

Missionary Intelligence.

Burmah.

RANGOON MISSION.—LETTER FROM MR. ROSE—Demand for Tracts—Effect of Preaching.—Rangoon, July 29, 1867.—The first of June I commenced almost daily visits to the large town of Kemendine. For four weeks I averaged four days a week,—some days alone, and some days a native assistant accompanied me. We always find people to listen, and I may say, people to dispute and prevent people from listening. The demand for tracts seems to be about as great as ever. If one in ten is read, and one in a hundred should lead a soul to Christ, it would be a good work with glorious results. The leading men of Kemendine have, many of them, heard much, and read our books, and the effect is noticeable. They are very cautious about upholding their own religion by argument, but freely attack or raise objections against Christianity.

A few days ago at a feast, a leading man at Kemendine denied before a large crowd of people that they, the Burmans, worshipped idols. I called on the whole company as witnesses to the fact that they did: some said, "Yes, yes," others, "No, no." He then said it was a shame to say so, and a shame to worship dumb things, and none but fools did so.

The Route into Western China.—Dr. Williams, who has lived at Mandalay as government agent for some time, and has taken pains to inquire of the natives about the best way into Western China, has just published a pamphlet on the subject. His conclusion is that the easiest, if not the only practicable route is via Bamo, Santa, and Tali, to the city of Yunnan. For two or three years, I have conversed with many Shans about the road into China, and I had come to the opinion of Dr. Williams, before knowing that he was thinking and making inquiry on the subject. The Irrawadi may be regarded as navigable by river steamers, to Bolmo (Bamo). "From Bamo, thirty miles over a level plain bring you to the Ka Khyen Hills. That a road across the thirty or forty miles of Ka Khyen Hills to the plains of Yunnan can be constructed is certain, and that this road could be ultimately replaced by a railway is more than probable," writes Dr. W. Again Dr. W. says, "From Yunnan city there is a regular trade route and high-road through Tali and Yunchau to Momi, and thence through Sauda, Mowun, or Maingmo, Bamo, or a point just below it, on the Irrawadi. Between either Sauda, Mowun, or Maingmo, and the valley of the Irrawadi, is about thirty miles of mountainous country inhabited by Ka Khyens." These wild people are quite numerous, and divided into many clans, each with its chief, independent of the others; they are savage, well armed, and ready for fight. They command the route into Yunnan. But they may be easily influenced and made friends to commerce and civilization. No European has, so far as I know, gone into Yunnan from Bamo; but for the war there, Williams would have attempted it; but the war is now closed, and a Mussulman king reigns at Tali.

TOUNGGOO MISSION.—LETTER FROM MR. BUNKER—The School at Toungoo.—Toungoo, Aug. 26, 1867.—The shower has come and it is a little cooler, and I improve the time and strength to give a few items of our prosperity. A little more than a week ago we closed the first term of our school. I think it has been a very successful term of work. God has been good and merciful in his dealing with us. We have not suffered much from sickness,—neither the teachers nor the taught.

Need of Provision for Education of Females.—What are we going to do for the four thousand Christian women of Toungoo? Where are these preachers going to get wives, who shall be a help rather than a destruction to them? The women of Toungoo have as yet received but little true education, and of course this is felt, severely felt. It is becoming more and more an evil, because their influence tells upon their children.

At the rate of increase of the last year, next year we ought to have a hundred and fifty if we can support them, and I think we shall have them. They, nearly all, too, have the ministry in view, at least it is so with the older boys. But few look to secular employments. Well, this is only an indication of our line of thinking. Something ought to be done for the women.

Brightening prospects of the Mission.—Every thing is wearing a brighter prospect. The wheels of the mission move with less grumbling. The prospect among the border people is brightening greatly, and there are now more calls for teachers than can be filled. The way seems to be opening to the Red Karen country, and I hope we shall be able to reach it soon. I believe there is yet a glorious future for the Toungoo Mission, perhaps a brightness of the sun to answer to the dark night now passing away. May God grant it. We are greatly blessed in having our health spared to us, and we feel obligated to earnest work on this account. I am able now to write and read and talk with some ease in the Karen, and have begun the study of the Bghai dialect, which I hope to be able to use in a short time. It is very much like the Sgau in its idioms, so that the getting of it consists chiefly in committing to memory new terms, and a different pronunciation of old terms. I have been examining the Red Karen dialect somewhat, but cannot speak of it. I have, however, several hundred words, perhaps a thousand, collected from one source and another.

It is more difficult, and calls for higher energies of soul, to live a martyr, than to die one.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Our Foreign Mission.

EXTRACTS from sister DeWolfe's letter to the Secretary, dated "Charlestown, Mass., Dec. 13th and 16th, 1867."

"My reception in St. John, after a stormy passage from Windsor, was a pleasant and cordial one. The meetings were well attended, pleasant, and profitable. Bro. J. F. Marsters—her kind host—made me a donation of \$25, and other friends smaller sums, and little gifts, which are pleasing, as they form a sort of binding link. One thing touched me much: a soldier of the cross, and one who has "fought the good fight of faith," and almost "finished his course," and one who had not where to lay his head, came to me, bringing his donation for his Master's sake; and though feeble and infirm, and we had four meetings in succession, yet he was always present, to receive good, and to cheer others by his presence. God grant to make me as faithful as my post!

"The parting in St. John was more trying than I can tell you. It was like breaking every tie that bound me to those dear Provinces, and the ones so dearly loved still held within their grasp, while every stroke of the paddles bore me farther and farther from them. But my heavenly Father did not leave me alone, but sent the Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen me.

"From St. John to Eastport we had it pleasant. A kind friend on board, as we landed at Eastport, took me to her house to dine. We felt drawn towards each other, as she once bore my name. The boat remained some time there, and gave us time for a pleasant walk. The remaining part of our voyage was rough; but after a long time we struck the wharf—joyful sound—and found ourselves on terra firma once more.

"In Boston and vicinity I have been waiting nine weeks for an opportunity to be off. Cousin Lewis" [E. DeWolfe, who kindly entertained her] "and his wife have indeed proved themselves friends, and treated me nobly. I have received attention from some others of the Baptists here. Dr. Gardner called, and also took pains to go over to the Rooms with me one day. Mrs. Morse, a sister of our brother Spinney now in College, I found very pleasant and kind. I would here acknowledge donations of books, from Gould & Lincoln, 3 vols., and from N. P. Kemp 12 vols. besides music books. The Board here have treated me as kindly as they could, and treated it as a business matter.

"Mrs. Van Meter promises me a home till I learn the language and work; but she says it may not seem advisable for three young ladies to remain in one place to work. But after I become acquainted with the people and language I shall not feel strange; and, as far as I now see, shall not hesitate, with my heavenly Father for my Protector, to go elsewhere. My health is good, and my mind hopeful as the hour for my departure draws nigh.

"And now I must say, *Adieu* and *farewell*. I feel that I go with your best wishes and prayers, and the presence of my Master. My prayer for you is, that God will bless your declining years, and make your last days your best.

Affectionately yours in Christ Jesus,
MINNIE B. DEWOLFE.

For the Christian Messenger.

Card-playing and Dancing.

Is it right for professing Christians to indulge in such amusements? is a question which has often been asked and pretty freely discussed. Surely all true lovers of godliness should abstain entirely from such evil practice, and thus shun not only the appearance of an evil but the evil itself. Yes, Mr. Editor, an evil which is wider spread than many are aware. I have good reason to fear that not a few weak minded Christians are led away from the narrow path through such habits. And, sir, there are those among us who argue that such amusements are harmless, but sir I look upon them as but stepping stones to the broad road which leads to destruction. Some years ago there was in this place a most interesting young people's Prayer Meeting established and kept up with much interest, until some of the most active members advanced the idea that young Christians could indulge in the simple amusement of dancing, &c., and still be consistent Christians. This they argued was the practice among many Christians in the United States. Strange to say, though the advice, so far as I am aware, was

not followed, but the meetings began to lose their interest. The influence of these parties was not so powerful as formerly, and finally the meetings had to be given up. I look upon such things as most sinful in the sight of God especially so for followers of the meek and lowly Jesus. Was our Exemplar, when on earth, sanctioning such things? No, but rather said, "Let your light so shine before men," &c. "Come ye out from among them. Touch not the unclean thing and I will receive ye." Fellow Christians who cherish such erroneous ideas, think of the great sacrifice our Divine Master made to secure a home in heaven for you, and say then is it right, is it Christ like, is it worthy of imitation for you and your children to thus spend your precious time? to say nothing of the sin of the act. Can you join the unconverted in such practices till midnight and then draw near the throne of Grace, and hold communion with the sinner's Friend? If you can your religion is something entirely new and is without doubt a delusion; you require a new conversion. Your readers may deem these remarks inappropriate, but sir, I fear there are not a few of our own Church members, indulging in such amusements. Yes, and I hear the sinner saying, "Well if Christians can indulge in such amusements surely its no harm for me to go a step farther.

O my Christian reader, beware, beware—be willing like the great Apostle to make some sacrifice for your Master. He could deny himself even meat for the good of a weak brother, and we must abandon such sinful practices for the benefit of the perishing around you.

Yours, &c.,
WEAK BROTHER.

For the Christian Messenger.

New Zealand.

Dear Editor,—

As a statement appeared in the *Christian Messenger* of Jan. 1st concerning the disaffected Maories of New Zealand calculated to dampen the ardor of those who are thinking of emigrating to that country, and as I am interested in the formation of a company to procure a ship for that purpose, in which I expect to go thither with my family in August next, and as I am in possession of recent advices from there, I trust you will allow me through your valuable paper to state the following facts, for which I am chiefly indebted to a prize pamphlet on Southland, one of the 9 Provinces of the Colony, published by authority in 1867, which is without doubt authentic as the writer was awarded, by the government, a premium of £50 sterling. That the imperial troops have all been withdrawn I do not deny, but I have yet to learn that it is at all in harmony with any former conduct of the British Government to leave her defenceless colonists to be ruthlessly slaughtered by savage native hordes. The troops were called home simply because they were no longer needed there. After the Provinces became confederated they were considered fully capable of taking care of themselves. And while they are not in the least alarmed at the weak threats of a few malcontents, we need give ourselves no uneasiness concerning them.

NEW ZEALAND.

consists of three Islands in the South Pacific Ocean called North, Middle, and South Islands. Lying between 34° and 47° South Latitude and 166° and 178° East Longitude. It is about 850 miles long and 150 wide and contains an area of 95,000 square miles. It has at the present time a European population of about 220,000. Forty years ago there were a great many Aborigines, probably not less than 150,000, but they have dwindled down to 40,000. Of late years they have made a good deal of noise and caused a little trouble, on account of alleged injustice suffered at the hands of the British Government, but they have been pretty generally subdued, and are now disposed to be peaceable, and quiet. Moreover they are but a handful any way and are rapidly ceasing to be that, and it is only in a part of the Province of Taranaki in the North Island that they have ever been troublesome. The inhabitants of the Middle and Southern Provinces are no more endangered by them than the people of Nova Scotia are. It is to this Province, the garden of New Zealand, that we expect to go, and we have no fears of being annoyed by the natives, much less of being murdered.

The climate of New Zealand is universally admitted to be the most even, agreeable, and healthy in the known world. The change between summer and winter is so gradual and slow and the difference so immaterial that it is scarcely perceptible, and to one who has expe-

rienced our cold northern winters with their sudden and trying changes, New Zealand would seem an eternal Summer. There Agricultural labor is never stopped by season. The happy husbandman can plow, and sow, cultivate and harvest at pleasure through all the year. The grass is always green, and the foliage never leaves the forests. All the indigenous trees and plants are evergreen. There it requires no out-ay and extra labor to house and feed stock through a long cold winter as in North America cattle and sheep graze all winter even on the uncultivated runs. It may be supposed that in a country where there is no cold winter, the summer months must be excessively hot, but it is not so in New Zealand. The thermometer seldom indicates as high as 90° in summer, and never in mid-winter more than 5° below the freezing point. In Southland, the coldest part of the country, they sometimes have a frosty night similar to the last of our September, but every vestige of the unwelcome visitor usually disappears before mid-day, hence fruits of nearly all kinds are easily cultivated, and the grape vines only need training and pruning. Land is comparatively cheap, while provisions of all kinds always command a ready market. The reason of this is that so many give attention to the keeping of sheep, which hitherto has proved more profitable, while it is easier than farming, and to the working of the gold mines which of late years have proved very rich. To give an idea of the extent to which gold mining operations have been carried on in N. Z., it appears in their official statistical returns, that in the year 1866 they exported to England two millions of pounds sterling of the precious stuff.

New Zealand is acknowledged to be second to no country in the world, in all the resources of material wealth, whether Pastoral, Agricultural Mineral, or Mercantile. And in proportion to its extent for an evenly balanced combination of them all, we very much doubt if any country equals it.

Australia is indeed an emigration field of great attractions. The climate is more equable than in America, at least the cold in winter is less severe, and the pastoral and mineral resources are immense, but Australia is an arid country and it is liable to destructive droughts, which render the results of agricultural operations very uncertain. But New Zealand has no droughts while the natural resources are quite equal to Australia in proportion to its size, and the summer heat is less scorching. It is a country of rivers and perennial streams, everywhere well-watered.

A great many have sought a home in South Africa, and in some respects it is a fine country but it is not a country of droughts and deserts, of deadly snakes and Kaffir hordes, and insect pests innumerable. New Zealand has neither beasts of prey nor snakes of any kind, nor any insect half so noxious as our wasp. We have it on the authority of a gentleman who spent ten years in Middle Island and is well acquainted with the country generally, that the only pest he ever met with is the blow-fly, which in some places, for about a month, is somewhat annoying out of doors, though it does no real harm. His expression was "New Zealand is a country eminently home like, whether as respects size, climate, natural features, inhabitants or political institutions. A man may travel alone without dog or gun, through all its forests, and over all its mountains and suffer no molestation. He may sleep at night either in the hut of the Maori (pronounced Mowry) or under a tree and no harm or danger befall him." Of what other country in the world can the same be said?

The productions for export are as yet chiefly gold and wool. To these sources of wealth as being the most profitable, most of the available capital and labor have hitherto been turned. But the soil, though variable in quality like all other countries, is equal as a whole to the best of Great Britain. The average crop of wheat without manure is 35 bushels per acre, oats 45 bushels, other grains in proportion, while a great deal of its soil produces as high as 50 bushels of wheat and 60 of oats without manure. It is also a great potato growing country, and root crops of all kinds grow to a great size. The soil is very high and rich, and easily cultivated. It is the place for a farmer.

Coal, Iron, Copper, and other minerals abound, while its gold diggings are very valuable furnishing a local market for the agricultural and other productions of the colony.

Forests of valuable timber are scattered over its surface from North to South.

It has very many safe and commodious harbors favoring the development of commerce, and from which any point in the interior can be reached in two days even by the present modes of travel.