

THE
BAPTIST REPORTER.

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BAPTIST INTELLIGENCE.

FOREIGN.

FERNANDO PO.—A few days ago, we received a letter, of which the following is a copy.

*Clarence, Fernando Po.
March 31st, 1844.*

DEAR BROTHER,—Your frank and noble disposition, catholic spirit, and freedom from bigotry, give me liberty in writing to you from this remote part of the missionary field: believing that, though not favoured by a personal acquaintance, I need make no apology for sending you a short account of our proceedings, labours, and encouragements in the African field.

After a passage of eight weeks from England to Jamaica—seven weeks travelling and labour there—and eleven weeks from that island to this, I arrived in safety, on the sixteenth of February, accompanied by my wife and forty others, great and small, from England and from Jamaica. We have now connected with our African mission, five white missionaries, with their wives; one coloured ditto, with ditto; five coloured assistant missionaries and teachers, with their partners; three black ditto, with ditto; and four christian settlers, two of them married: the rest are young people and children. These, with a young lady, originally from Scotland, recently from Jamaica, make up our number. We daily expect our steam-boat, with four or five more labourers for this interesting field. There are in this church, forty-four members, added here; but including our whole christian band, we make seventy-seven in all: and hope the light is spreading and extending into the dark regions beyond us. The natives of this island, wonder and listen to the word of the truth of the gospel; and in some parts, invite us to send some of our teachers among them. Last week, two of our teachers returned from a long journey, through three of the districts of the island. They went by sea, in a canoe, but returned over the mountains; and brought us a very favourable report. I mean to send a framed house to be put up, that operations may be immediately begun. At another town we have erected a large school-room and some huts; and are putting up a second house, and soon mean to put up a framed house there also, for the teacher. The framed houses I brought with me, through Brother Knibb's devoted exertions, from Jamaica. In another direction, the king ordered the Moman, or rain-maker, to give up his wonder-working gourd; and I now possess it, intending to send it, as a trophy taken from the enemy, to England. The people keep me employed, almost daily, in

clothing their naked bodies. In one town, more than one hundred accepted each a loose frock or shirt; the children of the Moman, and of the king, were among the number. In this town, I have constant applications; and have clothed naked Bassas, Affiks, Subus, Dewallas, and Congoes; and though often fatigued, almost into fever, from which I am but recently recovered, I have a joy in this work which I cannot describe; and which I wish sincerely, the benevolent donors, without being with me in this sickly land, could share.

Dr Prince has gone once to Old Calabar; and Mr. Merrick means to pay this horrible place a visit this week. In every yard, piazza, and street, almost, are to be seen the bones of our fellow-men, who have been offered in sacrifice, on the death of a chief, or at the making of a fetish. Recently, a chief named Old Henshaw, died; it is said, seven hundred were sacrificed on the occasion, and that some more must die, at the breaking up of the furniture of the deceased. It now lies in the dead-house, over the grave; and is valued at full £200 sterling. Dr. Prince often heard the death-screams about three o'clock, A. M., and an attempt was made by some wicked boys to poison him. The kings are a little favourable: we make a first attack on the continent here; for on no other part near, does the devil lead the people on to such perpetual deeds of cruelty, too horrid to be described.

Mr. Merrick has been to Cameroons; our old acquaintances, Kings Agua, Bell, and William, at Bimbia, have listened to him with attention and wonder. King Bell told him, he could not get that place of punishment out of his mind; he dreamt about it at night. King Agua left off making nets on the sabbath; and the captains of Pahu oil ships, gave over trading on the Lord's-day. Mr. Merrick was sent, in King Agua's canoe, high up the river; and visited Quana, or Bakquiri country, before he returned. He was also invited to the Abo country, but sickness forced him to return. He ate and drank with the natives, without ceremony, and without fear of any one seeking to do him harm. At Bimbia, King William besought him to send a teacher; and threw away some charms from his person, and tore some down from the door of his house, when told it was wrong for him to trust to such things as these. He has given up the selling of slaves; and lately gave information of a slaver, which was captured by the Rapid brig of war, on the same week I arrived at this place. Many of the slaver's crew are left with us sick, and in a miserable condition; two have died.

I remain, your brother and fellow-labourer in the work of the Lord, JOHN CLARKE.

April 9th,—Myself and Mrs. Clarke, have

again suffered from fever; nearly all our little band have had it; but none have yet, been dangerously ill. Mr. Merrick has been disappointed in getting to Calabar; but expects to leave for Bimbia to-morrow, to visit the Subu, and the mountain tribes; and to compare their language with the Dewalla, which he has reduced to writing, and with which he is well acquainted. One of the sons of King William, of Bimbia, was with us this morning. He is a man above forty, and speaks English well. He says his mother was from the hill country; and that he himself will go with Brother Merrick to the bush people on the sides of the Bimbian mountain. J. C.

GROSS OUTRAGES AT THE BAHAMAS!—We have received a full report, from a missionary, of a series of outrages perpetrated by a knot of clergyman and magistrates, sanctioned by some in higher authority, which, for impertinence, violence, and injustice, rivals, if not exceeds Jamaica in the palmest days of negro slavery. *Verily if there be justice to be had, it must be had for the signal punishment of these titled transgressors.* We furnish a few facts. The whole may be referred to the recent importation of an Archdeacon, (a Puseyite?) into one of the islands. A few weeks ago, as the baptist congregation was sitting down to worship, a clergyman entered, and walking up to the preacher, a native agent, rudely pushed him from the desk, treading on, and injuring his foot. "Is that your book?" pointing to the bible. "Yes, and I intend to use it." "Then, I'll fix you!" and turning to his constables, he said, "take that fellow into custody." And away he was rudely dragged, amidst the tears of the people, who were all broken up and dispersed, the clergyman declaring he would be responsible for all: and we need not wonder, when the highest officer in the place has declared that "*he hates the baptists!*" On the people saying, "We must worship in our own houses:" "You shall worship nowhere but in prison," was the reply. A few days after this, about twenty constables, armed with bludgeons, sent by the stipendiary magistrate, at whose house the clergyman lodges, went to the district where our friends reside, to execute warrants which were found to be past date. On refusing, on this account, to obey them, a constable exclaimed, "*Then I summon you myself!*" Of course the people refused; and on the constables returning for new warrants, a few of the people took boat for Nassau, 180 miles off. Warrants followed them, and bail was given for their appearance. These warrants, of which we have a copy, charged them with *riotously disturbing the peace of*

Her Majesty. A most gross and palpable falsehood! They had always met peaceably and would then, but for the rude and indecent interruption of that clergyman. Several females were called before the magistrates and fined nine dollars each, at a time of poverty, and under a drought of six months. They were pinioned and marched off eight miles under a burning sun: one woman with an infant on her back! They were then made to sit down and see their christian brother receive thirty-nine lashes, inflicted in a brutal manner—the clergyman standing by and looking on. Another brother, a very worthy man, was ill in prison, and his son, a fine youth, offered himself as his surety, but was refused. Seventeen persons, and several children, are suffering under these heartless persecutions. One child died, its death being, it is believed, accelerated by these proceedings. These persons have been made to work for the magistrate. Many are hiding in the bush, afraid to return to their homes. A petition, quickly signed by 600, was presented to the Governor, but without effect. One asked a high judicial functionary, what he must do, "*Wait your trial, and then you will be punished,*" was the reply. On one estate, efforts have been used to secure the christening of all the children. When the missionary was preaching here, a message was sent for his congregation to *break up and attend the Archdeacon at the church!* A boy had a book of his in his hand, which the clergyman perceiving, took it—it was "*Palmer's Dissenters Text Book.*" The missionary sent for it. "*The book is quiet where it is,*" was the reply! It is also stated that six rounds of ball cartridge were provided to shoot down the baptists if they resisted. The poor people are all alarmed, and say, "*We are counted as sheep for the slaughter.*" The great offence is, *these baptists will not go to church.* This is the "*the head and front of their offending.*" Our brother says, "*Let our friends in England, speak for us.*" Yes: we will, if this be indeed your case, and until we are heard too. In the mean time let one of the baptist missionaries visit brother Knibb, and tell him the facts, and if needs be, come over to England too. The thing must not rest. Let inquisition for the blood of these men be made, and if it is found in the skirts of the Episcopal church, let her shame and pollution be held up to the scorn and reprobation of the world. "*Had they*" says the missionary, "*done wrong, we would have been silent.*" On the contrary it appears they are about the only moral people on the island.

CHINA.—Dr. Devan, and his lady, sailed from New York, June 10, for Canton, as American baptist missionaries, to China.