

does not that holy book bring to view the great and glorious purpose of God in granting the salvation of sinners through the blood of the crucified Saviour, and do not our excellent papers convey to us from time to time, from different parts of the world, the delightful intelligence of multitudes of souls converted to God, and the extension of the Bible in every direction? Can not then the diligent and prayerful reader of the papers with joyful heart trace the streams back to the river or fountain out of which they emanated? And we may be assured that those who are indifferent to having in their families, or reading a good religious paper, will be liable to neglect the word of God, or read it with a dark mind. The circulation of a good religious periodical is in harmony with the apostolic practice, with them there was a continual circulation of letters and messengers from place to place, which cheered and warmed their hearts with love to God and each other. May the Lord incline our dear brethren in the Ministry, and others, leading brethren, to do better than we have formerly done; in this as well as in other respects we are far behind many of our brethren in other parts of the world, who are laboring and suffering for the cause of Christ."

Moncton, Dec. 27th, 1849.

Missionary Intelligence.

(Letter of Dr. Macgowan, from China.)

Journey into the Interior.

I have been permitted safely to accomplish a long cherished desire of visiting Hangchau, the capital of this province. The journey was made in Chinese costume, in company with the native assistant, Chin, and an applicant for baptism named Tae. A polled head, with the usual appendage to the hair behind, and a huge pair of spectacles, the crystals being smoky quartz, and every other precaution, failed to keep me from being recognized by my patients and by persons who otherwise knew me at Ningpo. No inconvenience resulted from this, though it is supposed that at the capital I was known by more than one hundred Ningpo people. It is sometimes necessary for families to make a voyage to Shanghai for health; but the vast number of pirates now infesting the coasts renders it extremely dangerous for them to do so, excepting in foreign vessels, and such opportunities rarely present. It was hoped that there was an inland route through which families might pass unobserved to that city; but it appears that under present circumstances it would be impossible, and at any time extremely inconvenient. We were four days on the journey, and were obliged to remain the whole time in a boat so low that there was scarcely room to sit,—standing was out of the question. There is another route by which more comfortable accommodations can be had, but the boats there require to be changed frequently, and foreigners could hardly fail to be detected.

HANGCHAU.

The city of Hangchau is in Lat. 30dg. 20m. 20s. north, and Long. 3dg. 39m. 1s. east of Greenwich, on a plain near the Tsientang river, forty miles from its mouth. Though so near the sea, it may be considered an inland city, the river being navigable only to small sloops. Most of its trade is derived from the Grand Canal, which enters the city walls and terminates at this point. It is of an oblong form, surrounded by a high wall fourteen or fifteen miles in circumference, and entered by ten gates. The suburbs on the south, between the river and walls, and on the north along the banks of the Grand Canal, are very populous. The whole population cannot fall much short of a million. It is celebrated for its silk manufacture, the whole district being planted with mulberry. In the estimation of the Chinese, its natural scenery places it immeasurably beyond any spot under the azure heavens. Nor have foreign travellers been sparing in praise of the surrounding scenery. Marco Polo, Lord Macartney's suite, and the Dutch embassy, have described its beauties. From the appearance it presented in winter, I can readily imagine it to be quite as beautiful as has been represented by any,—excepting the old Venetian traveller, who was given to hyperbole,—less so, however, than his contemporaries thought. What was once an unsightly swamp, the source of vernal and autumnal disease, has been rendered a splendid lake, which on one side leaves the walls of the city, and extends on the other to the base of romantic hills of varied form and altitude. It is about eight miles in circumference, its crystal surface is broken by two small islands, on each

of which are ruins of pavilions. Airy barges are ever moving over it with parties of pleasure, and fishermen pursue their avocation at all time with remarkable success. The picturesque shores are crowded with Buddhist temples.

Given to Idolatry.

This city indeed may be regarded as the metropolis of the Buddhist sect in China; and of its people it may be truly said, that they are wholly given to idolatry. Every cove, every pass and hill top, the caves and ravines and rocks, have all been turned to idolatrous purposes. One is jostled by the priests at every turn, but they are a harmless race; and though in their dogmas and ceremonies they closely resemble those of Rome, they are not given to the vice of burning heretics;—though they often burn the bodies of those of their number who make the request before dying;—an instance of which occurred when I was there in the Singtry monastery. At this place amongst a host of images of Buddhist saints, are those of several emperors of the reigning dynasty, Fankwang himself having been canonized. His knee-pan has been almost rubbed away by his loyal and devout subjects, the dead emperors being scarcely noticed. Directly opposite the city, on the borders of the lake, are two imperial palaces, one in bad repair, the other used as a monastery where prayers or masses are offered for the emperor who occupied it.

Amongst the places of interest which we visited was the Mohammedan temple, a large, irregular building, in the principal part of the city. As the period of our visit (ten days) was drawing to a close, I was introduced to the priest as a Christian from America.— Though disposed to be polite, the old gentleman could not refrain from hinting in a delicate manner that we were addicted to image worship. When, however, he understood that this form of idolatry was an abomination to us likewise, he became very affable and inquisitive. We were able to leave only one book at the mosque, but have since made arrangements, according to our promise, to send him copies of the scriptures and of all our tracts for the temples at Hangchau, Suchau, and other places at a distance. He seemed anxious to possess them.

Our last day at the provincial capital was employed in the distribution of religious books. They were so easily distributed and so well received, that we regretted we had not taken a much larger supply. May we not hope that God will bless the reading of these volumes to some of these deluded people? There are, doubtless, many in that great city who know and confess that they are sinners. It was such that Jesus came to seek and save. Some of them possess enough of the gospel to point them to him. Will he not answer the prayers of those who cry day and night to him for the conversion of these people?

* The physiognomy of members of this sect suggests the opinion that many of them at least are descendants of faithful Abraham, whose ancestors were allured from their faith by the followers of the false prophet. No vestige of their synagogue now remains at this capital, nor any allusion to the Jews in the native accounts of the city.

SWEDEN.

Gottenburg, Nov. 6th, 1849.

To the Editors of the Primitive Church Magazine.

HONORED SIRS,—Through brother Oncken at Hamburg, I presume you have been acquainted with our history as a Baptist church in Sweden, therefore I need not intrude upon your time by telling what you know. I only will say, that whatever will be the result, the work is here begun, not by men of learning, talents, or influence in society, as we are all of us poor and illiterate peasants, mechanics, and a few common sailors. You will easily perceive, from these lines, what we are in regard to learning, as this is from the most cultivated hand among us all. Therefore, if the Lord designs (as it at the present appears) to do anything in Sweden through us, it will indeed be through the weak and foolish things of this world; and the glory will be more given to him alone, who worketh when, and by whomsoever he pleaseth, and none can hinder.

Our little number has now increased, so that we are now forty-five baptized believers in our little church, with prospects of soon being more, as notwithstanding the efforts of the priests to hinder the truth, by scandalizing us, speaking evil of the right ways of the Lord, and annoying some of our brethren, greatly; still the enquiry after the truth is in some parts

very extensive and earnest, and we soon expect to baptize a few converts.

The greater part of us have been called before the "Consistory;" but as yet no further proceeding has been made against us. We all desire to be remembered by the dear people of God in England, before a throne of grace. Your most humble servant,

FREDERICK O. NILSSON.

English Baptist Mission at Fernando Po.

From a work written by a Roman Catholic missionary we extract the following testimony to the faithfulness of the Baptist missionaries on the Island of Fernando Po, in the Gulf of Guinea:

Not less surprised than I was would any of my readers be, were they to see the veneration and respect with which the negroes of Fernando Po look upon their missionaries. One of the severest punishments which they can inflict on them is the expelling them from their religious fellowship. The festival days they employ in the continual reading and exposition of the Gospel, alternating these exercises with religious songs; and more than once in the middle of the night my sleep has been interrupted by these songs being sung by a whole family in a neighbouring house. Let us compare these customs with those which daily present themselves to our eyes, (in Madrid,) and with the horrible blasphemies which continually greet our ears, and let us say, Which people, these negroes or ourselves, show the most signs of being savages!

FROM LIBERIA.

The following interesting letter from President Roberts, was addressed to G. Ralston, Esq., of Philadelphia:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
MONROVIA, Sept. 18, 1849.

Dear Sir—I wrote you a few days ago, announcing the probability that in a few weeks, the slave trade would be completely annihilated at the Gallinas. I have the satisfaction now to inform you that my expectations have been fully realized. The chiefs have consented to abandon forever the traffic and have actually delivered to Capt. Dunlop, of her Majesty's ship "Alert," all the slaves collected here for exportation, and have turned the foreign slave traders out of the country. The slaves have availed themselves of the captain's kindness, and taken passage also in one of H. M. ships for Sierra Leone, having first solemnly promised Capt. Dunlop that they would never again attempt to revive the slave trade at Gallinas or that neighborhood.

Our negotiations are still going on for the Gallinas, and I think now will soon be closed to our satisfaction. The principal obstacle is now removed, and our jurisdiction will soon comprehend that territory. It will then be impossible ever again to revive the traffic of slaves at any point between Sierra Leone and Cape Palmas. I am happy to inform you that our public affairs are going on smoothly; though our late efforts for the suppression of the slave trade, and some considerable amount we have had to pay for new territory, have rather embarrassed us pecuniarily. I think we have great cause for encouragement.

Our relations with the natives are of the most friendly character. Commerce is increasing, and our citizens are giving more attention than ever to agriculture.

I am, dear Sir,

Respectfully your obedient servant,
J. J. ROBERTS.

DEATH OF MINISTERS IN NEW-YORK CITY.

REV. LUKE BARKER, M. D.—The Rev. Dr. Barker was the Pastor of the Laurens Street Baptist Church, New-York. He was born in the north of England, but had for many years been a resident in this country. This distinguished man, as we learn from the New-York Recorder, died on Thursday, the 13th inst., in the 59th year of his age. He was a physician of established and successful practice, and added to his duties in that vocation, the calling of a Christian pastor. At the time of his death, he was a laborious member of the Board of the American and Foreign Bible Society. His funeral was attended on Monday last by a large concourse of friends. An address, enlarging on the many virtues of the deceased, and paying to his memory the warm tribute of Christian friendship, was delivered by the Rev. C. G. Sommers, and prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Cone.

REV. JOHN PECK.—This venerable servant of Christ, departed this life, in New-York, on Saturday, Dec. 15th, in the 69th year of his age.

THE LATE REV. J. H. EVANS.

The Rev. J. H. Evans, pastor of the Baptist Church, in John-street, Doughty-street, for nearly thirty years, died on Saturday last, at Stonhaven, in Scotland, in his 65th year, after a lingering and painful illness, occasioned by being thrown from a carriage. The deceased gentleman had not preached since August, 1848. It is pretty generally known that most of his relations were connected with the Establishment. His father, the Rev. Dr. Evans, was Prebend of Salisbury Cathedral, and Mr. Evans, being an only son, it was natural that his education should be so guarded and guided that his early predilections should all favour the Establishment. Such was the case, and in a few short years, at a very early age, we find him comfortably settled at Milford, in Hampshire, a small village, about five miles from Lymington. Here he continued for a time, but as truth shone upon his mind and heart, error receded; he found he could no longer conform. He left the Establishment, not without the remonstrances of his friends, and the sorrow of near relations; but he had a higher Master to serve, who was about to employ him in a more arduous work. Mr. Evans continued in the little village of Milford, where a small chapel was built, which still remains, and by the assistance of the present Church at John-street has been continued, it being a cause always near his heart. On one of his visits to Taunton, where he occasionally preached, Mr. Drummond, who was in that locality, was induced to go and hear Mr. Evans; from that period he became an altered man, and a friendship sprang up, which ultimately led Mr. Drummond to build the chapel in John-street, and present it entirely free to Mr. Evans for life. The circumstances therefore, in which the church and congregation are now placed are somewhat peculiar, nor is it yet known whether the building will be retained by the Church or a new and larger place built. Mr. Evans was highly valued. His published works are but few, but they all clearly show that his aim was at the heart, more than at the head; and if they discover no brilliancy of thought to captivate the merely intellectual, there is in them, as there was in his public teaching, such an astonishing power and depth in the peculiar phraseology employed, that show to an unprejudiced mind that he had not only studied his subject, but the variety of characters, states of mind, and circumstances of those to whom he was speaking or writing. He has left behind a widow, two sons, and one daughter (by his first wife.) It is remarkable that Mr. Noel, now the pastor, had only commenced his labours the second Sabbath in the present month. Mr. Evans' remains were brought to London. The funeral took place yesterday, and was attended by about 400 members of his church and congregation. A short address was delivered by Rev. C. Shepherd, and prayer was offered at the grave by the Rev. Baptist Noel. The Rev. Octavius Winslow, of Lymington, will preach the funeral sermon in John-street chapel, next Sunday morning.—*Christian Times*, Dec. 5.

DEATH OF MILLER.

This eccentric individual, sometimes called "The Prophet," and notorious for his views of the "Second Advent," died at Low Hampton, N. Y., on the 20th ult., aged 68. He was a native of Pittsfield, in this State. At the age of 22, he was a deputy sheriff in Poulney, Vt. During the last war with Great Britain he held a Captain's commission in the army. He was in the battle of Plattsburg. For years he lectured about the country, predicting the end of the world in 1843. As a preacher, he was frank, bold and eloquent.—In 1844, however, the earth still turning on its axis, and revolving about the sun, and Miller with it, he published a kind of apology for the non-fulfilment of his prediction, but insisted on the nearness of that event. A writer in one of our exchange papers, from whom we take the above facts, says that Miller "was a man strictly temperate in all his habits, devoted in his family and social attachments, proverbial for his integrity, capable of great mental efforts, naturally very amiable in his temperament; but when he thought he was unjustly represented, he often indulged in biting sarcasm on his revilers.

IRISH COAL.—Coal of a very superior quality is now being raised from pits adjacent to the Arigna Mine, Roscommon. This fact affords another proof of the mineral riches which lie dormant in this neglected island, which so abundantly possesses within itself all the elements of national prosperity.