

of one of our presiding Elders recently died of delirium tremens; the son of one of our college presidents was recently killed in a drunken riot in a saloon; the son of an ex-official editor recently dropped dead in the streets from drunkenness; while the families of our best laymen are fearfully invaded by the destroyer. These things so unlike what we hoped for a quarter of a century ago, when we, who were then ardent and hopeful workers in temperance, thought at least our families were secure, that they demand a most searching inquiry into the cause. But we need not search long. It is found in the dreadful fact that in every case these fallen ones took their first downward step by the use of tobacco! A thorough search does not discover a single exception! Tobacco was the educator. In most cases they but followed parental example; in all cases they had pastors and teachers who instructed them to use the dangerous intoxicant which cultivated a demand for something but little more dangerous. But these are gone, and a host of ruined young men follow, plunging into graves of dishonor and eternal woe, all from beginning by the use of tobacco.

My plea is this: Brethren, incorporate tobacco in your temperance pledges, talk tobacco in your temperance speeches, write tobacco in your temperance papers. Mark, I am now only speaking of tobacco as a drunkard-maker! It is doing more to destroy the children of temperance men than all the wines and beers in the nation. I doubt if one young man in every ten thousand who have gone down from religious and temperance families to drunkenness, can be found who did not begin with tobacco. No wonder that some heart-stricken mothers curse the pastor or teacher whose example encouraged, if it did not induce, her boy, to smoke, and thus become a drunkard when the vitiated appetite thus formed demanded stronger poison. In this plea I lay no stress upon the fact that the children of tobacco users inherit diseased bodies as certainly as do the children of consumptives, or of drunkards, and that they as inevitably demand first the weed, then the bowl, as the children of drunkards take to intoxicants, farther than this fact bears upon the temperance question. The fact that no pastor can minister to any congregation and use tobacco, without offending some careful parent, belongs to another class of arguments. I am speaking solely in behalf of the temperance cause.—*Zion's Herald.*

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.
Missionary Correspondence.
FROM REV. GEO. CHURCHILL.
COCANADA, INDIA, Dec. 25th, 1876.

It will, I trust, afford the friends of our mission much pleasure to learn that their prayers in my behalf have been answered, in my return to India, with health so far restored as to afford encouragement that I shall be able to remain and engage anew in the work. Though not yet fully recovered, I enjoy a good degree of health and strength, and am, I trust, steadily improving, so that I hope with care soon to be well and strong.

It has been to me—and I doubt not to many others, a case of hope long deferred, and the long time during which I have been laid aside from active work, has been one of trial, and at times of discouragement. Though I doubt not, there has been a wise purpose in it, I do not know that as yet I have discovered what that purpose is. But he who watches over us and guides us, will I feel sure make my illness one of the "all things" that "work together for good," and the fulfilment of His wise designs.

For the many mercies received—for safe journeying by sea—for kind friends raised up for me in a distant land—for kind watch-care over loved ones, and for my return to find them safe and well, I have reason to be deeply thankful. May the Lord make me as grateful as His mercies demand, and enable me henceforth to serve him more faithfully.

Thinking it might be interesting to the readers of the *Messenger* to know something of what is to be seen at our antipodes I have jotted down a few things that interested me.

FROM INDIA TO AUSTRALIA.

Of the voyage from Galle to Australia there is not much to say, except that it is like all other long sea voyages, rather tedious and monotonous, especially to one who is ill all the voyage, as I was. We had on the whole a very pleasant voyage. Passing Cape Leenwin where it is almost always very rough, we were especially favored with fine weather. The voyage from Galle to King George's Sound usually occupies from twelve to fourteen days. We were fourteen.

King George's Sound, the first port at which the steamers call, is a small inlet a few miles in extent, well sheltered, and affording a very good harbor. The approach to it between a high granite headland on the one hand and a granite island on the other, up the sides of which the surf is constantly breaking in clouds of white foam and mist, is very interesting, though somewhat stern and forbidding. There are no trees to be seen, the shores being covered with small shrubs and flowering plants in wonderful variety, many of them very peculiar and beautiful. There is perhaps no place in the world where there can be seen a greater variety of wild flowers at all seasons. I had an opportunity of going ashore on my return, and walking to the top of a high hill, which, from the sea-shore to its summit was covered with flowering plants and shrubs. One very peculiar plant is the pitcher plant, which is much smaller than our Nova Scotia pitcher plant, but much more delicate in its structure. It has a close-fitting lid which allows water to enter and not evaporate.

Albany, as the settlement at the Sound is named, is a small town of comparatively little importance, except as a coaling station for the P. and O. steamers. The land is either high and rocky, or swampy, and all alike barren.

The principal article of export is sandal wood, which comes from the interior and is shipped principally to China, for manufacturing, or burning as incense in their worship.

NATIVE AUSTRALIANS.

Near the town is a small encampment of the aborigines, whose principal means of support is begging from visitors, or exhibiting their skill in throwing the boomerang and war clubs. The few I saw were said to be rather superior specimens, if so it was saying a good deal for the ugliness of the race, for they were about the ugliest people I have ever seen. As a race they are rapidly disappearing. The Tasmanians are all dead, and in Western and South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, their number is constantly decreasing, and their complete extinction is only a question of time. It seems almost impossible to induce them to abandon their roving habits and settle quietly down. Even children brought up from their earliest years in European families, will, as they grow up, run away to rejoin their kindred.

In this, and in some other respects they resemble our Micmacs, but are much inferior to them in moral character and physical development. Something is being done by government, and a few missionaries to improve their condition, but with not much success.

From Albany the voyage to Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, occupies from four to five days. The steamers do not go to Adelaide itself, but call at Glenelg, a small sea-port town, from which a railway runs to Adelaide, eight miles distant. This city is pleasantly situated on a large plain, said to be one of the finest in the world, as viewed from the mountains to the eastward. The city is well laid out, and is becoming an important commercial centre.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTS.

One of the principal points of interest are the public gardens which are extensive, well laid out, and contain a splendid collection. The peculiar climate, partaking as it does of the temperate and tropical, permits the culture in the open air, of a wonderful variety of the products of the vegetable kingdom.

Here may be seen plants and trees from temperate climates growing side by side with those from tropical countries. Roses form a striking part of the collection. There is a wonderful variety, in great perfection, and many of rare beauty. But perhaps the most interesting objects in the garden, are the fern-houses with their strange yet beautiful fern trees. It is impossible in writing to give such a description as will convey a

correct idea of these, they are so unlike anything we have at home.

On the whole I enjoyed my afternoon's visit to Adelaide very much. I made a very pleasant acquaintance with a Baptist minister, Rev. Silas Mead, pastor of a large Baptist church in Adelaide.

Leaving Glenelg on Thursday morning we arrived at "the Heads" as the entrance to Port Phillip Bay is called, on Saturday at noon. The entrance between low bluffs is about a mile wide, and for several miles the Bay continues narrow, but then expands into a fine broad basin. The distance from the Heads is thirty-six miles to Melbourne at the head of the bay, where we arrived at 4 P. M. on Saturday, June 24th, twenty-one days from Galle.

Melbourne is finely situated and well laid out. It is built on several low hills three miles from the Bay. The Yarra river, a small stream flowing through the city, enables small vessels to come up to the city itself, but larger vessels remain at Sandridge or Williamstown, whence railroads take passengers and cargo to Melbourne proper. My first impressions of the place were not very agreeable, arriving as I did, late on a cold, drizzly Saturday evening, sick, and a stranger in a strange land. But further acquaintance produced more favorable impressions, and notwithstanding the trying experiences of a tedious illness and forced sojourn there, I shall ever retain very pleasant recollections of my visit to Victoria.

THE CLIMATE.

Of the climate, I can from my own experience speak very favorably. The winter season, as I saw it, was very pleasant, the air clear and dry, and just cool enough to be bracing. There were a few nights of white frost, and two or three times it was cold enough to form thin ice on water in the fields. There were two light falls of snow and a few squalls of hail on the highland, but nothing of the kind on the lower land about Melbourne.

Except a few working horses and milch cows, cattle and sheep are not housed or fed during the winter, but take care of themselves. The last season was very dry and unusually cold, so that cattle were looking very badly, but in common seasons they come through the winter very well, and with the return of spring, and the rapid and luxuriant growth of grass, they quickly take on flesh and fat. The climate is thus very favorable for grazing, especially for sheep. The greatest drawback as to the climate is in the drought, to which the country is especially liable. Every few years there is a season during which little or no rain falls. This last winter was such a one, and in the interior of Victoria, Western Australia, and New South Wales, the drought was very severe. When I left the country, cattle and sheep were dying by tens of thousands on some of the large runs, the number of sheep lost amounting to from ten to forty thousand each. Such numbers may seem incredible to many at home. But it is difficult for one accustomed to our small way of farming in Nova Scotia, to conceive of the extent to which stock raising is carried on in Australia. Think of stock farms extending fifty miles in every direction. In the neighborhood where I lived was a block of land containing more than thirty thousand acres, owned by one man, and this is not near all the land he owns in Victoria. This may help to form an idea of the scale on which things are carried on. While stock raising is the principal agricultural industry, other branches of agriculture are not by any means neglected.

In some portions of Victoria grain is raised in large quantities and of excellent quality, while all kinds of vegetables and fruits are grown in great variety and excellence. Fruit growing is attended in many places with much difficulty, owing to the immense number of sparrows and other birds, ever ready to destroy it as fast as it ripens. Grapes are grown in abundance, and of excellent quality. Silk raising is being introduced into the colony with every prospect of success. Indeed, there is hardly any branch of agriculture which may not be pursued in Victoria.

THE GOLD DIGGINGS.

Of the gold fields of Victoria, I can say a little from personal observation. Just before leaving the colony, I attended an

exhibition of the National Agricultural Society, at Sandhurst, the centre of the famous Bendigo gold fields, and thus had an opportunity of seeing something of the mining and agricultural capabilities of the colony at the same time.

While there was much to admire in the fine show of cattle and horses and sheep and agricultural implements, I was more especially interested in the gold mining. In approaching Sandhurst the railroad runs for miles through old diggings, where the land has been all dug over and left in little hillocks of red gravel and sand, with here and there the remains of an old puddling machine. This portion of the fields has been abandoned for years, with the exception of here and there a Chinaman who may be seen patiently washing gravel that has been already washed over two or three times. From hills in the neighborhood of Sandhurst, one may see for miles in every direction, red gravel and sand hills, showing where the land has been dug over for the precious metal. But the alluvial diggings are nearly worked out and most of the gold now obtained in the neighborhood of Sandhurst is taken from quartz veins.

The city has a population of over twenty thousand. It is in the centre of the gold district, which, but for the gold, would be a portion of the country almost worthless. The large number of tall chimneys in the neighborhood, connected with the gold mines give it the appearance of a large manufacturing town. In company with two evangelists and another friend I went down one shaft on the famous "Great Hustler's reef" a thousand feet. The shaft is sunk perpendicularly, and then tunnels from it are driven to the quartz reef, which descends at an angle. The tunnel at the thousand feet level had not reached the reef, but the one at the eight hundred and fifty level had, and they were taking out quartz and iron pyrites which were yielding from one to two ounces per ton. This is considered a very good yield. There is much speculation as to the prospects of gold mining in the future in Victoria, some thinking the industry scarcely developed as yet while others consider it nearly done. At any rate little can be done now by individual labor—a large amount of capital being required to carry on a deep mine.

The state of society so far as I could observe is in many respects much the same as in our new Dominion. Intemperance is there, as in so many other places, the great curse of the country. In Melbourne especially it is terrible—a grog-shop at nearly every corner. Of course when such is the case, crime and misery flourish.

But it is said that those born in the country are not nearly as much given to drinking as those who have come from other countries. This is one hopeful sign, and efforts are now being made to lessen the evil, by the formation of Temperance societies.

RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

The people are, for the most part tolerably well provided for in religious matters, and are liberal in support of religious and benevolent objects. Among the different denominations the Baptists are fairly represented in the cities and towns. They hold, for the most part, to open communion, and some admit to church membership those who have been sprinkled, or those who have never been sprinkled, or immersed.

From being by illness confined to one place during most of my stay in the colony, I did not become acquainted with many Baptists. I made acquaintance with four or five ministers just before leaving. From two of these with whom I became acquainted through Dr. Cramp writing them, I received much kindness, especially from the Rev. Mr. Johnston, sailor's chaplain, who gave me a cordial welcome to his house during my last visit to the city. In the Rev. Mr. Poole, pastor of a Baptist church in one of the suburbs, and in Rev. Mr. Turner pastor of the only strict Baptist Church in Melbourne, I also found kind friends. But I wish especially to mention the kindness I received from one of our "Nova Scotians abroad," Mr. George Woodworth, formerly of Stewiacke. Coming to the country soon after the discovery of gold, he by his industry and frugality has acquired a competence, where others with equal facilities, have by their recklessness or improvidence, lost all they

earned. He is now pleasantly located on a farm forty miles from Melbourne. Here I found a warm welcome and very pleasant home, free of charge, during all my stay in Victoria. May the Lord reward him for his kindness.

But I must draw my long letter to a close. In doing so I would again speak of the Lord's goodness to me and mine. While the time of my illness and consequent separation from my work has been one of deep trial, yet I trust it has not been in vain.

I left Melbourne on the 2nd Nov., and arrived at Galle on the 25th. The first ten days were very stormy and unpleasant. I took a second-class ticket by the P. and O. S. S. Bangalore. I had to remain a week at Galle, and another at Madras for a steamer. At Cocanada I found all our missionaries in pretty good health, busy and happy. I leave here for Bimlipatam on Wednesday, where I trust the Master will permit me to resume my share in the work of extending His cause among the Telooagos. May He enable us all to work faithfully in this great enterprise and crown our labors with success.

With Christmas greetings, to all the readers of the *Messenger* and all the friends of our Mission, and praying that the blessings which the season commemorates, may soon be enjoyed by the people of these heathen lands,

I remain, your missionary,
G. CHURCHILL.

For the Christian Messenger.
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AID SOCIETIES.

SYDNEY, CAFE BRETON,
Feb. 1st, 1877.

My Dear Sisters,—

I have been wishing very much of late that we could hear from each other often, and by that means be informed of the work being done by the Societies throughout the Provinces. An occasional letter from some sister whose heart is warm in the Mission cause would revive our interest and stimulate our zeal, and at the same time go abroad to our dear sisters in India as a proof that they and their work are remembered and prayed for, and that the letters which they sometimes send us are eagerly read and highly prized by us all.

I have long wanted to lay before you a few sad truths in reference to the miserable lives, our Hindoo sisters lead, and as I cannot do it better than by giving you extracts from an article in "The Illustrated Missionary News," I will copy from it.

"The population of India is given by the last official census as 241 millions. It would therefore be far within the truth to say 'India has 100 millions of females, since we may of course consider the number of the sexes to be about equal. In the case of European countries, we should not, however, consider more than half the female population women; the other half we should regard as children. With regard to India, it is alas! impossible to draw any such line. In a country where girls are often betrothed in infancy, and where they are obliged to be married at or before ten years of age; where after marriage they are completely shut up in the zenana, and so debarred from all education, save that which may be taken to them by Missionary ladies, how are we to divide between children and adults, or rather where are we to look for children properly so called? In leaving out twenty millions of the females of India as babes and little children we probably omit quite a large enough number. The female nursery population scarcely exceeds this proportion; the school-room population, composed in other lands of bright, merry, innocent, artless girls, without a sorrow or a care, is alas! in poor unhappy India, a population of ignorant, imprisoned, and often oppressed and unhappy child-wives and mothers, and of still more miserable girl-widows, condemned by a cruel custom to remain such all their days, and to be deprived of most of the enjoyments of life. The object of zenana work is to evangelize these childish wives and mothers as well as the mothers-in-law and grand-mothers with whom they reside, and therefore its sphere of labor may well be designated 'the hundred million women of India.' Millions is an easy word to say, but oh, how difficult to realize, and a HUNDRED MILLIONS, who can conceive that multitude? Yet there they sit, our sisters, waiting for us to carry the glad light of life into their dismal darkness. Will you not pity them, plead for them, work for them, go to them?"

O dear sisters, as we compare this wretched existence with our own happy lives in this favored land, can we withhold anything that may be blessed to the good of our heathen sisters?