

Missionary Intelligence.

The following account of Missionary labor and prospects, from the Missionary Magazine, Oct., will be read with much interest.

The Magazine also contains a highly interesting account of the Rev. A. R. R. Crawley's labor, from his Journal in the month of March, but as we have had later intelligence from him, in an original letter a few weeks since, we shall occupy our space with some account of

The Mission to the Shans.

LETTER FROM MR. DIXBY.

Revels among Shans and Burmans.—Toungoo, March 25, 1863.—The work among the Shans and Burmans, particularly among the former, continues in a quiet but powerful manner, such as to convince every beholder that it is indeed the work of God.

It was our third communion season. The subject of contemplation was, "The great salvation," of which the little church before us was a striking illustration.

Joyful Contrasts.—We have now a church of thirty members, where, two years ago, there was not one disciple to call Jesus blessed.

We have six candidates for the gospel ministry, where, twenty months ago, the name of Christ was mentioned only in derision.

God is worshipped and the gospel is preached every Sabbath in the very heart of this idolatrous city, where Buddhism has reigned undisturbed for many centuries.

A fire has kindled here, which will continue to burn until every shred of Buddhism is consumed, and this valley of the shadow of death is lighted up with the radiance of heaven.

The Divine light is spreading; it has already reached some of the Shan mountains, and the time is not far distant when it will shoot across the country to the land of "Sinim."

"I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted. Behold these shall come from far, and lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim."

It is pretty evident that Sinim, means China, (see Alexander on Isaiah; also, Kitto's Daily Scripture Readings) and that these Toungoo mountains and these Shan mountains, as well as the sea, are to be made the Lord's way for introducing the gospel to the great empire of China.

Hither the Sinim has been reached only by the sea, and a few fires only have been kindled on the seashore. When the Lord "makes all these mountains a way," and the approach from the west as well as the east and south, then the celestial empire will hear the thunder of God's law "all around the heavens," and the time of her redemption will be near.

God making the mountains a way.—An intelligent Shan of high birth was brought to me a few days since by my Shan teacher, who has a happy faculty to pick up the people, who has just come down with fifteen families from a place in the Shan country, called "the twelve mountains." The account which he gives of the people is of thrilling interest.

Seven or eight years ago, he informed me, a certain Karen, a stranger in that region, came up there from some place unknown to him, and by preaching established a new and remarkable religion. The substance of his preaching was this: "It is sin to kill anything that has life; it is sin to worship idols or demons; it is sin to lie, steal, drink spirits or get angry. It is the duty of all to forsake their sins and worship the one living God above."

Large numbers, both Shans and Karens, particularly the latter, embraced the new faith, abstained from all flesh and fish, and gave themselves up to the worship of the great God above. They are said to be a quiet, kind, and holy people, and are called Thoo-daus, or divine men.

The time when this man came among them, the nature of his doctrines, and the results of his preaching, indicate that he probably fell in somewhere with Saur's, or some of the early Toungoo missionaries, perhaps with Mr. Whitaker himself, and obtained some slight knowledge of Christianity; and, blending this with Buddhism, went to "the regions beyond" as a preacher. At all events, the circumstances are remarkable, and indicate to me that the Lord is "making all his mountains a way."

"Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; are they not white already to harvest?"

There are states of human society peculiarly favorable to evangelical work; conditions which

indicate that the great Husbandman has prepared the field for the harvesters, when it may be said emphatically, "they are ripe for the harvest."

Such was the condition of Samaria when our Lord spoke these words; and, before two years had transpired, it yielded a ripe, rich, grand, golden harvest. Such was the condition of Europe, when Luther, Zwingle and Farel stepped forth in their respective fields to harvest a hemisphere. Such was the condition of America, when Whitefield, Wesley, Edwards, and Davies harvested the new world; and such was the condition of the United States and of Ireland in more recent ingatherings. Such was the condition of Germany, when the Lord sent Dr. Searns to baptize Ouckea; such was the condition of Tennessee, when Judson, Boardman, and Ko Thah Byu girded themselves for the toil. Such was the condition of these Toungoo mountains, when Quala and Whitaker gathered the great harvest of the Karens; and such is the condition, we believe, of this vast Shan-land, teeming with its multitudes of human beings.

You have only to "lift up your eyes," to see abundant proof of this; else, what are we to learn from the striking providences that sent out a Shan missionary, just in time to meet thousands of wandering Shans, and settle them at his very door? What are we to understand by this wide-spread spirit of inquiry, this readiness to embrace the truth, this spreading work of grace, this thriving church, this rising ministry, this coming and friendliness of mountaineers, the gift of tongues? What are we to understand from these "Thoo-daus," and "Saudes," people all ready for the harvest; what of the openings into Shan-land, the treaty with the Burmese government, the appropriation of one thousand rupees from the British government of of Burma towards a tour in Shan-land, without interfering in any way with the sacredness of the proposed journey; what of the unknown friend in Leeds, England, whose heart, yearning over this great harvest field, has devised another liberal thousand towards the distribution of the Bible and the preaching of the gospel in our journeyings; and what of the appearing of suitable native men for the undertaking just at this time?

Is it not of the Lord? If any doubt it, these do not on whose pathway all this light shines. So confident are we that the Husbandman is already in the field, only waiting to give a harvest, that we are willing to go single-handed to the work, but greatly desire "more laborers." If we cannot have a missionary, give us the funds to employ a large number of native laborers.

Commercial enterprise is urging its way through Burma and the Shan States to get hold of the wealth of Western China. Various plans have been laid, roads projected, exploring tours set on foot,—all with the conviction that China can be reached advantageously from the west. Must it always be true that the men of this world are wiser than the children of light? Should we not be equally anxious to carry the gospel to Western China? Can we not make these Shan and Karen mountains "a way?"

Since Dr. Morrison landed in China, fifty-four years ago, it is estimated that at least, in the aggregate, the missionary labor of sixteen hundred years has been performed in China, and yet the great heart of the empire has not been touched; the vast and populous interior has never been penetrated; only a few cities on the extreme east have been occupied; and now, after all this expenditure of men and money, it is estimated that there are not many more than two thousand living converts in all the empire.

Dear brethren, in closing, let me remind you that harvesting is soon over, and the seasons come at long intervals. There are periods in the affairs of nations as well as of individuals, concerning which it may be said, they are "not far from the kingdom of God,"—tides in the affairs of souls, which, taken at the full, lead on to heaven; but such periods, once passed, may not return again in cycles of ages. Let the churches of our Lord, awaken to their duty, and seek by their timely action and interest a grand harvest in Eastern Asia.

THE LORD'S-DAY OBSERVANCE IN FRANCE.

The Minister of Public Works in France has lately sent to the prefects of the departments a circular, in which he requests them to prevent all manual occupation in the work-hops under his authority on the Lord's-day, and on fete-days, unless under exceptional circumstances. These instructions appear to be the sequence of a petition addressed last winter to the Senate. A measure of the Minister of Public Instruction must also be noted, by which he has forbidden the use in schools of a little book entitled, "A Summary of Ecclesiastical History for the Use of Primary Schools of the Society of Mary." This book was written by a Jesuit, and its pages abound with calumnies and untruths.

PROGRESS OF THE TRUTH.—The following statistics relative to the Baptist churches of the continent will be of interest to our readers:—There are, in Germany, 50 churches; in Denmark, 16; in Switzerland, 1; in France 1; in Poland 1; or a total of 74 united with the Association which has its centre in Hamburg. The clear increase in the German churches was 848; in the Danish 8; in the Swiss, 16; in the Polish 51; while in the French there was an actual decrease of 9. These churches have, in Germany, no less than 908 stations, where meetings of one kind and another are held, and the Gospel preached; in Denmark, 124; in Switzerland, 12; in France, 7; in Poland, 32; or a total of 1,083. To the operations of the Hamburg church, and the faithful labours of twenty years, these encouraging results are ascribed. The churches in Sweden are not connected with

this union; but there were in that country, at the close of last year, 161 Baptist churches; 5,544 members; and during that period 914 persons had been baptized, and 16 new churches formed.

INDIA.—The Bhaskar newspaper, a staunch advocate of Hindoo orthodoxy, pronounces a eulogium on missionaries, declaring that they are great benefactors to the country. "No body of men have put forth so great exertions for the enlightenment and civilisation of the people of this land as the missionaries. If they had not come, English education among all classes of the community throughout India, but more especially Bengal, would not have made such rapid progress. To show hostility to those who have, for our benefit, thrown away their lives like water—what is it but to show ingratitude?"

The Baptist church at Grand Pass, Colombo, the earliest founded of the Ceylon mission churches, proposes to follow the example set by the native brethren of Kandy and Matella, and from the commencement of next year to maintain itself as an independent church.

CHINA.—The missionaries of the London Society report that during the first six months of this year the Amoy churches have prospered, both as regards the development of the Christian life, and the increase, notwithstanding opposition and reproach, of genuine converts. The members of the English Presbyterian mission have had to encounter much persecution. Some of them have been beaten and stoned, their houses pillaged, and in one instance the mission chapel has been demolished. At Kli Boey, where an inveterate spirit of hostility was manifested, the British consul interposed, and the mandarins issued a proclamation forbidding any one to interfere with those who had embraced "the holy religion of Jesus."

MADAGASCAR.—From Madagascar our latest authentic intelligence reports that, notwithstanding some acts of hostility on the part of the outlying tribes, a number of representatives from the Betsileo, the Sakalavas, and the Betsimisaraka, were coming into Antananarivo to take the oath of allegiance to the new sovereign. They had been all generously treated, and admitted to the presence of the Queen, and were to be entertained at a royal banquet at the palace. Mr. Ellis, on the part of the missionaries, had himself also had an interview with the Queen, and, to prevent misrepresentation, explained the various objects they had in view; and was assured by her that there was "no change in regard to the teaching and worship of the Christians," and that when the new missionaries coming had arrived they would receive the same protection, and be allowed the same liberty in their work.

The American Bible Union.

The American Bible Union opened its fourteenth annual meeting, on Wednesday, 28th ult., in the First Baptist Church, New York. Rev. Dr. Armitage, President, in the chair. The attendance was large, and the proceedings interesting. From the Treasurer's report, it appeared that the year's receipts had been \$17,359.22, and the expenditures \$17,518.44. The report of the Corresponding Secretary, W. H. Wickoff, was, in brief, as follows:

Last year the Four Gospels were issued from the Final Committee charged with the Revision of the New Testament.

This year the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistle to the Romans, and the two Epistles to the Corinthians, have been completed and printed, and the books are now ready for delivery.

The remaining Epistles and the Book of Revelations are expected to be finished and ready for circulation at some time during the coming year, perhaps as early as May next.

The New Testament is thus being issued in three parts. Of part 1st (the Gospels) more than fifteen thousand copies have been distributed within the past year. Parts 1 and 2 are bound together, for those who wish them in that form.

The various readings of the Greek, which have furnished the foundation for some of the most important changes, are now nearly ready for publication. They are expected to be issued in a few weeks.

The Old Testament is still under way. Many parts, such as Proverbs, the Minor Prophets, and some of the Historical Books, are in various degrees of forwardness, considerable portions ready for the press, and many chapters actually stereotyped. But no portion of the Old Testament (except that already printed) will be issued till the New Testament is completed.

Less has been done in Foreign Scriptures than in former years, as the attention of the Union has been almost wholly engrossed with the preparation and issue of the English New Testament.

A Soldier's Edition of the Gospel has been prepared, and is found to be highly acceptable with the army. It will be followed by a Soldier's Edition of the Epistles. In this Edition each book is printed separately; in a convenient form to be carried without trouble in the most hurried march, and even in time of battle.

The finances of the Union are in an improved condition. The receipts are greater than those of last year, and the prospects of the ensuing year are encouraging. Everything betokens continued prosperity.

Thursday morning the large Church in Broome street was again filled with delegates from several of the States. Dr. Conant; Rev. T. M. Hopkins, of Geneva; Rev. Dr. Brown, formerly a missionary in Burma; Rev. Drs.

Hodge, Searles and Brewer; Delano, Hall, Baldwin and Gregory, and other advocates of the new version were among the many noted divines assembled.

Rev. Dr. Conant said that he had desired the privilege of explaining this revision of the New Testament by the Committee in order to show the bearing of some of the changes adopted. The first common version dating from 1380, the days of Wickliffe was the basis of all their work, in style, manner and expression, as far as was consistent with the true sense. That style the revisers deem to be the true one for the Scriptures. Other versions fall so far as they depart from it.

In the afternoon, Rev. Dr. Conant continued his address, and was frequently questioned by the clergy present in reference to various passages in the new version of the scriptures.—N. Y. Times.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mother!

At this word, how the mind darts back with more than electric speed, to that loved one whose smiles and kisses sent currents of innocent joy through the soul; as on her dear, dear bosom, one remembers to have been pressed with loving arms, in childhood's happiest hours. The poetic vein coursed through my mother's heart, but, for the want of educational development, it remained, for the most part, like gold in the mine. A few specimens, however, but still in quartz, have been seen. One of these was recently handed to me, and my only apology for transmitting it to you, is the pleasure I presume it would afford to the still living friends of the departed authoress.

My dear Mother's religious enjoyment, was much interrupted by a constitutional indulgence in doubts, that would often dim the brightest rays of hope; as will be inferred from reading the annexed lines. They were composed a little previous to her baptism, which occurred on the last Lord's day in July, 1825. It was on that sunny day, that she, and the subscriber were layed beneath the yielding waters of the Annapolis river, at Stony Beach, by my father.

But, to the poetry. Well, in my pastoral rounds, I met with a mother in our Israel who said—"It was under your father's preaching at Lewis Head that I was converted, and he baptized me. I have some verses composed by your mother, which he gave me when last here in 1849." Bro. Selden, please give these verses a place in the Messenger, and oblige

E. N. HARRIS.

Liverpool, Oct. 16th, 1863.

"Some thoughts of a poor sinner."

Great God thou knowest my inmost heart,  
That I'm defiled in every part;  
O look on me great God of love,  
And call my wandering thoughts above.

In Satan's service long I've been,  
How great, how vast has been my sin;  
I long to leave them all, and flee  
My Lord, to humbly follow thee.

I'm all pollution, sin and shame,  
I dare not own thy holy name;  
Great God, wilt thou decide the strife,  
If I have felt the Word of life.

O give me faith, Lord, to believe,  
Forbid that I myself deceive;  
To pray, sometimes I feebly try,  
But fear it never reached on high.

Sometimes I have a hope, my God,  
That I shall reach that blest abode;  
But doubts and fears soon sink me low,  
O, tell me, if the Lord I know.

Thy love great God; I sometimes feel,  
It melts my heart, though hard as steel;  
I know, O Lord there's none but Thee,  
Can set my soul at liberty.

TERRACY HARRIS.

Lower Granville, April, 1825.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

WILLIAM ALLEN KEMPTON

of Milton, slept in Jesus, August 28th. Bro. K. had been for many years a very prominent and useful member of the Baptist Church, at Milton. A man of good judgment, sound in the faith and it may be said of him, as of Enoch, "He walked with God; and he was not; for God took him." I am told that, in former years, our dear brother preached the Gospel to good acceptance; but for some time past he exercised his gifts more in ordinary addresses in the church, in aiding the Sunday School, and especially, as a teacher of a large Adult Bible Class, in which he excelled. The public, as well as Zion has sustained a great loss in the demise of Brother Kempton. His sickness (consumption) was protracted, and during the eight months of suf-