

Christian Messenger.

A REPOSITORY OF RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

"NOT SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS: FERVENT IN SPIRIT."

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WHOLE SERIES.
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Poetry.

For the Christian Messenger.

Around the Throne.

Behold the glorious sight!—
The Great White Throne!
Majestically bright—
Clothed in celestial light,
The ransomed ones adore
For ever—evermore
Around the throne!

There joy forever reigns
Around the throne!
Along the happy plains
Roll the exultant strains
"Glory to God on High"
Who sits in majesty
Upon the throne!

At last—at last—they stand
Around the throne!
Hard was their lot below;
Through wrong, and grief, and woe,
And flood, and fire, they passed;
But now they stand at last
Around the throne!

Oh blest immortal throng
Around the throne!
No more shall thirst oppress
Nor hunger's pang distress—
All suffering is o'er
Forever—evermore
Around the throne!

They sing the eternal song
Around the throne!
Hushed is the sigh of woe,
The tear doth cease to flow,
And thrills of rapture roll
Through each adoring soul
Around the throne!

Oh Joy! Oh Bliss Divine!
Oh Glorious Throne!
Unworthy and unclean
I view the dazzling scene
Wondering if I might stand
One of that holy band
Around the throne!

Thou source of endless joy—
Lord of the Throne!
To Thee I raise my cry—
To Thee lift up mine eye—
Imploping, through Thy grace
The humblest, lowest place
Around Thy throne!

Redeemer! Look on me
Forth from Thy throne!
By all Thy grief below,
Thine agony, and woe,
On me bestow Thy grace—
Oh give to me a place
Before Thy throne!

Ah me! if I might stand
Before the throne!
Loud should my song ascend
Far—far on high, to blend
With that eternal song
Sung by the countless throng
Around the throne!

"Glory to Him who reigns
Upon the Throne!
Glory, and Praise, and Power
From this immortal hour!
Glory to God on High
And Might, and Majesty!
His name shall we adore
For ever—evermore
Around the throne!"

F. B.

Missionary Intelligence.

AUSTRALIA.

The London Baptist *Missionary Herald* contains a long letter, dated April 14th, from the Rev. Mr. Taylor at Melbourne, in which he gives some interesting facts concerning the progress of the cause of Christ in connection with the Baptist denomination.

He gives an account of the splendid new Baptist Chapel being built in Melbourne. It is to be 110 feet long by 56 feet in width. It is calculated to seat a thousand hearers without galleries. Behind it are three large vestries, and a lecture room 56 feet wide by 25 feet in length. The entire cost will exceed £7,000. The situa-

tion is a commanding one, and the structure is built of blue stone with white facings.

The following are extracts:—

On Tuesday morning, March 2nd, a large party of the ministers of various denominations, with other gentlemen, met by special invitation at the house of H. Langlands, Esq., to welcome our dear brother New. After breakfast a few hours were pleasantly and profitably spent together. On the evening of the same day a number of ministers and members of churches met in Collins-street Chapel, to consider the propriety of forming a Baptist Association for Victoria. Thursday evening, March 4th, attended a social meeting in Albert-street Chapel, to welcome the Rev. I. New as pastor of the church. The chapel was crowded by a most influential company; composed of members of different denominations. The chair was occupied by Mr. Langlands, senior deacon, who gave a short history of the origin, progress, and difficulties of the church; addresses followed from ministers of various denominations. The meeting was well sustained, and the whole proceedings of a very interesting character. On the 9th of March I left Melbourne, by the screw-steamer *Lady Bird*, and, after a rather rough voyage of twenty-eight hours, reached Portland, about 200 miles south-west from Melbourne. Portland is an interesting and beautifully-situated town, with a population of upwards of 3,000, and, from its position and noble harbour, must ere long become a place of considerable importance in the colony. On the 11th I attended an interesting meeting in the Free Church, kindly lent for the occasion; a large company assembled. After tea, the meeting was addressed by Revs. S. Knight, Wesleyan minister, W. Ridley, United Presbyterian, J. Sleight, Independent, and myself. The chief object of the meeting was to give an exposition of the sentiments and order of the Baptists. On the following Sabbath I preached two sermons in the Free Church, and, being detained in Portland some days, preached twice during the week, in a room fitted up as a meeting-house by our Baptist friends, and also in the Wesleyan chapel. During my stay in Portland I visited a number of friends, and was glad to find many in circumstances of comfort and comparative independence, who in their fatherland were only farm labourers, struggling for existence. A considerable number of Baptists are united, and meet every Sabbath for divine worship. They have commenced collecting funds, and hope soon to be able to secure a piece of land, and erect a chapel. A faithful, earnest, hard-working minister is much needed in the town and district. Throughout the district there are many formerly connected with Baptist churches at home, and especially is this the case at Belfast and Warnambool, two rising towns, situated within fifty miles of Portland. If two ministers could be obtained for this western district, able to do the work of evangelists, their labours would be productive of most blessed results. Portland and Belfast would be the centres of operations, and their labours might be extended for one hundred miles into the interior. Baptists of England, do awake from your indifference, and send help to Australia. If the Committee could be persuaded to appoint a brother to act as general agent or evangelist here, for two or three years, to visit the towns and villages, and spend a few weeks or months as might appear needful in each place, the result would be, the organization of Baptist churches throughout the entire colony. The expense would not be very great, probably not more than £700 per annum for salary and travelling expenses, and I have no doubt that a large portion of the amount, if not the whole, would be repaid to the Society. Some may suppose that the amount stated is too large. To such I may state, two hundred and fifty pounds at home is better than five hundred pounds here, and the expense of travelling is more than four times greater here than it is at home. My voyage to Portland and back cost £10 10s. for 400 miles; at home, it could have been accomplished for £1 10s.

The Correspondent of the *Freeman* also writes:—

MELBOURNE, June 15, 1858.

Politically, we are quiescent. Parliament was prorogued on the 4th inst. by his Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, with all due pomp and ceremony, and legislative business is accordingly suspended.

Trade is generally active; and the demand now created for labour in consequence of the commencement of our railway works places all orders of society in positions of apparent prosperity.

Our gold produce continues extensive, a larger quantity having been brought down by escort during the past few weeks than the average for some years past; and, as if to banish the misgivings of those who indulge the fancy that our mines are becoming exhausted, a monster nugget—the largest ever found—was discovered last week at Ballarat, the oldest of the Victorian gold-fields. This lump of pure gold weighs 2,217 ounces, and is worth nearly 9,000l. One of the local papers, speaking of its shape, describes it as being like "a continent, with a peninsula attached to it by a narrow isthmus." Who shall say after this that the wealth of our gold-fields is diminishing, and will prove but the wonder of a little time?

The Australian "Baptist Magazine" is to appear on the 1st of July next, and to be published in Melbourne monthly. We will have a Baptist newspaper some day!

The Rev. Thomas Binney, whose health is much improved, is at present in New Wales, where he has been most heartily received by all classes of Christians. He has been preaching in Sydney, where he also delivered a lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association, on "the Life and Character of St. Paul," on which occasion his Excellency the Governor-General, Sir William Denison took the chair. The attendance was very large, and the enthusiasm great. Mr. Binney purposes visiting Moreton Bay and the Hunter's River district, after which he will return to Melbourne en route to Adelaide.

FURTHER ACCOUNTS OF THE MISSION IN FERNANDO PO.

The mail from Africa, which arrived in London on the 9th Instant, brings further intelligence. The Rev Mr. Saker writes to the London Baptist Missionary Committee:—

CAMEROONS RIVER, June 26, 1858.

Having got copies of all correspondence ready for the Consul, I called on him, expressing my readiness to go and search a place for a new Township. He then excused himself from any movement, at that time deeming it best to wait. So on Wednesday morning I started alone, first for Bimbia. We had a long passage, one of much discomfort, and arrived there on Sabbath day at noon.

On Monday I saw the king, and having seen the coast, from Rumbi downwards, and visiting again the Bay of Amboise, where alone we could look for a sheltered bay, I then made a formal request that he would sell me such a tract of land as I might want, and in such a place as would be most convenient for our purposes. He willingly acceded to this, and promised certain guides when we should go to explore. The storm of that day prevented our further movements, and the day following promised no amendment in the weather. I resolved to go to Cameroons. We arrived there on Wednesday, at noon, and at an early convenience instructed the young men to prepare a series of small sleeping rooms for the children.

We left again for Bimbia on Monday morning, and arrived at three o'clock next afternoon. Then taking with me Mr. Fuller and a guide, we made a first exploration into the country, not by the paths leading to the distant towns; that journey was important, but it needed more daylight. In the deep wilderness by night our guide lost his way as we returned. We wandered on as we best could, and at last emerged on the sea coast, waited till daylight, and

then found the track leading to Bimbia, where we arrived before seven o'clock. After breakfast we took the boat to explore the interior coast of Amboise, and there we found an inner bay, quite hidden from the outer anchorage, in every way suited to our purposes. It is all I wish—secure anchorage for the navy and merchantmen, fine anchor bay for boats, canoes, and small vessels, a fine shore, with a mile and half of shore-ground, fresh water at hand, a fine position for a town, high lands immediately in the rear, and the mountain itself available for sanitary purposes.

Here, if her Majesty's government sanction and sustain our effort, can be coal stores, provision stores, building yards, and every other essential for commerce. Here, too, a highway may be made into the interior, and the native produce shipped in smooth water for Europe. Here the mail company will find ultimately its largest claims and greatest support. It will be a centre of civilization, freedom and light. It will be essentially a religious, enlightened colony.

A small Schooner is wanted for the removal of families and goods, and for supplying the wants of the settlement for the first few months. Nothing of the sort can be bought here, but I apprehend that a small thing of about thirty or forty tons could be bought second-hand in some of the ports of England, for a sum not exceeding 200l. A pilot boat might possibly be obtained, they are the best built, and sold while yet good. Could you by a line to any friends in the various ports ascertain if a servicable vessel is for sale? It might be freighted out with our own goods, or with salt for the merchants here. These would pay 50s. or 60s. for freight on salt—it is in perpetual demand.

Yours always affectionate,
A. SAKER.

The following letters were sent:—

To the Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony.

FERNANDO PO, June 1, 1858.

Sir,—Having received the answer of the Governor-General to our request to be allowed the liberty of public worship pending an appeal to her Catholic Majesty, we beg to express our deep regret at his fixed determination not to grant a favour so small.

We fully concede to her Catholic Majesty and Government the power and right to decree and ordain whatever laws they deem most beneficial to the people and nations over whom they rule. Moreover, if her Catholic Majesty and Government think it right to invade the domain of conscience and forbid the public worship of the Most High God, we declare it as our fixed resolve not to contend nor set at defiance their authority; but as soon as possible, and for ever, to leave a land where we cannot longer act according to the dictates of our own consciences.

In the few weeks that must elapse ere we, our families, and property, can be removed, we announce to you our intention of obeying God to the utmost of our ability without violating the harsh and uncalled-for decree that forbids our worship. God helping us, you shall have no cause of complaint against any of us, man, woman, or child.

While we thus declare our intention of yielding obedience to her Catholic Majesty and Government, we request protection from the priests who begin to invade the sanctity of our homes. We wish for no intercourse with them; we concede to them no right over us. We acknowledge the Queen of Spain the lawful Sovereign of this land, and our duty to obey and revere her. But for all that relates to the practice of piety and truth we have our own teacher.

Signed on behalf of the inhabitants of this colony convened in public meeting this evening, May 29th, 1858.

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) JOSEPH DINOLL, Chairman.

To the Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony in Fernando Po.

June 1, 1858.

Dear Sir,—Having met the people of the