is the result of seeking in this thing only the Lord's honour, and the temporal and spiritual benefit of my fellow-men. Without an effort could I, by His grace, put aside all thoughts about this affair, could I only be assured that it is the will of God that I should do so; and, on the other hand, at once would I go forward, if He would have it to be so. I have still kept this matter entirely to myself. Though it is now about seven weeks since, day by day, more or less, my mind has been exercised about it, and since I have daily prayed about it, yet *not one human being knows about it*. As yet I have not spoken about it even to my dear wife, in order that thus by quietly waiting upon the Lord I might not be influenced by what might be said to me on the subject. This evening I have particularly set apart for prayer, beseeching the Lord not to allow me to be mistaken in this thing, and much less to be deluded by the Devil."

It was on the 28th of May of this same year, 1851, that Mr Müller first made public his intention of erecting this Second Orphan House. Its estimated cost was Twenty-seven Thousand Pounds for the land and building, and about Eight Thousand more for fitting up and furnishing it—making a total of *Thirty-five Thousand Pounds!* In the course of the ensuing month a few donations, amounting to about £28, came in for the object. On the 12th of August, £500 were given to the Building Fund; and, besides other donations, £120 on the 20th of the same month.

Under September 13 we read—“Not one penny has come in to-day for the Building Fund, but five more Orphans have been applied for, so that now *forty, in less than a single month,* have been brought before me, all bereaved of both parents, and all very destitute. Under these circumstances, how can I but fervently labour in prayer that the Lord would be pleased to entrust me with means for the building of another Orphan House for 700 Orphans? The more I look at these things according to their natural appearances and prospects, the less likely is it that I should have the sum which is needed; but I have faith in God, and my expectation is from Him alone.”

About this time, a report got into circulation, very much calculated to check the liberality of all classes, namely, that Mr Müller had already in hand the

sum of Thirty Thousand Pounds towards the new building! "Again and again," says he, "this has been told me, and, therefore, were I to look at such things naturally, I should have much reason to be cast down, as the spread of such reports is calculated, humanly speaking, to keep persons from contributing towards this object. Another class of persons," he adds, "and true Christians, and liberal persons too, may be thinking in their own minds, that the sum required is so large that it is not likely I shall obtain it; and that, therefore, their contributing to this object would be useless. But none of these things discourage me. God knows that I have not £30,000 in hand towards this object, but less than £1200."

Although numerous donations were given during the following months of this year, most of them were of inconsiderable amount. At length in March, 1852, a donation, wanting only a few shillings of £1000, was received for general purposes. Of this, £600 was appropriated to the Building Fund; so that, on May 26, 1852, when the books were closed, the total amount in hand towards the erection of the New Building was found to be £3530 9s. 0d., just about one-tenth of the whole sum required.

This long delay in the arrival of large sums of money in no wise discouraged Mr Müller. On November 19 we find this entry in his Journal:—
"Early this morning came in the course of my read-

ing through the Holy Scriptures, Heb. v. and vi., and my heart was greatly strengthened by Heb. vi. 15, 'And so after he had *patiently endured*, he obtained the promise.' I have not once, even for one moment, been allowed to doubt either the power or willingness of the Lord to supply me with all that which I shall need for this other Orphan House, since I came at first to the conclusion that it was His will that I should enlarge the work."

Thus closed the first twelvemonth from the period when the proposal was first made public. The second year proved far more prosperous. The very first month after the accounts were closed (May 26th, 1852), a donation of £180, for general purposes, was received, of which Mr Müller devoted £60 to the Building Fund. A few days afterwards £500 were paid into the bank to his account, from a donor whom he had never seen. One-third of this was appropriated to the same object. Smaller donations were continually arriving—amongst which are noticeable gifts of £53, £50, and £70, all for the Building Fund. During September, the fund was still further increased by the following amounts—£15, £40, £50, and £86 13s. 4d. ; and during November by £100, £125, and £86 13s. 4d.

The estimated cost of the Second New Orphan House was thus slowly, but surely, coming in, when at length, on Jan. 4, 1853, the promise of a speedy

contribution was made to him, which, at once, more than doubled the whole amount in his hands for building purposes. "At last," Mr Müller writes, "(God) has abundantly refreshed my spirit, and answered my request: I received to-day the promise that, *as the joint donation of several Christians*, there should be paid to me a donation of EIGHT THOUSAND AND ONE HUNDRED POUNDS for the work of God in my hands! Of this sum I propose to take £6000 for the Building Fund. [This joint donation of several Christians was paid in four instalments during January, February, March, and April.]"

"See how precious it is," he continues, "to wait upon God! See how those who do so are not confounded! Their faith and patience may long and sharply be tried; but in the end it will most assuredly be seen, that those who honour God, He will honour, and will not suffer them to be put to shame. The largeness of the donation, whilst it exceedingly refreshed my spirit, did not in the least surprise me; *for I expect GREAT things from God.*" Mr Müller then refers to a passage from his Journal penned on Jan. 4th, 1851, which we have given under that date, where he says—referring to the donation of £3000—"I expect far larger sums still." "This, you perceive," he adds, "dear reader, was written more than two years ago. Since then I have received many considerable donations, besides thousands of pounds

in smaller sums; and now, the largest donation of £3000 which I had had before, was surpassed by the one of £8100. Have I then been boasting in God in vain? Is it not manifest that it is most precious, in every way, to depend upon God? Do I serve God for nought? Is it not obvious that the principles on which I labour are not only applicable to the work of God *on a small scale*, but, also, as I have many times affirmed during the past nineteen years, *for the most extensive operations* for God? I delight to dwell upon this, if by any means some of my beloved fellow-believers might be allured to put their trust in God for *everything*."

For about three months afterwards, the means for the intended Building came in but sparingly. At length on March 14th, 1853, the sum of £200 was paid to Mr Müller, one hundred of which was for the Building Fund. Towards the close of the month the fund was further increased by the sum of £150, and on May 14th by that of £100. At the end of the second twelve months, when the books were made up, it appeared that the total amount which had come in for the New Orphan House up to May 26, 1853, was £12,531 11s. 0d.

Passing by a number of smaller donations during the next year, we only stop to notice one large sum of £5207, promised to Mr Müller on Jan. 17, 1854.

"This large donation," says Mr Müller, "was

shortly afterwards paid me, and I portioned it out thus:—For the Building Fund, £3000 ; for the support of the three hundred Orphans, £707 ; for Foreign Missions, £500:” the remainder was devoted to the other object of the “Scriptural Knowledge Institution.”

The whole amount contributed during this third year (May, 1853, to May, 1854) amounted—exclusive of the sum just specified—to about two thousand pounds, making a total of £17,816 19s. 5d.

The contributions during the following period were, altogether, about to the same amount as during the last ; and, as in that case, so in this—one single donation exceeded in amount all the rest put together. On Jan. 9th, 1855, Mr Müller received from several Christian friends the promise that the sum of £5700 should shortly be placed to his account for the work of the Lord in his hands. Accordingly, this large amount was paid to him in various instalments during the following three months. Of this sum, £3400 was taken for the Building Fund.

By means of this and several other donations—and likewise £767 received for interest—the Fund was increased at the close of this fourth year to the sum of £23,059 17s. 8½d.

It now becomes our duty to place before the reader the circumstances which led to the change of Mr Müller’s original plan as regards the size of the

29th, 1855, the first actual steps towards the building were taken by sinking four wells on the south side of the House already erected.

It is not our intention to dwell minutely on the progress of the Fund for the erection of the two Buildings contemplated by Mr Müller. It will be sufficient to mention the leading particulars, referring the reader to the published Reports of the work for more minute details.

During the year ending May 26, 1856, the donations towards this Fund were about the same in amount as during the previous twelvemonth. On December 5, 1855, Mr Müller had the kind offer made him, unsolicited, that all the glass required for about 300 large windows in the new House, then being built, should be gratuitously supplied. "It is worthy of remark," he observes, "that the glass was not contracted for at the time, as in the case of the House already built. This, no doubt, was under the ordering of our heavenly Father, who knew beforehand that this offer would be made."

After mentioning a vast number of small donations, including some from Orphans who had left the house, at length there is recorded a donation, on Feb. 19, of £3000, which being left wholly to Mr Müller's disposal for the work of the Lord, he took £1700 for the Building Fund.

On March 14 another large donation of £4000

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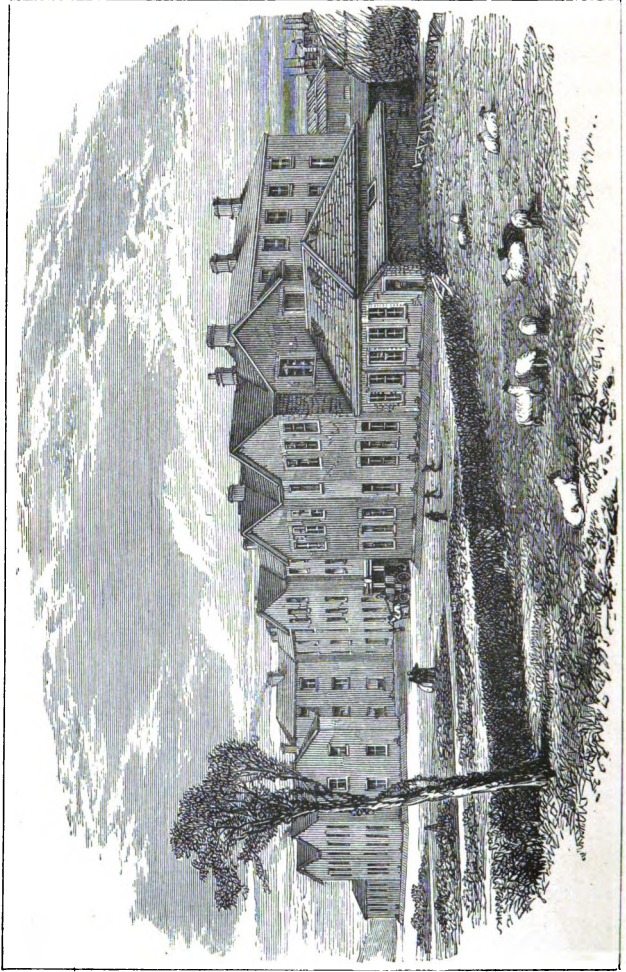
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THE SECOND ORFREAK HOUSE, ASHLEY DOWN.

came in, which was also left at the disposal of Mr Müller, as the work of the Lord might require it. He took of this sum £3000 for the Building Fund. "This donation," he adds, "is the fruit of many prayers, and of much looking to the Lord for answers. His holy name be magnified for it. I am thus drawing nearer and nearer the time when I shall have obtained from the Lord everything I need for this object. I have not had from the beginning, by God's grace, one moment's doubt, that in His own time He would give me all I required."

At the close of this fifth year, the large sum of £911 8s. 1d. was added to the Building Fund, as interest for money invested. Altogether the whole amount now in hand, when the books were closed, May 26, 1856, was no less a sum than £29,297 18s. 11½d.

The donations received for the Building Fund during the year following, though very numerous, were not very important. On June 19th the sum of £1700 was placed in Mr Müller's hands, the disposal of it being left entirely to his discretion. One-sixth of this amount, namely, £283 6s. 8d., was placed to the credit of the Building Fund, and the remaining five-sixths to the various other objects of the "Scriptural Knowledge Institution."

A vast number of smaller contributions to the Building Fund follow, which, though trifling in

amount, should yet be regarded with deep interest by the believing reader, as showing the readiness of God to answer prayer, and furnishing so many proofs that it is no vain thing to wait upon God. At the beginning of 1857, another large sum of £500 was received by Mr Müller; which being left entirely to his disposal, one-sixth, £83 6s. 8d., was devoted to building purposes. At the close of this period, May 26th, 1857, the very large sum of £1044 13s. 8d. was paid to Mr Müller as interest of money which had been invested.

The Nineteenth Report, published in the summer of 1858, contains the gratifying intelligence, that the whole amount required for the building of the Third Orphan House, was at length in hand. Mr Müller had already received nearly Thirty-two Thousand pounds for this object. Three Thousand pounds more were wanting to complete the estimated cost of the Building; and this was received in the course of the first six or seven months of this period.

On September 18th, 1857, we find the following entry in Mr Müller's Journal:—"I had just returned home from the newly-built House for Four Hundred more Orphans, where I had tried the efficiency of the gas apparatus with its 150 burners, when I found *a cheque for One Thousand Pounds* from a brother in the Lord, who desires to spend the whole of his large income for the Lord, laying up no treasure upon

earth, and spending very little on his own necessities. He writes :—‘ Desiring that our heavenly Father will guide me, as a steward of His bounty, and after seeking His direction, I conclude it is good and profitable *to invest a little in the Orphan Houses* : will you please to put the enclosed sum towards the Building Fund ? ’ ”

At the beginning of 1858, another still larger sum—£3000—was received by Mr Müller; and being left to his disposal, £600 were placed to the Building Fund. Shortly afterwards, two sums of £800 and £900 were forwarded, and from each of these amounts, £200 were assigned to the same fund. “ One engaged in the work ” too, having received about this time two presents of £150 and £100, gave of these sums £245 to the Building Fund. This completed the £35,000 required for the full enlargement of the work to One Thousand Orphans !

CHAPTER VII.

HOW MEANS WERE PROVIDED FOR THE SEVEN HUNDRED ORPHANS.

WE have already beheld the mode in which the Orphans were supplied with the means of subsistence in the early days of the Institution. While it was yet in an infant state, and comparatively unknown, God watched over it: His eye was constantly upon it for good. The children never wanted anything, although repeatedly the needed help came in only just in time. We have also watched the mode in which the children were supplied with all needful means, on taking possession of their new abode on Ashley Down. We have now to look a little more at the manner in which this noble Institution is supported. And here we shall find that, although the wants increased in a tenfold degree, yet the means increased in a still greater ratio. So that there was really far less difficulty felt, in a pecuniary point of view, when there were 700 Orphans, than there was when they numbered but 30.

“Of late years,” says Mr. Müller, “though the various objects of the Institution have been increased year by year, the Lord has helped me more and more with means ; so that though I have required on an average *no less than fifty pounds every day*, still the Lord has abundantly supplied me. My friends, and unbelief, and natural reason, might have suggested thirteen years ago—If now, while the work is comparatively small, you have such difficulties and trials of faith, how will it be when the work is enlarged ? The same might have been said also, when nine years ago I purposed a far greater enlargement still. But how has it been as to actual experience ? The more I have enlarged the work, the more abundantly the Lord has helped me ; so that I have had far more than ever coming in, whilst the outgoings have been far greater than ever. In fact, I never abounded in the way in which I have of late years, though to the utmost, as far as faithfulness allowed of it, I have spent the means entrusted to me.”

In order to illustrate the very remarkable manner in which the large and increasing wants of the Orphans are supplied, we shall now proceed to enumerate some of the principal donations received during the years 1857-8-9-60.

During the first of these periods, extending from May, 1857, to May, 1858, we are informed, that altogether about Three Thousand donations came in.

Those enumerated below must be considered as merely specimens.

On the very first day of this period, a new donor, an entire stranger to Mr Müller, in the Presidency of Calcutta, sent the sum of £5. On June 7, the authoress of a new work sent £50, the amount paid by the publishers for the copyright. This lady had from the beginning intended, that whatever the copyright of the book might produce, the whole should be given for the benefit of the Orphans.

From a lady in South America was received a Geneva gold watch, a chain and key, a diamond ring, and a variety of other jewellery and trinkets. August 9.—The sum of £100 came in from a person in Devonshire. August 14.—From Portishead £5, as “A thank-offering to God my Father, for His long-suffering patience with me.” The same day, from London, four Spanish dollars, and four other small silver coins, as “A thank-offering to the Lord, for converting the soul of a young cousin.”

Then follow several lists of coins, jewellery, plate, &c., sent to be sold for the benefit of the Orphans. In reference to these contributions Mr Müller makes the following remarks:—“Many tens of thousands of articles have we had sent to be sold for the support of the Orphans, or for their use. The articles which are sent are jewellery of all kinds, sometimes of considerable value, set with diamonds, emeralds, pearls,

&c. ; old gold, silver, and copper coins, plate, gold and silver watches worn out or still fit for use, books, pictures, antiquities, costly apparel (new or worn), all kinds of clothes (new or worn), material not made up, either for the use of the Orphans or for sale ; and sometimes, also, ladies have made up articles and sent them to be sold for the benefit of the Orphans. Hundreds of the children of God have looked over their stores during the past twenty-two years (now twenty-five years), to see what they could send us ; and much has thus come to us, and never more than from May 26, 1857, to May 26, 1858. The amount produced by the sale of such articles, during the past year alone, is £584 12s. 6½d., and from the beginning up to May 26, 1858, is £4429 17s. 8d. In this kind of donations, especially in the sending of old gold and silver coins, and jewellery, I take peculiar delight, and they draw forth from my heart particular thanksgiving to the Lord, and still further prayer ; because these articles can so easily be spared for the Lord's service, without their loss being in the least felt, if the love of Christ is at work in the heart, and constrains the donor."

It may be added, that Mr Müller has fitted up a large room at No. 34, Park Street, Bristol, where these articles are exposed for sale. Many thousands of them may be seen there at all times.

September 1.—The sum of One Hundred Pounds

was received from a donor in one of the midland counties. September 10.—Came to hand the same amount of £100, from a Member of Parliament. During the same month are recorded gifts of £2, £5, £5, Five guineas, £10, Ten guineas, £12, £27, and a great many other small sums.

October was still more productive. At the beginning was sent from a considerable distance £150, of which the donor wished £100 to be used for the Orphans in the new House for 400, and £50 for the 300 already in the finished House. Then follow donations of £5, from Ipswich; £1 3s. 4d., from Swimbridge, a thank-offering for the abundant harvest; £1, from an elderly, infirm, and poor Christian servant; £20 worth of flannel and calico, from the Bristol Dorcas Society; £5, and a new gold chain, from Teignmouth; a vast number of coins, and some jewellery and gold watches; £14 5s., from the Neilgherry Hills in India; and £53 16s. 8¼d., taken one day in the month out of the boxes in the New Orphan House.

On December 3, from Brighton came, as "A weekly thank-offering for many mercies, 4s." "The same amount," says Mr Müller, "has been sent repeatedly before, and has been sent many times since. So also another donor has sent me above fifty £5 notes, one every month. Another donor, with an income of only £400 per annum, has sent me one donation of £10,

or £15, or £20, after the other, during this year and former years, so that from this one donor I *have had above £130 during this one year*. Another donor has sent me £30, £50, or even £100, again and again, for several years past. Thus the Lord, by smaller or larger amounts, oft repeated, or given only once or twice, helps me. Thousands of donors have contributed towards this work during the past twenty-four years; though a great part of the income, *perhaps one-half, or more, has come from about one hundred donors only.*"

During this month, also, was received a donation of £50, from one of the Midland counties; from Dublin, £5; from Brixton, £2, as "A thank-offering to God for the gift of a dear child;" from Scotland, £100; as the cost of one Orphan child for a year, £12 6s. 8d.; from Plymouth, £2; and, on the last day of the year, £26 5s. 6d., came in, in various amounts.

On New-Year's day, 1858, two packets of money were dropped, early in the morning, into Mr Müller's letter-box. The one contained about £12, for the support of one Orphan a year, the other, £2 2s. 6d. Shortly after was left at his house £2, and in the course of the day came in eighteen other donations.

January 5.—From some believers meeting in the "Sand Area Meeting House," Kendal, £36 15s. 2d. was sent; and the next day—"From a great dis-

tance, £20 17s. 9d.," the result of six weeks' prayer. Besides the above, are recorded donations of £50, of £20, of £10, of £6 9s. 10d., and more than one of £5, and £1, &c.

The next month very far exceeded any of those we have mentioned. On Feb. 2, the very first day of active steps being taken for the building of the Third Orphan House for 450 children, Mr Müller was informed by letter that a lady in London, an entire stranger, had ordered her bankers to send £300 to him, for the support of the Orphans. In the evening he was further informed, that in a fortnight the sum of £800 would be paid to him. The £300 was received the following day; the £800 a fortnight afterwards!

In the same month a legacy of £500 was paid to Mr Müller for the Orphans. He takes occasion to notice, that, during the year 1857—1858, more legacies were received by the Institution than during any previous period. Various other donations are mentioned as received also during this month.

The contributions reported as sent during March are not very considerable in amount. With the exception of £50 from a donor in one of the Midland counties, and £50 from Stirling, none of the donations mentioned exceed £5 or £6 in amount. Similarly during the April and May following, the contributions were far from considerable. Still there

were always abundant means, and to spare, in hand ; and at the close of this period, May 26th, 1858, the sum total received for the Orphans was as follows—£6400 17s. 4d. in money, and produce of goods sent to be sold for their benefit £510 9s. 7½d.

The contributions received for the support of the Orphans during the next year, 1858—1859, amounted to some Thousands more than during the one just reviewed. Why was this ? During the whole of this period, 700 Orphans, or thereabouts, were to be supported ; and God, knowing this, touched the hearts of His people to offer more abundantly.

Only three weeks after the close of the previous period—on June 20—a remarkable donation came to hand.—“To-day,” writes Mr Müller, “I found paid to my credit, at my bankers, by a donor at a considerable distance, the sum of £3,500, of which the donor wished me to keep for my own personal expenses £100, give to Mr Craik £50, and take the remaining £3350 for the benefit of the Orphans.” The letter, which was from one whom Mr Müller had never seen, stated further—“Since I first heard of your Establishment, I had given it a *chief* preference in the disposal of my property ; but now, seeing my time here cannot be long, I am persuaded it is far better for me to present you with the amount *while I live* (if the Lord permit) ; it will spare any delay or uncertainty, as well as the amount of tax.” A few days after-

wards, a gift of £100 from a donor in one of the Midland counties was received.

During the month following, several donations came to hand, but none of large amount. We find on record the receipt of £35 from Ashby-de-la Zouch. From Bridgwater £20, £12 10s., and two or three donations of £4 or £5. Towards the close of the month, £20 and £36 10s. were also received.

With the exception of £100 from a visitor in Bristol, and £50 from near Bath, and one or two of £20, the contributions recorded during September were of inconsiderable amount; still the sum total was upwards of two hundred and fifty pounds. The contributions recorded during the month of October were not half this amount.

The month of November was also one in which far more was spent for the Orphans than what came in. One donation is remarkable,—“As a thank-offering for preservation from a recent fire, only a part of the premises having been burnt down, the most expensive part being preserved, £20.” At the close of the month Mr Müller says,—“The expenses are now very great. Since the first of this month I have paid out for the support of the Orphans £782 17s. 8d., whilst the income since then has been only £380. This requires faith; but the Lord, who had provided beforehand, again will, in His own time, send larger sums.”

On December 3 we read :—“ To-day has been again as in former times. I received from one of the Midland counties £50 ; from the neighbourhood of Old Sodbury, £1 ; from Teignmouth, three gold chains from a Christian lady, as ‘ A thank-offering to the Lord for support under the recent loss of her husband ; ’ from London, £5 ; also £4 10s. 3d., ‘ as the fruit of one month’s prayer ; ’ and from Cannes, France, £2.” But few other donations of any amount are mentioned here, except two of ten or twelve pounds, and two or three of £5. One donation is noticeable however,—“ From Sunderland, from a lady who has found Christ, a gold ring set with six pearls and a ruby, a gold ring set with three emeralds and ten small diamonds, a gold ring set with turquoises, and a pair of gold ear-rings.”

The new year, 1859, opened most auspiciously for the cause of benevolence and mercy, and on New-Year’s day alone, no less than forty letters were received by the Orphan’s friend, almost all of which contained some donation. The first opened was a letter of advice that £110 had been paid into a Bristol bank *as a New-Year’s gift* from an anonymous donor at Manchester. The next letter contained the information that £1000 had been paid to Mr Müller’s account, of which £500 were intended for the Orphans. Besides these donations are recorded

others this day, of £5, £5, £5, £2 10s., £2, and a great number of smaller sums.

The next day, January 2, came in eighteen other donations, of which are mentioned only two—£50 from New York, and £10 from Sydenham. Only two days afterwards the fund for the support of the Orphans received an extraordinary increase. First, £26 14s. 6d. arrived from Kendal, "A thank-offering from believers meeting at the Sand Area Meeting House." Then £10 from Scarborough, the produce of a Christmas tree; and lastly, Mr Müller having received £7000 this day for general purposes, £1000 were appropriated to the fund for supporting the Orphans. Again, the very next day were received, from Ireland, £10; from Jersey, £5; from London, £1 10s., "the first money taken this year;" and from E.P., 10s., "A thank-offering for my husband's return from sea." The next day, Jan. 6th, upwards of £12 again came in; and so on during almost the whole of the month. One of these donations should be specially mentioned—"From Westerham, in eighty-eight small donations, the sum of £4 8s. 6d."

"Regarding pecuniary assistance," says Mr Müller, "this has been *the most remarkable month during all the twenty-five years that I have been engaged in it.*" There came in for the support of the Orphans during this month of January, *Two Thousand Two Hundred and fifteen pounds, nineteen and eightpence halfpenny.*

February seems to have been also greatly above the usual average of months in bringing in pecuniary assistance. On February 1, two large donations for general purposes were received, of which £300 and £200 were devoted to the Orphans' support. Two days afterwards, eleven guineas, three half-guineas, and some other gold coins came in. On February 5, a Bristol house of business gave £10, as "a small offering for having escaped bad debts." In the course of the following two or three days were received £10, £5, £100, and £50! On February 10 a large bale arrived, containing about 200 articles of clothing, &c., and £8 10s. 6d., contributed by many donors. Before the end of the month various other donations came in, amounting altogether to above fifty pounds more. So that this month's receipts must have been over *Eight Hundred Pounds*—besides contributions of clothes, &c.

The donations specified by Mr Müller as received during the months of *March* and *April* were by no means considerable. Some of them, however, are deserving of notice. Such as "a thank-offering for the providential escape of a friend," £11 7s.; from five fatherless children in Ireland, 5s.; from H. B. £10, with the following lines:—"Dear Sir,—I have the pleasure to enclose you the first half-notes for £10, being a certain per-centage on the profits derived from an increase of business since my letter of

6th February last." From the neighbourhood of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, £75 7s. "The donor of this amount," says Mr Müller, "has of late been influenced by God *greatly to increase his donations, with the increase of the work.*"

During the last month of this period—May—the income for the Orphans was still very far short of the expenditure. One sum of £100 was received, and four of £10, besides some smaller donations. "But," says Mr Müller, "the outgoings of late have been very great, about £200 a-week more than the income." In one day nearly £300 were paid away. "On this account," he adds, "though we were not in need, on account of the previous large donations, this last donation of £100 was doubly precious. My heart is fully assured that the Lord, in His own time, will again send larger sums."

The foregoing particulars include only a very few of the donations given during the year ending May 26, 1859. Indeed they can only be regarded as specimens of the contributions received by Mr Müller during that period, as will appear from the following statement. Altogether there were 3614 donations of money. These donations are thus classified by Mr Müller:—There were 2369 under £1; 400 were of £1, 279 were between £1 and £2, 361 between £2 and £5, 125 were between £5 and £10, 42 were between £10 and £20, 26 were between £20

and £50, 2 between £50 and £100, 4 were of £100, 1 of £110, 1 of £200, 1 of £300, 1 of £500, 1 of £1000, and 1 of £3350.

We have now before us the last Report of this remarkable Institution, published during the summer of 1860. It is evident that the founder of these Orphan Houses has still great reason to thank God and take courage. The work of the Lord in his hands prospers more abundantly than at any former time, as may be seen from the following brief summary of this Report.*

Immediately after the books were made up, on May 27th, 1859, came in £5 from Ireland, and soon afterwards followed £5 from Cumberland, £1 from New Zealand, and £100 from St John's Wood, London. A week or two afterwards was received the sum of £85 13s. 1d. from a Dutch baroness.

During the month of July Mr Müller states that many donations of £5, £9, £10, £19, and several small sums, came in. Also one donation of £20, and two valuable lots of jewellery. On the first of August were received £5 from Leamington, and the next day £20, and about £22 more. Afterwards came in £5 anonymously, from one who was now convinced that a fixed portion of our income should be constantly given to the Lord; also £4 19s. from Adelaide,

* Brief Narrative of Facts as to the New Orphan Houses, &c., published by Nisbet and Co., Berners-street, London, 1860. Price 6d.

South Australia ; and a few days afterwards—besides several sums of £5, £2, £12, 2 guineas, &c.—£59 19s. 9d. from an old friend of the work.

On the 2nd of September, £50 were sent from Oxfordshire, at the request of a Christian young gentleman, after his decease, by his father. A great number of other donations are also mentioned, of almost all amounts, from £20 downwards. One of a sovereign was from Captain T.S., of the Royal Navy, who dates his letter on board H.M.S. Calcutta, in lat. 23° 52' N., long. 36° 9' W. "This," says Mr Müller, "is one of the ten thousand remarkable ways in which the Lord has helped me with means." Another donation of £20 was sent "as a thank-offering for the recovery of a dear one from illness." Another, of £20 also, from H. B. of London, with the following :—"Dear Sir,—This day I concluded a preliminary agreement, from which I expect some profit. As a thank-offering I gratefully place in your hands £20 for the support of the Orphans."

During the following month, two donations of £100 each were received by Mr Müller ; the one from Chelmsford, the other from the Christian son of a deceased Christian merchant of Bristol, having been requested to do so by his father on his death-bed. We pass by several other sums forwarded of £20, £7, £6, £5, and a variety of smaller amounts.

November 15, we find the following extract from

Mr Müller's Journal:—"Within the last twenty-four hours I have drawn cheques, for current expenses, to the amount of £555, and the income during the last days has been less than during any part of the year. But I hope in God, and am therefore in peace." Within only three days, however, of recording this expression of confidence, upwards of £130 came in; and within a fortnight a variety of donations amounting to about a hundred pounds are enumerated in Mr Müller's published "Narrative."

The last month of the year abounded in donations; but none are mentioned of very large amount. The following are the principal. December 5.—From Notting-hill, £10. December 9.—Two boxes from Shropshire, containing a vast variety of gold articles, jewellery, and trinkets, and also clothes. December 14.—From T. M., £10; from London, £10; from a friend in Australia, £5; from a Bristol house of business, more than a cwt. of raisins and currants, for plum puddings at Christmas. December 15.—From Bombay, £10. December 21.—From Clifton, £25. December 20.—From Stratton, near Bath, £50. Subsequently we read of £12 10s., from a distance of 500 miles; £12 12s. as a New-Year's Gift; and the last day of the year, £18 4s. 2d.

As we have found in the case of the two previous years, so in this, contributions for the support of the Orphans poured in at the beginning of the year,

making up abundantly for any lack of donations during the past few months.

On the first day of January, three papers containing money were dropped into the letter-box of Mr Müller's house: about £15 were found enclosed. The postman brought twenty-five letters by the first delivery, of which twenty-one contained donations. The first opened enclosed a letter of advice that £62 17s. had been paid into a Bristol bank as a New-Year's Gift for the Orphans. The others are not particularly enumerated. On January 3 were received—£17 13s. anonymously from H. B.; £30 3s. "as a thank-offering from believers meeting at the Sand Area Meeting House, Kendal, for the mercies of the past year:" and from the north of England, £40.

To crown the whole, on the 14th of the month £1500 were received by Mr Müller for the support of the Orphans, from a gentleman whom he had only once spoken to for a few moments! and on the same day, £89 4s. from near Ashby-de-la-Zouch. A few days afterwards, other considerable donations were sent in, consisting of £50 from a Birmingham manufacturer, two sums of about £8, and one of £18 16s. Later in the month were received £10 and £20, besides several small sums. The total of this month's contributions for the current expenses could not have fallen much short of *Two Thousand Pounds!*

The principal donations of the following month

which we find recorded in Mr Müller's published "Narrative," were—February 13, £100 from Kent; a legacy of £96 paid on February 14; and £20 from Clifton, received a few days after. Besides this, many donations of £10 and under are mentioned: altogether amounting to about £300.

Nearly the same amount was received—so far as the extracts inform us—during March. From Kensington came £50, in memory of a beloved wife. Several sums of £10 are mentioned; and March 16, another of £50: the other donations are all smaller in amount. April did not prove much different in regard to contributions. One legacy of £100 was paid, from the late Miss E., of Bristol, an entire stranger to Mr Müller. From one of the Midland counties was received a donation of £50; also from Birkenhead £20, with many smaller sums.

We have now reached the month of May, 1860, and from the Report then published we find that the stream of benevolence continued to flow at much the same rate. On May 2nd a gentleman, residing near Gloucester Gate, London, sent £20, and from Midsummer Norton arrived the next day £5. Then occur sums of £10, £5, £10, £5, and £5 7s. On May 11 a trunk arrived from Cheltenham, containing 165 articles of clothing, almost all made up, to be sold for the benefit of the Orphans. The same day, just as Mr. Müller had received some very destitute Orphans,

£20 was handed over to him, as "a mite from Birkenhead, with a grateful acknowledgment of advantages derived from reading Mr Müller's published proofs of the success attending persevering, believing prayer, and practical faith." A few days afterwards, a donation of £5 came in from a commercial gentleman in London, who says in his note, "It is a settled matter in my mind, that when I give to the Lord, I invariably receive tenfold in return." Other donations of £12, £10, £5, &c. &c., follow.

"Thus closes," adds Mr Müller, "the present period, full of mercies and blessings with regard to the means for carrying on the work, as in every other respect; and I look with peace and comfort to the coming year, though I have reason to believe that its expenses *will be far greater still*, and that *about £25,000 will be required to carry me through it.*"

Then follows a classification of the donations of the past twelvemonth, from which it appears that there came in 1494 sums under 5s.; 560 above 5s. but not exceeding 10s.; 614 above 10s. but not exceeding £1; 288 above £1 and not exceeding £2; 411 above £2 and not exceeding £5; 93 above £5 and not exceeding £10; 49 above £10 and not exceeding £20; 10 above £20 and under £50; 11 of £50; 1 of £59 19s. 9d.; 1 of £62 17s.; 1 of £89 4s.; 1 of £96 12s. 3d.; 2 of £500; and 1 of £1500. From this statement it will be seen, that the contri-

butions of the year enumerated in the foregoing pages, are by no means all that were received by Mr Müller; but only specimens of what came in.

Such is the remarkable manner in which means were furnished, in answer to prayer, for the support and education of 700 destitute Orphans. The reader cannot fail to be struck by the great variety of ways in which God is pleased to help Mr. Müller in his arduous work. At one time, as we have seen, as many as 88 donations only serve to make up about £4, whilst at other times one single donation brings in £100, £500, £1,000, £5,000, or even £7,000 or £8,000! So likewise it is instructive to notice the variety of motives which influence the donors. Some gifts are sent as thank-offerings for mercies; others as percentage on profits; and others as memorials of lost friends, &c.

And now that the work has been so greatly enlarged, from 700 to 2,050 Orphans, the contributions have increased even in a still greater ratio. From the Report published in 1870, it appears that there came in during the year May 26, 1869, to May 26, 1870, the large sum of £33,035 3s. 9¼d. for the support of the 1,722 Orphans who had been actually under Mr. Müller's care in that period!

The only means which Mr. Müller employs to obtain these funds, as already stated, is prayer. "Every Wednesday evening," he says, "I meet


with my helpers and assistants for united prayer ; and day by day I have my stated seasons, when I seek to bring the work in which I am engaged, with its great variety of spiritual and temporal necessities, before the Lord in prayer, having, perhaps, *each day fifty or more matters to bring before Him* on such occasions ; and thus I obtain the blessing. I ask no human being for help concerning the work. Nay, *if I could obtain £10,000 through each application for help, by God's grace, I would not ask.* And why not ? you may say. Because I have dedicated my whole life cheerfully to the precious service of giving to the world, and to the Church at large, a clear, distinct, undeniable demonstration, that it is a blessed thing to trust in and to wait upon God ; and that He is now, as ever He was, the living God, the same as revealed in the Holy Scriptures."

A little onward, Mr Müller tells us what his experience is in the work which occupies his time. "Nor has God failed me at any time. Twenty-five years I have proved His faithfulness in this work ; and it is about twenty-one years, when great poverty and need began to come upon me in connexion with this work, and when the Lord in the most marked and manifest manner stretched forth His hand, as has been fully detailed in my Narrative. This almost uninterrupted poverty continued for five years ; but God always helped me. During the last ten years His dealings

have been different ; still, even during this period, I have had numberless spiritual and temporal necessities to bring before God in prayer, and He has uniformly helped me. This same peace and joy in God, resulting from becoming increasingly acquainted with Him, by waiting upon Him for everything, looking to Him for everything, trusting in Him in the greatest difficulties, and under the greatest trials—yea, trusting in Him when there is not the least natural prospect of being helped—I desire that you, dear reader, may have, if you have it not already; and therefore I write thus.”

CHAPTER VIII.

REMARKABLE CHARACTER OF MANY OF THE DONATIONS FOR THE ORPHANS.

ERY instructive, and also very interesting, is it to the believer, to observe the various and often remarkable character of many of the contributions forwarded for the support of this House of Mercy. Not only do gifts arrive from the most distant parts of the habitable globe, but they are often sent by the most unlikely persons, and under the most unlikely, and often extraordinary, circumstances.

There are donations of money recorded as arriving from not only every town and village almost in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, but from every quarter of the world—Switzerland, Belgium, France, Spain, Holland, Italy, West Indies, almost every part of North and South America, Palestine, Ceylon, India, China, Cape of Good Hope, Australia, and New Zealand, and almost every country and climate that can be named.

Then, too, the donations themselves are often of the most extraordinary and unlooked-for character.

A great many consist of gold and silver watches, plate, and jewellery of all kinds—and sometimes these are sent in great abundance. Mr Müller somewhere remarks that a very considerable sum has been realized by the sale of such articles. For example, on July 24th, 1854, a plate chest was sent to the Institution, which on being opened was found to contain a coffee-pot, cream-jug, wine-funnel, small salver, two goblets, 14 table spoons, 6 dessert spoons, 11 tea spoons, 2 gravy spoons, 2 sauce ladles, and several other articles, *all of silver*. The donor wished to be his own executor, and forwarded these articles to be sold. On November 3rd, 1858, a gold chain, a gold cross, a ring set with emeralds, and a white coral necklace, were received from “two Christian young ladies, who seek only to be adorned with that pearl which in the sight of God is of great price.” On October 12, 1858, was sent anonymously a little box from a distance, containing the following:—An amethyst brooch-locket, a hair necklace, and cross, and earrings, a pair of gold double breast-pins, 18 brooches, and bracelets, seals, and rings.

A remarkable donation was sent in the summer of 1851,—an old Bible, with the following letter:—

“MY DEAR SIR,—I was once a book collector, and turned my attention to our old English Bibles, and among other editions perfected, almost sheet by sheet,

our first English Coverdale Bible of 1535. It is a sad specimen of time, attention, and money misspent and misapplied; and as I look upon you as the receiver of cast-off idols, whether watch-chains, trinkets, or old Bibles, I have proposed for some time sending it to you. Do with the proceeds as you see fit," &c.

This old Bible realized the sum of £60.

A very different kind of donation came in, October 29, 1851. A young man—formerly an Orphan in the Establishment, since apprenticed to a shoemaker—sent in half-a-dozen pairs of shoes, for the use of the Orphans. He had himself made the shoes, having bought the leather with the little sums which he had earned in working overtime for his master.

A still more singular donation is recorded in the following letter, under Feb. 27, 1858:—"A dear black brother," writes a missionary in British Guiana, "who is a great comfort to us, agreed some time ago to devote to the Orphans a hen and her brood, or whatever he could get from the sale of the latter. He desires me to send 10s. with his love; and he hopes, with the Lord's blessing, that the hen's future broods will yield much more."

Under the date of September 4, 1857, Mr Müller gives the following:—"To-day I received 4s. from a poor widow in Scotland, with the following letter:—"Dear Sir,—I feel grateful to you for sending me one

of your records. I take great delight in reading them, and I do feel that they have been the means of strengthening my faith, and enabling me to trust more and more in Him who has promised to be my Husband and my children's Father. I have little to send, but we know that Jesus Christ despised not the widow's mite. I may mention that *I had to lay it by in halfpence*: I send it for the Orphans. Early was I cast upon His care, without father or mother, and hitherto He has cared for me.'” “I take delight,” says Mr Müller, “in referring to this case, 4s. made up by halfpence laid aside from time to time, as showing, not only the variety of ways in which the Lord is pleased to supply me, by not only sending thousands of pounds at once, but also small donations. I have had donations more than once to the amount of one farthing only, and I have had £8100 at once given to me.”

In the summer of 1849 Mr Müller received a Fifty-pound note from an individual, accompanied by this message:—“This will be the *last* large sum I shall be able to transmit to you. Almost all the rest is “*already out at interest.*” By these last words the donor meant that he had given it away to the Lord. It appears that some time before he had decided to sell all his earthly possession, and had sent Mr Müller at different periods, sums of £120, of £100, of £50, and of £20 for the work of God; and now he sent what he calls his last

large donation. What is most remarkable, however, Mr Müller, writing afterwards, says:—"Since that time I *have received other donations from the same donor, and MUCH LARGER STILL!*" How truly had he expressed himself when he said, "The rest is *already out at interest!*" God had said to him, "Be it unto thee according to thy faith."

One donor's contribution, amounting to 10s. 2d., was made up by putting by one penny for the Orphans every time he got a job of work. Another contribution is thus accounted for:—A Christian negro in Essequibo sent £1 0s. 10d. The missionary who forwarded the sum stated that it was made up of "half bits," or twopenny pieces, the donor having purposed in his heart to give "half a bitt" for every bunch of plantains he sold in a given time. This poor man rented ground, on which he raised provisions, and sold them for his support.

The following letter will explain itself; it was dated April 30, 1859, and was sent from a considerable distance:—

"MY DEAR CHRISTIAN BROTHER,—I am an artist, a *poor* artist, a landscape painter. About two weeks ago I sent a picture to Bristol for exhibition, just as I finished your book that was lent to us. I most humbly and earnestly prayed to God to enable me by the sale of my Bristol picture to have the blessed

privilege of sending you *half the proceeds*. The price of the picture is £20. Now mark :—immediately the exhibition is open, God, in His mercy, mindful of my prayer, sends me a purchaser. I have exhibited in Bristol before, but *never sold a picture!* Oh! my dear friend, my very heart leaps for joy. I have never been so near God before. Through your instrumentality I have been enabled to draw nearer to God, with more earnestness, more faith, more earnest desires,” &c.

The very next page we find a record of “One guinea from a newly-married couple, given on their wedding-day, *instead of having the bells rung!*” And “from Dublin, 18s., the produce of a lamb reared for the Orphans.” Also, anonymously, “a diamond ring, a gold watch-chain, and three gold watch ornaments, from one who but a few days before had found the peace and joy resulting from the knowledge that our sins are forgiven through faith in the Lord Jesus.”

On March 26, 1858, was received 13s. 6d. under the following circumstances :—“It is generally the custom in ship-yards for apprentices, when they have served the term of their apprenticeship, to give some money, as inclination or circumstances allow, for the purchase of intoxicating liquor to be drunk by those employed on the establishment. Having

perceived the evil caused by such practice, and having seen one of your Reports, we, the apprentices of Mr R., voluntarily renounce it by sending the money that might have been spent in useless and dangerous drinking, to help to support the Orphans placed under your care.

Some individuals put by for every order, or every payment, they receive in business, and send the amount to Mr Müller from time to time. One Christian gentleman, he records, has now for about *eight years* sent him £5 every month. Another donor, although with an income of only £400 a year, has for about six years past given Mr Müller *nearly £200 out of it!* A baker, in Worcestershire, sends him one penny *for each sack of flour he bakes*. Another donor, labouring day by day, and month after month, and year after year, in prayer for the benefit of the Orphans, trusting himself in the Lord for all he wants as a servant of Christ, sends the fifth part of all that he receives, which *sometimes has amounted to £7, £9, and even £14 or more per month!*

One very remarkable donation is mentioned in the Nineteenth Report. It is only 20s. in amount, but the circumstances under which it was sent are really extraordinary. "A dear Christian gentleman, at the head of a house of business in London, writing to a friend, says:—'I have sustained a heavy pecuniary loss, and therefore wish to *sanctify the loss*, by giving

20s. to the Orphan House. Please send that sum for me, I will repay you ! ”

On this, Mr Müller makes the following comment. “ Pause, dear reader. A heavy pecuniary loss is made an occasion for this donation ; not a considerable gain. A loss, a heavy loss, should lead us to pause and ponder, and to consider what the Lord’s voice to us in it is. Perhaps the reason is, that we lived too much as owners and possessors, instead of stewards for the Lord, and that therefore He was obliged to take a part of that which we possess from us. If so, let us be benefited by the loss. But suppose this is not the reason ; suppose the Lord allowed the loss only to take place for the trial of our faith and patience ; yet we should, whilst meekly bowing under the hand of God, say to ourselves that the Lord might have taken all, instead of a part of what He has entrusted to us, and that therefore we ought to make good use of our stewardship respecting the means which are still left to us.

“ I once knew a suddenly and deeply afflicted house of business. My advice to my Christian friends was, to be grateful to God that He had not taken all from them. I said to them, that were I in their position, I should express my gratitude to the Lord by a thank-offering to Him, that this sudden calamity had not taken away all my property. These Christian friends, I found afterwards, resolved to give to the Lord £100

as a thank-offering for having dealt so mercifully with them, in not having allowed them to lose all. Well, dear reader, what do you think of this? You think, perhaps, this was very strange. Yes, it was very strange, according to the principles of this world; but what will you think when I tell you that these same Christian friends *have had that £100 repaid, not merely ten-fold, nor twenty-fold, nor a hundred-fold, but FAR MORE THAN A THOUSAND-FOLD!*”

On New-Year's day, 1860, Mr Müller found in his letter-box a paper containing anonymous donations from three servants, viz., £1 from A. B., £1 from M. A., and 2s. 6d. from E. A. W. “For many years,” says Mr Müller, “have these dear servants, entirely unknown to me, contributed thus on the first morning of the new year.”

A few days later was received £3 8s. 4d. for the benefit of the Orphans, with the following letter:—

“DEAR SIR,—Please to accept the enclosed £3 8s. 4d. for the benefit of the Orphans. It may interest you to know what has led to my sending you this amount. I therefore send you copy of resolve I was led to make in July, 1857. ‘Memorandum. God granting me grace so to do, I will for this year, from July 1st, 1857, to July 1st, 1858, dedicate *one-tenth of all* my income to His service; and for the following year, by His help I will seek to increase it to either £10 per

cent. on the first £100, and £20 per cent. on all above that amount, or £15 per cent. on the whole ; seeking in this matter to be guided by Him, who for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich ; and praying that He would enable me to do this *with a single eye to His glory*. I have long felt it to be the duty of Christians to lay by a portion of their income for the service of God ; and from reading Mr Müller's Narrative of the Orphan Houses just published for 1856, I have resolved henceforth so to do ; and may God grant me grace to keep this resolution.—29th July, 1857.' By the help of God I have been enabled to carry out the resolve to the present time. On making up my accounts to July, 1858, I found I had exceeded the tenth in what I had given away ; to July, 1859, estimating the tenth on the first £100, and fifth on all above that amount, I found there was due from me for the Lord's service, £3 8s. 4d. ; and as you were the instrument in God's hands of leading me to make this resolve, I feel I cannot better appropriate the enclosed, than by sending it to you for the benefit of the dear children under your charge."

Another remarkable mode in which this noble Institution has been frequently assisted, is by Christian men coming to the conclusion that Insurances are unscriptural, and then, on giving up the practice,

sending the cost of the premium to the Orphan House. For example:—"Dec. 5.—£2, with this letter:—"I have for some years past paid £2 per annum for an assurance on my life in case of accident; but after reading your last Report, which I purchased at the Orphan Houses a short time since, I resolved to send you the premium, which I intend doing annually, believing that by paying the premium to the Lord, He will, in His kind providence, protect me from accident,' " &c:

Two days afterwards came a similar letter, enclosing £1:—

"DEAR SIR,—Having discontinued insuring my horse (feeling that it is good and right to trust in the Lord for all things), I enclose the amount, which I should have paid as premium for the ensuing year, as a thank-offering to Almighty God for His past mercies to me."

Again, we find in another Report the following communication:—

"* * * * Feb. 6, 1847.

"BELOVED BROTHER,—Having been led during the past year to see the unscripturalness of life insurance, which I had been carrying on for some years previously, I now enclose you the sum which I received from the office, on returning to them my

policy, viz. £22 8s., and the payment due about this time, eleven guineas, as a thank-offering to the Lord for having—chiefly by means of the work in which you are engaged in Bristol—opened my eyes, in some little measure, to His will with regard to His pilgrim people here. I ask your prayers on my behalf, dearest brother, amongst the many who must be on your heart, for singleness of eye, to walk with God by faith, &c. I also add ten pounds, which you will kindly apply to the help of those who are labouring in the Gospel abroad, or, if more urgent, at home. Also, will you oblige me by accepting six pounds for your own use?”


This letter contained £50.

Again, on September 17, 1859, was received “from a working man in Warwickshire, who had given up his club and life insurance, trusting now in God, —£1 14s 2d., being half a year’s payment which he would have paid.”

Such are a *few* of the many remarkable donations which the Reports of the Orphan House work contain. What a convincing proof do they afford us of the power of believing prayer! And what an encouragement should we, as children of God, feel to make known our wants and trials to Him who has said, “Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you.”

CHAPTER IX.

THE OPENING OF THE THIRD ORPHAN HOUSE, FOR FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY ADDITIONAL CHILDREN.

FTER the completion of the Orphan House No. 2, Mr Müller often employed himself in looking out for land suitable for building the THIRD house for 300 additional Orphans. For many months, however, the search was fruitless. When sometimes he appeared to have succeeded, then again he seemed to be further from it than ever. Still he continued to pray and to exercise faith, being "fully assured that the Lord's time was not come, and that when it was, He would help." And so we are told it proved. In September, 1858, Mr Müller succeeded in purchasing eleven and a half acres of land, quite close to the Orphan Houses, just across the road : and although the cost of the land was greater than he at all anticipated, being £3631 15s., yet, as nearness to the site of the Orphan Houses was of immense con-

sequence, in order to facilitate the superintendence of the whole Establishment, the money was readily paid.

This difficulty being now overcome, the thought entered Mr Müller's mind to make the best possible use of this piece of land, and build for 400 Orphans, instead of 300 as he had originally intended. "After having had several meetings," says he, "with the architects, and finding that it was possible to accommodate, with comparatively little more expense, 450 Orphans instead of 400, I finally determined on that number, so as to have eventually 1150 Orphans under my care instead of 1000, as for several years previously had been contemplated. The greatness of the number of destitute children—bereaved of both parents by death—together with the greatness of the Lord's blessing, which has during all these many years rested upon my service in this way—and the greatness of the Lord's help, in giving assistants and helpers in the work as well as means—and, above all, the deep realization that I have but one life to spend for God upon earth, and that that one life is but a brief life,—these were the reasons which led me to this further enlargement. To this determination of a still further enlargement, *I came solely in dependence upon the living God for help*, though the increase of expense for the Building Fund, on account of the purchase of the land, and accommodation to be built for the additional 150 Orphans, more than had been

from the beginning contemplated, would not be less than from £6000 to £7500 *more* than I had originally expected the total of the premises which were to be erected would cost ; and though, in addition to this, the yearly additional expenditure for the maintenance of these 150 Orphans beyond the intended number of 1000 could not be less than £1800 a year. But none of these difficulties discouraged me.”

It may be interesting to the reader to be informed how the means required for these additional outlays were obtained. We therefore supply from Mr Müller’s Twentieth Report the following brief particulars :—

On January 4th, 1859, the large amount of £7000 was paid to Mr Müller, and left entirely to his disposal for the work of God in his hands. He accordingly set apart £4000 for the Building Fund. Thus he received a most important and a speedy confirmation of the judgment to which he had come respecting the still further enlargement of the work. Two days afterwards a donation of £300 came in from Manchester, from an anonymous donor, with the kind promise that £900 more should be sent during the year for the Building Fund.

On February 1st, another large donation was contributed of £1700, the application being entirely left to Mr Müller’s judgment. He took £400 of this amount for the Building Fund. The *same day*

£1000 was given him, also unconditioned. Of this sum £300 was appropriated by Mr. Müller to the same Fund.

To all the above must be added many smaller amounts, some of them amounting to £100 and upwards; also the large sum of £1168 3s. 2d., received for interest. The total amount in hand at the close of this eighth year, May, 1859, was £41,911 15s. 11d.

About a month after this date—that is to say, in July, 1859—the plans having been all completed, and the estimates being sent in by the contractors for the new Building for the 450 additional Orphans, the work was commenced.

The extra expenses incurred over and above the original estimate of £35,000 rapidly came in after the closing of the books on May 26, 1859. On July 19 anonymously was sent £400. On December 4th, £300 from Lancashire. On January 1, 1860, also from Lancashire, £200, and on January 31, the munificent sum of £3000 for general purposes, of which £500 only were appropriated to this object. This last donation, in Mr Müller's opinion, completed the full amount required for the building, furnishing, &c., of the new House! Yet the following May—besides a great number of other donations—the large sum of £2700 was given him to be used as he thought fit. Thus the whole amount received up to May 26th, 1860, when the accounts

were last made up, was the astonishing sum of £45,113 14s. 4½d.!

And now, having seen the remarkable manner in which Mr Müller has been furnished with the very large sum of money required for the erection of these two spacious buildings for the accommodation of 850 additional Orphans, we cannot do better than subjoin the following remarks of his, extracted from the 19th Report :—

“ When I began my request for means, viz., to entreat the Lord to give me Thirty-five Thousand Pounds, I knew well what difficulty there was in the way to my obtaining this sum, looking at it naturally. I am too calm, too calculating a person, too much looking at the matter fully, too much in the habit of weighing all the difficulties of a case, to be carried away by excitement or imagination. I knew I had no ground *naturally* to expect this large sum. For months, therefore, I had not prayed at all for means for this enlargement, but had only asked the Lord to show me very clearly whether it was His will that I should go forward. But having once come fully to this conclusion, on the grounds which are stated at large in the Report published in 1851, I was as certain that the Lord would give me all I needed as if I had had the money in hand. It might, at that time, have been naturally said to me, and, indeed, was said to me—How will you be likely to

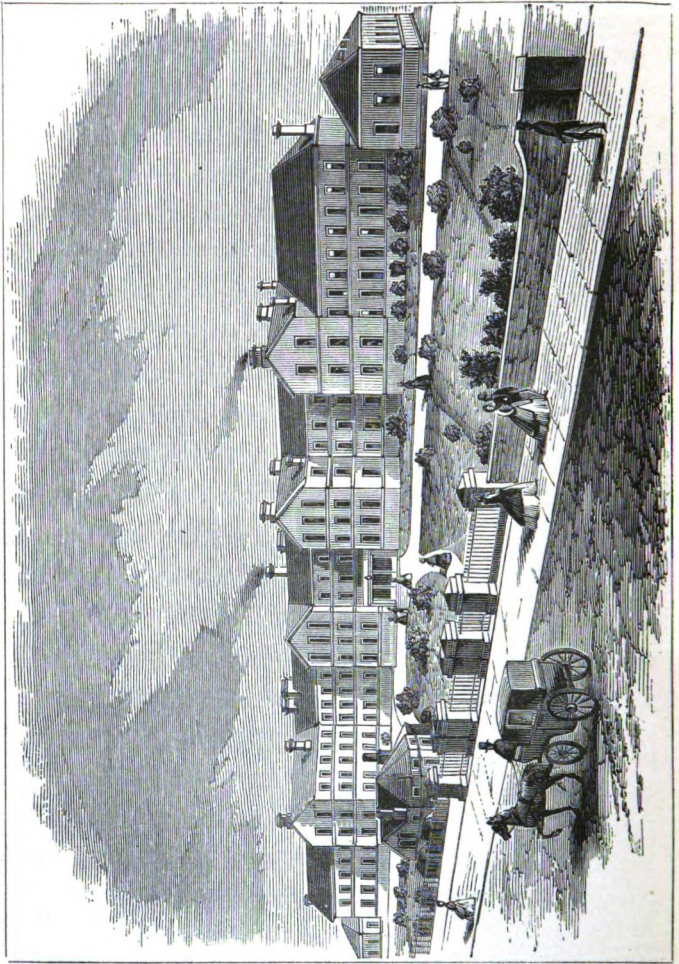
obtain this large sum of Thirty-five Thousand Pounds for the Building Fund, and at the same time be able to meet the current expenses of the work already in existence? The reply of faith was—I know not whence the money is to come, but I know that God, on whom I depend, is able to provide me with all I need for the current expenses, and also to give me money for the Building Fund. When, twelve years and six months since,* I might say, contrary to all my former desires, I was led, as by an unseen hand, to decide upon leaving the four rented houses, and to build the New Orphan House for 300 children, it was said how strange it was that I should think of enlarging the work from 120 to 300 Orphans, when for years previously I had had almost habitually to wait upon the Lord day by day for daily supplies. Yet, so it was, that the Lord gave me all I needed for the Building Fund, although that was no less than £15,055 3s. 2¼d., and I had £776 14s. 3¾d. more than I required; moreover, all the current expenses were met in the mean time, and I was able to begin housekeeping with about Five Hundred Pounds in hand: whilst, before I had thought about building that large House, we had had rarely, very rarely, as much as about £100 in hand, and often, very often, scarcely 100 pence. So this time, whilst the means for the Building Fund were coming in, I had to meet the current

* This was written February 15, 1858.

expenses, which for the Orphans alone amounted to £26,249 10s., from May 26, 1851, to Feb. 17, 1858, and for the other objects in the same time, £25,670 9s. 6½d., being altogether £51,919 19s. 6½d.; and when the New House for 400 Orphans was opened on Nov. 12, 1857, I had in hand £2292 0s. 11¾d. for the current expenses of the Orphans."

"See, esteemed reader, how unbelief is put to shame, and natural reasoning is confounded. Had I at my own bidding, or for my own honour, or for the gratification of self, in some way or other begun this enlargement, I could have expected nothing but to be confounded; or, good though my intentions had been, had I not been called for the work, I could have expected nothing but to be confounded; or, had I regarded iniquity in my heart, whilst I was seeking to carry out this enlargement, I might have prayed much outwardly, but I should not have had my desires granted as to the obtaining of the means."

The New Orphan House, No. 3, was commenced, as we have seen, in July, 1859. It was expected by Mr Müller that the building would be finished about the autumn of 1861. But circumstances altogether unforeseen occurred to retard the work. There was, first of all, a difficulty in the summer of 1861, on the part of one of the contractors, in obtaining a sufficient number of men. "In addition to this most serious cause of delay, there were," says Mr Müller,



THE THIRD ORPHAN HOUSE, ASHLEY DOWN.

“ other difficulties over which I had no control, and in which I recognized the hand of God, and therefore felt that it became me to seek to glorify Him by patient submission, being assured that as the work was His and not mine, and as *He cared more for the good of the Orphans who were waiting to be admitted than I did*, He would allow me, in His own time, the joy and privilege of opening the New House for the reception of these destitute children.”

At length on March 12, 1862, the Third House was opened; and thus a full answer to prayers, thousands and tens of thousands of prayers, was at length granted. Although this great event, big with the interests of perhaps thousands of immortal beings, was unaccompanied by any public ceremony, it was doubtless hallowed by some extraordinary meeting of the Christian men and women engaged in the Orphan Work on Ashley Down, and the blessing of God earnestly invoked upon the new undertaking.

The third Orphan House, like its sister buildings, has no pretensions to architectural grandeur. But its vast size and variety of outline render it both an imposing and pleasing structure. Instead of being surrounded by high walls, as is often the case in similar Institutions, its far-stretching front stands open to the road, from which it is separated by a large extent of garden-ground. The length of the

building is 550 feet, and it is lighted by no less than 390 windows.

The House contains 94 different apartments. Of these 36 are on the ground floor, 35 on the first floor, and 23 on the second floor. The dining-room is a very spacious T-shaped apartment. There are also two very extensive dormitories, nearly 90 feet long, each containing 50 beds, besides a number of others somewhat smaller. Visitors are particularly struck with these two apartments. Probably few such bedrooms can be seen in the whole kingdom.

The interior arrangements of the House altogether are on the most complete as well as the most ample scale. The kitchen-range and cooking apparatus and the admirable washing and drying arrangements are the work of Mr Haden of Trowbridge, perhaps the most eminent heating engineer in the kingdom. The apparatus for cooking erected by that gentleman is the most complete and economical that can be imagined. One fire, occupying a space of 18 inches square, furnishes the heating power for a series of potato steamers and plate warmers, as well as for four steam-cooking cylinders. Throughout the kitchen, and indeed every other department of the building, the most perfect economy of labour is seen. Nor must we forget the system of ventilation, which in so very large a building is of the highest importance. This is really admirable. The heating

apparatus conveys hot water in pipes throughout the greater part of the edifice. Besides which, many rooms are provided with open fires.

In one of the recent Reports of the Institution, Mr Müller mentions the remarkable fact that at the opening of this Third New Orphan House, he had in hand for the support of the Orphans a larger sum of money than at any former period. Speaking naturally, we should have expected that the expenditure of so large a sum of money for building purposes—about £45,000—would have had the effect of lessening considerably the contributions towards the current expenses of the Orphans. But so far was this from being the case, that on March 12th, 1862, the money in hand for house-keeping amounted to no less than £10,300 1s. 10d. This was indeed a triumph of faith!

From the day of opening to the close of the year, the Orphans for whose reception the New House was erected continued to pour in. Not indeed in large numbers, but at the rate of ten or twenty every week. But it should be mentioned, the House was not exclusively filled with new Orphans. These were judiciously mixed with many Orphans who had been some time under Mr Müller's charge, drafted from the other two Houses. In thus acting, the Director of the Institution imitated the conduct of a General who distributes the raw recruits amongst

several regiments, instead of forming them into a regiment by themselves. An unexpected difficulty presented itself as the time approached for opening the New Building, viz. a lack of assistants. The experience of Mr Müller in connexion with this most serious difficulty, is fraught with so much instruction to believers in general, that we must extract the passage in which it is contained.

“As in the case of No. 2, so also in the case of the New Orphan House No. 3, I had daily prayed for the needed helpers and assistants for the various departments. *Before a stone was laid, I began to pray for this*; and as the building progressed I continued day by day to bring this matter before God, feeling fully assured that, as in everything else, so in this particular also, He would graciously be pleased to appear on our behalf and help us, as the whole work is intended for His honour and glory. At last the time was near when the House could be opened, and the time therefore near when the applications, which had been made in writing during more than two years previously, should be considered for the filling up of the various posts. It now however was found, that whilst there had been about 50 applications made for the various situations, some places could not be filled up, because either the individuals who had applied for them had been in the mean time otherwise provided for or had been married, or were, on examin-

ation, found unsuitable. This was no small trial of faith; for day by day, for years, had I asked God to help me in this particular, even as He had done in the case of the New Orphan House No. 2; I had also expected help, confidently expected help; and yet now, when help *seemed* needed, it was wanting. What was now to be done, dear Reader? Would it have been right to charge God with unfaithfulness? Would it have been right to distrust Him? Would it have been right to say, it is useless to pray? By no means. This, on the contrary, I did; I thanked God for all the help he had given me in connexion with the whole of the enlargement; I thanked Him for enabling me to overcome so many and such great difficulties; I thanked Him for the helpers He had given me for No. 2; I thanked Him also for the helpers He had given me already for No. 3; and instead of distrusting God, I looked upon this delay of the full answer to prayer only as a trial of faith, and therefore resolved that, instead of praying *once* a day with my dear wife about this matter, as we had been doing day by day for years, we would now meet daily three times to bring this matter before God. I also brought this matter before the whole staff of my helpers in the work, requesting their prayers. Thus I have now continued for about four months longer in prayer, day by day calling upon God three times, on account of this need; and the result has been

that one helper after another has been given, without the help coming *too* late, or the work getting into confusion, or the reception of the children being hindered ; and I am fully assured that the few who are yet needed will also be found when they are *really* required."

This is perhaps the most beautiful instance of simple faith in God on record since the age of the apostles ; and strikingly reminds us of the Centurion's reply, in the Gospel, "I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers ; and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth, and to another, Come, and he cometh, and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it." Who can wonder, that before such living, practical faith as this, the greatest obstacles should vanish, and that God should ere long respond to the cry of His servant—"Be it unto thee according to thy faith !"

It is important to add that for more than 18 months past all the needed assistants have been found.

CHAPTER X.

CONTEMPLATED FURTHER ENLARGEMENT OF THE ORPHAN WORK.

SEVERAL months before the opening of the Third Orphan House, Mr. Müller formed the design of still further enlarging the Orphan work by the erection of two houses for the accommodation of 850 additional children. He would then have 2000 Orphans under his care, instead of 1150, in the three Orphan Houses already referred to. This project at first sight might naturally have staggered persons. First of all, there was to be considered the vast outlay of money required for the erection of the premises, purchase of land, &c. This at the most moderate estimate, it was found, could not be less than about FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS. Where, it might have been said, is this large sum to come from? The difficulty increased when it was considered that all the while this was coming in there would be £20,000 a year in addition required for the current expenses of the various objects of the Institution. And even

could the projected enlargement be accomplished, and the two houses, Nos. 4 and 5, be opened, how could so immense a work be kept up? How could an income of £35,000 a year be depended on?

Now it must be granted that these were very formidable difficulties. Looked at in themselves, indeed, they were so serious as to be absolutely overwhelming. Let us see, however, what can be said on the other side of the question. Let us see whether the reasons for going forward with the work were not so strong and so imperative as to overrule these objections, and to justify Mr. Müller in the decision to which he came.

Perhaps the best way will be to state these reasons in Mr. Müller's own words, as contained in the Report published in 1861.

"1. The longer I go on in this service, and the more it becomes known, the greater is the number of destitute children bereaved of both parents by death, who are applied for to be admitted into the Orphan Houses under my direction. Almost daily fresh cases are brought before me, and sometimes three or four or more at once; and it is not a rare thing that in each such case there are three, four, or even more young children. I am therefore willing to be yet further the servant of the Lord in this particular work, although I am unworthy, most unworthy, that He should condescend thus to use me.

“2. But that which at first especially was used by the Lord to direct my mind to this further enlargement (for I cannot but think now that it was He who put this into my mind), was not only the greatness of the number of the applications for Orphans in general, but that for boys in particular. For *girls* we had the prospect of doing something more, when the house for 450 should be opened ; but for *boys* we had no such prospect, nor anything like it, though about 400 were waiting for admission, and hundreds of applications for boys had been declined, as there was no prospect of being able to admit them. The reasons which have led me to care for girls to a greater extent with regard to numbers, than for boys, are these : *a.* Girls are the weaker sex, and therefore call more particularly for Christian sympathy. *b.* If neglected, they are still more exposed to the danger of being utterly ruined. *c.* Girls we have employment for, and can keep them without difficulty till they are 18 or 19 years of age, whilst boys need to be apprenticed when 14 or 15. But I have generally found that the age from 14 to 18 or 19 is the most important in young persons, with regard to their spiritual state. They are, if cared for, at that age, generally speaking, more in earnest about the things of God than when younger. This has been my experience during the past 27 years, though God has made numberless exceptions during

the last three years, while his Holy Spirit has been so mightily at work ; and we ourselves have had very many children brought to the knowledge of the Lord before they were 14 years old.—Because, then, girls are the weaker sex ; and are still more exposed than boys to utter ruin if neglected ; and we can easily keep them till they are 18 or 19 years of age ; I was led more especially to care for them. But now, having to a considerable extent, by the help of God, been enabled to provide for them, I was led to consider whether something more might not be done for boys also, to prevent, if possible, the necessity of refusing the *boys* of a family, when the *girls* could be received. I do not mean to say that the whole of the intended enlargement is for boys, yet a part, a small part at least, should be appropriated to them. Though, then my mind has been and is still led more particularly to care for girls, yet the desire to provide for boys also, to a greater extent than hitherto, was that which, in the first instance, particularly led my mind to this further enlargement.

“ 3. The third reason which has led me to this enlargement, is, the entirely inadequate accommodation in the Orphan Institutions already in existence in the United Kingdom. If they were multiplied many times, yet would there be an abundance of destitute Orphans to fill them. But even if there

were room in them, which is not the case, still the existing rules of admission by votes, which are in use in most of them, make it difficult, if not impossible, for the poorest and most destitute persons to avail themselves of them. In referring to the practice of admission by votes, I do not blame any one; for I have reason to believe that many, who use this practice, wish it were otherwise; but I mention it simply as an existing fact. Thousands of votes, sometimes even many thousands, are required, in order that the candidate should be successful. But the really poor and destitute have neither time, nor money, nor ability, nor influence, to set about canvassing for votes; and therefore, with rare exceptions, they derive no benefit from such Institutions. Some time since I had an application for some Orphans, whose mother, a widow, in attempting to obtain votes for one of her fatherless children, was actually so worn out, that one day she came home, over-fatigued by canvassing for votes, sat down and died. I repeat it, I blame no one, yet I would humbly but solemnly entreat presidents, vice-presidents, and committees of such Institutions, to consider in the fear of God, whether it is really right to impose such overwhelming work and such heavy expenses on the poor applicants, and whether it is not more Christ-like to bestow the bounty which is to be bestowed, in a more easy way. I do not know

whether it may please God to use this feeble word of suggestion or not; but this I must say, I do feel myself called upon, to the utmost of my power, to make an easy way for the admission of poor destitute Orphans into an Orphan Establishment; and this, as well as the want of room in the already existing Orphan Institutions, has led me to contemplate this further enlargement by seeking to build for 850 more Orphans, so as to have altogether 2000 under my care.

“4. In intimate connexion with this latter point stands the question, What is to become of the Orphans who are left destitute, if they cannot be received into Orphan Houses, for want of room, or on account of the voting system? There remain the Unions, it may be answered. Yes; but have you considered, esteemed reader, what the moral and spiritual state of the Unions is? Vice abounds in them, on account of the kind of inmates who, generally speaking, are found there. For this reason, and justly so, many of the respectable, and especially religious, poor, cannot bear the idea that their nephews, or nieces, or grandchildren, who are Orphans, should go to a Union. So they would rather keep them, though themselves most poor. But the result is, generally speaking, they can neither provide for them the necessary food, nor proper education; and the end is often an early

grave for want of proper food, or a neglected, uncultivated mind and heart. By the help of God I will seek, therefore, yet further, to be the Orphan's friend, and have not only accommodation for 1150, but for 2000.

“5. In addition to these reasons, the physical, mental, and spiritual benefit which many Orphans have derived during a quarter of a century, from being under our care, has weighed especially with me, in seeking, to the utmost of my power, to extend my services still further in this particular.

“As to the health of the children, the reader needs to keep in mind, that the very fact of young children being bereaved of both parents by death, except through casualty, shows, humanly speaking, that they are the offspring of parents with bad constitutions, and that, therefore, ordinarily, they are themselves unhealthy. Thus we find it, with rare exceptions. And yet, notwithstanding, so abundantly has God been pleased, especially during the last 20 years, to bless the means which we employ for the invigoration of the constitution of the children, by a healthy locality, thorough cleanliness, perfectly regular habits, plain but nourishing food, exercise, &c., that a few months after their reception a marked difference for the better is perceived in their countenances, except they were already sunk too low; and as to the mortality among the children, it is so ex-

ceedingly small, especially remembering who these children are, that it is the surprise of all who have considered it. In all this we own, in our inmost soul, the hand of God, without whose blessing all these means would avail nothing; yet we cannot hide it from ourselves, that He is pleased to use these means, and that, for want of them, humanly speaking, perhaps one half of the children of the poor who die very young, would not have died, had they been similarly situated as the children under our care.

“Further, many of the children whom we have received, though 13 years old, or older, could not even read. Their minds had been utterly uncultivated. In this state, humanly speaking, they would have remained, but for our receiving them. We have had, thus, the joy of educating hundreds, who otherwise might have had no mental cultivation; besides teaching them a great variety of other things which are profitable for this life, in order to make them useful members of society. But further, and most of all, our chief aim concerning the Orphans, from the beginning of the work on Dec. 9, 1835, has been their spiritual welfare. All physical and mental improvement regarding them could never satisfy us. All would be exceedingly little in our estimation, if they were not spiritually benefited. We aim, by the help of God, after the former two points with earnestness; but we labour day by day in spirit for the

latter. And this blessing has been granted to us, not concerning 20 or 50 of the Orphans, but concerning hundreds. Yea, so assured am I that we do not labour in vain concerning this point, judging from the means we use, and the earnestness in prayer God gives us, that I expect but very few of the Orphans to be wanting in heaven. The longer I have gone on in this service, the more abundantly God has blessed the work regarding the Orphans in all these three particulars, as to their bodily and mental improvement, but especially as to their spiritual state; and with reference to the last, within the past three years in particular.

“This abundant blessing, then, which God has caused to rest upon our labours among the Orphans, year after year, has greatly encouraged me, among other reasons, to seek yet more to enlarge this work. The longer I live, the more I am enabled to realize that I have but one life to live on earth, and that this one life is but a *brief* life, for sowing, in comparison with *eternity*, for reaping. The consideration of these truths, while they have a practical influence upon my life, in general, so they also lead me in particular to labour for Orphans, poor destitute Orphans, who have no helper and friend, and whose helper and friend, under God, I seek to be yet further and further, unworthy though I am to be thus highly honoured.

“6. In connexion with the foregoing reasons stands

also the fact that the Lord has been pleased to give me gift for this work. I do not take credit to myself for this. There is not the least honour due to me on account of it. The germ was first implanted by the Lord, and He caused it to grow and to increase. The gift which He had been pleased to impart for such service, was used, at first, while the work was small; for I began with 30 Orphans. Afterwards were added 36 more, and then after a year again 30 more, and finally after the lapse of several years 30 more. Thus, for above 13 years, the number of Orphans under my care never exceeded 126; but then it grew to 300 with the opening of the New Orphan House No. 1, and with the opening of No. 2 to 700; and now, with God's blessing, it will shortly be 1150. Thus, with the enlargement of the work, the gift which the Lord had been pleased to give to me, was further and further developed as the whole work grew up under my sole and immediate direction.

“No president, vice-president, or committee stand in this position. However wise, godly, and in other respects suitable they may be for their post, except they have been in the position in which I have been as the sole and immediate director of such establishments, they cannot have gathered the experience that I have gathered for this work. Now, as I said, while there is not the least honour due to me for all

this, as God called me for the work, fitted me for it, has sustained me in it, and caused my experience to grow with the work; yet, on the other hand, I feel responsibility laid on me, still further, to the utmost of my power, to make use of this gift and experience, and therefore to enlarge the work, as here proposed.

“7. I am further encouraged to enlarge the work by the help which the Lord has given me regarding assistants. Had I been helped never so much in the way of pecuniary supplies, and had help in this particular been wanting, the work never would have been what it has been and is now. But as, in every other respect, I have proved the power of prayer and faith in God, so in this particular also. I have waited on God for assistants, and He has given them to me. When, for instance, I had before me the prospect of the enlargement of the Orphan work in 1851, I began soon after to pray for suitable helpers in the work, and thus prayed day by day, long before a stone was laid in connexion with the New Orphan House No. 2. I continued day by day to pray concerning this object; and when at last this house was opened in 1857, the needed helpers were found without any difficulty. And now again, with regard to No. 3, I have been daily praying for helpers for more than two years, and I doubt not that, when this house shall be quite ready in the autumn, I shall again abundantly see the answer to prayer in this

particular. But there is one point further especially to be noticed regarding fellow-labourers. When I was led in 1851 to the enlargement of the Orphan work, the chief and almost only real difficulty I had in my own mind, was the inability of undertaking myself any more work, as my hands were filled to the utmost, having, up to that time, without a secretary or other immediate assistant to myself, except the help of my dear wife in the matter of accounts, &c., carried on the large correspondence of the Institution, and seen myself to the despatch of Tracts and Bibles, &c. Since then, however, the Lord has been pleased to give me three assistants, who entirely relieve me of several branches of the correspondence, see to the issue of Bibles and Tracts, keep the accounts, help in the superintendence of certain matters, &c.; so that, though the Institution is now at least three times as large as it was when I was led to its enlargement, I go with the same ease and quietness of mind through my engagements as then, though the work certainly requires my attention every day, and all the day, with the exception of the time taken for spiritual exercises. Now the great help which the Lord has given me in this particular, encourages me to the still further enlargement, hoping in God that He will be pleased to give me yet further suitable assistants, and to help me in the discovery of still

other methods and ways, whereby, notwithstanding the enlargement, I shall be able to accomplish the work.

“8. The pecuniary help which the Lord has given me hitherto, is another voice as from Himself to me, to go forward. To pass by the former enlargements of the work, I will only refer to the last great enlargement, first contemplated by me at the end of 1850. The state of the Institution was then so that the expenditure for all the various objects thereof amounted to about £6000 a year. To obtain this sum, year by year, simply by prayer and faith; without regular subscribers, without agents for collecting, without asking any one, without any visible prospect whatever, seemed a large sum indeed, looking at it naturally. But, by this contemplated enlargement, when carried out, the expenses would not be only £6000, but £15,000 a year. Many were startled by it. And so should I have been had I simply looked at matters with natural reasoning powers; but I looked to the Lord, and to Him alone. I trusted not in circumstances, I trusted not in donors, nor even in donors who gave largely. And now, how have matters been, and how has the Lord dealt with His servant who trusted in Him? Has He said by His dealings with him, Thou hast been presumptuous; or, Thou hast expected too much from me? Nay, the very reverse. Hear, esteemed

reader, how I have fared. During the 17 years which had elapsed since the formation of the Institution, before the contemplation of this great enlargement of the Orphan work, the total of the income for the various objects of the Institution had been about Fifty Thousand Pounds; but since then, during 10 years only, it has been about One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds. See how unbelief has been put to shame. My full persuasion was at the time, as expressed in the Report of 1851, and reprinted in the second volume of my Narrative, that, as I had come to the decision regarding this intended enlargement, on the ground that I judged it to be the will of God, for the reasons there given, I was sure God would help me with means; and so it has been. For I never, during the past 27 years, have gone on more easily, regarding means, than since May, 1851. Thus, by what God has done hitherto, I am encouraged to go forward to this still greater enlargement, though I have no natural prospect whatever of obtaining the means needed. But my hope is in God, and in Him alone. The premises contemplated for 850 more Orphans cannot cost with the ground less than Fifty Thousand Pounds, especially as a large field for cultivation by the boys will be required. Now whence shall I get this £50,000, especially when it is considered, that, in the mean time, the amount needed for the current

expenses will be at the least £20,000 year by year? And how, natural reason would say, will you be able to keep up the work, provided you were able to accomplish the building, as then the regular current expenses would amount to about £35,000 a year? I feel the force of all this, looking at it naturally. I am not a fanatic or enthusiast, but, as all who know me are well aware, a calm, cool, quiet, calculating business man; and therefore I should be utterly overwhelmed, looking at it naturally; but as the whole of this work was commenced, and ever has been gone on with faith, trusting in the Living God alone for everything, so it is also regarding this intended enlargement. I look to the Lord alone for helpers, land, means, and everything else needed. I have pondered the difficulties for months. I have looked steadily at every one of them; but faith in God has put every one of them aside.

“9. But the following consideration operates with me more powerfully than all the previous eight reasons which I have given for the contemplated enlargement. When I began the Orphan work in 1835, as may be seen at full length in my Narrative, where I state the reasons which led me to it, my chief object was the glory of God, by giving a practical demonstration as to what could be accomplished simply through the instrumentality of prayer and faith, in order thus to benefit the Church of

Christ at large, and to lead a careless world to see the reality of the things of God, by showing them, in this work, that the Living God is still, as 4000 years ago, the Living God. This, my aim, has been abundantly honoured. Multitudes of sinners have been thus converted, multitudes of the children of God in all parts of the world have been benefited by this work, even as I had anticipated. But the larger the work has grown the greater has been the blessing, bestowed in the very way in which I looked for blessing; for the attention of hundreds of thousands has been drawn to the work; and many tens of thousands have come to see it with their own eyes. All this leads me to desire further and further to labour on in this way, in order to bring yet greater glory to the name of the Lord. That He may be looked at, magnified, admired, trusted in, relied on at all times is my aim in this service, and so particularly in this intended enlargement. That it may be seen how much one poor man, simply by trusting in God, can bring about by prayer; and that thus other children of God may be led to carry on the work of God in dependence upon Him, and that children of God may be led increasingly to trust in Him in their individual positions and circumstances, therefore, I say, I am led to this further enlargement.—Lastly, 10. Much, however, as the nine previous reasons weigh with me, yet they would

not decide me, were there not one more. It is this. After having for months pondered the matter, which all at once, I might say almost contrary to my expectation, had been brought to my mind ; and having looked at it in all its bearings, and with all its difficulties ; and then having been finally led, after much prayer, to decide on this enlargement, my mind is at peace. The child who has again and again besought his Heavenly Father not to allow him to be deluded, nor even to make a mistake, is at peace, perfectly at peace concerning this decision ; and has thus the assurance that the decision come to, after much prayer during weeks and months, is the leading of the Holy Spirit ; and therefore purposes to go forward, assuredly believing that he will not be confounded, for he trusts in God. Many and great may be his difficulties ; thousands and tens of thousands of prayers may have to ascend to God before the full answer may be obtained ; much exercise of faith and patience may be required ; but in the end it will again be seen that His servant who trusts in Him has not been confounded.” *

* Brief Narrative of Facts relative to the New Orphan Houses, &c., being the 22nd Report, published 1861, by Nisbet and Co., London.

CHAPTER XI.

ERECTION OF THE NEW ORPHAN HOUSES, NUMBER FOUR AND NUMBER FIVE.

“Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.”—**PSALM lxxxix. 10.**

SUCH is the motto with which Mr. Müller entered upon that glorious work to which he has devoted his life; and if the history already recorded has exhibited the faith of the servant of God, and the faithfulness of the Divine Promiser, that which we are now about to relate will furnish us with yet more powerful evidence, that it is no vain thing to wait upon God.

Having determined, after much exercise of mind and prayer, to go forward in this contemplated enlargement, Mr. Müller continued to wait upon God for the funds necessary for the accomplishment of this object; and, as usual, we find his faith rewarded, and donations pouring in from all quarters.

Under date June 6th, 1861, we find an entry,

“Have received the first donation towards the needed fifty thousand pounds, which consists of five rupees, six annas, three senams, three Spanish coins, and three other silver coins.”

On August 15th Mr. Müller tells us, that in the course of his reading through the Scriptures he came that morning to the last part of 2 Chronicles, and the beginning of the book of Ezra, where Cyrus's decree concerning the building of the temple is referred to. In reading this passage he remembers how it was a great comfort to him in the prospect of building the first Orphan House, and also in the prospect of building the second and third houses, as showing how, through the most unlikely persons, God can supply means. Then he thanks God for the means kindly given for these three houses, and tells Him in prayer that he expected from his faithful love all the means for the new Orphan Houses (No. 4 and 5) also. While he is thus engaged the postman arrives with many letters, and the first which is opened contains an order from Chelmsford for £100 for the Orphan Institution, the application of which was left to his discretion. “I took therefore this £100,” says Mr. Müller, “for the building fund, as God's answer to my prayers, it coming as it did.” Among other donations, in the month of December, 1861, we find the sum of £2 4s. 6½d., from Norwich, with these words: “We enclose towards the £50,000

for which you pray £2 4s. 6½d., being the amount taken in our little shop last Saturday; and we purpose, if the Lord will, to devote the proceeds of the first business day in each month in furtherance of our dear Lord's work in your hands."

On January 11th, 1861, the funds for this object received a large accession by a donation of £2000, accompanied by the following lines: "I enclose a cheque, value £2000, which accept with my best love and the expression of my heartfelt thankfulness to God for the privilege of being a fellow-helper in the work of caring for orphans. I would like it to be applied towards the buildings you propose (D.V.) erecting. I shall consider as though I had £1000 in each building, but you are at liberty to use the whole for the first if you wish. Inasmuch as it is done to the Lord, I know it is well spent." Three days after this Mr. Müller received another donation of £2000, the application of which was left to his disposal: £800 was placed to the Building Fund, and the balance to the School, Bible, Missionary, and Tract Fund.

On January 28th another large donation was received, amounting to £2500, which was left to Mr. Müller's disposal. Out of this £1000 was taken for the Building Fund, and the remainder applied to other objects of the Institution.

In addition to these large donations, hundreds of

smaller contributions are acknowledged in the published Reports, all of which are received with equal gratitude by Mr. Müller, since the thousands of pounds and the few shillings are alike recognized as coming from the bounteous hand of Him to whom belongeth the silver and the gold. And we can therefore easily understand how his heart would be equally rejoiced when opening, on July 31, 1863, a letter from a Christian orphan formerly at the Institution, and which contained 2s. 6d. for the Building Fund, accompanied by one of those interesting little letters, illustrations of which are given elsewhere.

In the Report published in 1865 we find the following entry, under date November 3: "Received also five thousand pounds for the Building Fund from a donor who desires neither his name nor place where he resides to be known." To this Mr. Müller adds the following remarks: "Do you rejoice with me, dear reader, in the receipt of this last donation? Does the greatness of the amount surprise you? Do you think it strange and marvellous that I should receive such a large sum in one donation? Well, the donation indeed filled my heart with inexpressible delight, because it was the fruit of thousands of prayers, and it brought me a decided step nearer the time when all prayers will be fully answered with regard to the new Orphan Houses No. 4 and No. 5,

as they have been fully answered regarding No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3; but while my heart was filled with joy and gratitude I remained calm, perfectly calm, without the least excitement. Nor was I in the least surprised at the greatness of the donation; for I look out for answers to my prayers, and I expect much from that bountiful heart which spared not the Lord Jesus. If £10,000—yea, £20,000, had been given to me at once it would not have surprised me. Nor was it marvellous in my eyes to receive so much at once; for God has power as ever to give largely; and He has still some of His children on earth who are so happy in Himself, and who so lay hold on eternal life, as that they can afford to give up a good portion of the possessions of this life, and, if called upon to do so, even all they possess of this world, in order to do good.”

It was on June 6th, 1861, that the first donation towards the Building Fund of No. 4 and No. 5 was received, and on November 3rd, 1864, the donations made towards this object amounted to above £27,000, including a balance of £2904 7s. 5d. brought over from the Building Fund of the third Orphan House.

We have already noticed that it is a fixed principle with Mr. Müller never to contract debt, and accordingly up to this time no active steps had been taken in the erection of the new houses. But Mr. Müller had resolved not to wait until he was actually in

possession of the £50,000 required before commencing the enlargement, but to proceed with the work as soon as he had in hand half the amount named, which would be sufficient, so far as he could see, for the erection of one house. That time had therefore arrived, and Mr. Müller began to direct his attention to the purchase of the ground.

We find from his narrative that for years his eyes had been directed to a "beautiful piece of land, only separated from the new Orphan House No. 3 by the turnpike road." Mr. Müller says: "Hundreds of times had I prayed within the last years, that God for Jesus' sake would count me worthy to be allowed to erect on this ground two more Orphan Houses; and hundreds of times I had with a prayerful eye looked on this land—yea, as it were, bedewed it with my prayers." Upon making enquiry respecting the purchase of this piece of land, Mr. Müller found that it was for sale, but he was confronted with the following difficulties: 1st, The land was let till March 25th, 1867, which would cause a delay in taking possession of two years and four months. 2ndly, The owner required £7000 for the land, which Mr. Müller considered more than it was worth. 3rdly, It was reported that the Bristol Water Works' Company intended to make an additional reservoir for their water on this very land.

Under these difficulties Mr. Müller was not dis-

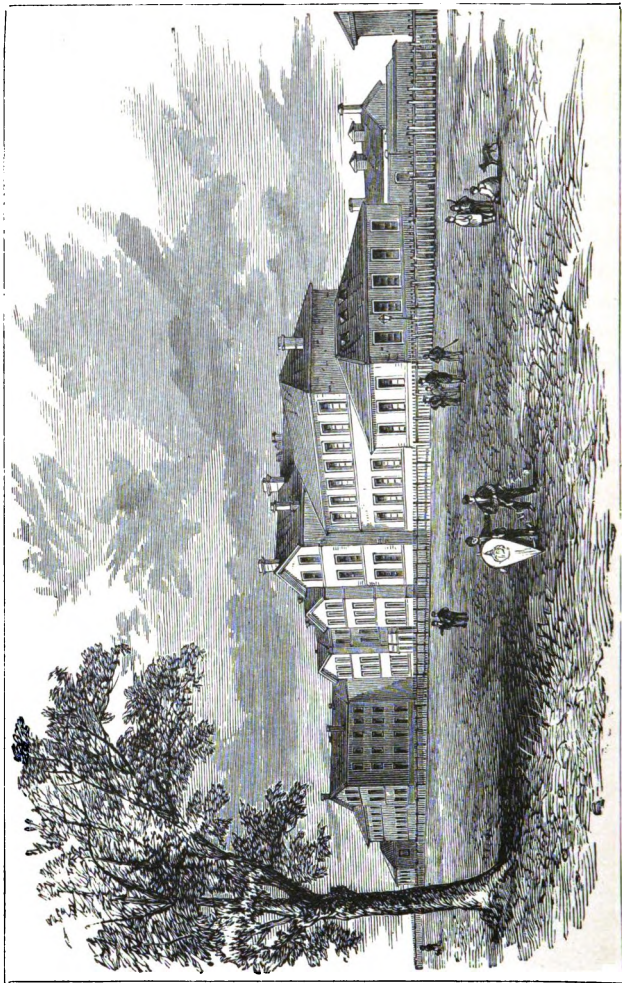
mayed, but had resource in prayer to his never-failing Friend and Helper, and very soon we find all these mountains removed.

The tenant willingly accepts a fair compensation for giving up his lease of the land. The owner consents to take £5500 instead of £7000 for the land. The Water Works' Company explain that only a small portion of the land would be required for their purpose, and that if this could be avoided even this small portion should not be taken.

As soon as Mr. Müller was able to have the newly-purchased land conveyed to the trustees he proceeded to the plans for No. 4, when it was found that great disadvantages and additional expense would be connected with building only one house at a time. These difficulties are fully stated in the Report published in 1865, and the result of their consideration was, that Mr. Müller determined to wait until he had sufficient funds to begin both houses at once. Up to this time about £30,000 pounds had come in, so that only about £10,000 more were needed to meet all the *building* expenses, the remaining £10,000 being required for furnishing, and therefore were not necessary for the signing of the contracts.

The account closed, on May 26th, 1865, with a balance in hand for the Building Fund of £24,635 17s. 5d.; the income during the succeeding year was £9366 4s. 7½d.; so that on May 26th, 1866, Mr.

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THE FOURTH ORPHAN HOUSE, ASHLEY DOWN.

Müller had in hand £34,002 2s. 0½d. By the end of March, 1866, all the plans for the two houses were ready, and in April tenders were received from contractors. It was, however, discovered that the cost would exceed Mr. Müller's estimate by about £8000, in consequence of the advanced price of building material, and the rise in wages, which had taken place since the erection of No. 3. A happy arrangement was, however, effected between Mr. Müller and the contractors. Separate tenders were given for the two houses, and as Mr. Müller could not consistently with his principles sign the full contract, not having the required amount in hand, it was arranged that the contract for No. 4 should be concluded, and that Mr. Müller should have the opportunity of accepting the other contract on or before January 1st, 1867, though not being bound to do so. The building of No. 4 was commenced on May 7th, 1866.

Mr. Müller was therefore called upon to exercise still more patience in waiting for the accomplishment of the long-desired object, while the numerous applications made for the admission of orphans, and the heart-rending distress which constantly came before his notice, led him to cry yet more earnestly to God for the funds necessary to enable him to complete the work.

In making reference to the urgent need which existed for the speedy erection of the new houses, we

may quote an extract or two from Mr. Muller's own Reports.

In the Report published 1864 Mr. Müller says : "We have now on our books waiting for admission 990 children, of whom 473 are boys, though, as stated, 1202 have been received since November 12, 1857, and 727 since March 12, 1862. But this number in all probability would be four times as great, had we not been obliged to decline registering so many hundreds of boys, because we had no prospect of being able to provide for them whilst they were of an age suited for such an Institution."

In the Report published in 1863, under date Feb. 10, after acknowledging the receipt of a donation for £1000, £400 of which was taken for the Building Fund, Mr. Müller says : "I have thus £400 additional for the Building Fund, which is no small joy. The Christian reader will not wonder at my joy, when I give him the following extract from a letter received on this very day, while I am writing this part of the Report, containing an application for the admission of two very young infants bereaved of both parents. 'I have heard much lately of the great benefit derived from your Asylum for Orphans, and am anxious to know whether such a case as the following would be thought worthy of your charitable consideration. About six weeks ago two little babies were born by a mother, whose husband was at the time lying ill

with his arm broken. The birth took place at a time when the mother was distracted with the death of a daughter, who, simply saying she had a headache, had lain down to rest on her bed, and never rose from it again. The birth of the twin children, sorrow at the sudden death of her daughter, and anxiety for her husband so possessed her, that from the moment of her delivery to the time of her death (she died three days ago) she was completely unconscious. Meantime the husband's arm mortified, an amputation was tried in vain, and he had gone to the grave before his wife. Thus these poor little children are orphans; and, if I were not afraid of wearying you, I could tell you of the deaths within these six weeks of a grandfather and grandmother, a brother and two other sisters, stripping them in their hour of greatest need of their nearest friends. There are four other little children to be provided for, and no one to provide for them except two elder sisters, both of whom are servants living on their wages."

By the 31st December, 1866, Mr. Müller was in possession of the amount necessary to enable him to sign the remaining contract, the total for both being £41,147, and the Orphan House No. 5 was commenced on January 15th, 1867.

From this time the work of erection proceeded steadily, and donations were continually received towards the expenses of furnishing the new homes.

On February 1, 1868, the last contributions necessary to complete that amount came in, and thus prayer, faith, and patience received their abundant reward. In addition to this we have to notice that all the glass needed for the *seven hundred* large windows in the two houses was given gratuitously by a firm.

On November 5th, 1868, two years and a half from the commencement of the work, the new Orphan House No. 4 was ready for use, and the work of reception commenced; and on January 6th, 1870, the long-looked-for and long-prayed-for day arrived when the other house No. 5 was opened for the destitute orphans. These houses are now nearly if not quite full of poor children, making a total of 2050.

Thus, after patiently waiting for about ten years, Mr. Müller had the joy of witnessing a full answer to his prayers, the delight of being instrumental in mitigating a large amount of human misery, by providing for the wants of these destitute ones, while in so doing he is enabled to present both to the church and to the world a powerful proof that "God is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

CHAPTER XII.

THE INCREASED REQUIREMENTS OF THE INSTITUTION, NEW TRIALS AND DIFFICULTIES, AND CONTINUED PROSPERITY.

THE facts already recorded, testifying loudly as they do to the watchful care of the great Father of the fatherless, from the earliest stages of this work to the present time, might appear to render anything more on this point unnecessary; for we might fully expect that that care would not be diminished, when its objects were no longer numbered by hundreds, but by thousands. Yet to those who have traced the course of this work thus far, a brief glance at the later history of the Institution cannot fail to be interesting.

The current expenses for the Orphans, which in 1862 amounted to between £8000 and £9000, had risen by 1864 to over £10,000, an increase of about 340 having in the meantime taken place in the num-

ber of the Orphans. In May, 1867, these expenses were nearly £13,000, and in 1870, they had reached the sum of £19,507 4s. 3½d., there being then 1722 Orphans in the five houses. The expenses of the Institution were not only increased by the additions constantly made to the number of inmates, but also by the rise which has of late years taken place in the price of provisions. But notwithstanding the immense proportions which these claims assumed, the Orphans have never suffered any lack; for not only have the necessities of the whole work been abundantly supplied, but each year has closed with a considerable balance in hand. Thus in 1864, after meeting all the current and other expenses for the Orphans, which amounted to about £12,000, there was still a balance of £7380 2s. 3¼d. to commence the next year. In 1867 the balance in hand was £6906 17s. 1¾d.; and in 1870, when the expenses had been greater than any previous year, the account closed with a balance in hand of £12,837 8s. 11¾d.

These are *plain, unvarnished facts*, and form but a scanty outline of the whole work, but we judge they are sufficient to show the reader that the principles upon which Mr. Müller acts are substantial and real.

The reader must not, however, imagine that because the work has now grown to such importance, and its world-wide reputation brings in contributions

from all quarters of the globe, that there is therefore now no room for the exercise of that faith with which the Institution commenced its course. If there is any difference, the need for that simple confidence in God is greater than ever; for with about 2100 persons daily sitting down to table, and an average expenditure *every day* of about £100 for all the objects of the Institution, the responsibility is such as naturally to make any man tremble. Not unfrequently has it happened of late years that for days and weeks together the income has been greatly disproportioned to the expenditure. This was especially the case during the year 1862-3. On November 15th, 1862, Mr. Müller writes: "The out-goings of to-day for the various objects are £632 12s. 1d., but the income for them had been only £3 15s. 6d. This occurred at a time when the distress in Lancashire was appealing to the benevolence of this and other countries, and these circumstances, directing the flow of liberality into another channel, might *naturally* have caused much apprehension on behalf of the funds for this Institution; but Mr. Müller knew from experience that inexhaustible fulness was to be found in God, and so it turned out that, though at one time the income might be very small, yet God was pleased at other times to send in abundant supplies, which more than compensated for it. Thus we find that not only were the wants of this noble

Institution richly met, but from thence kind sympathy and love sent funds to swell the stream of benevolence flowing into Lancashire, and that even the Orphans themselves, out of their little treasures, sent their little contributions.

While God in His goodness has multiplied the friends of this Institution to such a degree that their name might be called legion, yet there are to be found some who endeavour to throw discredit upon it and its founder, by seeking to account for its support otherwise than by the simple means which Mr. Müller professes. Thus some have said that the Institution owes its success to the fact of Mr. Müller being a foreigner, or the novelty of the thing, or to some secret treasure that Mr. Müller has access to, or to the Reports which are published yearly. Mr. Müller has himself given so pertinent and forcible a reply to these statements in the Report published in 1864, that we cannot do better than quote his own words. He says: "My reply to these different statements is: My being a foreigner by birth, looking at it naturally, would be much more likely to hinder my being entrusted with such large sums than to induce donors to give. As to the *novelty* procuring the money, the time is long gone by for novelty, for this is May, 1864, and the work commenced in March, 1834. As to the secret treasure that I have access to, there is more in this sup-

position than those who say so are aware of; for, surely, God's treasure is inexhaustible, and I have that (though that alone) to go to, and have indeed drawn out of it simply by prayer and faith more than £275,000 since the beginning of the work. [We may add here that up to the last accounts this amount had increased to about £450,000.] But now as to the last statement, that the Reports are the means by which all the money is obtained. Let us consider this a little, for I do heartily desire that the reader may not lose the blessing which this Institution is intended to convey to his soul. My reply is, there is nothing unusual in writing reports. This is done by public institutions generally, but the constant complaint is, that reports are not read. Our Reports are not extraordinary as to the power of language, or as to striking appeals to feelings. They are the simple statement of facts. These Reports are not taken by me to persons, and accompanied with personal applications for means; but they are simply sent to the donors, or to any other individuals who wish to have or purchase them. If they produce results, which reports generally do not, I can only ascribe it to the Lord." Mr. Müller goes on to say that he does not deny that the Reports are used as instruments by God in sending means, but states that the primary reasons for which they are written are to give an account of his stewardship, and in

order that the spiritual objects of the Institution in the encouragement of believers and testimony to the world may be thus answered.

The donations alluded to in the yearly reports continue to present the same remarkable character and variety as formerly, and many pages might be occupied with illustrations; but as a chapter has already been devoted to them, we only glance at a few.

On November 17th, 1862, £1 11s. 6d. was received with the following letter:—"My dear Sir,—Having been invited to attend one of the — dinners on Thursday last, and not feeling free to do so, I prefer sending you the enclosed for the use of the Orphans. Yours truly, Y. Z." This, Mr. Müller states, was sufficient to provide a dinner for *one hundred* Orphans.

On December 22nd in the same year was received 19s. 9d. from the son of a baronet, "who had earned the money on purpose to give to the Orphanage by giving up his butter and eggs for six weeks; also by catching rats and mice, and getting good marks for his lessons."

On October 25th, 1867, a very remarkable donation was sent, which Mr. Müller could not receive for the work on account of the circumstances under which it was sent. The amount was 2s. 6d., and the donor stated that some years previously she had

taken the money from a school-fellow. Having often felt unhappy about it, and knowing that the one from whom it was taken did not need it then, and was not likely to remember the circumstance, she had determined to send it to the Orphans, trusting that God would approve the way she had taken of making restitution. Mr. Müller states that he could not receive this, considering that restitution ought to be made to the person from whom it was taken.

Among the many donations sent in for the various objects we continually find some coming from Orphans who were previously in the houses, accompanied with letters testifying to their grateful memory of the benefits derived from the Institution; while we also find many from employers, giving encouraging testimony to the character of servants and apprentices who have entered their employ from among the Orphans.

But while there is very much to cheer and encourage, the history of the Institution also presents times of anxiety and trial; yet these only serve to illustrate more powerfully the potency of faith and prayer, and to show that these are equal to every emergency, whether financial or otherwise.

On one occasion, in the early part of the summer of 1862, much difficulty was experienced in obtaining suitable masters for apprentices; many boys being ready to go out, but no applications being

made for them. In answer to prayer, however, came one application and then another, until the difficulty was entirely overcome.

In the summer of 1864 the Institution underwent great difficulties, owing to the unusual drought which prevailed. The lack of rain was felt by thousands in Bristol long before the pressure of these circumstances was felt at the Orphan Houses; but at last all the wells and cisterns failed, including one with a good spring, which had never been out before. This will appear no small trial, when we consider that the requirements for daily use were from 2000 to 3000 gallons. Prayer was again the refuge, and God graciously interposed for deliverance. A kind farmer, living about a mile from the houses, offered to supply them with water as long as he had any, and about 1000 or 1500 gallons were hauled daily, while a little was also obtained by pumping the wells occasionally at the houses. At last, however, this source failed; but on the very day that the supply there ceased another farmer, about a mile and a half from the houses, sent word that he could supply as much water as was required from a brook which ran through his fields. Thus was the Institution helped, until the return of rain refilled the cisterns and wells.

At various times also the faith of the founder was tried by the appearance of fever, small-pox, and other

infectious diseases among the children; but though many of the Orphans have at times been laid down in some of these diseases, yet through the use of proper means and precautions, in dependence upon God, the cases have generally been slight, and the spread of infection very much checked.

Such are some of the trials and difficulties which have attended the career of this Institution, but none of them has produced such a feeling of profound and heartfelt sorrow as one event which marked the history of the work in the year 1870. In the early part of that year it pleased God to remove by death the beloved wife of the founder and director of the Orphan Houses. For thirty-four years she had stood by his side, and had proved a most valuable helper in this noble work. For many months the state of her health had been such as to cause serious apprehensions in the heart of her beloved husband, and he had tried to prevail upon her to apply herself less arduously to her labours for the Orphans. But she always made light of her own ailments, and would not relax those efforts to which she was impelled by the yearnings of a mother's heart over the fatherless and motherless children.

Monday, January 31st, 1870, found her in her accustomed place in the Orphan work, though suffering from severe indisposition, which necessitated an early return home. From that day Mrs. Müller

became rapidly worse until the evening of Sunday, the 6th of February, when she passed away from earth, at the advanced age of seventy-three years, leaving the work she so much loved for the rest she had so long anticipated.

This event, we need hardly say, created a profound sorrow through the whole Institution, and that day will be looked back upon by hundreds of the Orphans as one of the saddest in their experience, when they joined the long procession which followed the remains of the beloved departed one to the grave, while the tears of genuine grief which freely flowed from their eyes told, more loudly than any words possibly could tell, that they had lost one who by her kindly words, and cheerful smiles, and loving actions had won their hearts' affections, and proved herself to them a mother.

To Mr. Müller this bereavement was the greatest trial and affliction that has ever befallen him; but the faith which had borne him up through these many years sustained him in this hour of deep heart-trouble. To some who saw Mr. Müller at this time there appeared to be a lack of natural feeling and a tendency to stoicism, but we have seen enough of Mr. Müller to witness, that beneath the calm surface there was a strong tide of natural feeling, which was only stemmed and held back by the unvarying trust in God, which he has been enabled for so many years

to maintain. The utterance of his heart at this time was, "The Lord is good, and doeth good."

Our space prevents us saying more, but the reader may find a more detailed account of these circumstances in the Funeral Sermon by Mr. Müller, which may be obtained of the publishers of this volume, or at the Bible and Tract Warehouse of the Scriptural Knowledge Institution for Home and Abroad, 34, Park Street, Bristol. Also a little book entitled, "Satisfied with God," to be had at the same address in Bristol.

CHAPTER XIII.

SOME DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE INSTITUTION.

FEW Christian men who have perused the foregoing sketch of the remarkable Orphan Asylum established by Mr. Müller thirty-six years ago will feel, we presume, any question as to the deserving character of that Institution. The uniformly destitute and helpless condition of the objects of this noble charity—the devoted and conscientious character of the Director—and the manifest blessing of God which has rested upon his labours,—all concur in convincing every unprejudiced inquirer that money devoted to the support of the Orphans of Ashley Down is well laid out. But there are some other considerations to which we wish briefly to advert in connexion with this Establishment for Orphans, the very stones of which have been cemented with the prayers of God's children—considerations which show still further how fully it is deserving the support of all who feel that a day is

at hand when the summons will be heard—"Give account of thy stewardship ; for thou mayest be no longer steward."

We begin by directing the reader's attention to one striking feature in the New Orphan Houses, which certainly gives them an important claim to public support, and that is—*the economy of expenditure* practised throughout the whole of this spacious establishment. When the number of Orphans was 300, at the opening of the first Orphan House, from a calculation we made, it appeared that the cost of each child's support during the year was about *ten pounds*. Since that period, in consequence of the rise in the price of flour and most other provisions, it has risen to a little above *twelve pounds* per annum. Last year Mr Müller states that the average cost of each child was twelve guineas. It requires very little consideration to see that *ten, eleven, and twelve pounds* a year for the feeding, clothing, and education of a child is an exceedingly low sum. Indeed if some pounds were added to twelve it would be still far from extravagant, considering the present rate at which almost all kinds of provisions have been sold of late years.

Every thoughtful reader will agree with us in regarding this remarkable economy of expenditure as a most commendable feature in the Institution, and one which renders it highly deserving of support, to

all who are anxious to do *as large an amount of good as possible* with what means they have to spare. Let it not be thought, however, that this rigid economy arises, even in the *slightest* degree, from insufficiency of food, or from its being of an inferior quality. Every one at all acquainted with the management of this excellent Institution must be well aware that the very contrary of this is the case. Indeed, the very visitors themselves, who amount to some hundreds, usually, every week, have abundant opportunity afforded them of ascertaining how the Orphans are fed; as they regularly inspect the provisions in the store-rooms, and observe the children's meal set out as they pass through their dining-rooms. Besides the general appearance of the Orphans as they pass through the streets of Bristol—the amount of health which they appear to enjoy, and the remarkable paucity of deaths in the Establishment—only three cases, for instance, during the past year,—are pretty plain proofs that they have an abundance of good wholesome food.

The fact is, the very small expenditure of this Institution—considering the number of the inmates—is owing chiefly to the following causes:—First, the Director of the Institution, from first to last, has never received any income from the funds of the Institution, for the very large amount of time and labour which he and his family bestow upon its su-

perintendence. Secondly, saving is effected by the plan of raising the vegetables consumed in the Establishment, and even some of the potatoes, on the land surrounding the house. But chiefly it is owing to Mr Müller's wise and careful management, and his incessant attention to everything connected with the expenditure of means, even in what would by many be called trifling matters. Without taking into account this last particular, it is impossible to explain the very small average cost of each child—especially if we consider the large staff of masters, mistresses, and teachers provided for the comfort and education of these poor helpless children. Certainly, ten or eleven pounds per annum never could pay for the board, clothing, and education received by the Orphans in this Asylum, were there not the greatest wisdom and care exercised in all that concerns the commissariat of the Establishment.

It will be allowed by all that this consideration gives to the Institution in question strong claims to public confidence and support. Those who give away money, whether it be little or much, *do* like to know that the money will be *made the most of*, and not expended extravagantly; and we honestly believe that there is no Institution in the kingdom in which any sum of money would be made better use of than the New Orphan Houses on Ashley Down.

The earnest and prayerful efforts constantly made

for the *spiritual good* of the children inhabiting these Houses of Mercy, call for some mention under this head. Not merely are the health, and moral and intellectual education, of the Orphans the objects of the most careful attention of the Director and his assistants, but the Annual Reports testify that every effort is made to direct their minds to the Saviour of sinners. What is more, there is the most abundant proof that God has accompanied these efforts with His blessing. Every year letters are received from Orphan boys and girls who have left the House, informing Mr Müller, or the teachers, that the seed thus early sown has sprung up and brought forth fruit. These letters are sometimes published in the Reports, and supply the most convincing evidences of real conversion. The following letters, extracted from one of the Reports, are given as specimens :

“DEAR AND HONOURED SIR,—Will you graciously accept the enclosed mite (5s.) for the Orphans, from one who thinks of you and other kind friends with deep gratitude, for the care taken to train the friendless Orphan in the way of truth? Through your instrumentality, dear sir, while under that happy roof, the light of life first dawned on my benighted soul. How very many who have left the Institution, can with joy and gratitude look back to the Orphan House as our spiritual birth-place! May the Lord richly reward

you, dear sir, for all you have done for me, and long spare you to continue the friend of the Orphan !

“ I remain, dear Sir,

“ Your most grateful Orphan,

* * * * *

“ DEAR MR MÜLLER,—I am sure you will read this short note with pleasure, as I know how rejoiced you always are to hear that any of the Orphans are brought to Jesus. I have never forgotten the deep impressions I felt when in the dear Orphan Houses ; but had often, yes, very often, got very careless about my never-dying soul. But the Lord in His love would not allow me to leave Him ; and now, with the help of my blessed Saviour, I can say Jesus is mine. I have not words to express my joy. I never knew what real happiness was till a short time ago. Oh that I had come to Jesus before ! how much happier should I have been ! ” &c.

These two touching letters are from girls in service. The same Report contains a letter from a manufacturer in Scotland, to whom three Orphan boys were apprenticed. It relates the death of one of these, who had borne a decided testimony to the truth as it is in Jesus ; and also adds, that the other two had been “ apparently brought under the power of the Gospel, and were consistent in their conduct and happy in their tempers.”

With reference to the two letters we have given above, Mr Müller remarks:—"Instances of this kind we have had again and again during the past year, in which those who were formerly under our care have been led to become decided for the Lord. During no year had we such proofs that the daily prayer with which we follow the many thousands who—either as Orphans, or in the various schools—were under our care, is not offered up to the Lord in vain; for instance upon instance has come before us of such being converted. Yet all we see, and all we hear of and read of concerning such cases, is but very little of what we shall see in the day of Christ. This confidence we have, because it has been given to us for *many* years, *day by day* to labour in prayer for this object, and God delights to answer such like requests for Jesus' sake."

In connexion with this important topic we would mention a remarkable revival of religion in the Ashley Down Orphan Houses, which occurred at the commencement of the year 1860. Mr. Müller informs us that the daily prayers offered up for the spiritual benefit of the Orphans, have been abundantly answered in former years in *the conversion of hundreds* from among them. That they have also had repeated seasons in which, within a short time—or even all at once, *many* of the Orphans were converted. About three years ago such a season oc-

curred, when about 60 were brought to believe in the Lord Jesus ; and such seasons have occurred again twice during the past year. "The first," says Mr Müller, "was in July, 1859, when the Spirit of God wrought so mightily in one school of 120 girls, as that very many, yea, more than one-half, were brought under deep concern about the salvation of their souls. This work, moreover, was not a mere momentary excitement ; but after more than eleven months have elapsed, there are 31 concerning whom there is *full* confidence as to their conversion ; and 32 concerning whom there is likewise a goodly measure of confidence, though not to the same amount as regards the 31. There are, therefore, 63 out of the 120 Orphans in that one school, who are considered to have been converted in July, 1859. This blessed and mighty work of the Holy Spirit cannot be traced to any particular cause. It was, however, a most precious answer to prayer. As such we look upon it, and are encouraged to further waiting upon God.

"The second season of the mighty working of the Holy Spirit among the Orphans, during the past year, was at the end of January and beginning of February, 1860. The particulars of it are of the deepest interest. A very profitable pamphlet might be written on the subject. I have prayed again and again for guidance how to act, and have at last come

to the decision, *not* to relate the details, lest the dear children, who would recognize themselves in the description, should be injured ; for my experience of labouring 26 years among children, and of having had to deal with *so many very young believers*, has led me to the full conviction, *that it is injurious to make them prominent*. If God makes them prominent by using them, as evidently He is using children in these days, we have only to admire and to praise ; but this is very different from ourselves making them prominent. I must, therefore, content myself by stating, that this great work of the Spirit of God, in January and February, 1860, began among the younger class of the children under our care, little girls of about 6, 7, 8, and 9 years old ; then extended to the older girls ; and then to the boys ; so that within about ten days, above 200 of the Orphans were stirred up to be anxious about their souls ; and in many instances found peace *immediately*, through faith in our Lord Jesus. They at once requested to be allowed to hold prayer-meetings among themselves, and have had these meetings ever since. Many of them also manifested a concern about the salvation of their companions and relations, and spoke or wrote to them about the way to be saved."

As regards the permanency of this work, Mr Müller adds the following satisfactory testimony :—
"Should the believing reader desire to know how it

has been with these children since the end of January and beginning of February, our reply is, we have in most cases cause for thankfulness. The present state of the 700 Orphans, spiritually, is that there are 118 under our care regarding whose conversion we have full confidence; 89 regarding whom we have also confidence, though not to that full degree as concerning the 118; and 53 whom we consider in a hopeful state. To these 260 are to be added the 14 whom we sent out as believers, and the three who died in the faith during the past year. It is to be remembered that very many of the children in the Orphan Houses are quite young, as we have received them from four months old and upwards. During no year have we had greater cause for thanksgiving on account of the spiritual blessing among the children, than during the last; and yet we look for further and greater blessing still."

We have then a very important feature in the Ashley Down Orphan Houses brought before us by this heart-stirring description of the present *spiritual* condition of the children inhabiting those happy abodes. But, if we would feel the full force of this consideration, we should contrast with these blessed results the fearful consequences of the education and training of children in the Union workhouses, to which very many or most of these helpless Orphans would otherwise have been sent—especially where

the children *are educated under the same roof as the adult paupers.* The *Daily News*, in a recent number, mentions, as the result of an inquiry instituted as to what had become of 80 girls who had been brought up in a London workhouse of this kind, that, without one single exception, they had become common prostitutes. Association with the adult paupers proved their ruin. A schoolmistress complained with grief that she had no pleasure in her work ; for she felt that the children under her charge were being trained for depravity and crime. One after the other “ they go out of the house to carry on the lessons they have learnt from the adults, and return like them, ruined and degraded, to life-long pauperism.” As regards the boys, we have the testimony of Mr Tuffnell, the Government Inspector, that “ of 39 boys who went from a workhouse school, two have been transported for ten years, four for fifteen years, one for twenty years, twelve have been imprisoned, and only seven are doing ‘ pretty well.’ ”

CHAPTER XIV.

A VISIT TO THE NEW ORPHAN HOUSES.

IT is a striking sight to watch the Orphans passing through the streets of Bristol, on their way to attend Divine worship. Every Sunday morning they may be seen marching, two and two, up and down the hilly thoroughfares of that ancient city, on their way to Bethesda Chapel, where Mr. Müller ministers, there to hear the words of eternal life expounded. Each Orphan House contributes its troop of two or three hundred children—the boys and girls being marshalled in separate bands, and accompanied by their different masters, matrons, and teachers. True indeed is the saying so often in substance heard expressed—“That silent stream of children is the most powerful sermon ever preached in the city of Bristol.”

But it is a far greater treat, and withal a most instructive spectacle, to see the Orphan Houses themselves. It is a favourite place of resort with many of the inhabitants of Bristol. Nor indeed is it possible to form any adequate idea of the magnitude

of the undertaking, or of the wise guidance and administration of the work, without paying a personal visit to the Orphans in their own happy home.

The Orphan House No. 1 is open to visitors every Wednesday, No. 2 every Tuesday, No. 3 every Thursday, and No. 4 every Friday. Three sets of visitors are admitted from March 1 to the end of October, at half-past two, three, and half-past three o'clock. During the remainder of the year only two sets are received, at the hours of half-past two and three. Mr. Müller is exceedingly strict in enforcing these rules, as otherwise the arrangements of the Houses would be materially interfered with. We remember hearing of that eminent and good man, the late Sir Robert Inglis, having requested permission to go over the Establishment on an irregular day, as his stay in Bristol would not permit him to wait. Mr. Müller had an interview with the worthy Baronet, but felt bound courteously to refuse the request, on the ground that if he broke through the rules for the sake of one, he would be expected to do so for others also.

It was on a fine autumnal afternoon in October that we paid a long-promised visit to this remarkable Institution. As we briskly walked up the hill which separates what is called Ashley Down from the city, the woods in the distance were already clothed in the various hues of autumn, affording to the thoughtful

mind a striking instance of that law by which the beneficent Creator makes even ruin and desolation minister to the pleasure and happiness of His creatures. Altogether the walk is one of the prettiest out of Bristol—the road being studded with neat, elegant villas on each side, and though so near a city resounding with the din of business, the neighbourhood of Ashley Hill is as quiet and retired as if situated in the heart of the country.

At length we came within sight of the New Orphan Houses, and truly vast erections they are of almost interminable length. On entering the grounds in which two of the Houses stand, we passed the lodge, a neat little cottage on the right, and proceeded along the pathway by the side of the carriage drive, which together with a well-trimmed lawn, and some pretty flower beds, separates No. 1 House from No. 2. There are large pieces of ground surrounding each of the Houses, devoted to the cultivation of vegetables. The perfect order and neatness characterizing everything outside the establishment gave us a good intimation of what we might expect within, nor were we disappointed.

On ringing at the entrance, we were admitted by a respectable female into a stone hall, and thence up a staircase into the waiting-room, already occupied by several visitors seated in groups and chatting together in subdued tones. Books and pamphlets

were spread out on a table, near which sat a well-dressed young person sewing. She was placed there to receive the money from any visitors who wished to buy Mr Müller's Reports, or the Narrative of his life; but none were asked to purchase.

The Orphan House No. 1, which contains usually 140 girls above seven years of age, 80 boys of the same age, and 80 infants of either sex, was that we first visited: but in describing it we shall follow that order which seems best fitted to give a clear understanding of the Establishment, and not that in which the different parts are—to save time—shown to visitors.

There are three school-rooms—Boys', Girls', and Infants'—all large, airy, cheerful-looking apartments. The Girls', which is shown first of the three, is very spacious and lofty, situated on the ground-floor, and well fitted up with the best modern maps and other helps for learning. As our party, numbering some sixty or seventy, entered, we beheld about one hundred and twenty girls, sitting at work at low desks—all clothed alike in blue print frocks and neat pinafores, and with their hair cut short behind, but arranged with the greatest neatness. On a signal from the principal teacher, who was stationed on a small platform, with a desk in front, the girls all stood up and placed their hands behind them. At another signal one of the Orphans struck

up a cheerful song, which the rest at once joined in, and all marched out in single file, with as much precision in their steps as any of our modern volunteer corps would exhibit. The effect of this sight was really very striking; and he who can witness unmoved these helpless Orphans winding their way between the desks, to the music of the touching songs which they sang, one after another, must indeed be made of very impenetrable materials. As they passed round the ends of the desks in front of the visitors, who lined the walls on either side, I looked carefully at the features of each child, and, although in some cases I thought I saw evident traces of disease, inherited, doubtless, from the parents whom they had lost,* still there was a general appearance of health and of cheerfulness in their happy faces.

Then we were taken to the Girls' "Cloak and Shoe Room," where we found a vast number of serviceable plaid cloaks hanging up around the room, for winter wear. Each girl, too, has three pairs of shoes for use—a mark of sound economy on Mr Müller's part, as every *paterfamilias* well knows.

The Boys' School-room does not materially differ from that of the Girls. There were, at our entrance, about 80 boys seated at desks, dressed all alike in blue cloth jackets and corduroy trousers. Their

* From the Statistics in Mr Müller's possession, it is said that upwards of two-thirds of the parents have died of consumption.

appearance was certainly that of vigorous health. They looked sturdy, good-tempered fellows. At the word of command they all rose from their seats, and marched one after another between the desks to the air of some spirited song, just as the girls had before. Two separate rooms are appropriated as Work-rooms also—one for the boys, and one for the girls; the former are taught, a few at a time, to knit and mend their own stockings, and the girls to make their own garments, under the superintendence of a teacher who does the cutting out for them. Then come the Play-rooms, one for boys and another for girls. These are large, lofty rooms, with a few low forms, and nothing else in the shape of furniture. These are, of course, only intended for use in bad weather, at least in the case of the boys. For there is a capital court for playing in for each class of Orphans, and swings and other apparatus for exercise and play. The Girls' Play-room was provided with large cupboards, divided into small pigeon-holes, one for each child, well stored with dolls, dolls' houses, and a variety of other toys, the gifts, sometimes of relatives (who are allowed to visit the Orphans once a month), sometimes of ladies, who present them to the teachers, to be used as rewards.

The Infant department in the Orphan House never fails to arrest the attention of visitors. Would that we could adequately bring before the reader the

“ Infant School,” with its two hundred little ones, or nearly so—many not more than three years of age. A prettier sight we have rarely witnessed than that of these destitute children, all marshalled in perfect order at word of command, and marching round the room to the sound of their own merry voices. Then they proceeded in very soldier-like style to the gallery, and, when seated, sang two or three very pretty songs. One was,—

“ The little watch goes *tick, tick, tick,*
 So many times a minute ;
 And as it goes so *quick, quick, quick,*
 What can the watch have in it ? ”

The words in Italics were sung with particular emphasis and spirit.

Another was,—

“ O, we’re all sawing—saw, saw, sawing—
 O, we’re all sawing, at our pretty Infant School !
 The saw goes up and down, with a *push, push, push,*
 And through the log it cuts, with a *whish, whish, whish.* ”

At the word “ *push,* ” the little creatures suited the action to the word, and so with the corresponding word in the other lines of the song.

We must say a few words about the “ Infant Nursery.” Some infants, it should be remembered, are taken in so young that they are literally *babies*, and these are nursed in a small comfortable room by a motherly-looking head nurse, assisted by two or

three of the elder girls. It was a touching sight to watch these helpless infants toddling about with pretty horses or dolls in their hands, and some in the arms of their nurses. Around the room, too, we noticed several little basket beds in which these tiny babies might be placed, when overcome with sleep, with all the fondness of a mother's love.

Many visitors seem to regard as one of the prettiest sights in the whole Establishment the "Infants' Wardrobe." It was a room about twenty feet long, and ranged on each side of the room stood painted deal presses, divided into small pigeon-holes, in each of which were laid by, neatly folded up, small duplicates of all the various articles of clothing worn by the Infants. The one side was set apart for the girls' wardrobes, each little pile of clothing being crowned by a pretty little straw bonnet, and each garment being most carefully and neatly rolled up and pinned together. On the opposite side stood the same number of presses for the boys' clothes, and on the top of each tiny wardrobe that occupied the pigeon-holes there was placed a little blue cloth cap. It is a fact, that scarcely any part of the house affects strangers so much as this Infants' Wardrobe; and it is a common thing to see tears in the eyes of one and another of the visitors, as they gaze on the exquisite order and nicety which prevail on every side, and think of the tender love which had so wonderfully cared for the smallest wants of these helpless little ones.

Next to the Infants' Wardrobe room comes the Infants' Dormitory. At the end of the Dormitory is a passage on each side of which are situated the private rooms of the Matrons and Teachers. These were most comfortably furnished, and quite in keeping with the station of those who occupy such positions in the Orphan Houses. Each individual has a separate apartment.

The Infants' Dormitory, to which we have referred, is a spacious room, with abundance of air and light—filled with little tiny bedsteads. These are all of iron, painted of a light yellow colour, and many fitted round with railings to preserve the younger babes from falling out. The beds are ranged in three rows from one end of the room to the other. There is no other article of furniture in the room of any description. Four larger beds—two at each end of the room—are occupied by the elder girls who take charge of the forty little Orphans who nightly sleep in this cheerful room. Forty other infant Orphans occupy the corresponding room to this, which we were afterwards shown.

There is a third bed-room for girls, in which 140 female Orphans sleep—two girls occupying one bed. The same marvellous cleanliness of floors, and spotless purity of quilts and bed-clothes, with which our party was so impressed in the Infants' Dormitory, strikes us here. One good woman, in the height of

her amazement, exclaimed, looking at the well-scrubbed boards, "Why, you might eat your dinner off them!" Another visitor, of the opposite sex—whose face was an index to the benevolence which filled his heart—observed, as he gazed at the beds, with the bed-clothes folded down with the utmost nicety and precision—"Ah, they would never have slept in such beds if their parents had lived!" Great indeed was the admiration which this comfortable apartment elicited from our party. But it is impossible to describe the effect with pen and ink; it must be seen to be understood. At the end of the room there is a small window, opening into a bed-room occupied by one of the teachers, who is thus enabled to overlook the movements of the children. We afterwards saw the Dormitories for boys—which it is unnecessary to describe, as they correspond exactly with the one just mentioned, except that only forty children sleep in each. Besides these, there is a smaller Dormitory with eight beds in it for the elder girls—usually called "house girls," as they are engaged in house-work, and are on the point of being sent out to service. Each of these has the privilege of a good strong box to hold her clothes in. These girls daily assist the servants in the general work of the House.

After we had seen the Infants' Wardrobes, we were invited to inspect two other Wardrobe rooms. The

first we came to was the Boys'. The arrangement of this room exactly agreed with that containing the Infants' clothes. Each boy has a square compartment, in which to keep his clothes, with his number marked, in one of the large deal presses that line the room. Six boys, we were told, are draughted out to take charge of the wardrobes, and see that everything is kept in proper order. When their term of service is expired, their place is supplied by six others, until each boy in the House, of a fit age, has taken his turn. The boys have each three suits of clothes. The Girls' Wardrobe room corresponded with that for the Boys, except that it is much larger. There were the same lofty painted deal presses, subdivided into innumerable little pigeon-holes. The girls have five changes of dress. Three blue print frocks for ordinary wear in the house, a lilac pattern dress for Sundays during the summer months, and a brown merino dress for winter wear. The girls make and mend all their own clothes. Six girls in rotation take charge of all the female wardrobes of the house; just as in the case of the boys.

The Dining-room where all the Orphans take their meals is a spacious apartment filled with long narrow tables and forms, all as white almost as the paper on which the reader's eye is now fixed. While we were inspecting this room, we noticed some of the elder girls employed in spreading the snow-white table-

cloths for the evening meal. Others at the same time entered the room with trays loaded with bread-and-butter. Soon afterwards, some hundreds of cups filled with milk-and-water were placed upon the tables; but the Orphans were not called to tea until after the visitors had left.

It may be interesting here to add a few particulars respecting the other meals of the children, which we obtained from our conductor. The food of the Orphans at breakfast is always oatmeal porridge: they use milk with it. No doubt this wholesome food is one cause of the healthy, ruddy appearance of the Orphans generally; for notwithstanding a strong prejudice against it in this country, a more wholesome, nutritious article of diet certainly does not exist. The dinner provided for the children varies almost every day. Monday there is boiled beef; Tuesday, soup, with a good proportion of meat in it; Wednesday, rice-milk with treacle; Thursday they have boiled leg of mutton; the following day they have soup again, and on Saturday bacon; on Sundays they always dine on rice with treacle in order that as few as possible may be kept from attending public worship. The Orphans breakfast at eight o'clock, dine at one, and take tea at six.

The Kitchen of the Establishment should by no means be overlooked. Here we saw the cooking apparatus, one of the most improved description, in

which one small fire performed a variety of offices even at distant parts of the room. We were particularly struck with three huge upright copper cylinders which we found were used to boil the porridge in. A long pipe connects them with the fireplace ; they consist of two vessels, the one inside the other. The steam is admitted through the pipe into the space between the outer and inner vessels ; and a short time is sufficient to make the porridge boil. The cooking apparatus altogether is probably the most complete and efficient anywhere known.

We went into the Store-rooms also. One was full of shoes, caps, haberdashery, &c. Another contained a large abundance of sheeting, blankets, calicoes, and such-like articles. A third was crowded with provisions of various descriptions—Scotch oatmeal in barrels, good wheaten flour in sacks, large quantities of meat, bread, sugar, &c. &c. We saw the Bakehouse too, and the Washhouse. In the latter was an American Washing machine, where wooden balls do the work of human knuckles. There was also a singular machine for wringing the clothes, called a Centrifugal Drying Machine.

Another apartment is called the “ Shoes and Cloak Room.” Every child in the house has three pairs of shoes. The girls all wear cloaks of a green plaid in winter, and shawls in summer. Then there are the “ Washing places.” They are furnished with baths ;

and all around the walls were hung bags containing the brush and comb belonging to each child, and the number of the said child painted over each. The greatest care seemed to be taken to insure thorough cleanliness in the children, and to guard against the spread of infectious complaints, should they at any time exist.

It may be added that the children all rise about six o'clock in the morning. They retire to rest—the elder children about eight or nine, the younger an hour earlier. The Teachers conduct religious worship every day, at half-past eight in the morning, and just before tea in the afternoon. They have two holidays in the year—at Whitsuntide and Christmas. But the Orphans never leave the house on these occasions, except, as stated before, in company with their Teachers. The beautiful manner in which the girls decorate their rooms at these holidays with their own work—festoons of artificial flowers, &c.—is one of many significant indications of the healthful, free, and cheerful spirit pervading the entire Establishment.

We add a few remarks on the subject of the Education of the children, and the effects of the system of training adopted by Mr Müller on the health and bearing of the Orphans.

As regards the Education of the children, the Girls are instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, English history, a little of

general history, and in all kinds of useful needlework and household work. They make their clothes, and keep them in repair ; and Mr Müller well observes in one of his Reports, “ If any of them do not do well, temporally or spiritually, and do not turn out useful members of society, it shall, at least, not be *our* fault.” The Boys go through the same course of instruction as the girls, and they learn to knit and mend their own stockings. They also make their beds, clean their shoes, scrub their rooms, and work a little in the garden ground around the Orphan Establishment, in the way of digging, planting, weeding, &c.

There are some points connected with the Education of these Orphan children especially important to notice. For instance, there is evidently a more earnest desire to educate and discipline the mind, and draw out the kindly affections, than to cram the head with a large variety of knowledge, which may be, to say the least, of very questionable utility to children in their sphere of life. And in proof of the success which has attended this system of education, the general admiration expressed by visitors may be referred to. We would particularly mention a recent visit of some distinguished Statesmen and Members of Parliament—Lord Stanley, Sir John Pakington, Lord Robert Cecil, Sir W. Miles, and others. It would be difficult adequately to convey the admiration and surprise which these illustrious persons

expressed at the general character of the Institution, and the principles on which it was conducted. But what they especially noticed, whilst in the Classroom, was the precision and accuracy with which the children were able to write from dictation. One of these noblemen observed, indeed, that the writing from dictation of some of the children exceeded those which he had lately inspected at one of our large National Institutions.

As regards the religious teaching imparted to these destitute children, it may be well to state, that the most diligent efforts are made to render them familiar with their Bible. The great doctrines of religion, in which all Evangelical Christians agree, are carefully taught them, without, so far as we can learn, the slightest sectarian bias.

Another point of exceeding importance in any account of this noble Institution is, *the happy effects of judicious care in regard to diet, ventilation, cleanliness, and also the encouragement of cheerfulness and invigorating exercise.*


We are informed by those who are intimately acquainted with the Orphan Houses, that these results are strikingly observable in the appearance of the children who have been longest in the Institution, as compared with those who have recently entered. It is even asserted by competent judges, that any intelligent person conversant with such matters would find

no difficulty in pointing out, with considerable precision, those Orphans who have been recently received. But the most significant fact that can be mentioned in illustration of the foregoing statement, is the following. During a period of five years, the average rate of mortality has been rather under *one* per cent. ! When this is considered in connexion with the circumstance that all the children, having lost both parents, may be presumed to inherit from them diseased and weakly constitutions, too much importance can hardly be attached to it. It may be added, that in many cases where the children on entering the Institution have exhibited symptoms of scrofula, these have gradually disappeared under the effects of the combined influences stated above.

We conclude the chapter with one word of advice to any of our readers who may chance at any time to travel in the direction of Bristol. If possible, let them not return home before paying a visit to the New Orphan Houses on Ashley Down ; we promise that it will prove a rich treat. Should the visit entail some little personal inconvenience, even then we think they will never regret having made some sacrifice of time and trouble to inspect that marvellous Institution, which may by the blessing of God be instrumental in imparting to them real and lasting benefit.

CHAPTER XV.

THE ORPHANS AFTER QUITTING THE INSTITUTION.

 HERE is yet another topic on which we are desirous of saying a few words; and that is—*The conduct and position of the children after leaving the home of their childhood.* This, the reader will at once perceive, is not only an interesting, but a deeply important subject. In point of fact, the Orphan Establishment on Ashley Down is simply *a means to an end.* The great object of the Institution, in receiving so many hundreds of destitute children, is not to provide for the wants of their childhood, by clothing and feeding them, so much as to fit them for future life—to educate and train their youthful minds for time and for eternity. It is therefore very natural for the reader to ask—How does the Institution succeed in these respects? What is the conduct and what are the circumstances of the Orphans, when they have quitted the home of their childhood? Do they, as a general thing, acquit themselves to the satisfaction of their employers?

Do they usually turn out useful and honourable members of society? And does their after-life afford proof that the instructions of their kind benefactor and his associates have not been in vain? These are questions which may naturally occur to the readers of the present volume; and we shall now endeavour to the best of our ability to answer them, by detailing some interesting facts, which we have gleaned from various sources, as to the conduct and circumstances of these destitute Orphans after they have for ever quitted their happy Home.

Mr Müller, we know, considers each child received into the Establishment on Ashley Down, to be so placed under his guardianship and care, that he is responsible before God to do all in his power to secure that child's well-being and comfort in future life. On reaching a suitable age, it is his practice to place out both boys and girls, in such situations as shall enable them to provide for their future subsistence; at the same time seeking to avoid as much as possible all danger of injury to their health and morals.

As regards the Orphan girls, Mr Müller gives us the following particulars:—"Our aim," says he, "is to keep them till they shall have been sufficiently qualified for a situation, and especially also till their constitution is sufficiently established, as far as we are able to judge. We uniformly prefer fitting the

girls for service, instead of apprenticing them to a business, as being generally far better for their body and soul. Only in a few instances the female Orphans have been apprenticed to businesses, when their health would not allow them to go to service. If the girls give us satisfaction while under our care, so that we can recommend them to a situation, they are fitted out for the place, at the expense of the Establishment. The girls generally remain under our care till they are seventeen or eighteen years old. They very rarely leave sooner; and, as we receive children from their earliest days, we have often had the girls thirteen, fourteen, yea, even fifteen years under our care." As regards the boys, we are informed that they are usually apprenticed when they are between fourteen and fifteen years of age. They have a free choice of the trade they like to learn, but having once chosen and been apprenticed, they are not allowed to alter. The boys, as well as the girls, have an outfit provided for them; and any other expenses that may be connected with their apprenticeship are borne by the Institution. Mr Müller strongly objects, we understand, to put out the boys as servants, for the same reason that he declines to apprentice the girls, namely, because in such situations the temptations to vice and immorality are so great. He considers also the uncertainty of a comfortable

subsistence greater, in the case of men-servants, than in that of journeymen mechanics.

In his Report for 1870, Mr. Müller states the kind of trades to which the boys are generally apprenticed. He says that "during the last twenty-one years, all the boys who were apprenticed were bound to carpenters, or carpenters and joiners, basketmakers, shoemakers, tailors and drapers, plumbers, painters and glaziers, linendrapers, printers, bakers, grocers, hairdressers, ironmongers, tinplate workers, confectioners, hosiers, builders, millers, gasfitters, smiths, outfitters, provision dealers, sailmakers, upholsterers, wholesale grocers, chemists, seed merchants, and electro-plate manufacturers."

We heard it stated by one in a position to know the actual facts of the case, that as a general rule the number of applications made to Mr. Müller, both for girls as servants, and for boys as apprentices, is so much above the supply as to afford a full opportunity for advantageous selection.

Thus far we have treated of the Orphans up to the actual time of quitting their happy home; let us now follow them into the wide world, and see how they acquit themselves in their new spheres of life. It would be difficult to ascertain this, but from the fact that their benevolent friend keeps up, as far as is

practicable, a continual oversight over the Orphans after they have left his care; and the numerous letters from them—many of which are published in the Reports—attest, in the most lively manner, the happy results of the system of discipline which they have experienced while under Mr Müller's superintendence, both with regard to their temporal and their spiritual interests.

The most satisfactory method of exhibiting to the reader the actual results of the training which the children receive, will be to give the letters addressed to Mr Müller, from time to time, by the Orphans formerly under his care. It is only possible, however, to print a few of these interesting epistles; they are too numerous to insert the whole of them.

Under the date of April 25, 1856, Mr Müller writes:—

“To-day I received a letter from one of the Orphans formerly under our care, but now in service, which gave me more joy than a considerable donation. The writer was brought to the knowledge of the Lord whilst under our care, and sent to service as a believer.

“ * * * * April 24, 1856.

“ DEAR AND RESPECTED SIR,—I am happy to tell you that my place is one that suits me very nicely.

I have not any more work than I can comfortably get through with. I am very comfortable, and my master and mistress are extremely kind. If I were their own daughter, I could not expect greater kindness from them. My mistress is always ready to tell me anything I want to know, or to show me how to do it. I have, dear sir, to return you many grateful thanks for this my place, and also for the interest you took in me whilst under your care, which was nearly six years. *I cannot by letter or words express half the gratitude I feel for this your kindness. I can always look back with pleasure that I ever went to the Orphan House ; and I cannot regret that I was obliged to leave it, knowing that those same kind friends placed me here that cared for me when in the Orphan House. Not that I had the slightest wish to leave, as far as I was concerned ; far from it. It was there, too, that I first saw myself a guilty sinner before a holy and a just God, and was enabled to look to Jesus as my Saviour. My desire now is, that I should love Him more, and serve Him better, who has done so much for my soul.*

“ I am, dear Sir,
“ Yours gratefully and respectfully,
“ * * * * ”

From the Report published in the summer of

1858, we give the following letter from one of the boys sent out as an apprentice to a distant part of the country :—

“* * * *, September 21, 1857.

“DEAR SIR,—It pleased the Lord that I should arrive at my place in safety, which I did at half-past seven o'clock. I deeply feel the mercy and kindness which the Lord has bestowed upon me, and many undeserved blessings, while I was in the New Orphan House; and I trust that He who has taken care of the early part of my life will also take care of me now. As you were the blessed means of taking care of me while in the New Orphan House, I have to thank you for very much. I like my place and my master very much, and I hope that they will be a blessing to me. I thank you for the instructions which you were the means of giving me, especially for the religious instructions, which I hope I shall never forget. It was there that I found peace in Jesus, and I hope He will preserve me in this world, so full of temptations and sorrows.

“I remain, dear Sir,

“Yours thankfully and respectfully,

“* * * * *”

Nine days after, one of the three masters received the following letter, from the same apprentice :—

“DEAR SIR,—It is with deep feelings of gratitude to you for your kindness to me that I now write these few lines to you. I liked my journey from Bristol very much, especially in the steamer, and thanks be to a merciful God for my safe arrival. As I am now out in the world, I find myself exposed to many and sore temptations, compared to those I had while in the New Orphan House; and very grateful I feel for the goodness of the Lord to me while there. And I hope that as He has taken care of me hitherto, He will also take care of me still, and be my guide in all times of temptation and trouble. My being parted from my sisters is a great trial to me. Often while at work have I tried to restrain a tear, when thinking of them; but as it is the will of our heavenly Father, it must be for the best, and I hope, if I may never see them again in this world of parting, I may meet them in the place where we shall never more be parted. I am very well and happy, though I was very poorly last Sunday afternoon. On Sunday morning I go to a Bible-class from half-past nine to ten, and then go to the Chapel, which is a little way from our house. I go to the Chapel in the evening, after which they have a prayer-meeting. I go to a prayer-meeting twice a week, on Thursday and Saturday. I like the country very much; there are very many copper and tin mines all about here. I live in a very comfortable house, and I like my

master very much, and am much attached to my mistress. Give my love to Mr M., to Mr L., and to Mr W., Mr B., Miss H., and to my own dear sisters, and to all the boys.

“I remain, with very much love,

“Yours most affectionately,

“* * * * *”

Another letter from one of the Orphan boys, apprenticed out, is published in the Report for 1859. It is as follows :—

“MY DEAR SIR,—I very often think of the Orphan House, and consider it as the place where I was first brought to the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I have plainly seen the hand of God in all matters and circumstances that have happened during the last nine years, and I can only say that mercy and goodness have followed me during this time. I have, dear sir, left the house just a twelve-month. It is true that we have many difficulties to contend with ; but to those who fear the Lord, they generally vanish as soon as they meet them. What a revolution has the past year seemed to me ! It is as yesterday. It is gone. I often experience trials and temptations, and often feel myself to be very cold, not living and feeling, as I ought to, in the fear of God ; but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day,

and for ever. What a precious encouragement to such a one as I am !—I was very interested to hear that the new Orphan House No. 2 had been opened, and that there were already 200 or 300 Orphans that occupied it. The building of the house ought to be in itself an encouragement to weak believers, to look by faith to God for all their wants. Hoping that you and yours are well,

“I remain, dear Sir,
“Yours gratefully and very respectfully,
“* * * * *”

In the same Report we find the following letter from one of the girls who had gone out to service, after being between eight and nine years in the Orphan House :—

“BELOVED AND RESPECTED SIR,—I esteem it a great pleasure to express to you my thanks for your kind care over me when I was an inmate of the dear Orphan House, and I desire ever to remember it with feelings of love and gratitude. I was very sorry not to have had the pleasure of seeing you before I left; but I knew that you were in the place in which the Lord would have you to be, so that it must have been for the best that you were not at home then. I desire also to thank you, beloved sir, for allowing my brother to come and see me before he left. I think I shall like my situation very much, but I shall soon

get used to it, so that I shall be able to say more about it than I can at present. Mrs — is exceedingly kind to me. Will you remember me very respectfully to dear Mrs Müller? I am very glad to hear that the change has been beneficial to your health, and I hope that, if it please God, you may long be spared to continue your work and labour of love to the glory of His name.

Believe me, beloved Sir,

“Yours in much love and respect,

“ * * * * * ”

The Report for the present year, 1860, is fuller than any of the preceding, as regards these touching epistles addressed by the Orphan boys and girls to their late Director. We select two or three as specimens:—

“KIND AND HONOURED SIR,—It is my painful duty to communicate to you something which grieves me very much, namely, the decease of my kind master, Mr —, which took place at N—, on the 4th instant, and whose body was consigned to the grave last Tuesday. He has, indeed, been a kind master to me, and I ought to be exceedingly thankful to God for raising up such a kind friend in you, to get me such a good situation and kind master. I shall never be able to repay you for watching over me like a father, whilst in the Orphan School, and then finding me such a good place; yet still in time to come, if I

am spared, I may be able to contribute my mite towards the maintenance of the Orphans. I believe the business will now be carried on by Mr ——'s son, and another gentleman, with whom Mr —— had been in partnership for about a year, under the firm of ——. With best thanks to Messrs B——, W——, and S——, and great gratitude to you,

“ I remain,

“ Yours thankfully,

“ * * * * * ”

It is impossible to mistake the meaning of these letters, which it would be very easy to add to from the pages of the Reports. They are not only valuable as showing, by the simple statements of the Orphans themselves, how the Director of the Institution and his associates were regarded by the children whilst under their care, and how they look upon them after they have quitted the home of their childhood ; they also show the happy results of the discipline they have received, as exemplified in the character of the children ; and they constitute so many guarantees, so to speak, of the future success of the writers in their several spheres of life. Young men and women who could give utterance, of their own free will, to such sentiments as we have transcribed, may with confidence be expected to become useful and happy members of society, and to constitute good

servants, good workmen, and good fathers and mothers.

But other evidences remain, which place this beyond a doubt in many instances, and contain positive testimony of the creditable and consistent conduct of the children after leaving Mr Müller's care. We give the following statements from various Reports.

Under date of October 9 Mr Müller writes:—

“ Being requested by the master of one of the Orphan apprentices to forward the indentures of the young man, he wrote me the following letter:—

“ ‘ DEAR SIR,—A lad apprenticed by you to my late father is just out of his time; will you have the kindness to forward his indentures for him? During the time he has been with us he has shown himself perfectly trustworthy, and in all respects a most excellent lad; and is now, I think, a most promising young man. I am sure you will be glad to hear this character of him.

“ ‘ Yours very truly,

“ ‘ * * * * * ’ ”

Elsewhere we meet with the following testimony, of a very similar nature, with reference to an Orphan girl:—

“ May 16, 1859.—Had the following interesting letter, from an entire stranger, a City Missionary at

a considerable distance, in reference to one of the believing Orphans, whom he had met on a visit to a Christian friend. ‘ Sir, having been on Tuesday last on a visit to Mr —, of —, I had the pleasure of meeting there a young woman, one of *God’s own children*, from your valuable Institution. The evening we spent together in singing a hymn, reading God’s word, and prayer; then retired to rest. My bedroom joined that of the above; and on the next morning, soon after five o’clock, I felt great comfort in hearing the same young woman reading God’s word, and then for some time in earnest supplication, seeking the protection and guidance of her heavenly Father. I beg pardon for troubling you, but desired you may know, that, when from under your care, and far away from those who for a long time had been her earthly protectors, she was not forgetting to acknowledge Him who is the Father of the fatherless.’ ”

From the next Report, published in the year, 1860, we give the following extract from Mr Müller’s Journal:—

“To-day I also received the following account about three godly apprentices in the same place, an excellent establishment in Scotland, carried on on thorough Christian principles, combined with thorough business habits:—‘I write a few lines to inform you that

G. A. fell asleep in Jesus on the 13th instant. He had not been able to do any work for nearly a year and a half before his departure, and I caused him to be occupied, as long as he was able, in going messages and doing other little matters in the open air, which, under God, was the means of prolonging his life. His end was peace; and the testimony he has left behind to the truth as it is in Jesus is very satisfactory. The other two boys from Bristol, C. S. and J. D., have both apparently been brought under the power of the Gospel, and are consistent in their conduct and happy in their tempers. They are also in good health, and make satisfactory progress in learning their business.' ”

In a previous Report, that for 1858, Mr Müller published the following letter from one of the former Orphans, who had then been for several years a believer, and who filled a respectable situation in a large house of business :—

“ MY DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in sending you the enclosed (£1), and in being permitted once more to contribute a little towards the Institution, to which I do, and ever shall, look back with gratitude, and desire to praise the Giver of every good gift for all the blessings He has vouchsafed to me since the time I left its parental roof. My prayer is that

health, strength, and the needed grace may be given you to carry on the work (which of late is so greatly increased), to the glory of God our Father; and that many, very many, of the dear children may give themselves to Jesus in their youthful days," &c.

It is impossible, after reading these touching letters, to question the efficacy of the system of instruction and training adopted in the New Orphan Houses. Every one will admit that they are highly creditable both to the Orphans and to their teachers. Very many others are published by Mr Müller, written in a similar strain, and affording abundant evidence of the welfare of the Orphans temporally, and often spiritually, after quitting the Establishment. We have it, too, on good authority, that the Director of the Institution is continually receiving the most gratifying testimonials as to the comfort and prosperity of the children, when no longer under his paternal care—while the exceptions to this rule have been much fewer than might be reasonably excepted.


In a previous chapter we have had occasion to mention the numerous instances in which the Orphans have been converted to the faith of Jesus. In the case of these youthful believers there is additional ground on which to expect their future prosperity and welfare. And as we have seen, from Mr Müller's express statements, that there were in May, 1860,

about two hundred Orphans as to whose real conversion he entertains great confidence, we are justified in expecting that the New Orphan Houses will prove, by the blessing of God, an incalculable blessing to our country in years to come. The Lord grant that the life of Mr Müller may long be spared, that thus he may continue for many years to superintend the affairs of that noble Institution !

It may be well to add, here, the proper form in which to bequeath money by will to the Orphan Work. It is as follows :—

“I give to George Müller, of Bristol, or such other person or persons as shall, when this legacy shall become payable, be the director or directors of the New Orphan Houses on Ashley Down, Bristol, the sum of —— to be paid out of such part of my personal estate, as shall be legally applicable thereto ; and to be applied by the said George Müller, or other such director or directors, for the purposes of such New Orphan Houses ; and his or their receipt shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.”

CONCLUSION.

 N bringing to a close this brief and imperfect sketch of what we honestly believe to be one of the noblest and most useful Institutions in the kingdom, we would say a few words as to the lessons it is calculated to teach us in these latter days.

And here, beyond all question, the most obvious lesson which the history of the New Orphan Houses is fitted to impress on our minds is—*the power of believing prayer, and the faithfulness of God in times of difficulty and trial.*

What Christian has not experienced these seasons of perplexity and trial? What believer may not expect again to meet with them? What a striking comment do the records of the New Orphan House afford of the efficacy of prayer and the faithfulness of God at such times! Open the Reports published by Mr Müller during the first ten or twelve years of the Institution, at almost any page, and what do we read? Instances without number almost, in which the cry for deliverance—even as in the days of David,

the sweet singer of Israel—has entered into the ears of the Lord God of hosts, and “help has been sent out of Zion, and strength out of the sanctuary.”

Look, for instance, at Mr Müller’s experience on September 4th, 1844. He says:—“Only one farthing was in my hands this morning. Pause a moment, dear reader! Only one farthing in hand when the day commenced. Think of this, and think of nearly 140 persons to be provided for.” Now, how did God answer the prayers of His servant for help in this hour of need? He shall tell the tale himself.

“A little after nine o’clock I received a sovereign from a sister in the Lord, who does not wish the name of the place where she resides mentioned. Between ten and eleven o’clock the bag was sent from the Orphan Houses, in which in a note it was stated that £1 2s. was required for to-day. *Scarcely had I read this*, when a fly stopped before my house, and a gentleman, Mr —, from the neighbourhood of Manchester, was announced. I found that he was a believer, who had come on business to Bristol. He had heard about the Orphan Houses, and expressed his surprise that, without any regular system of collection, and without personal application to any one, simply by faith and prayer, I obtained £2000 and more, yearly, for the work of the Lord in my hands. This brother, whom I had never seen before, and whose name I did not even know before he came,

gave me £2, as an exemplification of what I had stated to him." Further donations from others followed, and altogether, £4 15s. came in that day, at the commencement of which there was only one farthing in hand !

Now this has happened not once or twice in the history of the New Orphan Houses, but hundreds of times. The Narratives published by Mr Müller are full of similar instances. That remarkable Institution, indeed, may be regarded as a standard set up to remind the children of God to the end of time, that there is a mighty power in believing prayer.

Let the example of this servant of God then stimulate us all—whether rich or poor—to have recourse to this powerful weapon of prayer, in every time of emergency. As Mr Müller says in one part of his "Narrative"—"May you not do what we do, under your *trials* ? Does the Lord love you less than He loves us ? Does He not love all His children with no less love than that with which He loves His only-begotten Son, according to John xvii. 20—23 ? Or are we better than you ? Nay, are we not in ourselves poor miserable sinners as you are ? and have any of the children of God any claim upon God on account of their own worthiness ? Is it not that which alone can make us worthy to receive anything from our heavenly Father, the righteousness of the Lord Jesus, which is imputed to those who

believe in Him ? Therefore, dear reader, as we pray in our every need, of whatever character it may be, in connexion with this work, to our Father in heaven for help, and as He does help us, so is He willing to help all His children who put their trust in Him." And again :—" In like manner (as I have) may you, in your sphere of service, in your family affairs, in your business, in your profession, in your various temporal and spiritual necessities, have your prayers answered."

Another lesson which the history of the New Orphan Houses is fitted to impress us with is,—*the vast amount of good which may be effected by individual instrumentality.*

There is, unquestionably, a danger in the present day—with our large societies, vast organizations, and expensive machinery—there is, we say, unquestionably a danger of individual responsibility being forgotten in the corporate conscience of public religious bodies. It is impossible for any one to doubt that immense good has been accomplished, and is still being effected, by the numerous benevolent and religious Institutions which are the glory of our land ; but still it is too often the case, that they check individual activity. Many a Christian in the present day thinks, that by contributing a guinea a year to such and such a Society, he has done all which he is called upon to do to lessen the evils under which

humanity groans, and to promote the progress of that kingdom which is "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

We think, then, that the natural tendency of perusing the History of the New Orphan Houses on Ashley Down, is to stir up the people of God to more faithful and strenuous efforts to serve God in their generation. Certainly it does afford us one of the most striking instances, in the present century, of what may be done by one individual Christian man under the abiding influence of the grace of God.

It is important to add that, as matter of fact, we know that this has been the effect of the perusal of Mr Müller's Narrative in numerous cases. We give one or two instances in point :—

Some time ago, we heard that a clergyman of the Church of England called on Mr Müller, and related the following narrative. He was travelling, he said, on a stage coach, with a gentleman who was busily reading a pamphlet. On finishing it he handed it to the clergyman, with the inquiry, "Have you seen this? It is an account of an Orphan House established at Bristol by George Müller. Certainly, it is very extraordinary, if true. You are welcome to take it if you wish." The clergyman took the pamphlet, which happened to be one of Mr Müller's Reports; and, on getting home, read it through with the deepest interest. It so chanced, that just at that

time he was extremely anxious to erect some buildings for schools in his parish. He was, however, wholly without the means of doing so. There was hardly a person in the place who could give a guinea towards the work ; and he knew no friends who could assist them. But on reading Mr Müller's account of the Orphan House work, he said to himself, " Well, Mr Müller was as poor as I am, yet see what he has accomplished. Faith in God is the common property of the Church. Why shouldn't I use the same means, and obtain the same success ? " He went out and called on two or three of the most thoughtful of his parishioners, and said to them, " Meet me at the vestry to-night ; I have something to communicate to you." They came ; he told them all about Mr Müller and his work at Bristol. He read to them passages out of the Report which had so singularly fallen into his hands. He then represented their own position—without school-houses, and without money to build them. He prayed with them for means. He obtained a promise from them to meet him on a stated evening every week to pray for the same object. He drew up a statement of their case, and circulated it where he thought it would be of service ; and in a very few months he received several hundred pounds—all he required. What is remarkable is, that he had done the same thing before, but no results followed. Now that living faith

actuated him, the brief statement he issued met with a hearty response, and a sum was received amply sufficient for the accomplishment of the object so dear to him.

Another still more important instance of the immense amount of good which may be effected by the instrumentality of one individual—under the influence of Divine grace—is afforded by the Revival in Ireland, which, as we learn from Mr. Müller's Report for 1860, was in the first instance occasioned by the perusal of Mr Müller's Autobiography.

The importance of the subject justifies our giving the following long extract from the Report referred to.

“In November, 1856, a young Irishman, Mr James McQuilkin, was brought to the knowledge of the Lord. Soon after his conversion he saw my Narrative advertised, the book which is referred to at the back of the title-page of this Report. He had a great desire to read it, and procured it accordingly, about January, 1857. God blessed it greatly to his soul, especially in showing to him what could be obtained by prayer. He said to himself something like this: ‘See what Mr Müller obtains simply by prayer. Thus *I* may obtain blessing by prayer.’ He now set himself to pray that the Lord would give him a spiritual companion, one who knew the Lord. Soon after he became acquainted with a young man who knew the Lord. These two began a prayer-meeting in one of the Sunday Schools in the parish of Connor. Having

his prayer answered in obtaining a spiritual companion, Mr James McQuilkin asked the Lord to lead him to become acquainted with some more of His hidden ones. Soon after the Lord gave him two more young men, who knew the Lord previously, as far as he could judge. In Autumn, 1857, Mr James McQuilkin stated to these three young men, given him in answer to believing prayer, what blessing he had derived from my Narrative—how it had led him to see the power of believing prayer; and he proposed that they should meet for prayer to seek the Lord's blessing upon their various labours in the Sunday Schools, prayer-meetings, and preachings of the Gospel. Accordingly in Autumn, 1857, these four young men met together for prayer in a small school-house near the village of Kells, in the parish of Connor, every Friday evening. On January 1, 1858, the Lord gave them the first remarkable answer to prayer in the conversion of a farm-servant. He was taken into the number, and thus there were five who gave themselves to prayer. Shortly after another young man, about 20 years old, was converted: there were now six. This greatly encouraged the other three who first had met with Mr James McQuilkin. Others now were converted, who were also taken into the number; but only believers were admitted to these fellowship meetings, in which they read, prayed, and offered to each other a few thoughts from the Scriptures. These meetings and others for the preaching of the Gospel

were held in the parish of Connor, Antrim, Ireland. Up to this time all was going on most quietly, though many souls were converted. There were no physical prostrations, as afterwards. About Christmas, 1858, a young man, from Ahoghill, who had come to live at Connor, and who had been converted through this little company of believers, went to see his friends at Ahoghill, and spoke to them about their own souls and the work of God at Connor. His friends desired to see some of these converts. Accordingly Mr James McQuilkin, with two of the first who met for prayer, went on February 2, 1859, and held a meeting at Ahoghill in one of the Presbyterian churches. Some believed, some mocked, and others thought there was a great deal of presumption in these young converts; yet many wished to have another meeting. This was held by the same three young men on February 16, 1859, and now the Spirit of God began to work, and to work mightily. Souls were converted, and from that time conversions multiplied rapidly. Some of these converts went to other places, and carried the spiritual fire, so to speak, with them. The blessed work of the Spirit of God spread in *many places*.—On April 5th, 1859, Mr James McQuilkin went to Ballymena, held a meeting there in one of the Presbyterian churches; and on April 11th held another meeting in another of the Presbyterian churches. Several were convinced of sin, and the work of the Spirit of God went forward in Ballymena.—On

May 28th, 1859, he went to Belfast. During the first week, there were meetings held in five different Presbyterian churches, and from that time the blessed work commenced at Belfast. In all these visits he was accompanied and helped by Mr Jeremiah Meneely, one of the three young men who first met with him after the reading of my Narrative. From this time the work of the Holy Ghost spread further and further; for the young converts were used by the Lord to carry the truth from one place to another.

“Such was the *beginning* of that mighty work of the Holy Spirit, which has led to the conversion of many tens of thousands, and which is still going on even in Ireland, and the blessed results of which are still felt in Scotland, England, and other countries. It is almost needless to add, that in no degree the honour is due to the instruments, but to the Holy Spirit alone; yet these facts are stated, in order that it may be seen what delight God has in answering abundantly the believing prayers of His children.” *

After this, we may truly ask,—Is there anything too great to expect from God in answer to prayer? Let us be stirred up then to work “while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work:” and let our motto be that same which so mightily influenced Mr Müller at the commencement of his work:—“Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.”

* Brief Narrative of Facts, &c., for 1860, published by Nisbet, London, price 6d.

APPENDIX.

A TABLE OF THE DONATIONS

IN MONEY, FORWARDED FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE ORPHANS,
FROM 1836 TO 1870.

	£	s.	d.
From January, 1836, to December, 1836	770	0	9½
„ January, 1837, to November, 1838	1264	5	5
„ November, 1838, to December, 1840	1542	1	1
„ December, 1840, to May, 1842	1105	16	9½
„ May, 1842, to July, 1844	2001	9	11
„ July, 1844, to May, 1846	2341	10	2
„ May, 1846, to May, 1848	2590	4	1
„ May, 1848, to May, 1850	3909	16	4½
„ May, 1850, to May, 1851	3845	0	10½
„ May, 1851, to May, 1852	1952	12	2
„ May, 1852, to May, 1853	3274	8	3
„ May, 1853, to May, 1854	3680	9	2½
„ May, 1854, to May, 1855	3943	9	8¼
„ May, 1855, to May, 1856	3549	16	0¼
„ May, 1856, to May, 1857	4739	5	7¼
„ May, 1857, to May, 1858	6400	17	4
„ May, 1858, to May, 1859	10499	13	8
„ May, 1859, to May, 1860	8714	6	2½
„ May, 1860, to May, 1861	7310	11	3¼
„ May, 1861, to May, 1862	7675	8	0½

	£	s.	d.
From May, 1862, to May, 1863	8739	18	6½
„ May, 1863, to May, 1864	10358	4	8½
„ May, 1864, to May, 1865	10609	17	0½
„ May, 1865, to May, 1866	10076	8	5
„ May, 1866, to May, 1867	13286	9	2½
„ May, 1867, to May, 1868	13609	10	9½
„ May, 1868, to May, 1869	18635	6	0½
„ May, 1869, to May, 1870	20262	17	1½
Total Contributions in money, to May, 26, 1870 .	186,689	15	0
Received from Sale of Articles, given for this purpose, up to same date	13,236	14	11½
Grand Total	<u>£199,926</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11½</u>

A TABLE OF THE DONATIONS

TOWARDS ERECTING THE BUILDINGS FOR THE ORPHANS' RESIDENCE, CONTRIBUTED FROM DECEMBER, 1845, TO MAY, 1870.

I.—INCOME FOR THE ERECTION OF THE FIRST ORPHAN HOUSE.

	£	s.	d.
From December, 1845, to June, 1846	2710	3	5½
„ June, 1846, to May, 1848	8352	1	6
„ May, 1848, to May, 1850	4722	13	10½
Total	<u>£15,784</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>

II.—INCOME FOR THE ERECTION OF THE SECOND AND THIRD ORPHAN HOUSES.

	£	s.	d.
From May, 1851, to May, 1852	2616	5	11½
„ May, 1852, to May, 1853	8624	6	8
„ May, 1853, to May, 1854	4548	10	4
„ May, 1854, to May, 1855	4443	1	0

	£	s.	d.
From May, 1855, to May, 1856	5304	16	7½
„ May, 1856, to May, 1857	1373	5	11½
„ May, 1857, to May, 1858	2474	3	4
„ May, 1858, to May, 1859	5376	0	9
„ May, 1859, to May, 1860	1964	6	3½
„ May, 1860, to May, 1861	295	1	8
	<hr/>		
	37,019	18	6¾

This sum was further increased by sale of articles, interest of money, drawbacks on property-tax, &c., amounting to about	8863	0	0
	<hr/>		
Total	£45,882	18	6¾
	<hr/> <hr/>		

III.—INCOME FOR THE ERECTION OF THE FOURTH AND FIFTH ORPHAN HOUSES.

	£	s.	d.
From May, 1861, to May, 1862	5662	4	10½
„ May, 1862, to May, 1863	2200	10	7½
„ May, 1863, to May, 1864	6083	1	2½
„ May, 1864, to May, 1865	9742	5	10½
„ May, 1865, to May, 1866	7652	5	8¾
„ May, 1866, to May, 1867	9135	1	0½
„ May, 1867, to May, 1868	4893	7	10½
„ May, 1868, to May, 1869	257	14	3½
„ May, 1869, to May, 1870	53	14	6
	<hr/>		
	45,680	5	11½

This sum was further increased by sale of articles, interest of money, drawbacks on property-tax, &c., amounting to	12,129	17	2¾
	<hr/>		
Total	£57,810	3	2¼
	<hr/> <hr/>		

TOTAL AMOUNT

OF MONEY, ARTICLES, &c., RECEIVED BY MR. MÜLLER ON
BEHALF OF THE NEW ORPHAN HOUSES ON ASHLEY DOWN,
FROM THE COMMENCEMENT TO 1870.

	£	s.	d.
Amount received for support of the Orphans, to May 26th, 1870	199,926	9	11½
Income for the Erection of the first Orphan House	15,784	18	10
Income for the Erection of the second and third Orphan Houses	45,882	18	6½
Income for the erection of the fourth and fifth Orphan Houses	57,810	3	2½
Total	<u>£319,404</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6½</u>

Thus we find the whole amount of money actually received on behalf of the Orphans, up to the 26th of May, 1870, was Three Hundred and Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred and Four Pounds Ten Shillings and Sixpence Half-penny.

Besides the above, the sum of £126,064 7s. 6½d. has been given for the other objects of the Scriptural Knowledge Institution, since the commencement of the work in 1834. These objects are Day Schools, Sunday Schools, the circulation of Bibles, Tracts, &c., and Missionary work at home and abroad.

Thus the whole amount of the contributions received by Mr. Müller for the work of the Lord in his hands, without asking any individual for a penny, is upwards of FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS.



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