

a certain Minister of the Baptist Denomination in that vicinity as preaching doctrines calculated to do a great deal of mischief, and that too, (he says) before an audience composed of Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Methodists. Very singular indeed. That a Baptist Minister should come out so daringly, and preach the whole truth before such a congregation. I would inform "A Lover of Truth" that that is the very thing for which they are distinguished. They preach the whole truth and do not garble the plain commands of God as laid down in his word, not wishing to offend but to clear the skirts of their garments from the blood of all men. Such futile objections I think will never be given publicity again. Yours, &c. &c.

A LOVER OF STRAIGHTFORWARDNESS.  
Sussex, June 23, 1852.

To the Editor of the Christian Visitor.

DEAR BROTHER.—The subject of Australian emigration is now occupying the minds of so many in this Province that I think the following information, which has reached me from England this morning, may gratify some of your readers.  
Yours truly,  
R. THOMSON.  
July 8th, 1852.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMPANY.—The dividend declared at the meeting held yesterday, was 5 per cent. per annum, and the report and accounts were unanimously adopted. It was intimated by Mr. E. Divett, who presided, that the revenue of the undertaking would have permitted a small increase in the rate of distribution, but that, considering the state of affairs in the Colony, the Directors had deemed it advisable to limit it to the amount recommended. The latest letters from the manager stated, that although a large emigration was going on to the Port Philip gold fields, there was every expectation that the majority would return to Adelaide and its neighborhood, and invest whatever they obtained in land. This supposition was strengthened by the circumstance of numbers having left their families in charge of their property, while others had also, before their departure, completed their preparations for the next harvest. About £50,000 had been brought into Adelaide from Port Philip, and some of the accounts written by the emigrants who had left for Mount Alexander were of a most glowing description. The Government were about to establish an overland escort, and to construct a road to the Alexander gold-fields, so that the emigrants would not be compelled to visit Melbourne. The trade of the colony, consisting of its wool, copper, hides, &c., was not ephemeral, and, although the latest letters were unsatisfactory, it was hoped a healthy reaction would soon take place.

### Missionary Intelligence.

#### RANGOON.

Letter from Dr. Dawson—Arrival of the new Viceroy at Rangoon.

Mouth of the Rangoon River, Jan. 13th, 1852.—Since the despatch of my last letter we have been called to pass through some most exciting and melancholy scenes, which happily fall but rarely in the path of missionary life.

The destiny of Burmah seems almost sealed. Soon, perhaps, the sceptre will depart from the hands of her kings forever! Her situation at present is exceedingly critical, and I feel more than I can express for her welfare.

On the 4th inst. the new viceroy appointed to the charge of all the lower provinces of Burmah, from Prome down to Martaban, made his grand entry into the town of Rangoon. As near as I could learn between twenty and thirty war-boats, filled with armed men to the number of three or four thousand, accompanied him down the river as his personal escort. A guard of honor, too, consisting of three or four hundred men of the king's household troops, was sent with him from Ava. During the journey down he gradually received additions, which swelled his retinue to a considerable force. His state barge was decorated in the usual style of eastern splendor. On landing at the wharves he was welcomed with every demonstration of respect both by the government officials and the people. A long line of soldiers curiously dressed was paraded along the streets in the direction of government house to receive him. Carpets were spread on the wharf for him to walk on till he ascended a buggy drawn by men, which had been provided to bear him to his new residence. A cluster of brahmans, each holding a "horn of plenty," awaited his arrival and pronounced their benedictions upon him.

His popularity—Repulse of the English deputation.

According to the Burmese custom, or rather, a custom introduced by the late oppressive governor, hundreds of the inhabitants

carried their offerings to his house to furnish the necessary provisions for his followers. Inquiring what they were, he declined receiving them, saying "he knew the people were very poor and could ill afford to spare such contributions." By directing a discontinuance of the practice he won golden opinions among the masses. For two or three days a continuous stream of visitors crowded to his residence. They were of course mostly men in authority and their attendants, whose object was to pay their respects and receive commands. Some of the foreigners thought it strange that he did not immediately attend to the important national business which had brought him down from the capital and open a communication with Commodore Lambert. But it is easier to blame than to excuse the over-much scrutinized conduct of public men.

On the morning of the 6th, two days after his arrival, Mr. Edwards called on the viceroy with a message from Captain Latter, diplomatic assistant and Burmese translator to the embassy, to say that a deputation of British officers would wait on him during the course of the day. The viceroy replied that he declined seeing any other officer but the commodore. To this he strictly adhered. The deputation, composed of four officers from the "Fox" and "Hermes," with Mr. Edwards as interpreter, waited on his excellency, bearing with them a letter couched, it is said, in the most friendly terms. They reached government house soon after twelve o'clock. Messengers passed three or four times between the viceroy inside and the deputation, who were kept standing outside in a hot sun, when it was announced that his excellency was asleep. The officers proposed to go in and sit for a short time, but admission was denied them; they could walk about outside if they choose. The officers retired to report the failure of their mission. The refusal to receive them was regarded as an insult to the deputation, to their flag and to the British government. The viceroy very probably supposed that receiving officers of inferior rank would be derogatory both to his own dignity and to that of his own sovereign. The commodore's free reception of anybody and everybody who came to him on business he did not perhaps feel at liberty to copy. It might have exposed him to censure for being too friendly to the English.

Flight of the foreign residents and missionaries—Their losses.

A consultation was now held on board the frigate, and it was decided to have no further intercourse with the viceroy unless he should first make an ample apology. Mr. Edwards was despatched on shore to request the principal foreign merchants, the missionaries and some others to meet the commodore on ship-board. In the meantime the English vessels lying in port, together with Chooliah, Arab and Turkish vessels claiming British protection, were ordered to proceed down the river to sea. During the course of the evening most of them got under weigh and proceeded some distance below the town. On reaching the "Fox" we were informed that affairs were in such an unsatisfactory state, it was advisable we should all leave Rangoon without delay, and that the boats of the several armed vessels would be sent to the main wharf to protect us in getting away. No time was allowed the residents to remove their property. Thus to escape with our lives most of us were compelled to sacrifice nearly everything. Excepting a few suits of clothes, our writing desks and small parcel of bedding, everything we owned is lost,—furniture, valuable books, surgical instruments, medicines, crockery, kitchen utensils, saddlery, bed linen, children's clothes and those in the hands of the washerman—all are gone. With the loss of all we are thankful for our lives, that we are out of prison and that our limbs are free of chains.

In the hope that all difficulties would be amicably adjusted by the new viceroy our families had moved on shore, where they made but a very brief stay before it became necessary again to take refuge on board the excellent ship "Duchess of Argyll." Captain Barker welcomed us all most cordially. The few things we succeeded in bringing with us from the mission house were carried down to the wharf by his lascars. But for their assistance we might indeed have been left utterly destitute. Several armed boats manned by Europeans came to the wharf to afford protection to the retiring foreigners and their families. In an instant the crowd of Burmans who were there vanished like a mist. The whole scene was one of great excitement and that not of the most pleasurable kind. In passing a bundle of

clothes through the custom house I informed the Burmese officers that we had been ordered away by the British commodore; that I had nothing to do with their difficulties one way or the other; that the missionaries ought on no account to meddle with the affairs of government, and that they must regard us not as enemies but as friends.

Seizure of a Burman war-vessel—A hazardous visit.

As the Duchess did not go far below the town that night, information was brought to us about ten P. M. of the commodore's intention to seize a ship called the *Ya-thee-nah-yai-moon*, which signifies "the most precious jewel of the ocean."—belonging to the king of Burmah. This was decided on, we were told, by a council of war convened on the "Fox." She was captured that night without firing a shot, the Burman crew offering no resistance. Knowing that such a step would render the Burmese provincial and city officers almost desperate,—for their heads would be in jeopardy under the displeasure of the king—and that the property of foreigners would be more than ordinarily exposed to confiscation and destruction, I resolved, late as it was, to make an effort to procure some of our papers and letters which had been deposited for safe keeping in a strong godown at Mr. Birrell's house. Hiring a small canoe I pushed off for the shore and got to the godown by eleven o'clock. Though the moon shone out brightly the whole town looked gloomy and deserted. Neither guard nor sentry challenged me in the adventure, though many entertained the opinion that to leave the vessel at such a time was exceedingly hazardous. Not being able to get the keys of the buildings I was forced to climb to the roof and enter the house through a trap-door at the top. With a lighted candle in one's hand this was somewhat difficult, but after some time I reached the box containing most of our private papers. The venture incurred some risk, but the object seemed worthy of an effort. While I was away at the godown four Burmans jumped into the canoe and paddled it off to the opposite side of the river. Providentially I was provided with another conveyance by the timely arrival at the wharf of Captain Barker with one of the ship's boats. In the course of the night many women and children of Burmese extraction connected with foreign traders escaped in Chooliah vessels belonging to the Coromandel coast.

Efforts to reopen negotiations—Blockade of the river—Remonstrance of the Viceroy.

About one o'clock the same night H. B. M. steam frigate *Hermes* passed down with the "king's vessel" in tow and anchored below the Hastings sand, three miles from the town. At daylight the frigate *Fox* got under way, and drifting too near the Dalla shore grounded on a mud-bank, and was detained till three the next tide. While in that situation the governor of Dalla went on board to explain and intercede in behalf of the viceroy, though perhaps not officially authorised so to do. A similar visit had been made by other Burmese officers and the royal interpreter the day before, during the interview of the merchants with the commodore, but without success. Before seizing the king's vessel the commodore had penned a note with the design of giving the viceroy an opportunity to apologize for not receiving the deputation, and he would doubtless have sent it by the Burmese officer, but unfortunately he had the impression that they would not dare to carry such a message to their governor. Subsequently one or two more endeavors were made by the deputy-governor of Rangoon and the governor of Dalla to reconcile matters. They went on board the flag ship, and the latter suggested that if the king's ship were delivered to him it would lead to his promotion to the post of governor of Rangoon, when he would grant ample redress for the injuries committed by the ex-governor. But the commodore remained inflexible. His terms were, that the viceroy should come in person, and on the deck of her majesty's frigate offer an apology to the officers who had been insulted. When this had been done he would be prepared to commence negotiations. These peaceful, though rigorous, measures, having failed, the commodore determined to cut off all communication with the Burmese and hasten to the mouth of the river with the "prize" and all the armed vessels in company, pending a reference to the supreme government of India. A blockade of the Rangoon and Bassein rivers was proclaimed. The brig "Serpent" of sixteen guns was ordered to take a station at the entrance into the Bassein creek and intercept all suspicious looking boats.

At this stage of the business the viceroy forwarded to the commodore a letter addressed to the Governor general of India, complaining that the officers of the deputation sent to him were at the time in a state of intoxication. The same evening, or the following day, another letter was received, intimating that if the king's ship was moved down the river with the other vessels orders had been given to fire on the *Fox*. The commodore expressed his regret to hear it; he certainly would not fire unless he were first attacked, but if a single pistol were fired at the frigate he would assuredly open upon them with his guns. Thus stood affairs between the parties before hostilities commenced.

The Stockades—Hostile Preparations.

On the eastern and western banks of the river, about ten and twelve miles below Rangoon, are two substantial teak wood stockades, erected several years ago by direction of Thurawadi, the late king, who showed quite a spirit of enterprise in the public improvements he effected during his reign. To these stockades a few cannon and a number of jingalls were sent late one evening by the Rangoon officers, with a view to attack the men-of-war as they proceeded down the river.—They were noticed as they passed our ship. About a dozen war-boats crowded with men were likewise stationed there. They took shelter up a creek behind the first fortification. How many men there were within the two enclosures none but the Burmese themselves know. Probably there were three or four thousand, most of them provided with muskets, spears and swords. On the summit of the palisades were guns in a position to command a section of the river. In two villages, each contiguous to one of the stockades, the people were directed to arm themselves for the purpose of rescuing the captured ship of their sovereign. Such were the arrangements of the Burmese officers, who little understood the unequal contest in which they were about to engage.

Early on the morning of Saturday, the tenth of January, the vessels commenced moving down with the tide. The steamer *Hermes* towed the flag ship as far as the upper stockade and then went back to bring down the "prize." Things appearing somewhat warlike, and believing that the Burmese for once were going to be as good as their word, the *Fox* anchored directly abreast of the fortification, beat to quarters and made ready to talk loud if they were first addressed from the shore. Besides several country craft the "Mary Harrington," "Falcon," "Ararat" and "Duchess of Argyll" were in the river. They had gained positions somewhat below the frigate and were spectators of the painful scene which was then about opening. Our vessel anchored midway between the two stockades, as the safest position should the threatened outbreak occur.

The Battle.

Just as our anchor had fairly taken the ground, the people of the village contiguous to the first fort were seen moving about quickly on the bank and looking earnestly up the stream. They were watching for "the precious jewel of the ocean." Many of them were observed in the war-boats hid under cover of the bank of the creek. Three or four of the boats now moved out of the creek and pushed up past the *Fox*, keeping close into the shore. Some of the warriors were standing up, making a variety of antics and capers, and were heard singing a war-song. As the *Hermes* rounded a point in the river having the king's vessel in tow, the knot of watchmen on the bank disappeared to give the alarm to the boatmen and villagers.

Just as the steamer came in front of the stockade, her bowsprit being on a line with that of the frigate off went a flash and the report of a gun from the shore. Instantly many voices cried, "They have fired!" Now commenced a murderous fire from the commodore's vessel. The frigate was soon enveloped in smoke, her shot skimming the water and tearing up the bank. The stockade was shrouded in dust and smoke and at times could scarcely be seen. The unfortunate Burmese kept up a spirited fire for nearly two hours, till they were literally cut to pieces, their boats abandoned, some of them drifting away and sinking, and their cannon dismounted and silenced. Both the steamers, the *Hermes* and *Phlegathon*, joined in the destructive work, and being able to run close in, played with deadly effect on the boats up the

(Continued on page 198.)