

Letters from Burmah.

We take the following from the December number of the Missionary Magazine. Although the first is of a prior date to the one we last received from Brother Crawley, yet as it contains a pleasing sketch of his labours, and as so many of our readers look with interest on the Mission in which he is engaged, they will be gratified to perceive that he is pursuing his work with no diminution of courage and perseverance:

"NATIVE ASSISTANTS.—BOAT TRAVELLING IN THE RAINS.—June 26, 1857.—I left Henthada on the 16th inst. for a short tour to some villages which I had never yet visited; and now, while my boat is slowly bearing me homeward, I will improve the time by giving you some account of my visit.

"Two of the native Christians accompanied me as assistants. One is a young man, baptized about a year ago, whose evidences of piety are most unmistakable, and who gives promise of becoming a first-class assistant, by his earnestness and zeal, and, at the same time, gentleness, simplicity and directness in preaching. The other is the old man who became a Christian more than thirty years ago, after reading 'the Golden Balance' and other tracts distributed by Dr. Judson on his way to Ava. He too, as indeed might be expected from his long experience, is able to tell the story of the Cross in a most effective manner, and make the absurd arguments by which the advocates of Buddhism attempt to prop their tottering system, recoil upon their own heads with stunning power. But a man may listen to unanswerable arguments against his errors, and yet continue in them; may be silenced, but not convinced. Happily I have learned this, and have long since ceased to be either surprised or discouraged when, after a discussion of hours, during which a man has listened and disputed with the greatest apparent candor and pleasure, I see that same man telling his beads and muttering formulas after the fashion of Ave Maria and Pater Noster as he goes to the pagoda, and then, prostrating himself, hurriedly pronouncing the prescribed prayers, to procure the quantum of merit requisite as an offset to the sins of the day.

"During this tour I have several times been cheered by meeting sincere, earnest inquirers. And every where crowds have gathered round us, and listened late into the night to the glorious gospel of the blessed God.

"I was strongly advised not to undertake the excursion. The people whom I wished to see, live on the banks of a creek which in the dry season is cut off from the river, and cannot therefore be reached except during the rains, by boat. Fearful things, from wind, rain and mosquitoes, were prognosticated to me. But I had my own impressions about the feasibility of travelling in the rainy season, and experience has fully borne them out. The country, as you know, is intersected in every direction by a network of creeks. Hundreds of villages are to be found on the banks of these creeks. To visit them in the cold season would be impracticable, or at least attended with great trouble and expense; whereas in the rains they can all be reached by boat. I am now thoroughly convinced that with a good boat, all these villages can be visited with comfort, and without any danger to health. Two or three months of the year might be spent in this manner to great advantage.

"Under date of August 6, Br. Crawley alludes to his

"LABORS IN THE CITY.—At the commencement of the wet season, the all-important question with me was, how the long months of the south-west monsoon could be best employed, so as to accomplish the greatest possible amount of evangelical labor. The plan which I adopted was this. At two opposite parts of the city, and on two of the most thoroughfares, I put up two sheds;—I can scarcely denominate an arrangement of a certain number of bamboos and thatch, *zayats*. In one or other of these myself and my assistant find shelter every day, while we preach Christ and give a tract to every one who is willing to stop and hear. In this way I cannot but hope much good has been effected, though the seed sown may not appear till after many days.

"We see numbers of Burmese from every part of the kingdom—from under the Golden Foot, and from many other cities and villages in Burmah Proper, as well as in Pegu. These are always accustomed to take away tracts, whose messages I cannot believe will be in vain."

Mr. Van Meter also in writing from Bassoin, gives some gratifying intelligence of the progress of the work:

"Bassein, July 18, 1857. The second quarterly meeting of the Bassein churches, for the year 1857, was held at one of the villages to the west of Bassein on the 3rd, 4th and 5th days of July. The attendance was not so large as is usual, owing partly to the unprecedented amount of rain that has fallen here during the past two months; and yet the commodious, double chapel was well filled on the Sabbath. Twenty-five preachers present.

"Nothing of special importance was reported from the churches, but mostly their reports were of an encouraging character.

"Ninety-two baptisms were reported for the quarter by the six ordained men present. Whether this was the whole number is not known, as the two who were absent sent no report. These make the aggregate of baptisms for the first six months of this year, 212.

"This meeting, we believe, will be long remembered by all who attended it, as one distinguished by the special outpouring of the Spirit. I witnessed at this time, what I have

so often longed to see among the Karens, a melting of hearts before God and one another, manifested by the simple but earnest expressions of deep and ardent feeling, confession of sin, and praise to God's rich grace. O, it was good to be there! We think that all felt it to be so;—for so many wished to give utterance to their feelings, that the meeting, which was commenced and held till quite late on Saturday night was continued through the greater part of the Sabbath, the interest increasing till the last."

For the Christian Messenger.

DEAR EDITOR,—A pleasing interest has been and is still enjoyed in the South Yarmouth Baptist Church. I have lately baptized seven persons on profession of faith. Deep interest is being manifested in Tusket Church—four persons have lately acknowledged the Saviour. Baptism is anticipated next Lord's-day.

Yours, affectionately,
J. V. TABOR.

[To the above we may add that gratifying results have attended the labours of the Rev. Robert Porter. Eight or ten have been baptized by him. The Rev. Jas. Reid has also had some considerable additions made to the churches under his ministry. We shall be glad to hear further intelligence from those brethren and from others, far and near.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

SARAH RING.

Another member of the South Yarmouth Church is no more. Sister Sarah Ring has long been a follower of Christ. She was converted to God in early life, and for fifty years has lived to adorn her christian profession with a meek and quiet spirit.

In affliction's trying hour, when committing beloved children and a beloved companion to the earth, those losses found her a patient and humble worshipper, leaning on the arm that can well "sustain the children of His grace." Her first church relation was in Yarmouth, where for many years her lamp of profession was accompanied with the oil of divine grace. When this Church was organized, she composed one of its devoted members. As a lover of good men and women, delighting in the peace of Jerusalem, her real worth was above human estimation.

Her sickness unto death was short. A few days ended the mortal strife, when death on the 20th of November last, found her waiting to depart to be with Christ. Her testimony in the Church being finished, her testimony in Heaven began. Humble reliance and firm trust in Christ, characterized her bed of death, and having nearly reached her three score years and ten, she sleeps to weep no more. Her funeral took place on the 24th, when the writer addressed the audience in company with Rev. Michael Pickles, Methodist Minister, from Mat. xxv. 34.

JEREMIAH ALLAN.

The solemn work of death continues. Another follower of Jesus Christ has yielded willingly and triumphantly to the summons. Jeremiah Allan, a member of the South Yarmouth Baptist Church, departed this life, Nov. 26th, 1857. From the age of 14 years he had hope in Christ, through the labors of the Rev. Harris Harding, yet he did not unite to the Church until he was 47 years of age, when he was immersed by the Rev. W. Burton. He enjoyed clear views of salvation by the atonement, realizing his justification by the blood of Jesus Christ, through faith in his name.

Last Spring his health failed him, and he became chiefly confined to his room. Some fears at times overspread his mind, but as the hour drew near, calm serenity and holy joy took possession of his soul and he calmly committed himself to God.

Sensible to the last, his memory in death is another evidence of the value of religion to prepare the soul for its heavenly seat before the throne of God. His funeral was attended on Lord's-day, 29th Nov. Text used Psalm lxxxix 48. A solemn impression prevails here. His age was upwards of 67 years. "The memory of the just is blessed."

Yours, truly,
J. V. TABOR.

Colonial and Foreign.

New Brunswick.

SUICIDE OF BREEN, ONE OF THE CONVICTED MURDERERS.—The criminal Breen, who was under sentence of death for the murder of the McKenzie family, committed suicide in his cell on Sunday evening, about 7 o'clock. An examination of the cell is sufficient to convince any one of the feasibility of a prisoner taking his own life, when so disposed. It is adapted for any purpose but that of confining a criminal under sentence of death. Over the inside of the door of the cell, there is a shelf which extends across the room, and parallel with it along the end of the room, is a piece of board firmly fastened apparently for the purpose of having nails or hooks driven in it to hang hats or any articles of clothing upon, although no nails were there at the time.—The bed of the criminal was placed in the corner of the room. Having by some means or other obtained a piece of stick, less than two feet long, he placed one end upon the shelf and the other upon the strip of wood, which gave his body room to swing in the corner, and having fastened one end of

his handkerchief round the stick, the other end was tied round his neck, from which he suspended himself. The height of the shelf is about six feet from the floor, and the unfortunate wretch stood upon his bed while committing self-destruction. In order to effect his purpose, he was compelled to bend his knees behind in order to swing clear of the bed.

The body was discovered a short time after, and medical aid was obtained, but too late to resuscitate him. Some persons who visited the prison on Sunday evening, said that a nail had been driven into the strip of board to prevent the stick from slipping off. To look at the smallness of the stick, one would scarcely believe that it would support the weight of Breen, who apparently weighed about 180 lbs. The piece of wood from which he was suspended was about an inch in thickness, and not much broader. He must have been very careful in his operations, and his sufferings must have been very severe. His face exhibits no great change, but the body is considerably swelled.

Yesterday, the Coroner summoned a Jury to sit on view of the body, and after a patient investigation of the circumstance, they returned a verdict of *Felo de se*, at the same time censuring the Sheriff and his subordinates for culpable neglect of duty.

Four nails were found in the pockets of the deceased, one of which had been made quite sharp at the point.—*New Brunswick.*

The order for the commutation of the sentence of young Slavin having been received by the Judge, the warrant was issued for his confinement in the Penitentiary for life, and on Monday he was removed from the goal to the Penitentiary. Before leaving he was permitted to see his father, and at the interview displayed the same indifference that characterized him all through.—*Freeman.*

Mr Murdoch, the Engineer of the St. John Waterworks, has reported to the Commissioners that the large twenty-four inch main is laid down from the reservoir to the Marsh Bridge. A distance of nearly five miles is ready for service. This will give the city an abundant supply of this common blessing.

ANOTHER FIRE, AND BARN BURN.—On Monday night, about ten o'clock, the barns, two in number, of a man of the name of Findlay, on the Golden Grove road, were discovered to be on fire, and there being no means at hand of extinguishing them, were both burned to the ground. There were in the barns at the time a horse and four cows, all of which were more or less injured, two of the cows so badly that they are not likely to recover. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND, Dec. 3.—The Rev. Hugh Dunbar left his residence, Princetown Road, on Saturday morning last. He was observed returning early in the afternoon, and shortly after was found lying on the road, a little further on, quite dead. It is supposed his death was occasioned by disease of the heart.—*Protector.*

United States.

THE CRIMES OF ONE DAY IN N. YORK.—We are this morning again obliged to surrender a large portion of our paper to the details of the fearful crimes which are running over the city like some terrible pestilence. Three persons were slashed and hacked with knives at a low den in Water street yesterday morning; one died immediately, and the other two are scarcely alive. A man in the Bowery was stabbed by ruffians while defending his own premises. The young man shot a few days since in Canal street, died at the hospital yesterday morning. In the upper part of the city, three or four ruffians dragged a young girl into a lumber yard, imitated the murderous hounds who killed the poor old German woman in Greenwich street, and left their victim for dead. A woman stabbed by a burglar and a highway robbery complete the "Bloody Record," so far as New York city is concerned, for this day only.—*Tribune.*

Another New York paper of the 25th ult., supplies the following appalling record of disasters, which had occurred in the preceding week:—

"We do not believe that, in the entire history of newspaper printing, the press has ever been called upon to record a week's chapter of tragedies, disasters, and fatal results, that can compare with the one just past. To waive all comments upon the incredible number of murders and fatal assaults that have transpired in this city and elsewhere, and which seems to be viewed more in the light of matter of course occurrences than otherwise, we will only allude to what may be classed as serious disasters. We have, then, in this one week's catalogue the unprecedented freshets, in this State, in Canada, and on the Western rivers, involving the loss of a million dollar's worth of property and a large number of lives; gales on the lakes, in which some thirty vessels are known to have been foundered or stranded, with the probable loss of a still larger number. The amount of property thus destroyed can be estimated only by hundreds of thousands of dollars, to say nothing of many sailors and others who perished. Gales on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, in which a large number of coal boats were sunk, involving the loss of \$50,000 and upwards of 100 lives. Boiler explosions—in Grifintown, Canada, with one man killed and many wounded; steamer Cataract, five lives lost and fifteen wounded, N. P. Sprague, eight lives lost, and several wounded. Collision on the coast of Texas, with loss of steamer Opelousas and twenty-five lives besides many wounded. Fires—in Rochester, two lives and \$100,000 worth

of property; Baltimore, loss \$80,000; Columbus, Ohio, loss heavy; Louisville, \$30,000; Mobile, \$150,000; Orleans, N. Y., \$70,000; Jamaica, N. Y., \$20,000; Lockport, \$100,000; steamer Henry H. Beach at Baltimore, \$10,000; also in this city, \$50,000.

There is a Clerk who has been in the New York Post Office for forty years. He formerly carried the whole Southern mail in a bag under his arm across the river to Jersey City. The weight of the same mail now amounts to ten thousand pounds daily.

A maiden lady in Westport, Mass., who is possessed of considerable real estate, on being called upon to pay her highway tax for the present year, claimed an equal privilege with the lords of creation, of working it out upon the highway, and actually appeared with hoe in hand and discharged her duty to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

At the State Fair at Stockton, California, among the prizes offered was a fifty dollar dress for the best loaf of domestic bread, made by an unmarried lady.

Powers' bronze statue of Daniel Webster has been shipped at Leghorn, for Boston.

The Secretary of war is said to be quite uneasy about the fate of the expedition sent against the Mormons.

Hon. Edward Everett is to deliver an oration next month in Boston for the benefit of the poor.

Cornelius Harrington, a native of Nova Scotia, employed by the Grand Trunk Railway Company, was killed on Monday forenoon, by coming in collision with a covered bridge a mile above the New Gloucester station. He was riding upon a wood train, to which was attached a box car, to the top of which the unfortunate man had climbed, where he was found in a bleeding and dying condition, by the conductor, after passing the bridge.

Of five hundred and seven students at six Theological Institutions, three hundred and thirteen were instructed in the Sabbath Schools, and the average time of their conversion was sixteen years of age.

Brigham Young has virtually declared war against the government of the United States. The War Department has received among other important official despatches from Utah, a proclamation from him, declaring martial law in the Territory. He claims the right so to act by virtue of his authority as Governor and Superintendent of Indian affairs, and under the Territorial organic law. In this proclamation the United States troops are forbid entering the Territory without his permission, and the whole tenor of the document is in decided hostility to the United States Government.

The Police of New York say that, unless public lodging-houses are provided, there will be many perish from exposure when the severe weather sets in.

A new business has lately sprung up—selling notes of insolvents at auction, enabling the holder to realize for cash, instead of waiting the uncertainty of time. Large sales have been made, and it is thought the business will increase.

Another grove of mammoth trees has been discovered in Mariposa County. The ordinary size of these trees is 206 feet in height, and from 20 to 30 feet in diameter.

The Legislature of Missouri have lately passed an act authorising a young woman and her illegitimate child, to assume the name of the unfaithful father. This is a novel and rather formidable chastisement of treacherous libertinism.

CALIFORNIA.—The most important item of news is a large amount of evidence, going to show that the party of one hundred and eighteen immigrants massacred in the Southern part of Utah, while on their way to California, were murdered by or at the instigation of the Mormons. A mixed party of Mormons and Indians were seen going toward a Mormon settlement from the scene of the massacre, and they had in their possession bundles of clothing and other articles, apparently the spoil of the murdered.

INDIA.

The Governor-General and Council at Calcutta have other things to do besides the mere conquest of the mutineers; they have troubles nearer home. First, they have the Europeans not only in Calcutta, but throughout India, complaining of their want of energy, general inefficiency, and unworkable tenderness for Sepoy rebels, and not altogether without reason. The memorial of the inhabitants of Calcutta to the Queen is now published, and certainly makes a very formidable indictment, and a strong *prima facie* case against the Government. From a long list of grievances imputed to the Governor-General we extract the following:—

"On the 13th of June the Governor-General personally introduced into Council, where it was at once read three times and passed, an act placing the press of India, English and Native, wholly at the mercy of Government. The Governor-General then stated that he had received, up to that time, every support from the English press, and that it was not his intention to use the act to prevent fair discussion or curtail the liberty of the British press. The passing of that act caused great alarm and offence in the English and Christian community, of whom many were desirous of protesting strongly against it. They were, however, induced by reliance on the assurance of the Governor-General and their desire not to embarrass the Government at such a crisis not then to do so.