

Baptist Teaching in Palestine.

MISSION WORK IN NABLOUS—CIRCASSIAN REFUGEES.

The following letter from the Rev. Youhannah El Karey has been addressed to Dr. Landels, of London:—

Nablous, Nov. 20, 1878.

My Dear Pastor,—The state of the country is not much changed; we do not hear so much of the people slaughtering each other; but the wretchedness and poverty are extreme. The men who were forced away to the war have not returned. Occasionally a disabled man comes back, and then men and women surround him, enquiring after their friends; he, fearing to worry or grieve them, tries to relieve their anxiety by saying they are all right and well.

The misery and poverty are deplorable; but what shall I say of the unsafety? it is terrible! What has added so largely to this state of things is that several thousands of Circassian refugees were last year sent into this district. The Government compelled the people to feed and clothe those who were sent to our Pashalic. The refugees were idle; they would not work. The people could not long provide for them, and no help could be got from the Government Treasury; so they were sent to the old and still standing cities of the Ammonites beyond the Jordan. In this land they became desperate, fighting each other, and also the Bedouin Arabs, killing some of them. They would not work, and they found that plunder and highway robbery was the easier way of getting a living. They accordingly ravaged the country, and it became unsafe to go anywhere. Soldiers we have none here to check them. Last week they came back here armed to the teeth, and demanded money from the Government. The people are made miserable by their doings. Amongst other depredations, one is that they go into the houses of the people professing to beg, and then they take anything that may come within their reach. I have no adequate words to express the misery of the people.

This state of affairs renders it impossible for me to make missionary tours as I have been in the habit of doing when the state of the country permitted. In the town I have been doing my duty as far as possible. Just before Mr. Coats came to Nablous we held a mothers' meeting anniversary, having been able, through the kindness of a few friends, to purchase the cotton for little frocks for the girls who attend the school, and whose mothers come to the mothers' meeting to sew the same. The frocks were distributed, much to the delight of the poor women. We were thankful to be able to give a few garments to the women for themselves; they needed them as much as their daughters in this time of great misery. Mr. Coats kindly advanced me some money, and after seeing him on board his yacht at Beyrout, I purchased some more things for the mothers' meeting and schools.

In the first week of June we had a Sunday School anniversary, and gave the veils and handkerchiefs to the children. They were highly pleased, for it is a long time since we were able to give them anything. Our girls' school is not attended well usually in the summer, but during this last summer there have been as many as in the winter. About one hundred girls usually come. Indeed, many more wanted to come, but we were obliged to refuse them, both for want of room and help in teaching. From morning to mid-day we instruct them in the Word of Life, from mid-day to eve they are taught to sew, knit, and do other useful things.

Our Sunday School is excellent. The children meet in the morning, with others at the morning service, and after the service they are taught out of the Bible, and singing also.

We last year established a Bible Class for the instruction of our own people, but others heard of it and came to it, and seem to enjoy it much. We are hoping great things from it. As we have, through the kindness of a friend, been able to furnish calico for the mothers' meeting, we now hold our meetings every Tuesday. It has been attended well, and the women show great interest. Our work is very hard; preaching the Gospel to hungry people is very trying. It is difficult for them

to listen when they are hungry. Not a house this summer has been free from illness, so that the people's minds are taken up with their misery, and they have no heart to decide on the Lord's side. Still we are in great hope of having a few decide and be baptized. I hope and trust my next letter may report such decision. Our stock of bismuth and quinine is exhausted, so that I cannot help the poor sick people in that way. We are exceedingly thankful to you, dear doctor, very thankful, for your unwearied exertions on our behalf. Ours is very hard uphill work, we have so many things to discourage us. Subscribers little know what anxiety would be taken from our minds if we could be sure of having our allowance regularly.

I regret to say that my wife is far from well; there has been illness in our family, one after another. My wife has hoped to be better, so as to answer Mrs. Landels' letter and acknowledge the receipt of our last allowance; please now accept our united Christian love and thanks. Our boys' school is successful; we have thirty boys. At the beginning of next year, we hope to hold our anniversaries and examinations of the different branches of work. I will then let you know the progress of each. May the good and Holy Master send us his blessing. Do please remember us and our work before the Throne of Grace; as we also do our friends in England.

Once more allow us to express our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to you and all our friends, and believe me, dear doctor, to remain most truly and faithfully your humble missionary,
YOUHANNAH EL KAREY.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.
From Cavendish, P. E. I.

Mr. Editor,—

I have thought several times of sending you a few notes from Cavendish, but, pressed by other duties, have put it off until now; would that I could send you tidings of a great work of grace and power in the salvation of souls, but such glad message is not our privilege at present. We are praying and hoping that the time may soon come when we shall have revival intelligence. Though we have had no season (commonly called a revival season) yet, we are not without indications of God's favour and mercy. The little church here is alive and actively at work,—few in numbers, but faithful of soul and zealous in purpose. The church, assisted by the congregation, has just completed a new and commodious parsonage in the quiet and comfort of which we are now happily installed. This effort, for the house is a credit to the denomination, in a year like the present, when oats, the great Island staple, will not fetch cash at all, and when beef and pork are selling at 3½ cents per pound, has taxed our energies quite severely. But we have been nobly assisted by quite a number of excellent friends, who, while they do not belong to the church, are actively with us in every good work, giving liberally of their money, their time and their earnest sympathies; some of whom have been chief contributors and executive promoters in our parsonage. May the Lord in his mercy lead them into the full freedom of salvation through Christ. On the 11th Decr., just as we were settling ourselves in our new home, we were greeted with a pleasant surprise by a host of friends, assembling at the parsonage to welcome us in, and leaving us richer by a full stock of all that the outward man requires through a cold winter, amounting in cash value to eighty dollars, and enhanced and enriched by the prayers and best wishes of the whole church and congregation. Never has pastor received more united and cordial sympathy and more devoted attention to all his wants and his interests than the pastor of the Baptist Church at Cavendish. God bless them. They will not fail of their reward.

Death has been busy in our community, and our hearts are sad just now on account of the loss of an estimable brother and earnest Christian, Artemus McNeil. In the prime of his manhood, at the early age of 33, he has been called home, leaving a sorrowing wife and four

children. An aged mother, weeping brothers and sisters, and a mourning church and pastor. Some years ago our brother was converted, and united with the Baptist Church at Belmont, Lot 16, where he then resided, and down to the time when God released him from his labors and his sufferings he was a consistent member of that church and an exemplary Christian. Very few of God's children have passed away leaving brighter evidence of their acceptance with him, or with more confiding trust in the love of God and the power of Christ to save. A few evenings before his death, although he thought then that he was dying, as I entered his room he said, "O, Bro. Woodland, I can smile to-night at the prospect of the glories and the joys which shall be mine before morning." And on the morning of the 23rd Decr., after two and a half years of suffering, without a struggle he peacefully passed to his better home.

"Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep."

On Christmas day we laid away the body until the soul returns to claim it in the resurrection.

Yours, &c.,
J. B. WOODLAND.
January 1st, 1879.

For the Christian Messenger.
United States Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 30, 1878.

In his recent message to Congress urging the necessity, in the interest of American trade and commerce, of giving Government aid, in the form of a postal contract, to our only steamship line between New York and Brazil, the President said, "If we have equal commercial facilities we need not fear competition anywhere." In answer to a request of the Senate for any recommendations desirable to be submitted of measures to be adopted for facilitating and improving postal and commercial intercourse with the countries south of us, Sec'y Evarts makes this practical statement: "It seems to be very evident that the provision of regular steam postal communication, by aid from Government, has been the forerunner of the commercial predominance of Great Britain in the great marts of Central and South America. It is no less apparent that the efforts of other European nations, Germany, France, and Italy, to share in this profitable trade have been successful in proportion with their adoption of regular steam postal communication with the several markets whose trade they sought. The merchants and the communities, no less than the Governments, of these countries (Central and South America), strongly desire an enlargement of direct trade with the United States. Everywhere there is shown a great desire to expand their trade with the United States, and even the least prosperous exchequers of these governments are ready to be opened to share in the expenses of steam postal communications, of whose value in promoting foreign commerce their own experience furnishes irrefragable proof. If this be so, it is obviously the dictate of interest and duty, on the part of the Government, to promote by every just and appropriate means the attainment of this first and principal agency for the desired expansion of our foreign commerce."

Stated more directly, the Secretary agrees with the President in advising Congress to act at once in the interest of American trade. We have one line now running to Brazil, and upon this the combined assaults of the European ship-owners and merchants are directed in the hope to break it down and discourage the establishment of others. All that is required to save it is that the United States pay the expense of the mail service with a liberality only equal to that of Brazil. It is demonstrated beyond a doubt that without such aid no American line can stand against the heavily subsidized lines of Europe, and when we know that the several countries of South America will divide the expense of this service with us, and that we can supply at good profits nearly all the articles now supplied by the Europeans and thus revive our drooping industries, it is not wonderful that all parties in Congress are seriously considering what can be done in the matter.

The week before Christmas is ever a lively and merry one in Washington,

occupied by one and all in busy preparation for the long-planned day, in shipping, marketing, trimming, decorating, and in happy anticipations. With the first day of the New Year the season fairly opens.

MERRILL.

For the Christian Messenger.
Letter from Germany.

(From our correspondent.)

THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ANTI-SOCIALIST LAW—GERMAN EXILES—GREAT SLAUGHTER OF SOCIALIST JOURNALS—EMPEROR WILLIAM AGAIN HOLDS THE REINS—THE HABITS AND HOME OF THE OLD RULER—DETECTIVES EVERYWHERE.

BERLIN, Dec. 24, 1878.

The German Government have used without reserve the large powers conferred by the Anti-Socialistic Law. They are carrying out its provisions as relentlessly as the Prussian Government put in force the Falk Laws against ecclesiastical malcontents. In virtue of the new law the Prussian Ministry of State, with the approval of the *Bundesrath*, recently issued a proclamation to the effect that persons who were suspected of being dangerous to the public safety might be ordered by the police to quit Berlin, and that the carrying or selling of arms in the capital, Charlottenburg, Potsdam, and a few other districts, was forbidden. It was thought necessary to take precautions before the return of the Emperor to the capital; and so something like a state of siege was proclaimed. The new ordinance soon bore fruits. Forty persons were ordered to quit the capital within four days. The expulsion of others who were obnoxious to the police followed. Even deputies of the German Parliament enjoyed no protection; and Herr Hasselmann and Herr Fritzsche, two Socialist members of the Reichstag, received orders to leave Berlin. There has been a perfect massacre of Socialist journals; and the German police, in their trenchant way, have broken through artifices of which much was heard in the time of the Second Empire in France, and have not spared a journal because it changed its title without altering its principles. Socialist newspapers have not escaped annihilation because they assumed *aliases*. The official *Reichsanzeiger* has published several lists of prohibited publications, Socialist song books and romances, rousing panegyrics of the Commune, inflammatory histories of the Peasants' War, biographies of Russian Nihilists, stormy pamphlets, and other such political literature. The *index expurgatorius* appears to be compiled with an eye to exhaustiveness rather than to strict accuracy; and unfortunately, one or two books of a scientific character have fallen under the police interdiction, and have had a short shrift. These are severe measures; and yet the mass of the people do not show that they are deeply irritated by them. They do not resent the harsh treatment of Herr Hasselmann and his friends in the unmistakable manner in which the stern procedure taken against offending bishops and priests under the May Laws was resented. Not only in the Polish districts of Prussia, where a little spark is wont to kindle a great flame of discontent, but also in the loyal Rhine provinces, loud murmurs were heard when the people knew that their revered prelates were in prison, and when they were told that the bold priests who officiated contrary to orders in his own church might be fined a sum nearly equaling his stipend. The pious Rhinelanders felt Dr. Falk's legislation to be a sore trial of their loyalty—legislation necessitating a painful choice between Caesar and their church; and many of them seemed prepared to make their election for the latter. No such spirit of hostility has been called forth by the energetic execution of the Anti-Socialist Law. Force has not been met, as was predicted, by force. The victims make their protests, obey and depart. There is no distinct symptom in the Press or in the Prussian Parliament, which is now in session, of a general apprehension that constitutional rights, precious to the community, are being pilfered by the police. Noisy meetings and seditious journals and societies have disappeared. At one stride authority enters the domain of licence; and there is no protesting uproar.

The return of the Emperor William to Berlin has been marked by some

loyal manifestations; the Prussians, who are a cold people, being anxious to show for once that they heartily abhorred the regicidal attempts of Hodel and Nobiling. The Regency of the Crown Prince has now ceased, and the Emperor, whose health seems to be restored, will try to glide again into his old grooves of hard work and simple living. He can never again, however, lead the simple and easy life to which he was accustomed, for his Ministers naturally insist that he shall not court fresh dangers: and this compels him to submit to a number of restraints which must be most irritating to a prince who may be almost said to have lived always in public. The Emperor of Germany acceded to the throne so late in life that he has never cared to bend himself to the slavery of kingship, and he dislikes to have detectives about his person. A person who visits Berlin, and asks to be shown the Royal Palace, is surprised to see a small, plain house of stuccoed brick, which cuts a much less imposing figure than the mansions of many retired shop-keepers. It stands at the corner of Unter den Linden, within sight of the Arsenal, the University, and the Opera, and was built for Prince William at the period of his marriage in 1829, when his income was not large. He has lived in it ever since when at Berlin; and all hints that his subjects would be willing to present him with a more imperial-looking residence have fallen upon a deaf ear. Until Nobiling's attempt the Emperor could often be seen at odd moments during the day standing at one of the two windows of his study on the ground floor which overlooks the street. The passing of a regiment down the Lime Walk was sure to fetch him to the window, and he would acknowledge the salutes of the officers with a friendly wave of the hand. Sometimes he would look into the street merely to watch the rain fall or to amuse himself with the ordinary sights of a crowded thoroughfare; and more than once the odd sight has been witnessed of a beggar appealing to His Majesty for a silber-groschen and being enjoined by the Imperial forefinger to "move on." Towards three o'clock a throng of wretched people with petitions used to assemble near the coach-house to the left of the portico, where the two sentries stand; and if the Emperor had nothing better to do he would have them summoned into the coach-yard, and receive their memorials with his own hands, putting to every one a kindly but shrewd question or two as he did so. After this he used to go out for a drive, unattended generally, in a pair-horse open carriage; and if the weather was fine he liked to alight and take a stroll through the walks of Thiergarten. He was always in uniform with the cross of the Order of Merit at his neck, and he was strict in expecting that officers and soldiers should salute him; but he never objected to being addressed by any one who had anything to say, and he would frequently stop some young subaltern and walk about chatting with him for half an hour. This was very different from the harsh rules which now prevail in St. Petersburg, where any persons addressing the Emperor in a public place is immediately collared by the police and conveyed to the lock-up. Kaiser Wilhelm could afford to mix on familiar terms with his subjects, because he is one of those firm-minded men who know how to say "No" bluntly, but without rudeness. He evidently regards himself as a father to his people; his manners are paternal, and his sense of justice is so strong that he was always glad when he could help in remedying a grievance. The madmen who tried to take his life did a very bad piece of work so far as the German people are concerned; for the unrestrained intercourse which used to subsist between the Emperor and all classes of his subjects is now at an end. The guards at the Palace have been doubled; every approach to the building is watched by detectives, and petitioners must no longer linger near the coachyard door.

LOUIS.

It is better to suffer on the side of the right, than to reign on the side of wrong. Success which is the result of wrong doing brings a curse with it.

Tranquil pleasures last the longest. We are not fitted to bear long the burdens of great joy.—Bovee.