

# CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

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

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## PRAYER.

There is an eye that never sleeps,  
Beneath the wing of night,  
There is an ear that never shuts,  
When sink the beams of light.

There is an arm that never tires,  
When human strength gives way;  
There is a love that never fails,  
When earthly loves decay.

That eye is fixed on seraph throngs;  
That ear is filled with angels' songs;  
That arm upholds the world on high;  
That love is thrown beyond the sky.

But there's a power which man can wield,  
When mortal aid is vain,  
That eye, that arm, that love to reach,  
That listening ear to gain.

That power is PRAYER, which soars on high,  
And feeds on bliss beyond the sky!

[From the Missionary Magazine.]

## RANGOON.

Letters from Mr. Granger.

[CONTINUED.]

## COLOSSAL GAUDAMAS—PA-DOUNG—ELEPHANT BRIGADE.

But I have diverged from the line of my narrative. Before we left the shore below Shway-doung, I observed the remarkable image, or rather images—for there are three visible—standing near the bank of the river. They are taller than the image of which I before spoke, by several feet. Each represents Gaudama preaching in the standing position. It is probable that there is a fourth image which was hidden from our view on the river. They face the four points of the compass, and are separated from each other and defended on the right and left of each image by immense walls of brick, which rise above the heads of the figures and are united at the top. Each image is said to be forty feet in height, of brick overlaid with the fine white stucco I before noticed.

We crossed over to Pa-doung and proceeded up the river. I thought it bore the appearance of more cleanliness than any town I had seen in Burmah. The natives crowded in great numbers down to the water's edge to watch our progress. Beyond them were the sepoys, who hailed their fellows in our vessel, and on the banks above, English officers anxious for news from below. Just south of the town is a bridge, a mile or more in length, stretching back over the plain, and used in times of inundation; and above, a large grove freed from all jungle undergrowth, where I saw feeding a part of the "elephant brigade," which originally consisted of 150 animals, brought by land to Prome over the Arracan mountains.

## PROME—ENGLISH OPINION OF THE BURMAN MISSION.

A short distance above Pa-doung our steamer cast anchor for the night. Early the next morning we reached Prome. In my next letter I hope to be able to tell you something respecting Prome and the country above as far as to Meaday, which latter place I had an opportunity—quite unexpected—of seeing thro' the politeness of Capt. T. E. Rogers, I. N., Superintendent of Marine on the Bengal and Madras establishment, an office which answers to that of Secretary to the Navy with us, or First Lord of the Admiralty in England. Captain Rogers was a fellow passenger with us, and on our arrival at Prome invited us to go up to Meaday in the Hon. Co.'s war steamer Medusa.

The mention of his name recalls a conver-

sation the evening before our arrival at Prome which I here advert to, because it is an illustration of a class of opinions which I have often heard expressed by intelligent Englishmen who have visited Burmah, and who have learned, as they all do, something respecting our missions in this land. I may remark in passing, that Capt. Rogers has been in India since the close of the first war with Burmah (1826), and saw Mr. Judson at Amherst, soon after the death of his wife at that place. He spoke of the points of the Burmese character and life as showing their advantages for improvement over the Hindoo races,—a superior civilization, freedom from caste, the non-interference of the priesthood, the pure character of their literature, the enfranchisement and equal social position of women, and the sturdy independence of the people. The conversation then turned on the extension of the power of England in the East, and its connection with the future welfare of the races and nations over whom its equal rule extends. We spoke of the abolition of suttee, infanticide, and thuggism, as marking the spirit and aims of government of late years, and observed that Divine Providence must have some great and good ends to accomplish through the instrumentality of a power which is now firmly established and is daily extending. Abuses still exist, but as the recent discussions on the renewal of the charter of the Company show, the whole policy and administration are open to the review, and amenable to the correction, of the most enlightened and Christian government in Europe. He acquiesced, but added: "Our motives, after all, are worldly. Our object is gain. The good done is incidental. The most wonderful thing I know of is the interest which Christians in your country have taken in Burmah for forty years past. Their motives must be altogether disinterested."

The late war and the annexation of Pegu have lifted the veil which has so long concealed the missionaries and their converts, and for the first time the world has learned what our devoted brethren have been permitted to accomplish. They find scores of churches and thousands of disciples, raised out of heathenism by the foolishness of preaching. Among serious and liberal men who have been in Burmah on the public service, I have not seen one who did not speak approvingly of those measures of strictly evangelical policy which have given to our missions all their success, and which, however lightly esteemed by the wise and the disputer of this world, are the basis of all successful efforts in behalf of the heathen nations of the earth, our joy and rejoicing in view of the past, and our only safe guide for the future. We have one point to guard with unceasing vigilance, that we attempt not to be wise above what is written. It is ours to preach the gospel directly to these people. Let us be faithful to our single work, and to Him whose unerring wisdom has appointed it, and leave to God the bringing, in his own way and time, of whatever accompanying advantages his gracious plan unfolds.

## INSALUBRITY OF PROME—RECENT GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENTS.

We reached Prome on the morning of Wednesday, August 31, and went at once on shore. The entire day was devoted to an examination of the town and the suburbs, and I returned to our vessel at night more completely jaded than I remember to have been by any other single day's work in the country. I find, since my return to Rangoon, that there were heavy rains at this place almost every day of my absence. Above Henthaday, however, we had no rains, excepting an occasional shower at night. While the upper country is cooler in the dry season, the excessive heat is unrelieved by the refreshing rains which fall into the delta during the summer months. Prome itself is more unfavourably situated in

this respect than other places in its immediate neighbourhood. The hills on both sides of the river obstruct the southerly winds and reflect the sun's rays. At Shway-doung, on the other hand, the river widens almost into a lake, the hills retreat several miles from the shore, and the town has a fine exposure to the southwest monsoon.

Prome is a walled town, surrounded by a wide moat which was dug in the time of Thurrawadi, and which has added to the insalubrity of the place. The wall is about 12 feet in height and 30 feet in width at the top, built of brick, and covered with earth and grass, and in some places with the huts of the poorest class. It has several "gates," which are nothing but openings in the wall. Since it has been in possession of the English it has increased in population. The entire area within the walls is now occupied, and the people are building without, above the north gate. Many improvements are in progress. The city has been surveyed and laid out into wide and convenient streets, the cheap houses of the natives being removed and rebuilt at small expense. Mogul and Armenian merchants from Ava and Rangoon are erecting more substantial buildings of brick. The wall, or *bund*, which encircles the town, is being swept of its rubbish, the top levelled, and converted into a broad promenade. It will be fortified at the northwest corner, at a point which commands the passage of the river, and perhaps at other places.

## THE PAGODA HILL.

We landed just below the walls and moat of the city and directly opposite the great golden pagoda, which is about half a mile from the shore, crowning the northern terminus of the hills running from Prome south, and commanding a fine view of the river, city, and the plain north and east. On the heights beyond the pagoda a large part of the troops are quartered. The sepoys are mostly in the plain below. This is at present the head quarters of the army in Burmah. Owing to its insalubrity it will be abandoned as head quarters, although a small force will remain here. The governor general has appointed a commission to select a more eligible site, of which I shall again have occasion to speak. By a rule which holds good for all travellers on entering a town for the first time, to make their way in the first instance to any place which affords the widest view, and then to examine localities in detail afterward, we proceeded at once to the pagoda hill. A road, elevated several feet and paved with brick, extends in a direct line from the river to the foot of the hill and to the entrance of the western staircase which leads up to the pagoda. The road lies across portions of the wide moat of which I have spoken, and which is partly filled with stagnant water—the fruitful cause of the fever and dysentery which has proved so fatal not only to the English troops, but to the sepoys stationed here. Of 500 "Royal Irish," 200 have perished from these diseases alone. The evil is, however, greatly aggravated by the loose habits of living adopted by the men, and the free use of the poisonous arrack of the country. Numerous expensive and ornamental *zayats* line this road on either hand. They were originally built as acts of merit by wealthy families or individuals, and were intended for the accommodation of pilgrims and worshippers from the adjoining towns. These buildings have until recently been occupied by the soldiers, the most of whom have removed to their new quarters on the heights.

## SPECTACLES OF FAMINE—UNWISE TAXATION.

Passing along this road, for the first time in my life, I saw the horrid spectacle of famine. The war, the failure of the rice crop, and the predatory assaults of dacoits have done this. Thousands have flocked into and around Prome for protection and alms, and many pe-

rish daily from actual starvation. Near the foot of the hill we found about a thousand of these unhappy creatures, old men, women and children, ranged in lines, to receive the morning portion of rice which is furnished by the generous contributions of the English officers. Many, however, perish, unreached by this charity. Government holds that it can do nothing directly for their relief. It does, however, multiply its public works, and thus furnishes employment for many who would otherwise be without any means of support. But this does not atone for the evils growing out of the too hasty imposition of a capitation and land tax. This, upon a starving people, whose rice fields are destroyed, and whose property and lives are at the mercy of armed bands of robbers scattered over the whole country, from whom government can at present afford its subjects no adequate protection, although originating in good intentions, has proved to be an unwise policy. It should have been deferred until the country had become settled,—or, in other words, was conquered in fact as well as in name, and until labour and enterprise had begun to reap their fruits, and society had in a measure adjusted itself to the new political rule.

## REACTION AGAINST ENGLISH RULE—RELATIONS WITH AVA.

As it is, this state of things tends to spread the disaffection which, without doubt, has begun to react against the good will with which in the first instance, the English rule was accepted in exchange for the irresponsible government which had so long oppressed the people. The evil is increased in other ways. The Christians come in and assure us that emissaries from Ava are abroad in every direction, who tell the people that the stay of the English will be short. Their object is money, and the king is about to pay them a large sum, with which they will consent to depart. Then those who aided them and entered their service will be punished. Thus to disappointment are added the worst apprehensions respecting the future. An army of native subordinate officials, too safe from the scrutiny of their masters, are practising much of that petty tyranny and extortion, which always marked the Burman administration. The people, who have never dared to remonstrate in former days, and who cannot at once shake off their hereditary fear of the presence of authority, naturally shrink from the self-imposed duty of complaining to the commissioner or to his assistants, and even of testifying in their own favour when called upon.

Thus the evil goes on. The end of this war is not yet. Government will be compelled ere long to retreat from the position that there is peace without a treaty—to break the Burman blockade of the Irrawadi at the boundary above Meaday, which alone prevents rice from flowing in abundance into Pegu,—and in all probability to strike an effective blow at the real cause of the most of the evils which its subjects in the lower provinces now suffer, the court of Ava. In conversing with one of the commissioners appointed to select a new place for military head quarters, he spoke of the superior advantages of a site in the immediate vicinity of Meaday. I remarked that it was too near the frontier for a central depot. "That is an objection *now*," he replied, "but it will not be an objection two years hence." Such is the opinion I have uniformly heard expressed as to the probability of an early renewal of the war. The reasons for the opinion are those which I have given. I allude to this, and to other connected points, because I suppose they may prove of some service in laying plans for the establishment of missions.

## WIDE PROSPECT—SINGULAR MIASMA.

But I must return from this digression. We ascend, by brick steps under terraced roofs, to the area of the pagoda. The latter is gilded to the summit, and is about a hun-