

# Christian Messenger.

A REPOSITORY OF RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

"NOT SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS: PERVENT IN SPIRIT."

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## Poetry.

### Thy Kingdom Come.

A MISSIONARY HYMN.

FATHER above, thy kingdom come! Let idols be o'erthrown;  
Perish for ever from the earth, the gods of wood and stone;  
Their impious altars, Lord, destroy, with every hoary fane,  
And let the one true living God o'er all the nations reign.

Thy blessed kingdom come, O Lord! Before the gospel light,  
Let Moslem's gleaming crescent wane and set in endless night;

The Koran, may the flames consume, let mosque and minaret fall,  
And Islam's turbaned sons proclaim Messiah Lord of all.

Lord, may thy kingdom quickly come! O, scatter papal gloom,  
And with the brightness of thy face the Man of sin consume;

Forth unto light and liberty enslaved nations bring,  
Whose banner shall this not bear, Christ, Christ alone is king.

Thy promised kingdom come, O Lord! Let Israel now believe,  
And lowly with repentant hearts the Saviour's word receive;  
No more a weary wandering tribe, no more an outcast race,  
May they with glad hosanna's sing Messiah's sovereign grace.

Within our homes, within our hearts, thy kingdom,  
Lord erect,  
And may thy pure and perfect law our actions all direct;  
Each proud rebellious thought subdued; O, cleanse from idols vain;  
Our spirits make thy temple, Lord, where thou alone wilt reign.

'Midst the green islands of the sea, in every distant land,  
A still small voice proclaims, O Lord, thy kingdom is at hand;  
That voice the despot's throne shall shake, the poor oppressed shall save,  
Break superstition's blinding spell, and free the fettered slave.

Lord Jesus come, come, Prince of Peace, rule o'er the nations all,  
Submissive make earth's potentates before thy presence fall.

Thy kingdom comes—already dawns that day's millennial light—  
When men shall hail the glorious reign of mercy, truth, and right.

M. T. M.

## Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

### Letters from Burmah.

HENTHADAH, July 18, 1857.

MY DEAR MR. EDITOR,

It was my intention to have written you soon after hearing of your great loss by fire, and to have assured you of our sincere sympathy with you and your family—but my time has been so completely taken up that I have not, until now, been able to do so. The greater part of each day I spend in the Zayat, where I find multitudes of listeners, and disputers, and, occasionally, an earnest inquirer. When not so occupied, I am employed either in seeking the recreation made so necessary by the wear and tear, and excitement of the Zayat, or in reading Burman, or pursuing the study of Karen, which I have recently taken up. But there is, just now, one subject which fills all our hours of thought with the most intense anxiety. Long before this you will have read in the English papers of the mutiny of almost the entire Indian army, and of the fearful state of rapine and murder into which thousands of homes, but a few months since peaceful and happy, have been converted. When you remember how near we are to these scenes, and that the papers bring us, almost weekly, the account of some new

and greater enormities, and that we, too, are protected by a portion of that same army which is now in rebellion, you can well understand how we are often filled with most anxious reflections, and harassing apprehensions. So far as we can hear we have not much cause for anxiety from the regiment of Sepoys who garrison this place. They are Madras Sepoys and no Madras Sepoys have yet joined the rebels. But the news of the Bengal mutiny will soon fly all through Burmah, and robbers will feel encouraged to rise again, and as all the British soldiers have been called away to Bengal, there is no knowing to what lengths the robber chiefs may not go. I will send by this mail a number of the "Friend of India,"\* from which you will learn more details than will probably appear in any English paper. You will see that the violence of the rebels has everywhere taken the form of the most ruthless barbarism, and the rebel Sepoys have declared themselves by a long list of savage massacres, which invariably included helpless infants and women. The usual energy of Britains has so far been sadly deficient, and this great Empire seems to be actually slipping away from the Anglo-Saxon. But with this dark horror so near us, we have one great source of hope and consolation—"The Lord reigneth."

Our mission affairs proceed very much as usual. There are a number of both men and women who no longer worship Guadama, and who will soon we hope enrol themselves with our little company of Christians.

With kindest regards,

Ever yours,

ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY.

HENTHADAH, British Burmah,  
August 6th, 1857.

MY DEAR MR. EDITOR,

When last I wrote the *dies iræ* in Bengal had scarcely more than dawned. The curtain was barely raised upon the awful tragedy acting there. Each successive mail since then has presented us with a new scene, each darker, bloodier than the last. And at last the feelings have become numbed and paralysed,—and it seems as if the limit must be reached, and no greater horror, no more blood-chilling incidents in the carnival of incarnate fiendishness could possibly be related to us. I had intended to mention some of the particulars, but have decided they would be too horrible, too disgusting. I will, however, send you a number of the "Friend of India,"\* with the places marked which I wish you particularly to see, as illustrating the Asiatic character.

Here we are still in safety. No reports have yet reached us of any movements among the Burmans. Still, a recollection of the means by which this Province was conquered and of how it is held, is not by any means ensuring. It was wrested from the King of Ava by the sword—and solely by the sword is it maintained. The king never signed the treaty, and would violate nothing in making an attempt to recover his patrimony. The British troops, all except a hundred or so, having gone to Bengal. The Burmans are said to have very little respect for the Sepoys. In a word, no time could be better suited for a demonstration, supposing his majesty ambitious to restore, to some extent at least, the ancient boundaries of his kingdom. Suppose he should come down with a vast army. Suppose the few Sepoys should be overwhelmed! then—the imagination recoils at the fearful but inevitable consequences. The whole Province would be one vast human shambles. Karens and Burmans by thousands would die by the cross, by fire, and by every other mode conceivable. Every one who had in any way been connected with government would, with all his family, be tortured and slain. Such at least was the mode of procedure when the English retired after the second war. But I hear the steamer preparing to start, and must close abruptly.

Ever yours,

ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY.

\* We received one copy of this paper only, and that not marked, dated June 4th, for which Brother Crawley will please accept our thanks. The marked one, we fear, is miscarried.

## Subjects for Prayer.

FROM THE ENGLISH BAPTIST MISSIONARY HERALD.

WHILE at the Missionary Prayer-meetings of the last few months, in the family circle and in the private oratory, much prayer has been made to God on behalf of the missions and missionaries in India, it will not be deemed unsuitable if we urge on our friends a continuance of their supplications, and call attention to a few topics which may become the special subjects of prayer.

1. The danger is not over. Since our last issue we learn that two missionaries of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, resident in Cawnpore, have lost their lives by the hands of the treacherous and cruel Mahratta, Nana Sahib. At Agra, while the lives of our brethren were saved by removal into the fort, accompanied by the native Christians, yet their houses and property have been plundered and destroyed. Should success not be granted to the British forces before Delhi, nor to the columns of General Havelock, than the fort of Agra, with its defenders, may become a prey; and Benares, too, be made the scene of desolation and massacre. The lives of our brethren are only safe as God shall grant them protection, or give victories to the armies of Britain. Should this be delayed, the brethren labouring in Behar and Bengal are not secure. Patna, Monghir, Jessore, Dacca, abound in Mussulmans. Everywhere they exhibit the most malignant hostility to the Christian name. A slight repulse of the English forces, or the appearance of weakness or vacillation in the Government, may at any moment afford them the hope of success, and give occasion for insurrection. Except at Dinapore, in no part of Behar or the country districts of Bengal is there a sufficient military force to repress an outbreak. The lives of our brethren and their families depend on a salutary dread of English power, or some remarkable interposition of the providence of God, like that which on four several occasions saved Calcutta from the horrors of massacre and destruction. Let there be continued and special prayer that God would throw around our missionaries the protection of his arm, and defend them in their hour of peril.

2. The wounded, the mutilated, the bereaved, the widow, the orphan, and the refugee, seeking for safety in hiding-places, should have our sympathy and most fervent prayers. Many a home has been desolated; many have been subjected to the foulest atrocities; many a heart is broken and burdened with sorrow for the loss of beloved parents or children; many hold existence at the pleasure of natives whom very slight inducements might overcome, and who for a paltry reward would betray the trust reposed in them. These should we remember at the throne of grace, and plead divine succour for them in their griefs and agony. Nor should we forget to ask that all our countrymen, our countrywomen, and their children, especially those who hitherto have been strangers at the footstool of mercy, may be led, in their peril and anxiety, to seek protection and succour of the Lord, and be heard in their affliction and distress; and that to those in captivity speedy deliverance may be given.

3. The native Christians demand our sympathy and prayers. Many have escaped with the missionaries to a place of safety; but others have suffered tribulation, and some a cruel death, with "mockings and scourgings." They are peculiarly exposed to the malignity of the Mohammedan population, and to the temptation to deny the Lord that bought them. A few, like Walayat Ali, have suffered martyrdom, in their last hours testifying to the truth of God; others, like Bernard, have clung to their posts of labour, amid the plunder and the wasting of their homes; but most of them are refugees, and deprived of all that they possessed. May their faith fail not! May they be bold in this hour of trial for the Lord! May He open to them the means of support, and grant them protection against their enemies! It is gratifying to know that their trustworthiness and loyalty are in some cases recognised by the

authorities, and employment given to them in posts of responsibility.

4. Let prayer be made that the plots, conspiracies, and evil designs of the wicked, may be frustrated. Already has it pleased God to discover, in several instances, the evil machinations of the adversary, and so baffle their execution. Known to Him are all the purposes of men; their inmost thoughts are bare to His eye. May He by His wonderful working counteract their evil designs, give warning to our countrymen, or open the way for a timely escape from their accomplishment!

5. The issues of this fearful calamity are in the hand of God. Supplications should be unceasing that He would overrule these fearful events to the lasting spiritual benefit of the wretched inhabitants of Hindostan; to the overthrow of the direful and sanguinary imposture of Mohammed; to the degradation and abolition of the idols which the people worship; to the rebuke of blasphemy, and to the extension of truer knowledge and of the salvation which is in Christ Jesus; and that He would humble the hearts of the people because of their abominations and sins, and grant to them true repentance.

6. The rulers of the land must not be forgotten in our prayers. Too long have they ignored the Christian name, and given honour to the false deities of the people. There has been a sinful compliance with caste prejudices—a too frequent homage to superstition—a direct countenance of idolatry, unbefitting Christian men and rulers proceeding from a Christian land. May God grant that this shall henceforth cease, and that while a just toleration and liberty is secured to every man, however false his creed, the Government shall separate itself from all idolatry, and inaugurate a public policy at once just, liberal, enlightened, and Christian!

7. May God grant that the Christian churches of England may take to heart their apathy towards the spiritual well-being of the many, many millions of the inhabitants of India! We are the subjects of the same sovereign, bound to them by ties of interest, by commercial advantage, and by the inscrutable determination of the Supreme, by whom this magnificent empire has been given to the British crown. Yet relatively to the magnitude of the work, how small have been the evangelising efforts of Christ's people! Over how small a portion of the country has the word of life been preached! How few are the messengers of peace among the teeming myriads of India's fertile plains! May these events awaken a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of India! May they lead to renewed exertions, to a wider liberality, to more earnest prayer for the assistance of the Holy Spirit, and for the raising up of men of God eminently fitted to bear the light of life to those regions of darkness and sin!

## Review of Books.

**The Christian Review**, for October, comes to us with its usual supply of valuable articles:—1. Jehovah Jireh; 2. The Phædon, or Plato on the Immortality of the Soul; 3. Unitarianism; 4. Royal Literature; 5. A Holy Ministry; 6. Import of Eklesia; 7. Dreams, their nature and uses, &c.

Amongst the reviews of new works we find one of—

**Life Pictures**; From a Pastor's Note Book. By ROBERT TURNBULL, author of "Christ in History," the "Genius of Scotland," &c. New York: Sheldon, Blake & Co.

This book is a group of "Life Pictures" of the practical influence of Christian truth, culled, not altogether at random, from a "Pastor's Note Book." They seem to be in a carefully arranged series, beginning with the first approaches of the truth in the Gospel as a wooing friend to an opposing and finally rejecting mind; each succeeding picture exhibiting an advance in its subduing influence, and a new glory in its conquest, until we have passed from the skeptic unconvinced, to the glorified believer in the most entrancing hour of the influence of practical Christianity, seen in the rapture of the spirit just wedded in death to Christ, revelling in the land of Beulah.

In their combined form, this volume of Dr.