

CHRISTIAN



VISITOR.

A Family Newspaper: devoted to

Religious & General Intelligence

REV. E. D. VERY,

BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED.—ST. PAUL.

EDITOR.

Volume V.

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1852.

Number 4.

"IT IS NOT ALWAYS NIGHT."

The heart, chilled by adversity or languishing in sorrow, may find consolation and peace in the thought which forms the caption of this article, and which we find so beautifully woven into the harmony of numbers by William C. Richards, Esq., Editor of the *Southern Literary Gazette*.

It is not always night! though darkness reign
In gloomy silence o'er the slumbering
earth,

The hastening dawn will bring the light again,
And call the glories of the day to birth?
The sun withdraws awhile his blessed light,
To shine again—it is not always night!

The voices of the storm may fill the sky,
And tempest sweep the earth with angry
wing;

But the fierce winds in gentle murmurs die,
And freshened beauty to the world they
bring:

The after-calm is sweeter and more bright;
Though storms arise, it is not always night!

The night of nature and the night of storm,
Are emblems both of shadows on the
heart;

Which fall and chill its currents quick and
warm,

And bid the light of peace and joy depart;
A thousand shapes hath sorrow to affright
The soul of man, and shroud his hopes in
night.

Yet, when the darkest, saddest hour is come,
And grim despair would seize his shrink-
ing heart,

The dawn of hope breaks on the heavy gloom,
And one by one the shadows will depart;
As storm and darkness yields to calm and
light,

So with the heart—it is not always night!
[Graham's Magazine.]

BRITISH POLICY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(From the *London Patriot*.)

The intelligence from the Cape Colony, given in our last Number, proves the correctness of the anticipation, that, if the establishment of Constitutional Government was to be postponed till the war should be terminated, there was but a distant prospect of its being realized. One of the worst circumstances attendant upon this warfare is, the corrupting influence of a war expenditure in such a Colony. Not only the military, but those also who are benefited by the presence of the troops, have an interest in the prolongation of the conflict. The accounts of the expenditure of the last war have not yet been audited; and, so long as this country supplies the sinews of war, we cannot expect that the Colonists will trouble themselves about the way in which the money is disposed of. There is a cry for more help from England, because, with more troops, there must be provided by Government the means of meeting a larger war expenditure. No wonder that there should be a war party among those residents who, being themselves out of harm's way, care not how long the war may last.

Had the Colonists been allowed to manage their own affairs under a Constitutional Government, and left, at the same time, to provide for the expense of defending their own frontier against aggressive inroads, there would have been no Caffre War. It is true, there would have been, in that case, no annexation of useless territory, no questionable extension of the British sovereignty over a large tract of wilderness which we can neither occupy or defend against hostile inroads, no ambitious emulation of the Algerian policy of the French

civilizers of Africa. But a million sterling and more would have been saved to the British Treasury, and our national reputation would have stood higher in point of justice, good faith, magnanimity, and even physical superiority, than it does now among the African nations.

The Cape Colonists may justly say, the war is not their concern, and they are not responsible for originating it. The policy of Downing-street and the Horse-Guards has never been in accordance with the sentiments and wishes of the most intelligent and influential, or of the majority of the community. The whole evil and mischief have arisen from the fluctuating policy of the Colonial Office, vibrating between what have been designated as the Glenelg and the D'Urban systems.—The Glenelg policy of 1836 was, to a great extent, successful, notwithstanding the fatal blunders of detail alleged to have been committed in putting it into execution. First, it is alleged, "16,000 Fingoes, just liberated by the war from slavery among the Caffres, were located on the frontier close to their former masters, so as to furnish daily grounds of provocation to them. And, when we emancipated the Caffre slaves, not only did we give no compensation, but we allowed these Fingoes to take away with them 22,200 head of cattle, which they claimed as their herds. Secondly, although we did not act up to our profession of redressing the grievances of the Caffres by restoring the much coveted Kat River territory, we, nevertheless, needlessly returned to the worse possible frontier in the Fish River bush, which rendered it quite impossible to prevent or trace cattle-lifting, and thereby gave every temptation to commit such offences. Thirdly, only a few months after a successful war, our late enemy was dealt with rather as if he had conquered us, than we him; and Treaties were made which sacrificed the future tranquility and happiness of both Caffres and Colonists to an excessive study of conciliation, by not providing more compulsory means of redress for depredations committed on the property of the latter, than appeals to the justice and generosity of a tribe of savages." Nevertheless, it is admitted, so long as Sir George Napier was at the Cape, the Glenelg system was worked with some success, in spite of its blunders, owing to the Governor's good sense, energy, and firmness. Even the garbled *Blue-book*, of June 23, 1851, bears witness to this fact.

Before, however, Sir George Napier had been succeeded by Sir Peregrine Maitland, the advocates of the D'Urban policy had succeeded in gaining over to their views the Downing-street authorities; and the cancelling of Sir Andrew Stockenstrom's appointment as Lieutenant Governor, was the prelude to the "coercive" system. Sir Peregrine set out with proclaiming his conviction, that the "haughty and faithless spirit of the Gaiques required coercive measures to subdue it;" and accordingly, in 1846, he rashly commenced the war, the operations of which, however, he conducted with vigour and ability. He had, in fact, completely subdued the Caffres, and left Sir Harry Smith nothing to do but set his foot on Macomo's neck, and make Sandili kiss his boot, when he arrived at the end of 1847. This Governor arrived with authority to restore the "coercion" system in its most intense form; and it has once more produced such an organization among the chiefs to renew the struggle with the British, as can only be the result of desperation.

For nine years there was an entire cessation of border-marauding; nor did the Caffres have again recourse to the sword till they had lost all confidence in our justice. But the treatment which the Hottentots, who had faith-

fully assisted the English against the Caffres, met with at the hands of the Government, is still more disgraceful than the policy which provoked a renewal of the Caffre war. "In vain," says Mr. Freeman, (after the Caffre wars of 1835 and 1846,) "had they stood in the breach, and covered the Colonists from many assaults. A powerful party hates them, and the Government halts between two opinions respecting them. Its acts tend to their ruin. It appoints over them magistrates who are their enemies, and whom it rebukes too late when acting hostilely against them. The Government even encourages the foolish, wicked outcry against Missionary Institutions, by leaving their continuance open to doubt.—Thus there has grown up an alarm in the minds of the Hottentots, productive of the worst effects; and that alarm is justified by the way in which they have lately been treated."

In one important respect, the present Caffre war differs from every previous one. The disaffection to the British Government is universal. All confidence in the good faith and justice of the British Authorities is at an end. Proofs of disaffection and of intended desertion are stated to have come to light in the British camp. Sir Harry Smith appears to have succeeded in destroying all moral influence over the tribes of the interior. It is under such circumstances that a fresh insult has been offered to the Colonists, in pursuance of Earl Grey's peremptory instructions, by filling up the Legislative Council with nominees. At the second meeting of this Council on the 31st of October, the important disclosure was made, that the Constitutional ordinances from England had arrived; but, by some unaccountable neglect, the necessary authority for reading these ordinances in council had not been obtained from the Governor, and it was therefore necessary to transmit them to His Excellency for this formality; thus causing a needless delay of probably two weeks. From the information which had found its way to the public, concerning the nature of the proposed form of Colonial government, it was believed that it would be satisfactory to the Colonists.

But we confess that we have our misgivings. The delay in carrying the ordinances into effect is suspicious; and, so far as Mr. Secretary Montague is concerned, we may expect that every possible means will be had recourse to in order to prevent or delay the abdication of arbitrary power on the appointment of a Representative Council and Legislature.

The Caffre War.

MISSIONARY SUFFERINGS.

The Directors of the London Missionary Society have just issued the following extracts from the correspondence of the Rev. James Read, Missionary at the Kat River, who has been in the work upwards of half a century:—"General Somerset brought with him 600 or 700 people from Kat River, with their horses, and among them a vast number of widows and orphans; also blind, lame, lepers, aged and infirm persons; and here they are now, in the greatest distress imaginable—foodless, clotheless, and houseless; many sick, and some dying. The able-bodied men are, for the most part, in the Levies. The number of the destitute is very considerable; many of them are most loyal. They have no prospect of relief. The winter is coming, and the distress is very great.

The week before last, all my dwellings at Philipton were burnt to the ground, with all my property. General Somerset gave us so little time, we could take but little of our property with us. Our new dwelling, worth to the Society at least £200; my old dwelling,

(my own), about £50; another cottage of about the same value, with stable and other out-houses; then our printing-office and all the materials; also many books, and about fifty reams of printing paper, have been destroyed, and, I suppose, the press also."

Writing, under date 12th July, from Alice on the Caffre frontier, where the Mission families have found a temporary refuge, Mr. Read observes:—

"We have had several wars, but none so ruinous as this; particularly as it respects the Kat River Settlement, which has suffered greatly from the commands of General Somerset. Much spoil, cattle, &c., were taken, and part of the settlement burnt to the ground, and what was then left has been taken and destroyed by the Caffres; so that, at present, there is scarcely a house or hut standing in the whole settlement: all burnt. The same has happened to the other Societies,—the stations destroyed, and the Missionaries scattered,—so that darkness pervades this part of the country, and the Prince of darkness reigns almost unrestrained, and, as yet, little prospect of a change. War and devastation are spreading wider and wider, and the reports coming in are more alarming and distressing. Since the troops attacked the Amtola, the Caffres have been spreading in the Colony, in the districts of Albany, Cradock, Burgensdorp, Albert, Somerset, &c., where many Colonists have been killed, and vast herds of cattle, sheep, goats, and horses, are being swept away. Dutch and English farmers are flying before the enemy in every direction, so that we seem as far, or further, from peace now, than we were six months ago. The time of service for most of the Hottentot levies, consisting of about fifteen hundred from the western districts, George, Zwelendani, Graff Reinets, &c. has expired, and they are leaving, and few or no others coming in their places. This is known to the Caffres, and no doubt strengthens their determination not to give in."

"It is a consolation to Mr. Thomson, of Balfour, to my son James and to myself, that we are able to save many of our people from taking an active part in the rebellion. We have here at Alice, about 130 of our Philipton Church-members, men and women; and there are about the same number at Elland's Post, who have taken no share nor had any sympathy with the rebels, beside many who were absent from the settlement, and thus escaped being compelled to join the disaffected.—There are also many who fled into the bush from fear of the attack at Fort Armstrong and the visit of General Somerset to Philipton, who are now here and have not taken part with the rebels. It is also matter of thankfulness, that few or none of our people have joined them during the last four months. On the contrary, from 300 to 400 have joined the levy companies, and are doing good service under General Somerset, besides those who are doing duty as free burghers. There are also a number of others belonging to the settlement doing duty at various places, viz., Fort Beaufort, &c. I yet hope God will overrule this dark dispensation, for his glory, and the eventual good of the people and the country."

To the foregoing statement Mr. Read subjoins a mournful list of the various Mission-stations, belonging to our own and other Societies, which have been abandoned, and, for the most part, entirely destroyed. The list comprises six principal stations, belonging to the London Missionary Society, viz:—

1. Philipton, with its 13 out-stations.
 2. Tidmantou.
 3. Freemantou.
 4. Theopolis.
 5. Peulton.
 6. Knapp's Hope.
- The whole of the above stations have been burnt, or otherwise destroyed, and abandoned