

# CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

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REV'DS. I. E. BILL & R. THOMSON,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward Men."

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## Poetry.

### DESTRUCTION OF THE ASSYRIANS.

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,  
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;  
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,  
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when summer is green,  
That host with their banners at sunset were seen;  
Like the leaves of the forest when autumn hath blown,  
That host on the morrow lay withered and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,  
And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed;  
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill,  
And their hearts but once heaved—and forever grew still.

And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide,  
But through it there rolled not the breath of his pride;  
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf,  
And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.

And there lay the rider, distorted and pale,  
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail;  
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,  
The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,  
And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal;  
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,  
Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord.

### Speech of the Rev. J. G. Oncken, at the American Baptist Missionary Union.

Rev. J. G. ONCKEN was introduced to give information on the subjects of German and other Continental missions. He commenced by stating that the simple plan of addressing remarks to the Chair which prevailed in this country being different to that to which he was accustomed when in England, he might not be able always to recollect and observe the rule. Mr. Oncken proceeded as follows: The embarrassment I should labor under in addressing so large an audience as that now before me, where I see so many of the leading members of our denomination—so many fathers in the ministry—would be increased did I not know that I am surrounded by my brethren in the Lord. I am at home. I am with my brethren whom I love, and who I know love me; not for myself, but for the work in which I am engaged, and for the sake of my Lord. The field of labor of myself and my brethren does not possess the interest which some other fields naturally present. We are so constituted that we like something new, and therefore Germany can scarcely have the interest which pertains to missions to the heathen. For three long centuries that country has been in possession of the Scriptures. After a long, dark night, it was favored first to witness the dawn of the Reformation. The field is not novel, but to men of sense it has something awfully attractive. There is something awfully attractive when an individual who has made a profession of religion returns to the world. Such is the state of my country. The pure gold has become dim. The salt has lost its savor. There is but the name of Christianity.

The missionary in going into foreign lands encounters great difficulties, but there are more to be found in entering into so-called Christian lands; and especially is this true with regard to Baptists. Baptist missionaries alone can carry the gospel into some countries in a manner to awaken the people, but in doing this they must encounter great opposition, for they have nothing to do but at once openly and boldly to utter their protest. The field of our labors is greatly extended. Not only have we missions in Germany, Denmark, and Sweden, but we have also in the last two years commenced efforts on the southern side of the Rhine. The first Baptist church in Germany was formed with seven persons. The little seed watered with many tears has been widely diffused. From Hamburg, if you

take your course to the boundaries of Russia on the east, and again high up on the north to Jutland, we have missionaries actively at work for Christ. In Denmark we have churches. In Sweden we have made an effort. To the West we have proceeded as far as possible. In Poland we have not been able to do much, save to scatter a few tracts. Returning from a visit to Warsaw, some time since, I visited many Mennonite churches, and for six weeks I was permitted to preach among them. In consequence of that visit there have been valuable accessions from that community to us. The Mennonites have departed greatly from the ordinances as originally delivered. In order to have the favor of Government, they have engaged not to make adherents. Thus have they sold their birth-right. We always have labored and still intend to make proselytes. I am as convinced that when our Lord shall come all Christians will be baptized, as I am of my own existence.

We have labored considerably among Roman Catholics. In Silesia, at Breslau, and among the high mountains, your missionaries have been actively engaged. A brother intending to emigrate to America was induced to give up his plan—we want to keep all our brethren at home if possible—and by his means, among Roman Catholics one or two churches have been formed. We come next to Austria. In the political shaking which occurred on the Continent, believing it would not last long, and that the door of evangelical effort would soon be closed again, I hastened to Vienna; and I shall ever esteem it one of the highest honors of my life that the Lord permitted me to preach there. It was also my privilege to preach in Pesth. A very large proportion of the Bibles which, through the noble grant of the American and Foreign Bible Society, I was enabled to print, were thrust into Hungary. You can have no idea of the desire of the poor Catholics to have the Bible. In Vienna our labor has not been in vain in the Lord. The meetings continued to be held there until the spring of 1852, when a letter was intercepted and our brethren discovered. On an Easter Sunday, policemen entered their assembly, and to the number of fourteen they were thrust into prison. From this they were delivered chiefly by the intervention of a truly Christian lady with whom I had become acquainted when on my visit there. In Bavaria, churches have been formed. In Berne there are also small churches. Here they have been compelled to assemble for prayer and to celebrate the Supper in the woods, at night. In Switzerland, beside the church at Zurich, there are two others. We have also churches near Wurtemberg. In Elberfeld, the ministers of the National Church being evangelical, it was thought that we never should be able to make Baptists there. Within a recent period, some pious gentlemen there formed a society and sent forth young men to preach. It was found, wherever they went, the people converted seceded from the National Church. Several of these young men have become convinced on the subject of baptism, and their espousal of primitive views has led others to consideration and obedience. In Elberfeld we were permitted to baptize twelve last year. Among these were some old and experienced Christians, and their youth was renewed like the eagle's. As the Calvinistic churches have no such place in the doctrines they hold for Infant Baptism as have the Lutherans, we hope that in that beautiful valley a strong church will soon exist. In Hanover there is an interesting field, and the gospel has been spread far and wide. In Bremen good has been done.

The speaker here alluded to the recent formation of a church in his native place. He then directed attention to a little spot in the

Duchy of Oldenburg, a considerable resort in the bathing season. Many of the Lutheran clergy were among the visitors there, and to these copies of the Articles of Faith, and Pengeley and other Baptist books, had been frequently given.

The instrumentality, continued Mr. O., employed in preference to all others is the Word of God. I believe the preaching of the gospel, above all things else, is the mighty lever to be used in the conversion of souls. We shall always find that where such an instrumentality is employed, the power of the gospel is made manifest. With us that gospel has not only been preached by ministers, but by the members generally. If the world is not yet conquered for Christ, it is because the Church has not preached. Every man and every woman might do much for a dying world and a gracious Saviour. Our churches, as the imperial armies of the Lord, have achieved much for Christ. Is it asked, "How can we all labor?" No heart but a heart devoid of love to God can put such a question. Faith never asks if it shall do; it is always doing. We have sixty or seventy brethren going out two and two, in the good old style, and because "two are better than one," telling to dying men the story of the Cross. Woman have been, above all, useful in this work. My sisters, Christ cannot do without you. You have brought ruin and damnation on our race, but you have brought thousands to the Saviour. We tell our sisters, if you can do nothing else, you can bring one sinner to the chapel every Sabbath. We have a female association of married women in the church, the members of which go not only from house to house, but wherever they can, circulating tracts. Our single females in the church come together to pray, and out of their small means nearly support one of our brethren.—Another instrumentality, calling for especial reference, is the circulation of the Word of God. We have been greatly indebted to that noble institution, the American and Foreign Bible Society. It has supported some fifteen or twenty colporteurs, and has given us, for circulation, some 300,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures. One great advantage of these Bibles is, that they are without the Apocrypha, while all the Bibles circulated by the Continental Bible Societies contain it. The Apocryphal trash is suited to the Rationalists, because there they can find a way to life more in accordance with their wishes. The circulation of good, solid religious truth has also been great, in the form of books and tracts. The number of missionaries supported by the Union is thirty-one, and the whole number laboring in Germany and adjacent countries is sixty-seven. This is the cheapest mission I know of. We tax our own pockets, for we wish to have some share of the honor and joy ourselves. Our labors have not been in vain in the Lord. We have 356 stations at which the glad tidings of salvation are proclaimed. We have 4215 baptized members, and, including our children and servants, about 20,000 persons who constantly attend our services.

My greatest joy is, that through our instrumentality not less than 50,000,000 have heard the Word of Life. How many of these we shall meet in the judgment we cannot tell. In lands in some of which life is endangered and property is confiscated by a profession of primitive Christianity, there will be found many weak ones. Especially have we cause for gladness that this movement, beginning with a person so insignificant, has been so honored of God. When I am gone, and others are gone, there will be no name of a great man to whom the praise shall be given—no Luther, no Calvin—but the wealth we have gathered and bound is destined only for His brow who has chosen the weak things of this world to confound things that are mighty, that no flesh

should glory before his presence. My brethren charged me, and I mention it with great hesitation, and relying on your Christian kindness, to lay before you our very great want of places of worship. We have only four chapels—and these are very plain—which are suited to our purpose. Our labors are curtailed, because we have nowhere room enough to accommodate the people. In Hamburg, with a population of 150,000, there are never more than 6000 attendants at the National Churches. Our chapel is crowded. Old people, and very young or weak people, cannot attend for the heat. In other large cities we have no chapels. All these churches are small, and need help. I have been surprised since I came into this country to see the luxury of Christian ladies, and the jewelry they wear. If only our sisters in the United States would lay these trinkets on the altar, we should have enough for a hundred chapels, and more than enough to support all the stations. We believe that He who has sustained us amid persecution, who has protected us when our characters have been maligned, who has brought us through many trials, and has kept the churches in such sweet unity, has yet a great and glorious work for us to do.

In Prussia, our brethren now look for some mitigation of their trials. The King of Prussia I regard as the best sovereign in Europe, and a true friend of civil and religious freedom; and when he rightly understands our purposes, we have reason to hope that our difficulties will be greatly relieved. The chief thing is, that Government has a horror of our baptism. The power of its performance is certainly wonderful, not only with Christians but with other men. We have gained more converts by their seeing us baptize than by preaching about it; for the world always likes seeing better than believing. There is now a committee appointed, for three years, to watch concerning the civil rights of the churches, but they have no power to enter into any arrangement with the Government without the consent of every church. All that has been attained thus far has been in the cause of your Lord and our Lord, and I am persuaded we shall still have your co-operation and prayers in spreading His precious Word.

We call special attention to this speech, and rejoice to see the importance which he attaches to the WORD OF GOD.—EAS.

### The Value of a Pin.

A young man by the name of Jaques Lafitte was very anxious to get a situation in the office of an eminent Swiss banker, to whom he had a letter of introduction. The banker, after reading his letter, told him that all his offices were full, but if there should be a vacancy he would see what could be done. He, however, advised him to look elsewhere, as it was very uncertain when he could admit him. Poor Jaques left the banker disappointed, but as he crossed the court-yard of the noble mansion with downcast eyes, he saw a pin lying on the ground. His constant habits of frugality led him to pick it up, and carefully stick it in the lappel of his coat. It was a trifling act, but from it sprung his future greatness. The banker had observed him from his window, and thought that the man who would stoop to pick up a pin under such circumstances would be a good economist; he also saw in that act of parsimony an indication of a great financial mind. Before the day closed he wrote him a note, telling him that there was a place for him in his office. He was not deceived in his estimate of the character of young Lafitte, who showed so much talent and aptness that he was soon advanced from a clerk to a cashier, then to a partner, from which he became the head proprietor of the first banking-house in Paris. He afterwards became a deputy, and then president of the Council of Ministers.