## Bobbili (1879),

REV. G. CHURCHILL. MRS. CHURCHILL. G. NURSIAH, Preacher. KOTIAH, Teacher and Colporteur. SIAMMA, Bible woman.

The saying, true though trite, that Providence has wisely withheld from men, knowledge of the future, is as applicable to missionaries as to others.

Could we forsee the trials and short comings before us, we should most likely enter upon our year's work, if not alto gether discouraged, at least with much less of energy and hope than we require. While the work at Bobbili has come far short of what was hoped at the beginming of the year, still something has been gained.

In August a trip was taken to Bimlipatam, and thence in company with Bro. to Chicacole to attend to business connected with the mission property at the latter place. On the way I was taken ill and was detained at Chicacole for a week, instead of making a short tour in the neighborhood as I had hoped.

As soon as health permitted, returned to Bobbili. Three days after my return, eur dear boy, Willie was removed from our home at Bobbili, to our home above.

A few days after his death, our ayah, who had been with us three years, died at Chittavalsah and as we trust, joined the great multitude of those redeemed from every tribe, tongue and nation. She was baptized in June, at this place. (Bobbili), upon a profession of faith in Christ, which we have good evidence to believe was a true and saving one.

Through the kind disinterested efforts of Bro. Timpany, a young man who was formerly one of his students at Ramapatam and afterwards connected with the mission at Kurnool, was induced to join our mission at Bobbili. He arrived here August 1st, accompanied by his wife and wife's brother.

The brother has spent part of the time in the school and part in going out to sell books and talk to the people. On the last Sabbath in October he applied for admission to the church, which was organized that day, was accepted and baptized.

Near the end of December, a tour of nine days was made among the villages to the East of Bobbili, of which twentyone were visited.

With two or three exceptions, the people in the villages visited, had never heard of Christ. Even within the limits of the short tour made, there are many villages we did not visit, and to visit all within a radius of twenty miles of Bobbili, even once, will require much time and travel.

The girls' school in town, has been carried on during the year by Mrs. Churchill with a fair amount of success. There is much indifference and superstition to contend against, in trying to educate girls in a place like Bobbili, so far away from many civilising influences, but during the year a daily average of 251 was reached, notwithstanding fever the only substances. Reckon, then, at and small-pox, which at different times their fit price this transient glory of were very severe in town. The two sabbath schools have also been kept up during the year, the average attendance at the girl's, being 231 and at the boy's 101. Mrs Churchill also continued her zenana work in two houses, as formerly, till August, when one of the women died suddenly, thus leaving but one house, in which regular work has been carried

We wait and bope for the day to come when the Holy Spirit shall open the blind eyes and lead the people to look to Christ for salvation.

The number baptized during the past year, were 2. Died 1. Present number in the church 4.

G. CHURCHILL.

In the Churches of the missions belonging to the Ontario and Quebec Board there are the following:-

Cocanada, under Rev. A. V. Timpany, 117 members.

Tuni, under Rev. G. F. Currie, 24 members. Akidu, under Rev. John Craig, 640

members.

The Baptist Weekly tells the following

story, which teaches its own moral: An old Methodist preacher once offer ed the following prayer in meeting: "Lord, help us to trust thee with our "Amen." was responded by many voices. "Lord, help us to trust our bodies " "Amen," was responded with as much warmth as ever. "Lord, help us to trust thee with our money." But to this supplication the "Amen" was not forthcoming."

There is no use in preaching to the hungry.

We do not work too much, but we do pray too little for the work we do.

Reading.

Freshness.

A NEW SERMON BY REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

"My glory was fresh in me, and my bow was renewed in my hand." Job xxix. 20. "I shall be anointed with fresh oil."-Psalm xcii. 10.

The first text tells us of the renown of Job, and of the way in which the providence of God continued to maintain the glory of his estate, his bodily health and his prosperity. He was for many days, months, years continuously prospered of God. Everything to which he set his hand succeeded. God had set a hedge about him and all that he had, so that none broke through to molest him. He grew richer, he grew more influential, he had more honor in the sight of his fellow-men each morning that he walked to the gate. In every way he was advanced from day to day, and that throughout a long stretch of years. His glory was fresh in him.

However, this did not last always, Job in this chapter is telling us of something that used to be-something that was-something the loss of which he very sorrowfully deplored-" my glory was fresh in me." He found himself suddenly stripped of riches and of honor, and put last in the list instead of first, while his purposes and aims seemed all to miss their way, and he had no strength and no glery left in him. Now had he reached the winter of his discontent, and those who aforetime did him homage became his assailants. So far as glory was concerned he was forgotten as a dead man out of mind.

Now, brothers and sisters, this reads us a lesson that we put not our trust in the stability of earthly things. It is said of the world that God has founded it upon the floods. How, then, can we expect it to be substantial? Beneath child of God-how novel and how deyou moon, continually changing, what can we discover that abideth the same ! Where the very light of heaven is waxing and waning, what is there but mutability? Change is written upon the face of all things. If, then, you have built your nest on high, reckon not too surely that you shall die in your nest, for the axe may fell the tree, and bring it down at an untimely date.

This is the respect that makes all mortal things inconsiderable to a wise man; he scarce will put them among his treasures, for they melt ere they are fairly counted, like a coinage of ice. They are but as the counters that a child plays with, having only an imaginary value. The things which are seen are shadows; the things invisible are wealth, health, or fame. Lay up treasure "where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt," and seek for stability in other things than these. Get the feet of your joy upon the Rock of Ages, and reckon all else to be but sand at its very best.

David in the second text is talking, I think, about spiritual things, and he tells us with great joy that he should be anointed with fresh oil. He did not expect that his glory would depart, but the old familiar sounds. Some hack- piping bullfinch is greatly prized. But he expected that it should be renewed. neved expressions I recollect hearing I have finches outside my window any He did not reckon that the bow would when I was a boy. I even now hear one of which will beat any finch in the lose its force in his hand, but that God the vain repetitions; old, worn-out, world that only pipes a note or two, for would increase his strength frem day to good-for-nothing, rubbishing expressions they pipe much more melodiously, though day. And if any of you here who are they were then; but they are brought they were never taught except of Ged God's people have any fears about the out still by regular prayer-makers. and nature. There is a range of sweetfuture as to your soul matters-if you Even where the words are new and ness about their wild notes that are alarmed with the fear that you will original you will hear men pray in such tutored bird cannot reach. Nature, share the same lot which Job shared as a style as to matter, that you say to your- pure and unsophisticated, is the best to his temporal glory-I would remind | self, "That prayer came out of Noah's instrument for grace. you that Job even in temporals received Ark." As far as that man is concerned at last twice as much as he had in his palmiest days, and that God can turn His hand one way as well as another, and brighten your prospects as well as juice remains in it. darken them.

and if you have a fear that you must necessarily decline in these, I would remind you of the words of David, "I

fresh as the dew even unto the end.

The subject to-night will run in this way-First, the excellency of freshness : "My glory was tresh in me." Secondly, the fear of its departure. And, thirdly, the hope of its centinuance, which hope is greatly encouraged by the words of our text: "I shall be anointed with fresh oil."

I. First, then, notice

THE EXCELLENCY OF PRESHNESS. a youth to be king over Israel. He was anointed yet again when he came to the kingdom; that outward anointing with actual oil was the testimony of God's choice and the ensign of David's authorization, and oftentimes when his throne seemed precarious, God confirmed him in it, and subdued the people under him. When his dominion blessing from God's right hand was for I feel perfectly self-satisfied." David often anointed, as I trust you

and I may be. if you see it in another. It is a charm throne of grace weeping-a something in nature. But, dear friends, spiritual delightful in coming to the Lord's Supfreshness has a double charm. Sometimes we know what it is to have a freshness of soul, which is the dew from the Lord. You recollect when you were newly born again and first knew up from the very bottom of your soul, the Lord. How fresh everything was to you! The pardon of sin-how it sparkled! The righteousness of Christ from stale feelings, and give us fresh--how brilliant! The idea of being a lightful! To be joint-heir with Christ -how it almost startled you; it was such a new idea to your spirit. And oftentimes since then, when your soul has been in a lively condition, everything has been bright, charming, exhilarating-nothing flat, stale, unprofitable. Even though you heard the same things said again and again, yet because your soul was fresh, they came to you with

unusual power. Your spiritual food, if you are heal soul and never lose it.

How that freshness is seen in a man's freshness may be gone. devotions. Oh, I have heard some prayers that are really fusty. I have note. Men get the builfinch and teach heard them before so often that I dread it to sing a few notes, and then the there is nothing at all in it of life, sap, or savor. It has been dead long ago,

ual falling off is inevitable—there need | persons. Their prayers will go to I say, "What a herribly ugly thing it | year, as in some churches, they really selves to the tune till they had got the

be nothing of the kind; you may be heaven, for they came from heaven. God has inspired them, and their originality is a part of the seal manual of the

And so, dear friends, it is well to have a freshness about our feelings. I know that we do not hope to be saved by our feelings; neither do we put feeling side by side with faith; yet I should be very sorry to be trusting and yet never feeling. Surely it would be a dead faith. It would be a strange thing to David had been anointed while still be a living child of God and to have no feelings. I will tell you about feelings as they strike me. Sometimes have deplored the condition of my heart before God, and thought my feelings to be the worst that could be; but what foolish judge I have been, for in week's time I have wanted to have those despised feelings over again, and thought that now at last I had fallen waxed weak, God strengthened him and into a worse state than before. I am strengthened his servants, and gave persuaded that we are very poor judges them great victories; so that as a king of the value of our own inward feelings, he was frequently anointed with fresh and mayhap, when we are lowest in oil. David's royal brow was crowned our own esteem we are really highest with fresh laurels again and again, and in the sight of God; and when we feel his throne was settled and established as if we did not pray, we are praying by the hand of the Lord. Not with and the heart may be wrestling with the same old stale anointing, a repetition God more when it fears that it does not of that which had lost its force, but pray, than when you come down comoil fresh pressed from the green olive, placently out of your closet and say, namely, with a new blessing and a fresh "I know that I have had a good time,

I hate the excitement which needs to be pumped up. There is a something Freshness is a most delightful thing delightful to my mind in coming to the per full of joy and gladness; to come to either place cold and dead is horrible. There is something delicious in knowing that what you do feel is true, and comes and has a point and edge about it which proves how sincere it is. God keeps us ness of emotion.

I believe, dear friends, that there i a very great beauty and excellence in FRESHNESS OF UTTERANCE.

Do not hinder yourself from that-How I long for it as a preacher. When one has day after day to stand before the same assembly and talk of the things of God, one dreads lest he should be so monotonous and full of repetition | never done it before, only doing it with that even the things of God should all the improvements which experience come to be a weariness to God's own will bring to us. Pray with your chilpeople. I have often thought that if dren to-night as if it were your first some brethren, who are very careful to prayer with them. Speak with them thy, is to you always fresh, like the say exceedingly well what they do say, about their souls as if you had never manna in the wilderness, which was would be a little more careless and mentioned the subject before. Talk o never stored a single night except for speak as it comes, letting their heart Jesus as if you were telling news. Why, the Sabbath, but tresh and fresh it fell, flow over at their lips spontaneously, are you not? Is it not always glad and Israel gathered it and fed upon it there would be a far greater freshness tidings? always news fresh from heathere and then. Oh, it is a blessed about their utterance than there is when ven? So God grant us grace that, thing to have your soul in a fresh state, every sentence smells of the lamp and when we come to be gray, and when filled with the ever-flowing living water. reeks of miduight oil. God forbid that we totter with our staff for very age, It is glorious to find everything about we should say a word against the deep- yet still we may tell out the story, if you tresh and new through the teaching est study and the profoundest research with feebleness of utterance yet with of the blessed Spirit, so that you go of God's word, but still we may get to juvenility of heart, feeling that we are from strength to strength, and like a roe be so much students that we scarcely bringing forth fruit still even to old age, or a young hart, leap from hill to hill. speak like practical men who live for the Lord still anoints us with fresh If we are now in the possession of it, among the people. By aiming at a may we always keep that freshness of very superior style we may fall into a thoroughly inferior one, and all our

I like, for my part, the wild bird's

Now, you that have lately been converted, do not go and learn all the pretty phrases that we are accustomed and hung up to dry till not a particle of to use. Do not go and sit down at the feet of your dear teacher in the class But, on the other hand, you hear a and feel that you must talk just like Prognosticate delight rather than man pray who does pray, whose soul is him. Strike out your own course. Be despair. Even the lower springs shall fully in communion with God, and what yourself. "But I should be odd," say continue to flow till you are beyond the life and freshness is there! It may be you. All right; so is your pastor. need of them. Just now it is about that his expressions are somewhat rough You need not mind that. You will not spiritual matters that I want to speak; but they touch you because they come be the only odd body about. Be enfrom his heart. Some of the confes- couraged by that. I think that little of sions and petitions are strange to you, what people call oddness is just, after perhaps, and yet you feel that they are all, leaving God's work alone. All the shall be anointed with fresh oil," and, such strangers as it behoves you to trees that God makes are odd. The yet further on, of his other words. "They entertain at once. You are glad that Dutchmen clip them round or make every time. When it was once a month formance. A few good souls thought shall still bring forth fruit in old age, such words and thoughts have passed them into peacocks, but that style of I had not half the enjoyment in it; and the sermon to be very sweet; the man to show that the Lord is upright." through your spirit and blessed you. gardening is not to our mind. And I think that where friends have the seemed to be preaching the Gospel. Never fall into the notion that a spirit- You feel that you can pray with such some people say, "What a lovely tree!" communion once a quarter, or once a but they did not like to commit them-

would have it? Do not clip yourselves round or square, but keep your freshness. There will be no two Christian men exactly alike if they do that.

FRRSHNESS IN LABOR. There should be a freshness, dear friends, about our labor. We ought to serve the Lord to-day with just as much novelty in it as there was ten years ago. I may even venture to say thirty years ago. Oh, I recollect the seriousness with which I went out to preach the first half dozen sermons I ever preached, is a very natural one. Let me tell you and what a burden it was from the Lord, some points on which, I fear, we have might-very clumsily, but still with all my soul and spirit. And do you recol- freshness. lect when you began to teach the class, or began to take your tract district? Did you not pray over it? It seemed another. By adopting as our model almost too good to be true that you should be trusted with doing anything other than that which is embodied in did it, oh, so intensely, and therefore manufacture a set of paste gems, but well, though you blundered a good deal; for all your heart was in it, your motive was pure, and your faith was childlike. mistakes you made.

district, and you are pretty well halt a standard, and they judge everybody to asleep over it; and you can teach the be a deceiver or a mere babe in grace class, but there is not the vigor, the who cannot groan as deep down as they force, the energy, the intense desire, can. This is not wise. If you do that the burden that there once was; per- you will lose your freshness, for you haps not all the joy. You can stand will forever be scattering dust and up and preach, dear brother, and you ashes over all the joys of your life. have got pretty well accustomed to it; Why should the children of the brideand the people have got accustomed to chamber mourn while the bridegroom it too, and they can nearly go to sleep, is with them? Let us be happy while and you can, too, and preach asleep. It | we may. is an easy thing to do, if you once learn the wretched art. There is a kind of somnambulism in preachers; they can -much more wonderful than walking. You cannot say, "I sleep, but my heart waketh." The fact is that it is the other way up-" I wake, but my heart sleepeth," and it is a great pity when it

comes to be so. We should pray to God that we may do everything freshly, just as if we had

II. Now, dear friends, in the second place, I will dwell upon the fear of losing it-

thought that perhaps the things of God seasons-they are not always autumn, might lose their freshness to us by our not always spring, not always winter, familiarity with them. I think that the not always even the plenitude of sumvery reverse will turn out to be the mer. So with our souls, we are never case, if the familiarity be that of a sanc- so long in one stay as to find monotified heart. In other things "famili- tony in life. No, the monotony is in arity breeds contempt," but in the death; the freshness is in life. These things of God familiarity breeds adora- changes and varieties create a splendid esteem of it; but he that studies it both man's chariot, and resolved that our be impressed by its infinitude of meaning, till he will be ready to cry, like Jerome, "I adore the infinity of Scrip-

break bread on every first day of the leave. I have known a little village so impressed with the solemnity and old men and women who had to act as

Why not let the tree grow as God do not give the ordinance a fair opportunity to edify them. They do not fairly test the value of an ordinance which they so grossly neglect, as it seems to me. No; you may have more, and more, and more, and more of everything that Christ has instituted and ordained, especially more and more of Himself; and the more you have the more freshness there will be.

Yes, but we have had a fear sometimes that there will be a want of freshness about ourselves. Well, that tear and how I did go at it with all my good ground for alarm, for we do our best to rob ourselves of all life and

Christian people can lose the freshof their own selves by imitating one some one form of the Christian life for your Lord and Master. And you the person of our Lord we shall soon you had God's blessing. You did it the diamond flash and glory will be unknown.

Many godly people have a very deep sense of their corruption and inward You blundered the right way, for you | sin, and this, together with a sorrowful blundered with your heart, and so blun- spirit, combines to make them a rather dered into other men's hearts. Your gloomy race. Often deeply taught in heart was serving God, even in the other respects, they fail to rejoice in the Lord. Certain of these have Now perhaps, you can go round the formed a school, and they have set up

There is another set of brethren who are always glad and happy, for they are healthy and competently provided talk in their sleep in a very precise way | for, and out of the way of temptation,

they also set up a standard, and they cut down everybody who cannot sing right up into the alto notes as high as they can. Well, you will get stale, too, brother, whoever you may be, for self-laudation never keeps fresh long together. Poor fools, how have they persuaded themselves to hope that selfpraise will be thought to be the height of piety? It is nauseous even to those of us who are prepared to make a measure of excuse for the fervid imaginations of the brethren.

Sometimes, in this pilgrimage to the Celestial City, I join company with a brother werker who laments that he has many difficulties in dealing with poor sinners. I say to him, "I am glad of that, for I have more difficulties than you; but I see that I am not alone in my anxieties." Another I meet with says that he has been so happy in meeting with souls that have found the Lord; and I reply, "Yes, and I am glad to see you, for I am happy too, for I have met with many who have just found the Saviour." These changes and ups and downs are have heard some express the like the delicious vicissitudes of the tion. The man who does not read his freshness which we might not hope to Bible much is the man who has a scant | have if we tied ourselves to some one day and night is the very man who will experience should be uniformly like

Another way of speiling your freshness is by repression. The feebler sort of Christians dare not say, feel, or When we first of all commenced to do, until they have asked their leader's week, I heard some say that they chapel in which, when the preacher had thought that the coming so often to the delivered a sermon, the people did not table might take away the impressive- know whether he was sound or not ness of the hely feast. Well, I have till they had asked the principal deascarcely ever missed a Sabbath now | con; or they waited till they got outthese twenty years, and I never was side and consulted a little knot of good the sweetness of the Master's Supper tasters for all the others, and give a as I am now. I feel it to be fresher | verdict as to the orthodoxy of the per-