Missionary Herald.

The Editor of the Missionary Herald feels it incumbent upon him, at the close of the year, to offer an apology to his readers for having, apparently, lost sight of his original Plan. It was his full intention, as expressed in the title of this little work, to record in its pages the leading transactions of other similar institutions, as well as to give full information respecting our own. But, for the last twelvemonth, the supply of intelligence from our own stations has been so copious, as to preclude the insertion of any particulars respecting the operations of kindred Societies, although several interesting facts have occurred—such as the prosperous commencement of a Mission in Madagascar, by the London Missionary Society, -and in Owhyhee by our American Congregational brethrenwhich it would have been very gratifying to communicate. Many, however, have had the pleasure of perusing these accounts in other publications; and to others the Editor can only say, that he hopes, in the course of the ensuing year, to be able to conform more strictly to his original design.

It is requested that all letters on Mission business, intended for the Treasurer or Secretary, may be addressed to them, respectively, at the Baptist Missionary Rooms, 9, Wardrobe Place, Doctors' Commons.

QUARTERLY PAPERS.

FOR the information and encouragement of those numerous friends of the Society, who contribute, by small weekly donations, to its support, it is intended, in future, to publish Quarterly Papers, containing brief notices of the principal events, and illustrated by a wood engraving of a Missionary nature. The first Number will appear on the first of January next, and it is requested that the Secretaries of the various Auxiliary Societies will inform the Secretary, at farthest by the 20th instant, (December,) what number they will require, in order to furnish each Contributor with a Copy. They will, at the same time, have the kindness to mention any alterations that may be found necessary in the number of Heralds supplied for the next year.

SF

Foreign Intelligence.

SUMATRA.

Agreeably to the intimation in our last Number, we present our readers with a copious extract from a letter addressed by Mr. Burton to Mr. Dyer, dated

Fort Marlborough, April 12, 1821.

My very dear Sir,

By a letter addressed to my dear pastor Mr. Ivimey, you will have learnt the particulars of my recent illness and partial recovery, as well as my intention of leaving Bencoolen for a few weeks, at the recommendation of our excellent Governor, to visit some of the northern ports on this side the island; particularly Padang, Nattal, Tapanooly, and the small island of Nias, with a view of ascertaining the most eligible place for the formation of another Missionary station. The apparent necessity of extending our exertions beyond this place, I stated to you in my last, and the local information we soon after obtained, rendered it quite obvious

I sailed a few days after I wrote Mr. Ivimey, in a hoat of Mr. Prince, which happened to be here at the time, and through the kindness of that gentleman obtained a free passage to Nattal-a very happy circumstance, as coasting is generally very expensive in these parts.

In our way to Nattal we touched at Padang, which we made in five days. This place was taken by the English during the war, but was given up again to the Dutch by the late treaty. The interior from bence is much superior to any other part of the island, in point of cultivation, population, and traffic. It is the grand entrance to the Mengamcabow country, formerly the seat of the universal government of the island, where the Malayan language is supposed to be spoken by nearly a million of people, and presents, I should suppose, a much more extensive and interesting field for a Malayan Mission than any other part of the Archipelago.
The European population of Padang

are principally English, and Dutch persons educated in England. The resident, and most of the civil servants, were under Sir S. Raffles in Java, and shew that they have not attended such a master in vain. There is here a Dutch minister, but as he can only preach in his own language, which few of the people understand, he cannot be very extensively useful. I at-

tended church on the Sabbath, and should have preached after the Dutch service. had we not expected at the time I was asked, to sail early on that morning. promised to do so on my return, should I be there on a Sunday.

We staid at Padang six days, during which I was more than hospitably entertained at the house of Captain Kemp, a Scotch gentleman, and Madras merchant. I left the place, hoping that a field so apparently " white unto harvest" would not long want an arduous and godly labourer. I endeavoured to obtain the average price of most necessary articles of consumption, and am of opinion that a Missionary might live for half the sum at Padang that he would require at Marlborough.

After leaving Padang, three days delightful sailing brought us to Nattal, the quiet and retiréd residence of John Prince, Esq. a man whose uprightness, benevolence, misfortunes, and hospitality, have gained him the sympathy and admiration of the East. Here is a small fort similar to those of the other English residences of the coast, in the midst of which stands Mr. Prince's house. Near him are a few Europeans, and descendants of Europeans, whom he has taken under his protection, who, with all the natives in the vicinity, look up to him as their father and best friend. He is now forty-five years of age, and has lived in this seclusion since the age of fifteen, yet he is so much the gentleman in his manners that good judges have said, the first society in Europe could not improve him. I think I mentioned to you before his having translated our Lord's sermon on the Mount, with explanatory notes and some prayers, into the Malayan language. It is certain that his admirable conduct towards the natives, both in his dealings with them as a merchant, and his treatment of those immediately in his service, has been attended with such happy effects, that the Malays of Nattal are much superior to any others. His influence among the chiefs is so great, that when they have disagreed among themselves and declared war, he has often, by bringing them together and mere persuasion, completely reconciled them and left them friends. How important that a Missionary's conduct before the heathen be blameless and kind! These happy results of the upright deportment of a single individual have reminded me forcibly of a remark made by my dear friend Mr. Winterbotham, in one of the first sermons I heard him preach. It was to this effect -" I will engage that six private persons, whose lives are fully regulated by the precepts of Christ, will do more towards converting a heathen nation than fifty

preachers, who proclaim them without wholly submitting themselves to their influence."

You will not wonder that from such a man a Missionary should receive a cordial welcome. He entertained me in the kindest manner, and expressed his wish to afford me whatever assistance he could in the formation and prosecution of my plans. I was happy, I trust grateful, in the assurance of the friendship of one so experienced and capable of affording such efficient aid to the Mission.

In a former communication I mentioned to you, that Sir Stamford Raffles recommended us to direct our attention particularly to the Batta people; and Mr. Prince agreed with him and many others, in thinking that they afford a most promising field for Missionary exertions. He thinks them in number about five hundred thousand; and it is certainly a very curious circumstance, and to a Missionary among them a most encouraging fact, that of a people who are fully proved to be cannibals, more than one half should be able to read and write! With such a door already open, what might not be effected amongst them? At how many quarters, in how many ways, do the strong holds of Satan lay here exposed to our attack! Their, alphabet is the most simple I have seen, and will be particularly easy to print.

We were not long in coming to the conclusion, that our future labours must be for the welfare of the Battas; and to fix upon the most suitable place for our residence was the next thing to be thought of. Mr. Prince was of opinion at first that Nattal possessed the greatest advantages; but upon further inquiry, we determined to settle at Tapanooly. is a small island, about eighty miles north of Nattal, situated just in the mouth of Tapanooly bay, in which it is said all the fleets in the world might ride secure in any weather, and scarcely even be seen from the main land at its entrance. On this island there is a native Bazar, and a house belonging to Mr. Prince, which is now occupied by one of his assistants and this person's sister. Five or six of the Batta rivers flowing from the heart of the country fall into the bay, which are navigable for several miles up, and have many towns and villages situated on their banks, so you may readily conceive the advantages of this place as a Mission station.

Having concluded upon the situation I was unwilling to lose the time that would be required in going to see it, thinking it best to return and bring my dear wife and babe as early as possible. But as Mr. Prince was intending to visit Tapanouly

at that time, and kindly offered to take me with him in his boat and introduce me at once to the native chiefs, I thought it best to comply. This arrangement. however, Providence did not favour. Other plans were laid out for me, whilst I was thus contriving my own movements. When our trunks were on board, and we were all ready to sail, hoping to complete our voyage in two days, a violent gale of wind sprang up, called on this coast a Sumatran, or north wester, which lasted for several days, and rendered it impossible for us to move; and even when the winds did abate, still continuing in the same quarter, it was not improbable but that our voyage might have occupied a month, though the distance was, as I have before mentioned, but eighty miles.

In this uncertainty, Mr. Prince thought it best for me to take the course of the winds, and return to Marlhorough by a native boat, which was to sail in a few days, engaging at the same time to make every arrangement for us in his power at Tapanooly. It was necessary the native chiefs should be made acquainted with our object, and their permission obtained for our settlement among them; also that materials should be preparing for the erection of a wooden house; such as the felling of trees, making planks, &c. &c. These Mr. Prince kindly offered to manage for me in consideration of our speedy return. But the chief inducement for my being at Mariborough as early as possible was, that I might get every thing packed and arranged to leave with a brig, which he was intending to send down in about a month, and so accomplish our removal without expense to the Society. native boat not sailing as early as we expected, he sent me down in one of his own to Padang, not fearing but that I should readily get a passage from that place. I heard afterwards that the boat in which I should have sailed was lost near Bencoolen. O the watchful care of our Heavenly Father! This was not the only instance in which I had distinctly to mark, and with gratitude to record, his immediate interposition on my behalf during my absence from home.

After waiting six days at Padang, impatient to return to my dear wife and babe, and having no prospect of a conveyance, I prevailed upon Captain Kemp to sell me a good sized jolly-boat for 100 dollars, in which I determined (certainly very rashly and ignorantly) if possible, to make Marlbro', a distance of nearly 300 miles. I accordingly procured 3 seamen, plenty of rice and water, a goat and two kids, and put to sea, with no other covering than our attoped shade over the place where I sat at the helm. It happened

that an American vessel was leaving just | at the time, to which I was permitted to attach my boat as far as our course was the same. From the hospitable and homely men who formed this ship's company, I received the greatest possible attention and kindness. They took me into their vessel, and treated me with the best it afforded, and on parting wished me to say, whatever they had on board which I thought would make me more comfortable, and I should have it. One of them gave me a volume of the Christian Observer. After sailing with them a day and a half, they put me into my boat about four in the afternoon, and we parted with mutual regret, and not without many fears on their part, I am persuaded, for the fate of my poor bark. There was certainly good reason for apprehension, for we were forty miles from land-raining-the wind had blown strong from the n.w. all the day, and the heavens gathered blackness as the night came on-there was nearly as heavy a sea, I think, as we had in any part of our voyage from England-so heavy indeed that it was with the utmost difficulty, after taking in most of the sail, they could bring my boat alongside their vessel. As every thing depended upon the stability of my own mind in these circumstances, I can ascribe it to nothing short of an interposition of a kind Providence, that my courage still held out-but it did, even on being informed, immediately we had left the vessel, that we had no fire in the boat, nor the means of procuring a light for the night. I had not been in the boat many minutes, when I became exceedingly sick, and vomited much, for the first time at sea. I however took my seat at the helm, and steered the whole night; in the morning we saw land, and found that our course had been perfectly correct. The following day pleasant sailing-winds light—but the next night was very alarming. Think of us in an open boat, 18 feet long, close in to a reefy, and consequently a most dangerous shore, carried rapidly along by fearful w.w. squalls, accompanied with heavy rain-our compass broken with the tossing at the beginning of the night, nor any light to see it had it been in erder, so dark indeed that we could not see five yards before us, and you will not wonder that all courage failed. You may form, perhaps, a faint idea of such a situation, but to enter fully into the feelings we possessed when the storm was hushed and the morning broke, discovering to us the footsteps of Him in the deep, who had guided us safely through the horrors of the night, almost in a direct course towards our desired haven, is as impossible as for me to describe them. Through mercy I arri-

ved in peace at Marlborough, on the fourth day from Padang, not a little gratified to find all friends, particularly my dear wife and babe, in good health.

The new arrangements we found it necessary to make on my return, you will have heard of, both from Mr. Evans and Mr. Ward, long before you receive this; it is therefore unnecessary for me now to enter upon a detail of the cause. In about a week after this event, Mr. Ward left Marlborough for Calcutta, putting me in charge of the press. A few days after his departure, Mr. Evans went to Padang, where, as you have most likely heard, he has formed another station.

Since our friends left us, my dear Mary and myself have been fully employed. The first object that claimed our attention was the Native School established here before our arrival from England. School, for want of proper superintendence, was fast going to decay; we had it therefore removed to our veranda, (which measures about 36 feet by 24,) where we could have it under our own eye, and indeed introduce it to the immediate attention of the whole settlement, who in calling to see us, are obliged to pass through the school to enter the house. I am happy to add, it has since very much revived.

Having set this school in order we began to direct our attention to the surrounding villages, and soon discovered the way

was open before us.

The head village in the neighbourhood, situated on the borders of a beautiful lake, and distant from Marlhorough about five miles, is called Dusum-bazar, or the great village. This was the first we visited for the purpose of proposing a school. We were received in the kindest manner by the head imum, or priest, who offered us the Balli, or Town-hall, a very spacious room, for a school-room, and gave us the most encouraging promises, which he has since more than fulfilled. He shewed us a Testament that had heen given him by a gentleman at Marlborough, which had evidently been very much used. When we questioned him of its contents, he said he liked all he understood of it. full conviction (and it is a most encouraging one, whilst engaged in the establishment of schools,) that, when the capacity of reading is given to the Malays, the printed gospel will not want persons to peruse it: nor do I think the preached gospel will want hearers. It is surprising how few, even of the priests themselves, know any thing more than the alphabet.

The necessary tables, sand forms, &c, being prepared on the 22d of January, the Dusum-bazar School was opened. Se-

veral gentlemen from Marlborough, and the neighbouring plantations, countemanced our proceedings with their presence. At half past seven in the morning all the males of the Dusum were assembled in the Balli, and we proceeded to business. Mr. Hewitson, the superintendent of the Marlborough School, arranged the boys into classes, and put down their names in an appropriate book; after which I suggested to the gentlemen present a plan for the future conduct of the school, which met their unanimous approbation. We first thought of selecting the most able of the Imums, and making him the superintendent; but as they proposed that the three persons of that order in the Dusum should take the superintendence of the school in turns, we agreed. I believe I may say, all enjoyed the business of the day, and were pleased with the prospect presented of one day ameliorating the spiritual condition of these quiet and hospitable villagers. It would have been strange indeed if my own feelings had not been at a high tone: I will not attempt to describe them-I can only say, I was happy. We have since formed three more schools upon the same plan, and find it succeed beyond our expectations. One of these is distant from Marlborough three miles, another four, and one six miles, at the opening of each of which we have not only been honoured with the presence of several gentlemen of the place, but many of the ladies also. It has been a great privation to my dear Mary, that the English Schools have prevented our ever both leaving home at the same time.

It is impossible to speak too highly of the kind attentions of all about us. the highest to the lowest of the European population here, we have received constant and warm support in all our plans. They all show us the greatest friendliness. I endeavour to visit each of the schools twice in the month, and some of them much oftener; on which occasions I am often driven out by Mr. W---, Dr. or some other gentleman, in his buggy. —, the Commandant w_ Captain here, told me only a few days ago, that whenever I wanted a horse for the country, his were at my service. I often think how different are our circumstances from those of Dr. Carey on his arrival in India!

These visits to the country schools are generally very interesting, and will be still more so ere long, when I trust to be able to tell among these villagers the wonders of a Saviour's love. They always receive us with great cordiality, and are very ready to enter into conversation, at which they are great masters. An elo-

quent speaker is much respected amongst them, and the more sophistry he introduces into his discourse, the more it is admired. The Dupatty, or head man of a village, is chosen from the best speakers. We can now understand most that is said in common conversation, but are not yet adequate to the communication of religious truth. When we can mix more with the natives, their language will be easily enough obtained. Every child learns it, and why should not we? But the difficulty on a religious subject arises from the paucity of their ideas upon it.

We have never seen any thing like indelicacy in either the males or females. They are very polite-no Malay would think of seating himself in the presence of his superior till the latter had previously sat down. The state of society, religion excepted, quite accords with what we imagine the Patriarchal to have been. The history of Isaac and Rebecca, the whole story of Joseph and his brethren, are recalled vividly to mind by the actual Society here exhibited. Their dress much resembles that of the highlander. The Malay cloth is just the highlander's kilt, and put on in the same way. As the highlander would despise the plaid of a neighbouring clan, so a Malay of Marlborough could not be prevailed on to wear the stripe which is common at the northern parts of this island. The Malay too, taking a long walk, always wears his plaid over his shoulder, the same as the

other. But to return to schools.

In Marlborough and its immediate neighbourhood there are six large bazars, or a kind of market streets, numerously inhabited, from which the Europeans are supplied with fruits, &c. and the people of the interior with clothes, &c. In the middle of each of these, by the Governor's order, the people are now erecting a spacious school-room, which is to be finished and opened before the 1st of next month, when Sir Stamford proposes visiting them all in person. We are now more than a little busy in making the necessary preparations. As the children in our versuda are drawn from these several bazars, the establishment of the new schools will necessarily supersede the old one-the " hum" of which we shall be sorry to lose. Mrs. Burton will try to supply its place by a girls' school, but I fear will not succeed, as the people are averse to the instruction of their girls. The reason they give is a little ludicrous: they say, "It we teach our girls to write, they will do nothing but write letters to their lovers."

We are honoured with frequent visits from the native Chiefs and Imums. Two days ago seven of them were at our house at once, consulting about the new schools in the bazars. The head of the Nias people of this place, a venerable old man, reminded me much of the revered Fuller. I was so struck with the resemblance that I brought out Dr. Ryland's "Life," to compare the portrait there given, and on shewing it to the chiefs they were much amused—the old man particularly so, to see something which he was sure very much resembled himself. One of the Imums of Dasum-bazar has just brought my dear Mary a present of four doves.

We are now beginning to expect Mr. Ward by the first vessel from Calcutta, and shall be very glad of his arrival; for with all the schools, and the press fully occupied, we begin to find our time sufficiently engaged. Nothing, however, is so conducive to health in this country as exercise, as long as the sun is avoided; and, through mercy, we are both quite as adequate to that as when we left England. We shall be particularly pleased if Mr. Ward succeeds in procuring us assistance in the English Schools, that we may be able more fully to devote ourselves to the natives. We are much in want too of the Malayan types.

Surrounded as we are at Marlborough with kind friends, whose opinion of us we fear is much better than we deserve, and honoured with the co-operation of persons of the first distinction and respectability, you may suppose that my dear Mary and self have fixed upon this as our permanent residence, and that we now look to the country round Bencoolen as the ultimate field of our future exertions. But this is not the case. Whilst we trust we are not ungrateful for the innumerable favours which our heavenly Father has scattered around our path in this strange land, nor ignorant of the importance of Bencoolen as a Missionary station, we yet have our preference for the northern parts of the island, where we can be almost entirely excluded from European society, and immediately connected with the heathen. We had this preference when we agreed to remain here for a time, and we hope to be heard when we earnestly request you to supply our place, and to permit us to proceed, according to

our first plan.

In telling Mr. Prince of the alteration in our arrangements, I expressed a hope that I should still see him in twelve or eighteen months, and wished him to proceed with the house as far as possible, before our arrival. I have heard from him several times since, and from one or two of his letters, which I inclose, you will find what he has done and expended, as well as his sentiments respecting the small island of Nias, which he has visited since I saw him.

We are now of opinion with Mr. Prince. that the people of this island ought to have the preference of the Battas. There are fewer obstacles in the way of their conversion, and not the same ground of apprehension, in trusting ourselves wholly to them. Both, however, are highly interesting stations. I informed you before of the application which the Nias people had made to Sir Stamford, to know of what religion he would wish them to be; and when two hundred and thirty thousand persons say, "Come over and help us," shall they not be heard? What sort of Missionaries should we be, did we not long to live and die, pointing them to "the Lamb of God?"

JAMAICA.

THE accounts received from our friend Mr. Coultart present many gratifying proofs that the gospel is known and felt in its sanctifying power and influence among the degraded population to whom it is his principal employ to declare it. Some striking instances of this kind will be found in the Report. We subjoin two or three others of a similar description.

Under date of 16th April, Mr. C writes :-- " If God should spare me until next Lord's day, I expect to baptize 80 persons. Of these we have good reason to hope well, though some after the strictest examination deceive us. I think I do not exaggerate when I say, these have been selected from twice that number, who have, even with tear's and prayers, intreated us to receive them. I often feel it painful indeed to refuse them immediate admission; but we wish to obtain the consent of their owners, and to have as extensive a knowledge of their characters as possible, before we receive them. Some of them weep when they are told to stop a little longer, and say, 'Massa, suppose dead take me, how me die, when me know dis my duty, an me no do it!' I can only say, I wish to know that it is their duty, and then I shall not object."

Again, June 18.—" A poor female negro called upon me a few days ago from a distance of fifty or sixty miles. Here she is, dressed in a ciean little jacket, as they are called in Scotland, and such as servant girls wear there, without stockings or shoes, though in the last stage of pregnancy. 'She has come to hear some word about

Jesus,' she says ' for she has seen no servant of God for eight long years.' She looked at the chapel that was building, she looked at me, and then wept till she had no more power to weep. When she recovered, she told me that she and her husband and small family were sold eight years ago to the person who owns her now, and her residence fixed on the same estate, where 'nothing but badness is to be seen-dere me hear no good wordme see no good work .- O massa, me poor soul quite perish, him quite sick for de word.' When she went first to the estate, her owner asked her if she prayed? Yes, was her reply. 'O that is had,' he said, 'you will spoil all my negroes. Your religion is a nasty thing-you must not | Herald.

spread it here!' 'O massa,' she replied, 'religion no a bad ting—if your negro love God in him heart, him find someting else to do than tief (steal) your fowl, and your sugar; religion a good ting when neger hab plenty of it.'"

In August, brother Coultart mentions, that an unusual mortality had occurred among his flock—no less than nine of his members having been removed by death in seven or eight days:
—an interesting account of one of whom will be given in our next Herald.

List of Contributions received by the Treasurer of the Baptist Missionary Society, from October 14, to November 14, 1821, not including Individual Subscriptions.

Armsby, Baptist Church, by Mr. Carter	FOR THE MISSION.	£	٤.	d.
Birmingham, New Hall-street, Sunday-School Children	Arnsby, Baptist Church, by Mr. Carter	20	9	6
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Huntingdonshire Society in Aid of Missions, by R. Foster, Esq. Jun. 79 10 5 Auxiliary Society for Part of the Western District, by Rev. R. Horsey 48 15					
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Norwich, Auxiliary Society at Rev. J. Kinghorn's 28 7	•				
St. Clement's Auxiliary Society, for a Native Preacher, by					
Rev. George Gibbs 15 0					
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Robert Barday, Esq. Bury Hill, by the Rev. J. Whitchouse, Donation 20 0)				
John Wilks, Esq. Finsbury-square).				
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FOR THE TRANSLATIONS.					
Edinburgh, Baptist Church in the Pleasance, by Mr. W. Braidwood 40 5	•				
Hamilton. Bible and Missionary Association, by Mr. James Mather 5 0					
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North Staffordshire Auxiliary Society, by Mr. Kennedy 5 0	,				
FOR THE SCHOOLS.					
Hackney, Society for Native Schools, Third Annual Payment, by					
Mr. Hobson 25 0)				
James Gorst, Esq. Somers Town	•				
Norwich, St. Clements, Auxiliary Society, by Rev. George Gibbs 15 0	+				
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FOR FEMALE EDUCATION.					
Birmingham, Auxiliary to the Calcutta Institution for Female Schools,					
by Mrs. Blakemore, Treasurer					
Contribution from three Motherless little Girls, by the Rev. J. Upton 0 18 0					
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FOR THE COLLEGE.					
Rev. J. M. Longmire, Winkfield, by Dr. Ryland 5 0 0					
Miss Hassard by Ditto 1 0 0					
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(3) Whenever our Friends find it more convenient to pay their Contributions at the Banking House of Sir John Perring & Co. than at the Missionary Rooms, they will be					

Whenever our Friends find it more convenient to pay their Contributions at the Banking House of Sir John Perring & Co. than at the Missionary Rooms, they will be pleased to mention by whom and on what account Payment is made. The Sum of £40 was paid there on Account of the Society on the 6th of November, but as no Name was given with it, the Secretary finds himself, of course, unable to acknowledge it till he receives the requisite Information.

N.B. The Committee thankfully acknowledge the Receipt of several Parcels of Magazines, &cc. for the Missionaries.