

A General Statement of the Chapels, Sunday Schools, Members, Tea Meetings, and the Golden System, in Oswestry Circuit, (not including the Irish nor the Australia Missions,) intended as

AN APPENDIX to the Opening of Oswestry Chapel, (See the Magazine for 1841, page 171.)

The religious services and the tea meeting on Christmas-day, 1841, were as follows:—

In the morning, about one o'clock, we began to sing, and proceeded through all the streets in the town, and concluded with a short prayer meeting at the top of Willow-street. A large company of respectable people attended. The singing went well, and produced a good effect. The watchman and three constables were with us to guard and protect us; but we had no interruption.

We had preaching at Morda, at ten o'clock, a. m.; and in the afternoon upwards of four hundred and fifty took tea in Oswestry chapel; and all were well satisfied and delighted with the good order and management of the meeting. The overplus was eleven pounds fourteen shillings and nine-pence. We made no collections, as the anniversary sermons were postponed to July, 1842.

GOLDEN SYSTEM

After tea the account of the Golden System was read, with the names of those persons who engaged last Christmas-day to raise certain sums of money toward liquidating the debt on the chapel. The total sum of money than promised, was fifty pounds fourteen shillings and sixpence. But the treasurer, W. Doughty, had received fifty-nine pounds and four-pence, of which he had begged eighteen pounds thirteen shillings and sixpence three-farthings himself. The total amount was eight pounds five shillings and ten-pence more than was promised.

We introduced the Golden System afresh, and it went well; the people entered into it heartily. W. Doughty set them agoing by promising to raise five pounds against next Christmas; and several others engaged to raise considerable sums. The total engaged for is fifty-four pounds five shillings and four-pence.

Another system, which was new to us, rose in this meeting: which was doubling the sums promised. Several persons returned their books, shouting, "Double it — it is ten shillings, put twenty." We appointed persons to write the names and sums in the Golden System-books, and so complete the work; and the people had their books delivered to them in the chapel.

In addition to the books, we had collecting-cards, many of which were taken by the children, who engaged to collect handsomely. Among those was Samuel Grindley, aged five years, who had previously taken a book to raise five shillings, when he saw the other children taking the cards, he told his father he should like to have one; and, after a little reflection on the subject. he said, "I have a hen, and I can give the profits of her to it." — So he cried. "A card for another shilling."

We had a good day: the chapel was densely crowded, and we closed with a powerful prayer meeting. Much of the Divine presence pervaded the assembly, and many were filled with joy unspeakable, and retired praising the Lord, and exclaiming, "The Lord bless you all, and be with you. We will come again next year, all being well. It is good to be here."

CHAPEL.

The whole cost of the chapel, with the vestry, two houses, burying ground, fencing, &c., &c., was one thousand one hundred and forty-eight pounds and eight-pence three-farthings. The donations, collections, &c., were four hundred and four pounds five shillings and three-pence three-farthings. We have only taken on interest seven hundred pounds. The rents of the two houses and gardens are sixteen pounds five shillings a year, leaving the interest money on the chapel fifteen pounds three shillings. The seats let well. For the neat cornice round the inside of the chapel, which cost ten pounds two shilling, Thomas Rowlands became responsible, either to collect the money or give it himself. The chapel is licensed to solemnize matrimony.

Burying- Ground.

Persons belonging to our society, who wish to have burying-places, or make vaults for their families, purchase parcels of the land at four shillings a yard; or the fees, for such as can afford it, are four shillings and sixpence each; but the poor members are buried free.

A General Statement of Chapels.

In this circuit we have seventeen chapels, all in good circumstances except one. We have, within these last three years, built Oswestry, Ellesmere, Lower-Wych, and Rhosymedre chapels, and bought the Wesleyan chapel, and house and premises, at Overton. The donations, collections, &c., for these chapels, amount to five hundred and seventy-two pounds eight shillings and four-pence three-farthings. We have also reduced the debts on our other chapels to the amount of one hundred and sixty-two pounds one shilling and a penny. We have paid from this circuit to the Irish mission, ninety-eight pounds five shillings and five-pence, without including the grants from the general mission fund. We have likewise paid to the preacher's house, for furniture, and other things connected with the building sixteen pounds nine shillings and four-pence. Paid off circuit old debt, fifteen pounds nineteen shillings and five-pence halfpenny. We have given one chapel and thirty-nine members to Wrockwardinewood mission.

	FULL.	TRIAL.	DOUBTFUL.	TOTAL.
Number of Members, Sept. 9, 1839	748	57		805
Number of Members, March 21, 1842	887	97	19	1003
	SCHOOLS.	SCHOLARS.	TEACHERS.	
Sunday schools, September 9, 1839	9	390	58	
Sunday schools, March 21, 1842	12	529	88	

The Golden System, and the profits of the Tea Meetings for this season.

TIME HELD.	PLACE WHERE.	DEBTS ON CHAPELS			GOLDEN SYSTEM.			PROFITS OF TEA MTNGS.			TOTALS.			
		£	S	D	£	S.	D.	£	S.	D	£	S	D	
Dec. 25, 1841	Oswestry	700	0	0	54	5	4	11	14	9	66	0	1	
March 25, 1842	Haughton	40	0	0	16	9	6	4	0	0	20	9	6	
March 25, 1842	Babbin's Wood	68	10	0	8	17	6	2	4	0	11	1	6	
March 25, 1842	Hengoed	70	0	0	16	7	6	2	4	3½	18	11	9½	
March 25, 1842	Rhosymedre	*			11	0	0	3	0	0	14	0	0	
May 16, 1842	Overton	170	0	0	6	10	0	1	16	4	8	6	4	
May 16, 1842	Bethesda	134	0	0	14	7	6	9	0	0	23	7	6	
May 23, 1842	Pontfaen	66	16	9	10	15	0	4	6	0	15	1	0	
	* Not yet finished										TOTAL	£186	17	8½

The amounts of moneys raised; with the sums promised and expected

on the Golden System and profits of tea meetings.

Donations, Collections, &c. towards new chapels, &c.	572	8	4¾
Towards reducing the debt on the other chapels	162	1	1
Paid to the Irish mission	98	5	5
Towards the preacher's house and furniture	16	9	4
Paid off the old debt which was on the circuit	15	19	5½
Promised now on the Golden System, &c., as above	<u>186</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>8½</u>
	<u>£1052</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4¾</u>