

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from India.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM A BRITISH OFFICER IN INDIA TO HIS UNCLE, RESIDING AT ACACIA VALLEY, NEAR DIGBY, N. S.

Lahore, 9th Oct., 1858.

MY DEAR UNCLE,

How many long years have passed by since I have heard from you.—The fault, I fear, is mainly my own, for I have been sadly neglectful in writing to you since I came to India—in 1849. I have had, however, incessant and laborious occupation the whole time, and have always trusted to my brother Henry keeping you informed from time to time of my movements and welfare.

For five years after I came out I was employed with a large force at Wazeerabad—60 miles north of this place, and then at Sealkote—another cantonment 30 miles nearer to the Cashmere frontier, and afterwards I was appointed to the large station of Simla, then to the neighboring one of Dugsanie—a military cantonment, and in March last I came to Lahore. I married in March, 1855, a young lady called ———, daughter of a Physician at Cheltenham, whose brothers are in this service, and have just returned from Simla, where she has been staying the hot season, and where I went up, a month before, to be introduced to my third child—a little boy, the two others being girls, the youngest is called Henry Maxwell—after my brother and an old friend.

So here you have a short history of my life since I came out, one in which I have had to thank our Heavenly Father for many mercies and great and undeserved blessings.

During the late dreadful mutiny, I and mine were in a place of secure refuge,—secure that is from sudden attack. On one occasion only we were obliged to go within entrenchments; but we were not attacked. Our own lives, however, and the lives of all the European residents of this part of India have only been preserved by God's special mercy. To this hour the greatest marvel has been that the mutinous rebels should have made so little use of their advantages. Our little body of Europeans could not have maintained the siege of Delhi had they only operated in our rear; they must have been forced to retreat had the Gwalior mutineers come up before the assault; and why they did not, they are now the least able to explain. It was from no want of courage or of enmity, as their subsequent actions proved at Cawnpore; and in these as in many critical cases during the whole sad time, all have had reason to own, and I am glad to say, have generally been ready to acknowledge that God alone was saving us from the worst evils we had cause to dread. Had our army not taken Delhi or been forced to retreat, in one fortnight more, the whole Punjab would have risen, and the Punjab troops have gone against us; not that the natives are hostile to us, or are altogether insensible of the benefits of our mild and just rule, but because all had begun to believe that the sun of England's power had set forever, and that it behoved all to look out for their own interests, and in this case there was no retreat: victory or death was the only alternative for every one of Christian blood or parentage. Happily, the full extent of the evil was hardly known at the time, and in the daily and hourly excitement of the contest, people would not despond about possible calamities, and so our British hearts bore up well and bravely through the worst, and endured hardships and confronted dangers which will yet cause the events in the Punjab and the siege of Delhi to be written in the brightest scrolls of our country's noble deeds. (So torn cannot be made out.) They are for the time retained with us by forage, pay and hope of plunder, and are kept quiet by incessant work against the enemy. But the experience of the past has shewn them how to combine, and if we do not take care they will combine and then a yet more fearful and bloody insurrection will be the result. On the other hand we have advantages we have never had before. In the first place we are aware of the danger to which our new native army exposes us. Before we did not believe that our long-trying Sepoys could turn, now we shall not trust ourselves in the absolute power of a native army again. Moreover, we shall in future hold all forts and arsenals with European troops, keep our treasures under their guard, and have no native artillerymen.—All these things will give us immense power in the event of any future contest. But I trust that He who has permitted the evil to fall upon us will soon bring a restoration of peace and order.—Already we have good signs of this, and the whole country is fast settling down.

As for the causes of all that has happened,

I can tell you but little, they are mysterious and unknown, a sort of strange unaccountable upheaving of the minds of the Sepoys against us, a popular frenzy, which they themselves never anticipated, and which they now bitterly regret. It cannot however be doubted, that one of the principal reasons of the movement has been a sort of undefined fear, which they could not account for or explain, that they were all to be forced to lose cast and to become Christians, and in this way the story of the new cartridges having been greased with the mixed fat of cows and hogs, was enough to arouse the deep-rooted prejudices of both Hindoo and Mahomedan, and the rallying cry from the first has been "Deen! deen!"—"For the faith! for the faith!" So that the movement is seen to be a movement of heathenism against Christianity, and in all its sudden, unexpected and abominable horrors it has been doubtless the work of that evil enemy of the truth, who is for a time permitted to deceive the nations.

I am bold to say it, that however much in the sight of Almighty God, who has blessed us with such great opportunities of doing His service in the years past, we have been found wanting in our high mission, yet we have not provoked the outbreak by tyranny, cruelty, or injustice. There has been no oppression of the people of India, nor anything to have called up a national animosity against us. Of late indeed in the fierce internecine strife that has been carried on the sad horrors of war might often speak a different tale, for our soldiers became infuriated almost to frenzy at the thought of the wrongs they had to avenge; but most of the tales of these are exaggerated, and the only persons really cruel and brutal, when they can be so, are our own native soldiers, whose passions cannot always be restrained. But, enough of this subject, it is, you may well imagine, a weary life, thus dwelling amid the daily sounds and fear of strife, and witnessing its sad consequences. I am thankful it is my lot to be often instrumental in relieving them. Were it not that furlough leave is stopped by reason of the public service, I should probably be even now on my way to England; but I must probably now wait another year.

My brother is now surgeon of the Calypis at Valparaiso.

Believe me to remain, my dear uncle, ever your affectionate nephew, CHARLES SLOGGETT.

Mr. S. is Chaplain to the forces.

For the Christian Messenger.

Revival in Mira, C. B.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

No apology will be needed for requesting the insertion in your columns of the following letter. The writer was the first Baptist minister from whom I had the privilege of hearing the gospel stately preached. I may therefore be excused for esteeming the letter very highly. But it will prove interesting to all the lovers of Zion. O that similar mercies may be shed upon all our mission fields.

Yours in the Gospel.

S. N. BENTLEY.

Halifax, Jan. 8th, 1859.

Sydney River, Dec. 28, 1858.

DEAR BROTHER BENTLEY,

The Great Jehovah—glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders—has lately appeared at Cow Bay and Mira. His acts, with his arm made bare, have increased the songs in highest heavens. Should the inquiry be instituted, what is the cause for all this? we answer that God over all for ever blessed hath by his Sovereign influence bowed the rebellious sons and daughters of Adam to his blessed feet in answer to prayer. The first instance is that of Mr. Joel Shepard of Cow Bay, (formerly of Connecticut, New England), a respectable inhabitant for many years, who at the advanced age of 85 years has had the image of Jesus drawn upon his heart by God the Holy Spirit. His is joy divine and to add to his happiness, in a few days after his deliverance from bondage he received a letter from his brother Cornelius, dated Connecticut enquiring after his brother Joel if alive. He wished to know is he converted to God, as the Eternal has in mercy to him and his wife been pleased to translate them from darkness into marvelous light. He is at the advanced age of 89 years, his wife's age little less. Ah! Who will not read with pleasure God's language to Moses? saying, "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy." Yes, yes, and still to add to his unspeakable joy the pleasure of the Lord is seen in the conversion of his two remaining sons. Last Lord's Day the mother and two sons with fifteen more happy converts were buried with Christ in Baptism, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ has been peculiarly manifested, since the commencement of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit about three weeks since. No less than twenty-nine have publicly professed faith in Jesus and were baptized. It was a pleasing sight to see their beloved pastor Brother McQuillan give the

right hand of fellowship to six believers in the new meeting-house at Mira Bay last Lord's-day, with many witnessing the scene.

The forte of old brother Shepard is to warn all of their approaching in, and he has been successful in pointing many to Jesus.

I have performed six weeks missionary labor lately with some success at Canso and Tracadie. I received towards the mission, my expenses being paid. I have lately received a letter requesting visit from me to the same place, to which I will comply as soon as practicable. May God set all in our efforts for the honour of His name.

Yours &c., (SHE) RICHARDSON.

Sherbrooke.

Acadia Co. Jan. 6th 1859.

DEAR BROTHER BENTLEY,

I am glad to inform you that in the good providence of God I was permitted, on the 21st of Dec. last to leave Acadia for the purpose of fulfilling the appointment of the Board of two weeks mission to Sherbrooke.

I was accompanied brother McDonald from P. E. land, whose anxiety to speak to sinners of the "Way off" induced him to make the sacrifice of time and walk the distance of 40 miles west to Sherbrooke, I directly commenced holy meetings in the evenings and in the days, going from house to house endeavoring to commend the dear Saviour to poor sinners the only one who could save their souls, which I read some portion of God's Word, engaged in prayer.

Brother McDonald read with me until the 30th when he was obliged to leave for the Academy—He was very zealous in his efforts to lead sinners to Christ—breached five times and assisted in all the other exercises.

The meetings were very solemn, and some of them abetting—I feel engaged to hope that the time is not far distant when there will be a flourishing Baptist church in Sherbrooke—There were four or five young men and women who have not as yet put Christ by baptism, who profess to have recently obtained a hope in the Saviour. A number appear to be earnestly seeking Christ, trust our labors, although feeble, will not be in vain.

I received on behalf of the mission, £1 18s. 5d. The people express a strong desire to do more, but they are poor their means of getting money are small.—I seem to be willing to give of their substance the support of the Gospel. Quite a number of them promised me that they would, for their sake, give the first lamb of their flocks for food of missions.—They express many thanks that they have been so well remembered by the association and H. M. Boar, and I hope they will still be borne in mind for there is among an excellent opportunity for Christian work.

Account of labor.—12 sons, 5 by bro. McDonald, and 7 by myself—Between 30 and 40 families visited. 1 prayer-meeting, 1 conference-meeting, and 1 Temperance meeting.—It was the third meeting of the city lately established by Bro. Hurd. I tried to show something of the evils of intemperance and the importance of upholding the temperance cause, after which 23 came forward and signed the pledge. The society now numbers 76.

I am, your brother, Yours in Christ, AS. F. KEMPTON.

Cumberland County.

TO THE BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY BOARD.

Dear Brethren,—It is six months since I commenced labouring here, half of that time has been spent with the Little River church, and they remunerate me for it. The other half has been spent in River Philip, Westmore, and Wallace Rad, and I give you a brief account of what has been done there.

I have preached the Gospel to the best of my ability in the above named places, and visited from house to house, and prayed for the people. The people give attention to the preaching, and receive me very kindly. I have baptized four persons, and think there will be more soon. At River Philip the waste places are being repaired—the meeting-house which was in a dilapidated state has been restored, and yesterday was dedicated anew to the service of God. Brother Foshey and brother Balcom assisted in the services. A small church of eight members has been lately organized there, and I expect it will soon be increased to fifteen.

I am your brother in Christ, DANIEL FARNHAM.

Little River, Decr. 22nd 1858.

Mr. Samuel Bell, who is a student at Horton, writes:—Feeling a fire that the Gospel might be carried to the remote parts of our Province, I determined to spend my vacation in trying to do something for the Home Missionary Society." He has forwarded £1 3s. 11d., as the result of this effort.

General Intelligence.

Foreign and Domestic.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

Merchants' Exchange, Halifax, Jan. 10th, 1859.

The Steamship Africa has arrived at New York. Dates from Liverpool to 25 Dec. Breadstuffs inactive. Wheat and Flour dull—quotations nominal.

Consols for Money 95 3/4 to 97. News, foreign and political, unimportant.

NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT BONDS rose 1/2 per cent on the 13th ult., in the London Stock Market.

The Superintendent of the Merchant's Exchange Reading Room, received the following communication on Monday morning.—

"Strait of Canso, Jan. 5. 1859.

MR. MUNRO.

Merchant's News Room.

Sir.—Yesterday several schooners were forced through the strait into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, by the combined force of an east wind, current and floating ice. They appeared to be desirous of anchoring, but could not, being prevented by the pressure of the ice. I supposed them bound to P. E. Island. No communication was had with them, as far as I know. Several other schooners which passed to the northward, three or four days since, have not returned. Reports say several schrs. are in the ice between Port Hood and Cape George.

A new topsail schr. "Problem," Kelly, master, from Charlottetown for Bedford, England, is detained in McNair's Cove, in want of men. She has been there for 10 or 12 days.

No heavy gulf ice has made its appearance yet. Floating ice made its appearance 24th Dec., 10 days earlier than usual.

A STEAMER OF ANOTHER LINE IN HALIFAX HARBOUR.—The North America an iron screw steam-boat of the Canadian line put into Halifax on Wednesday last about noon on her way to Portland. This is the first trip on the winter arrangement from Liverpool to Portland instead of to Quebec and Montreal as the steamers of this line run in the summer. On the 1st of January she ran ashore at Cape Race and sustained serious injury. In consequence of this accident she was taking in water rapidly.—her water tight forward compartment was nearly filled.

On Friday she again proceeded on her way having undergone some repairs and replenished her supply of coals.

We hear it rumored that John Creighton, Esq., of Lunenburg, who represented that county for a number of years, will probably be selected to fill the vacancy in the Legislative Council, caused by the death of the Hon. Wm. Rudolf.—Express.

BERMUDEA, December 21.—H. M. Line-of-battle ship Indus, bearing the Flag of Vice-Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, K. C. B., Capt Hay, arrived on Wednesday the 15. The Indus left Halifax on the 9th inst., and made Bermuda on the Morning of the 14th. H. M. Steamer Styx, Commander Vesey, which left Halifax in company with the Indus, and parted with her on the same night, reaching Murry's Anchorage on the evening of the 13th. The Styx, went out on Wednesday morning and towed the Indus into Grassy Bay.

THE NEW TITLE OF QUEEN VICTORIA.—Formerly Her Majesty's title was "Victoria by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen; Defender of the Faith;" but now it is "Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Colonies and Dependencies thereof, in Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Australasia, Queen, Defender of the Faith."

PERRY DAVIS' VEGETABLE PAIN KILLER.—Voluntarily, conscientiously, and with much pleasure, we recommend to our readers the above named medicine. We speak from our own observation and experience when we say that it removes pain as if by magic from all parts of the body, and is one of the best medicines in use for checking diarrhoea, and removing the premonitory symptoms of cholera.—Cin. Nompereil.

United States.

Printing on glass has been successfully accomplished by a gentleman in New York city. Labels can be printed by this process directly on bottles of any size and form. It is probable that glass-decorating may be cheaply effected in this way; and if pictures can be finely printed on glass, many beautiful effects will be produced.

A movement is on foot to ascertain the comparative physical strength, size, etc., of men in the United States and Europe. In Philadelphia, the Academy of Natural Sciences have chosen the police force as a fair representative class of men, and a set of scientific tests have been provided, by which their strength and general physical condition can be ascertained. Inquiries will be directed as to their age, birth-place, birth-place of parents, weight, height, complexion, size of limbs, dimensions of chest, strength of lungs, size and developments of the head, &c., &c. The tables thus made up will be curious and interesting.—American paper.

John Killinger, a German apothecary at Lebanon, Ohio, died a few days ago, leaving, it is said, property valued at \$750,000, which, by his will is to be invested and the interest to be devoted to the education of the German Protestants in Ohio.