

LANCASTER ROAD

Congregational Church

Christian Mission,

PRESTON.

REPORT, 1880.

PRESTON :

Printed by C. W. Whitehead, 123a, Fishergate.

Langcaster Road Congregational Church

Christian Mission, Preston.

Four years ago this Society was formed for the purpose of carrying on unsectarian evangelistic work in some of the most degraded parts of the town, which were apparently overlooked by existing organisations. At first, Prayer Meetings were held in a cottage in Rose-street, kindly lent for the purpose. Then a house was taken, and afterwards, more space being required, two rooms were thrown into one. Last September, still greater accommodation being requisite, the present Mission Rooms in Shepherd-street were engaged; so that from the first, its sphere of usefulness has steadily but surely increased, and thousands have been brought under the direct influence of the gospel, who, but for its existence, would have been entirely neglected.

The work comprises Tract distribution, and Sunday Evening Services in three common Lodging Houses, in addition to the regular Services, Meetings and Sunday School, which are held in the Mission Room. By the list of Services given below, it will be seen that on an average 540 attendances are registered weekly at its varied meetings, and it may justly be presumed that few of those who attend would ever have entered a regular place of worship.

All the Lodging Houses in the neighbourhood are visited every Sunday morning, the Bible is read, and portions of it (gratuitously supplied by the British and Foreign Bible Society) are occasionally given. In addition, about 15,600 Religious and Temperance Tracts are every year distributed to their inmates. Special visits by the tract distributors are often solicited by many sick, infirm and dying people of the district.

A flourishing Band of Hope and Temperance Society has been established, numbering 110 members, many of whom have taken the four-fold pledge against Drinking, Gambling, Smoking and Profanity.

The Sunday School, which was opened in September last year with 56 scholars, now numbers 104; its apparent success shewing the need there was for its formation, but it is seriously crippled in its work from the want of suitable teachers. The Superintendent would be glad if Christian Friends, many of whom must be eminently adapted for the work, would promptly volunteer their assistance.

Mr. Joshua Williamson, to whose untiring devotion as General Superintendent much of the success of the Mission is due, has been generously assisted by many gentlemen and friends connected with our own and other Churches, and to all of these our best thanks are due.

These labourers, in spite of much difficulty, can point to many as the fruit of their labours, and are thus encouraged to carry on their Christian effort with increasing energy. They work under the assurance that God will not permit His own preached word to fail, and that He will shower down richer blessings on the important work they have taken in hand.

LIST OF MEETINGS.

Place.	Time.	Character of Meeting.	Average Attend'ce.
Shepherd-st. Mission Ro'm	8-0 p.m. Sunday..	Preaching.	100
" "	2-0 p.m. "	School.	64
" "	6-45 p.m. "	School.	58
" "	9-30 a.m. "	Prayer Meetings.	6
" "	9-0 p.m. "	" "	38
" "	7-45 p.m. Thursd'y	Temperance Meeting	121
" "	7-30 p.m. Saturday	" Entertainment	70
High-st. Lodging House.	5-45 p.m. Sunday.	Preaching.	16
Main Sprit Weind "	5-45 p.m. "	"	35
Back Lane "	5-45 p.m. "	"	32
Total Average Weekly Attendances.....			540

The class of people amongst whom this work is carried on precludes the possibility of their being able to contribute towards its support, so that the Committee look to the members of the Congregation and friends for financial aid. The Ladies of the Sewing Meeting have, as on a previous occasion, kindly consented to devote their funds to this purpose, and to hold a "CHRISTMAS TREE" at the close of the present year. As there is a considerable debt now owing to the Treasurer, nearly £100 should be realized to place the Society in a satisfactory position to continue the work. The Committee, in making this appeal for help, have confidence that friends will show their sympathy with the Mission and with those engaged therein, by contributing such WORK and USEFUL ARTICLES as shall make the sale a thorough success.

October, 1880.

JOHN HARMAN, Secretary.

Subscriptions will be gratefully received by—

Rev. J. LAMBERT, 3, Bairstow Street.

J. CROOK, Esq., 8, Bank Parade.

And Articles for the Sale by—

Mrs. BENNETT, 12, Bushell Place.

Mrs. HAGUE, 6, Stanley Place.

Mrs. Jno. HARMAN, 3, Elcho Terrace.

