THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

THE MISSION CHURCH'S CALL TO PRAYER. HAS IT NOT BEEN ANSWERED?

It is now rather more than three years since the small mission at Loodianah, in the north-western provinces of India, sent forth an invitation to the whole Christian Church to unite, for an entire week, in earnest supplication for the Divine blessing. For three successive years this has been repeated, the Evangelical Alliance, in this country, taking the place of the Church at Loodianah. No one can think of the fact, that in the second week of three successive years the Church of the Living God was seen bending before the Mercy Seat, without wonder and gratitude, whether we consider the simple, but marvellous faith which prompted the invitation, the unanimity and heartiness of the response given to it, and the surprising events which have happened in various parts of the world during these three years.

These topics have received a good deal of consideration from those who spoke at the various meetings which were held in the Metropolis during the "week of prayer" for the present year. Mr. Scott, the Chamberlain of the City, has published his views in a striking pamphlet, entitled "What hath God wrought ?" of which we intend, without further acknowledgment, to make free use. We may premise, however, that we do not mean to assert that the events to which we invite attention are the immediate results of the prayers of the people of God. There are many who are too apt to say, "This is a judgment for sin," "That is an answer to prayer," as if they knew the secret councils of the Most High. What we wish our friends to note is this. For the first time since the day of Pentecost, the whole Church of Christ has united in fervent prayer during a short period for three successive years; and while confessions of sin, and acknowledgment of short-comings, and omissions of duty have been devoutly made, the most earnest supplications have been presented to the Great God to requicken His people by His grace, and to pour out His spirit on all flesh; and that during these three years remarkable changes have taken place, and most striking and unexpected events have happened in almost all countries of the world. The coincidence, if nothing more, is worthy of profound reflection-a prayerful Church, and a moving world !

Look to the far-off East. CHINA, which for two thousand years was closed to civilization and Christianity, is now opened to our ambassadors, merchants, and missionaries. A strange body of fanatics have arisen, among whom a considerable amount of religious knowledge has been diffused, who wage war against idols, and distribute the Word of God wherever they go, though they refuse to be guided by its precepts, and do

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not call themselves Christians. Without entering into any discussion of their character or objects, it is plain that they are as much opposed to the national forms of religion and idolatrous worship, as they are to the rul_0 of the present government.

And think of the events which have come to pass in MADAGASCAR. How long and dreary have been the years of persecution in that land! How severely have the faith and patience of the London Mission been tried! And now they are reaping their reward. On those spots were Christian men and women were martyred, or imprisoned, or cast headlong over lofty precipices, it is proposed to erect large and suitable places of worship; while the present King, and many of his chief men and councillors, cheerfully unite in affording countenance and aid to the veteran missionary who is there superintending these movements.

Nor could we pass over the revival that has occurred in our beloved JAMAICA, where the great battle of Christianity as against slavery was fought out, and in which the former so gloriously triumphed. For some years prior to the period we are now noticing, there was a *general* complaint of a decline in the churches, both as to numbers and in spirituality. In 1840 there were 30,000 members in our churches in that island. In 1860 there were not more than 20,000. Then the revival began, and the numbers have risen to over 25,000. Other churches, connected with other missionary organisations, have shared in these blessed influences.

If we cast our eyes over EUROPE, the three years have been equally productive of great events. RUSSIA has emancipated her serfs, of whom there are twenty-five millions in that vast empire, Though POLAND is, at this moment, in the throes of revolution, we cannot but hope that its result will be a diminution of the severity of imperial rule, and a softening of the rigour of the treatment she has had to endure so long. AUSTRIA has torn up her Concordat with the Pope, extended toleration to her Protestant subjects, and began a career of constitutional government. Some of the most Popish and the most intolerant petty states of Southern Europe, as Lombardy, Parma, Modena, Tuscany, the States of the Church, Naples, and Sicily, have been incorporated with Sardinia into the new kingdom of Italy. These are not mere political changes. They are so many gains to human progress, and to the kingdom which is not of this world. Political freedom has brought in her train a free Bible, free worship, free schools, and free colportage. The Waldenses have returned the persecutions which they had suffered at the hands of Rome, by carrying the Gospel into Italy; and perhaps, ere long, the Epistle of Paul to the Romans may be read in the city to whose inhabitants it was addressed 1800 years ago! FRANCE has abolished her passport system, and entered into a commercial treaty with this country, and its results will not be merely political or commercial. HOLLAND has proceeded to manumit her slaves, to the number of nearly 50,000, in her provinces of South America; and a revival has also sprung up among the slaves in Surinam, who, at the very time they were obtaining personal liberty, were made "freed men of the Lord."

On the AMERICAN continent, God has been answering prayer by "terrible things in righteousness." In must not be forgotten that though the United States have fostered slavery ever since they acquired their independence, England planted it in her colonies. The half million we left in those States have multiplied nine-fold. They have grown rich by planting cotton; we have grown rich by working it up. Judgment has come at last. The United States are separated, and are devastated by a war, which for blood-shedding has not been equalled; and our greatest industrial interest has been smitten and crushed. But this war has done more than anything else could, to break the negroes' bonds. Already they are severed in the district of Columbia, and in many parts of South Carolina. Men of colour have been declared citizens of the United States; and the black republics of Liberia and Hayti have been formally recognized.

If we turn our eye homewards, the scene is even brighter. The distress which prevails among the Lancashire operatives is not an unmitigated calamity. What sympathy it has called forth ! From every colony of the British Empire help has come. How graceful the act of our American cousins in freighting the "George Griswold" with food for the sufferers ! If it be more blessed to give than to receive, then the blessing is very widely diffused. How ably the systems of relief have been conducted; and with what thorough devotion men of all ranks have given themselves to the organizations of committees, district visitors, and schools. And how nobly has the suffering been borne ! No violence, no outbreak, scarcely a moan of complaint. If this had happened thirty years ago, Lancashire would have been in a blaze from one end to the other, and every mill almost would have been destroyed ! And why not now ? Let our Sunday, day, and other schools reply. Let the wider diffusion of religious truth among the superior classes of the mechanics reply. We think these facts, occurring as they do with the enlarged activities of the Church, and the successive weeks of prayer, are not accidents, are more than coincidencies, and great incentives to renewed effort in the Sacred Cause; and when such activities have been put forth, success has been immediate. Witness the spirit of hearing in our own and other lands. The naves of cathedrals, public halls, theatres, and public edifices of every kind have been thronged; while open-air services have been resorted to by tens of thousands, who have gladly listened to the Gospel.

The connexion of these things with the growth of the missionary spirit is very obvious. Before that spirit was evoked, how languid the churches were, and how deplorable was the state of the world! Both are somewhat changed now. We see what has effected the change. Let us cherish this blessed spirit in our own hearts, and foster it in others, and try to kindle it up in minds who have it not. This spirit of faith and prayer, combined with a lofty sense of the grandeur of our work, and of its ultimate success, will impart vigour to our efforts, and make them mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

VISIT TO A CHRISTIAN CONVERT.

BY REV. T. EVANS.

The extracts from his letter which follow, depict a scene not often witnessed by missionaries. Too generally converts in India are weak in character and feeble in purpose. They need constant watching and support. The contrast is very

striking in regard to Subha Chund ; and his courage, self-denial, and consistency have been greatly blessed.

Mr. John Gregson and myself went out to the west of Delhi lately on a preaching tour. We visited a large number of villages, and found attentive heavers in nearly all.

The people among whom we went were nearly all of the *jat* caste; and the attention with which they heard the Gospel, as well as their personal kindness to us gave us no little pleasure and encouragement. However, *the* object of our journey was to visit our dear brother Subha Chund, at Rona, and to see what prospect there was among his friends. When he became a Christian (as you are aware), all his friends forsook him, including even his wife, who left him for six months, taking with her all the cattle to her father's house in another village. He told her to take *all*,—that he could afford well to suffer the loss of all things for Christ.

Then his friends cast him out of the village. He went, lived for seven months alone (no, not alone), under a tree in one of his fields. Day by day he visited his village to preach Christ. He was insulted and abused in every possible manner, but from him was no retort. He returned a blessing for a curse, love for enmity, and this *living* gospel soon told. A large number of people began to admire his conduct; a few visited him in his field *at night* to hear him read, sing and pray; and now there are 50 families in the village who are his sincere friends, and who have even suffered to be outcasted by the other inhabitants, on account of their adherence to Subha Chund.

Don't think that the above are all candidates for christianity. No, as yet they are merely friendly to our brother, with one exception. The man is evidently a believer in Christ, but his faith is still weak. His words to me were, "I have come to the cross, and I stand to consider whether I can carry it or not."

Subha Chund is respected by all who know him ; even those who still wont associate with him, confess to his virtues. One of them said to me when I asked the crowd to which we preached if the gospel had not improved Subha Chund, "Yes," said an eneny, "it surely has, for before he was a rough rope of hemp, but now he is become a smooth silken cord."

Thus we could appeal to him as a proof of the power of the gospel. His wife he tells me, is now a *Christian* and a loving wife, but I did not wish to baptize her yet. Surely this is the Lord's work. May it not be spoilt by *man*.

INCIDENTS OF THE REVIVAL IN JAMAICA.*

BY THE REV. J. M. PHILLIPPO.

(Continued from last month.)

"These petitions, a few sentences only of which are given, were followed by others that principally related to the peace and prosperity of Zion generally that she might be established; that her righteousness might go forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth.

"Thus far, with one or two comparatively trifling exceptions, everything was orderly and tranquil. Now the harmony and propriety observed were interrupted by the wail of one prostrated—that unearthly cry which, when once heard, can never be forgotten—so thrilling, so overpowering, as not to be conceived of from any mere written representation. Soon many were in tears; some crying and complaining in bitterness of soul—'I am lost, I am undone; I have no hope; I must perish. At the same time they seemed more or less

^{*} From a work in preparation, by the Rev. J. M. Phillippo.

impressed with the conviction, very prevalent at the time, of the personality of the Devil, and of his efforts to seize them as his prey. In another part of the chapel a shout ascended—'O Lord, I will praise thee : though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortest me.' 'How can I find the way to heaven,'s sid another. 'I lift up my heart to thee, O thou Father of Lights, for the illuminating of thy Holy Spirit ; thou only canst explain thy holy Word to my dark understanding, and give me pardon, grace, and peace.'

"Another—'How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts! One thing have I desired of the Lord—that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,' &c. One, whose remembrance of his transgressions had long lingered in his soul like a vision of the night, while praying earnestly, all on a sudden fancied he saw Christ. 'Yes, yes, yes, he exclaimed, I see him—I see him. O my blessed Lord, I thank thee—I thank thee; I will believe—I will serve thee; I will give up myself entirely to thee, body, soul, and spirit; all—all I will devote to thee. I will no more depart from thee—only, O do not thou leave nor forsake me; for if thou forsake me, then to whom or whither shall I go? for thou hast the words of eternal life.'

"But the most impressive circumstance in these exciting occurrences was the following declaration, made by an intelligent and respectably dressed female, who rose up from her seat for the purpose, in the midst of the congregation. She had hitherto sat silently, mournfully, and, as I subsequently learned, had been for some time the subject of deep emotion, which she had hitherto struggled successfully to restrain.

"I profess only to record the sentiments as I remember them, as the most exquisite word-painting would fail to convey anything like an adequate idea of the tone, and gesture, and impassioned language in which they were expressed; much less would I attempt to give an accurate impression of the effect produced on the vast congregation, as her shrill clear voice, hushing all other voices and sounds to silence, rang through the spacious building in which we had assembled, like that which may be imagined of a conscience-stricken spirit that had escaped from the grasp of the King of Terrors, and found a refuge in Christ, in the blood of the Lamb: — 'Minister, Christian brethren and friends'! I call upon you to witness that I now give myself up to Jesus in body, soul, and spirit. I devote to him my whole heart, my whole life, my whole love. I cast myself on God's mercy. I rely upon the Saviour's blood and righteousness as my only ground of pardon and salvation. I now feel that though he cause grief, yet that he will have compassion, according to the multitude of his tender mercies! He has calmed the tempest of my passions; he has changed the current of my being, and proved himself to be my Saviour and my Redeemer by the change that I feel have taken place in the thoughts, and tastes, and feelings of my mind. Christ is now my only source of present happiness and future glory-my Lord, my life, my all. He claims my heart as his own possession. Here it is, he shall have it, for he has redeemed it—washed it in his own most precious blood—and to him I surrender it; I surrender my whole self and all that I have to him. For the love $\frac{1}{2}$ owe to him, I give up all earthly ties, all earthly affections, all earthly hopes. I will love my blessed Saviour only; I will make it my happiness to glorify him. In spite of all difficulties and discouragement, in spite of the world's. blame or scorn, in defiance of all allurements that might induce me to abandoe. him, living and dying I will cleave to him, till the last breath on this heart passes to him in death, and this vile body be changed and fashioned like unto. his glorious body; and I shall see him as he is, and with overflowing gratitude. and adoration cast myself at his feet, and give him glory.'

"It will thus be seen that the remarkable power of God was with us, both towound and to heal. Many more than those noticed were under convictions, and many praised God for deliverance, while some who came to mock remained to pray. It is unnecessary to add that great excitement was the result of this service. There, however, was no extravagance--nothing but what every faithful, earnest minister of Christ, would be glad to see more frequently. The occasion altogether was a blessed one to the souls of many; while to most, as far as I could learn, it was a 'time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.'"

REPORT OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF BANGALORE.

BY THE REV. E. MARSDEN.

The Church at this station, in the interior of Southern India, sprang out of the labour of our esteemed friend the Rev. J. C. Page of Plymouth, during the time of his residence in Madras. Seven'years have elapsed since its formation, and we now avail ourselves of a report forwarded by its pastor, the Rev. E. Marsden, to lay before our readers a review of the past. During the year just closed seven persons have been received into fellowship, three of them by baptism, making the entire number of members on the register forty one, viz., 32 Europeans and East Indians, and 9 natives. Mr. Marsden derives his support entirely from local sources or individual gifts, but our readers will, we are sure read with interest the progress of the church under his charge, originating as it did with the labours of a missionary of the Society. Mr. Marsden thus refers to the seven years of his pastorate.

In surveying more particularly the now completed period, I first notice THE When I was invited seven years ago to take the oversight of this CHURCH. little Christian society, it was truly a most unattractive affair, for the Church consisted, without one single exception, of persons in the humblest outward circumstances, possessing scarcely any influence or power of a secular description, and it was numerically very weak. But this was of small account. The people appeared to be loving and united, simple-minded and docile, doctrinally sound, and strong in grace, and this contented me. I accepted the invitation, and after a short delay the union was consummated. The number when I became Pastor was 28. Some of those by whom I was invited most grievously disappointed my expectations, but others have given me very great satisfaction, I may say real joy. The progress of the Church numerically has been but slow, many adverse circumstances, neither to have been foreseen or provided against, having checked it; but, all things considered, it has been perhaps as great as could have been reasonably anticipated. One great trial throughout has been the exceedingly shifting character of Bangalore society. We gain from time to time accessions to our ranks, the acquired ones continue with us for a season, cheering and helping us, and then from one cause or another they leave the station, and are in a great measure lost to us. I have admitted altogether 27 members, 10 of whom I had the privilege to baptize. There have been $m \breve{4}$ taken from us by death, and 10 have withdrawn, or been excluded. It is a devoutly gratifying fact, and one for which I cannot be too thankful, that all who have been received into membership by me have continued faithful. Not one, up to the present time, has had to be dealt with as an offender.

With respect to the CHAPEL SERVICES, which may be next noticed, it is most gratifying to observe that from end to end of the period they have been kept up with very great regularity. On one or two occasions only did they suffer interruption, and it was very short. They have been almost invariably conducted, when at the station, by myself, and usually, particularly of late years, with very great freedom and pleasure. The Lord's Day morning service, which I had the happiness of establishing just after my arrival here, to meet a want that had been long felt by many, has been uniformly conducted on the most catholic principles. Not a thing has been done, nor a word said, that I am aware of, to hurt the feelings of believers of other sections of the Christian Church who have attended it. If in the course of scriptural exposition subjects of a controversial character have unavoidably come up, I have always so shaped my remarks that no saints who were present could be justly offended. I have ever deemed it a point of Christian honour that *this* service, originated as it was for *the disciples of Jesus generally*, should be carried on *quite undenominationally*. There have been other services held, besides those of the Chapel, in different parts of the station,—four in all,—but it is painful to remark that from various causes they had to be given up. During the period, I have had the privilege of preaching the everlasting and ever blessed gospel to congregations of my fellow immortals not very much fewer than a thousand times; and I have also presided at hundreds of devotional meetings. This is, in the review, notwithstanding the numerous imperfections with which all has been attended, unspeakably delightful. Though I cannot reckon up a large number of conversions as the result of these various engagements, it is cheering to know that they have not been " in vain in the Lord." I have the pleasing assurance that they have been blessed to both saints and sinners.

In the retrospect of the EVANGELISTIC VISITATION of the period I feel very great pleasure, for though my performances have fallen far short of my wishes with regard to this deeply momentous work, I can most truly declare that I have done all that in me lay to make known the great salvation to the perishing thousands of the Anglo-Indian portion of this large community; and that, by the Lord's grace, I have spoken on his behalf uninfluenced by carnal fear. In the course of the seven years some very extensive districts have been gone through, and all the European Barracks and Hospitals, the Public Bungalows, and most of the Hotels have been visited :- the greater number of these places very many times. And I find, by careful calculation, that I have addressed evangelistically about 3300 persons, a very large proportion of whom were British soldiers and European Military Pensioners. These have been usually dealt with individually but some have been taken in little groups. All have been most earnestly pressed to accept the offer of mercy through Jesus, and to accept it at once; and the consequences of neglecting to do so have been plainly set before them. I do humbly believe, on maturest reflection, that I have not been permitted to labour in vain, or spend my strength for naught. Facts in proof of the warrantableness of this persuasion could be adduced did space permit. But eternity only can satisfactorily show what may have been, or what may yet be, the consequences of this course of service for the Lord. Ι have no doubt whatever that there are those, by whom I shall be greeted on the heavenly shore, who will gratefully acknowledge (not to my praise but to my Master's) that it was through my poor instrumentality they were brought to embrace the Saviour.

A passing observation will suffice with reference to the NATIVE INSTRUCTION which I have given. It has been very little, but it has been all that I have had the opportunity, or ability, to impart, and as far as it has gone it has been satisfactory. As intimated elsewhere, I have been called to labour chiefly among Europeans and East Indians.

In reflecting upon the Lord's dealings with me, as it respects MATERIAL SUP-PORT, during this somewhat considerable space of time, I have indeed cause for liveliest gratitude. My Master has not suffered me to want. He has provided for me and mine throughout with Divine liberality. Though my outgoings have been comparatively large, and continually on the increase, my incomings have kept pace with them. The barrel of meal has not wasted, neither has the cruse of oil failed. There have indeed been intervals of considerable length when nothing, or next to nothing, has been received ; but then there was something in hand, and these interruptions of the Lord's bounty have called faith into fuller exercise; and when "the desire" has come, it has truly been "a tree of life." It is a highly gratifying fact that I have received important pecuniary help from very many sections of the Christian Church.

In considering the past I have found very much cause to thank God: in contemplating the future I have equal cause to take courage. The little Church with which I am pastorally connected was never in a healthier or more promising state. The chapel congregations are good, and if the Lord give us a more commodious place of worship, will no doubt very greatly increase. The evangelistic field is exceedingly inviting, and I have both the power and the will to cultivate it. And as it respects temporal provision I have One to look to, possessed of boundless resources, who has never disappointed me. Were this not the case, I might indeed be filled with apprehension, for my personal means are of the scantiest description; being unconnected with Societies, there is none on which I can draw for the smallest pecuniary fraction; I have no Subscription List : and the offerings of my flock will probably be, as heretofore, but little more than nominal. But I do look to Him, and am cheered. He will never leave me nor forsake me. He has said so. He will supply all my need, and that too of my beloved children. Committing my way then unto Him, "whose I am, and whom I serve," I go forward with humble confidence to the further prosecution of his honourable, and glorious, and most delightful work. I beg very earnestly an interest in the supplications of his dear people, that I may be faithful—"faithful unto death."

DEATH OF MRS. PARSONS.—OPENING OF A NEW CHAPEL AT BENARES.

The following extracts from a letter dated January, will be read with mingled feelings of sympathy and joy. Our friend will have what he wishes, an interest in the prayers of our readers.

I write at this time to bespeak your sympathy and prayers under the stroke of my Heavenly Father's bereaving providence.

My beloved wife was called away from me, through the instrumentality of an attack of bronchitis superadded to enlargement of the liver, on the 30th ult., at 7 p.m. She had been unwell for more than two months, and more particularly from Nov. 7th, but was very seriously ill only from the 27th to 30th ult., and only kept her bed the last day. She was spared much acute pain, but suffered greatly in other ways. Her soul was in perfect peace resting upon God. No murmur passed her lips. "It is all right, God will glorify himself by this affliction." Such were her expressions. The last stroke was so rapid that she had no expectation (that I could discover) of death, while she had consciousness to state her views in the prospect. But it is "all right." A consistent and holy life has been crowned by a tranquil and happy death, and my loving companion, my judicious counsellor, my devoted and holy partner, is with the Lord, who bought her with his blood, and sanctified her by his grace.

The Lord has left me to labour on for a time yet. Pray that I may live nearer to Him than ever, and while heartily devoted to his service, may be daily preparing for as tranquil and abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom as has been graciously granted to my beloved wife.

On the 31st Dec., my beloved partner was interred, and yesterday our new chapel, in the erection of which she had taken so much interest, and which she had much laboured for in prayer, was opened, with mourning round the pulpit while she was engaged in more glorious service in a brighter sanctuary.

As I could take no part in the services, although I would not deny myself the privilege of being present, our dear brethren of the London Mission, Messrs. Blake, Jones, and Hewlett, kindly conducted them.

The place of worship fully answers our expectations. It is commodious and neat, and a very easy place to speak in, and is generally admired. It appears to me quite a child of providence. The Lord has remarkably raised up friends to assist in its erection, and has now kindly brought it to a prosperous completion. A little remains to be done in the fitting up of the vestry, or prayerroom for private devotion for soldiers, and I trust the whole will be accomplished without incurring any debt whatever. All thanks be to God. May he crown this undertaking with his blessing, and make the building which has been erected for his worship the birthplace of many souls !

I expect brother Trafford to-night by rail, who has kindly consented to preach an opening sermon on Sunday evening next. As I would not wish to combine any mention of my bereavement with the topics naturally suggested by such an occasion, Mr. Blake has kindly promised to improve my beloved wife's decease on the following Sunday evening. Thus, dear brethren, I am helped by the loving attentions of Christian brethren in my season of affliction, and, still more than that, I trust that the Lord is truly with me, enabling me, through my grief, to bless his holy name, and keeping me from such discouragement and gloom, as I might naturally have felt under so sudden a stroke. Oh, how good and gracious is he! May my future life be more entirely than ever his !

VOYAGE TO RUATAN, VISIT TO CHURCHES THERE, AND THE RESULT.

BY REV. A. HENDERSON.

Though Belize, in Honduras, is not a station connected with our Mission, having been self-supporting for some years, yet as originated by it, and for some years sustained by its funds, its progress and well being cannot but be interesting to those who know anything of its past history. Mr. Henderson's communication is very striking; and the account which it gives of the proceedings of the Church at Ruatan, and the spirit pervading them, which we regret we cannot find room for, indicate considerable religious knowledge, and a determination to adhere to Christ's laws as far as they apprehend them.

I shall now give you some particulars of a voyage to Ruatan which I have lately made with a view to compose those differences which had lately arisen in the Church there, and which I am happy to say have been amicably arranged. The two parties being one again, and the Minister, William George Boddin, restored to his pulpit.

OF THE JOURNEY THITHER.

Our mode of conveyance is by means of certain boats of from twenty to fifty tons, which trade to Belize with oil, nuts, and fruit; they charge say 12s. passage, and generally occupy two days. The first thirty miles is performed what is termed inside the reef, in a southerly direction as far as Cay, Bokel. On this Cay a lighthouse is being erected. We now go outside into the ocean wave of the Atlantic. About seventy miles south by east lies the Island of Ruatan, twenty-seven miles long, by an average breadth of two and one half miles. I went on board the boat 'Lavinia,' at sundown of the 13th October, and reached my destination about ten p.m. of the 15th.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLAND.

I have already noted its dimensions; it possesses considerable elevation, being composed of a series of hills, and lying nearly east to west, the latter end being the narrower. The soil is a red clay sort of marl, covered with a black earth, more or less deep as it has been left undisturbed by cultivation: the substratum is a blue marble that takes a fine polish, but from its brittle nature no sound blocks can be taken up; indeed it has occurred to me that if exposed as the red on the surface has been, we should see a blue clay in the decomposition. The west end of the island is bound by rocks of limestone, with deep water close inland. The north is chiefly a white sandy beach composed of wasted coral, with which the island in most parts is surrounded, but the great value of the island lies in the fact of its possessing several safe and extensive harbours, whereas the main opposite, for say two hundred miles of coast, is destitute of any where a vessel over one hundred tons could enter, i.e. from Santa Tomas to Bocca-del-torra.

THE INHABITANTS

consist of about two thousand, mostly black, from the island of Cayman, since emancipation. A few whites from New Orleans, tired with warlike commotion, have sought here a peaceful home : they number about sixty, and more expect to follow. A few Carribs remain of a colony imported from the island of St. Vincent during the period of the French war. The vestiges of a transport remain which our government had sent with provisions till their plantations should furnish them with food. The great body, now much multiplied, passed over to the main, and are at present found in Truxilla, Little Rock, Stann Creek, &c. The Carrib, finding the Catholic priest, has assimilated in his habits to the Spanish and Indian, consequently improvement either in civilization or religion is not to be seen. But to return to Ruatan, the blacks there having plenty of room, land good and cheap, with a market for their produce in Belize, and even iu America, must be pronounced a thriving people; true they might be far more so, for they do not improve their opportunities as they might. While there I saw a schooner depart for New Orleans with a cargo of cattle, (\$ 200 in pigs). The people all belong to the Methodists or Baptists: there are a few Hondurian Spanish Catholics, but they have no place of wor. ship. The Governor is now Honduranian, who has made at least one unsuccesful effort to introduce his sect. The Baptists have three places of worship, each capable of containing about two hundred people. One is situated on the north side, and two on the south side of the island. The church members number over one hundred. Three brethren besides the pastor employ them selves as preachers, viz., L. Boddin, Brooks, and Bennett. Edward Kelly, whom we sent from Belize as a schoolmaster, has been transferred to Corn island, Moskito shore, but I fear it must be pronounced a failure.

The Methodists have three places of regular worship also; one of their places is large. Their membership is large, and they have a staff of some eleven local preachers, besides the regular English missionary. The two sects are quite cordial. I resided with the missionary during my stay, preaching each sabbath once in the one place of worship, and once in the others, followed by the members of both.

Having given such insight on the outside history of the Baptists at Ruatan, I also forward copies of minutes of church meetings held during my sojourn there, which will help you to read their inner life. Their ready subjection to my friendly interposition is a fair example, in my opinion, of the working of a plan of European superintendence, as I have on a former occasion suggested to the mission committee. I took notice in my intercourse with the brethren, that both parties voluntarily acknowledged their error in abandoning the old church in Belize and joining the other party, and have no doubt this will speedily be corrected, only I did not press that subject, being desirous to assure them that my visit was entirely on account of their divisions.

I expected when I left Belize to accomplish the journey in ten days or so. Instead of this from the prevalence of north winds, I was detained till the first instant, that is forty-nine days, a serious item out of the year's labour. Nevertheless I trust it is good.

MISSIONARY LIFE ON BOARD SHIP. BY REV. J. WENGER.

The following letter, dated Nov. 21, 1862, gives an interesting account of the recent voyage of our friends to India. It will show how they not only pass their time, but endeavour to be useful during the passage. The party was large, as there were ten brethren of the General Baptist Mission on board. We also learn of their safe arrival, and how the other friends are who were there to welcome them.

Although a week may yet elapse before we reach Calcutta, yet it is just possible that we may be able to send letters direct on board the mail-steamer, which will leave Calcutta early on the 23rd, and reach the mouth of the river about the same time that we hope to approach it from the opposite direction. I therefore write a few lines now, to inform you of our safe progress thus far. All the members of our large mission party are well. During the first half of the voyage, Mrs. Kalberer suffered a good deal; but she is now well and cheerful. Master Kalberer had a smart attack of pleurisy when we were in the cold and rough latitude of 40 deg. South, in which we continued for some weeks; but he is now recovered, and apparently enjoys more robust health than before. With these exceptions, we have all continued well.

Our passage has not been very rapid, owing to the prevalence of S.-easterly winds after we crossed the line, which drove us as far as 32 deg. 23 min. long. W., when our latitude was 17 deg. 50 min. S., and kept us in long. 31 deg. 28 min. W. till we reached the 37th deg. of south latitude. From that point we were able to go to the eastward, and continued doing so till we reached the Island of Amsterdam, in long. 78 deg. E. We sighted it on the 26th October, and since then our progress has been slow, the easterly wind preventing our keeping the right course, and calms occasionally detaining us for days. We have not had any dangerous weather: whenever we had a strong gale, it was in a favourable direction. For this, and the numerous other mercies we have enjoyed, I would give thanks unto our heavenly Father.

Being such a large missionary party, we have had abundant opportunities of enjoying mutual fellowship. Owing to the firm kindness of Capt. Daniel, we have been permitted to have daily morning and evening worship in the cuddy; and on these occasions we have usually been joined by several other passengers. On the Lord's day we have had a service in the morning, at which the Prayer Book was used—not from any predilection for it, but from deference to the wishes and feelings of others. On about six occasions this morning-service was held on the poop, and attended by all the officers, sailors, and servants, that were not on duty. But the weather usually compelled us to have it in the cuddy, where there was not room for the sailors. On Lord's day evenings we have regularly had a service in the cuddy, after our own fashion, but usually pretty well attended.

I wish I could speak of our having reaped any visible fruit from our religious exercises: this privilege has not been granted to us; but we hope the seed that has been sown, will in due season spring up.

I have strictly obeyed your parting injunction, not to study too much: I have not studied at all, for I never can study on board ship. But brethren Edwards and Etherington have been very diligent and successful in acquiring the elements of Hindustani, under the able guidance of Mr. Kalberer.

I am in better health than I have been for years, the voyage and the return to the clear and warm December sky of Bengal having done me good. I have not been able, as yet, to resume work, and fear some further delay will intervene before I can do so. For the present I am staying at Mr. Kerry's house, Intally; and expect to remove to Mr. Rouse's, in Colinga, as soon as Mr. and Mrs. Supper shall have left. But even there I shall probably pitch my tent only for a time, because, unlike my old dwelling in Elliott-road, the interior of the Colinga house is not suitably arranged for the accommodation of two missionaries. I trust I shall ere long be directed as to the choice of an abode. I must have a workshop, in other words, a study; and be accessible to native visitors, without discomfort to the family with whom I may reside. And, at my age, I feel the need of tranquillity and of certain comforts, which in this climate are not luxuries, but almost necessaries.

It is very gratifying to find myself once more among my old friends, the members of our mission circle and the native brethren. I miss, however, Mr. and Mrs. Pearce, and some friends who have gone to glory, particularly old Mr. Carey. When off Kedgeree, I received a letter from Mr. Pearce, written on his way down the river, which informed me of his and Mrs. Pearce's departure for England. The other brethren, and their wives, I found quite as well as could be expected.

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS.

CEVLON.—Mr. and Mrs. Piggott are settled in their new home at Matakooly. Mr. Pigott is sedulously attending to the language, to which he devotes nearly all his time, preaching once each Lord's day at the Pettah Chapel. We are happy also to state that Mr. and Mrs. Waldock have safely arrived at Colombo, and for the present are staying with Mr. and Mrs. Alleu, who are assisting them in their arrangements for removal to Kandy, which is to be their future station. The arrival of these brethren has greatly encouraged our long tried brother, Mr. Allen, who is only slowly recovering from his late severe illness, and who will probably have to leave in March in order to recruit his health.

COLOMBO.—Amid many regrets, the Rev. C. and Mrs. Carter and their family, sailed for England on the 27th Dec. in the "Teviot." During his term of absence, it is the hope of our brother to carry forward the translation of the Old Testament into Singhalese. His version of the New Testament meets with great acceptance among all classes.

MONGHYR.—Mr. Edwards reports his arrival at this station, to whose interests he is devoting himself with the advantage of the long experience and aid of Mr. Lawrence, who joyfully welcomes his arrival.

HOME PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. Underhill and the Rev. Dr. Evans are in Scotland, having visited Berwick, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, and Glasgow; the remainder of the journey as far north as Elgin, will occupy the entire of the current month. The Revs. George Pearce and Fred. Trestrail have visited Dunstable, and

The Revs. George Pearce and Fred. Trestrail have visited Dunstable, and attended a meeting at Lion Street, Walworth, and the Rev. R. Smith, our missionary from Africa, has been engaged at Presteign, Evenjobb, Stansbach, and subsequently taking Hereford, Ross, &c., and several churches in the vicinity. He gives a good account of the meetings, speaks warmly of the kind reception given him by the Brethren, and intimates that the journey has been beneficial to his health.

While on the subject of meetings we regret to learn that several of our ministers have been extensively engaged in deputation work during the past year, of which no notice has appeared in the Herald. The fault is not ours. We only insert those engagements which we are requested to make, and of which we have personal knowledge. May we therefore beg the pastors of Churches, or secretaries of Auxiliaries, to inform us of their arrangements, which we will gladly insert, together with any intelligence regarding the meetings which they may deem it right to send. Our brethren of whose services no mention has been made, will now understand the reason, and any apparent want of due respect to them is explained.

Those who have called at the Mission House more or less during these past seventeen years, will learn, with deep regret, the loss which the Society bas sustained in the recent death of Mr. Edward R. Tiddy, after a severe illness of only a week's duration. His fidelity, diligence, attention, and truly Christian conduct, secured the esteem and regard of all who knew him, and rendered his services, often performed under very great suffering, of the highest importance and value. His widow, and five fatherless children, will have the sympathy of all our friends.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE.

The attention of the members of the society is respectfully invited to this notice in regard to the *nomination* of gentlemen eligible to serve on the Committee. It is particularly desired that no one may be nominated who is not known to be willing to serve in case of election. A member may nominate any number of gentlemen. The ballot list is made up of the names sent in The nomination lists must be in the hands of the Secretaries on or before the 31st of March. No list can be received after that day.

ANNUAL SERVICES.

We have great pleasure in announcing the arrangements for the Anniversary Meetings, so far as they have been made. The introductory prayer meeting will be held in the Library of the Mission House, on Thursday morning, April 23rd, at 11 o'clock. Dr. Hoby has consented to preside. The Committee have regolved this year to have a sermon addressed to our Welsh friends resident in London, and the Rev. Hugh Jones, of Carmarthen, will preach a Sermon in Welsh on Thursday evening, April 23rd, at Salters' Hall Chapel, Cannon Street ; service to commence at 7 o'clock.

On Lord's day, April 26th, sermons will be preached on behalf of the Society at the various chapels in London. Pastors and deacons who have made arrangements for this day are earnestly requested to inform the Secretaries of them ; and in those cases where no arrangements have been made, the Secretaries will gladly afford such assistance as it is in their power to give.

The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Society, will be held in the Library of the Mission House on Tuesday morning, April 28th. Chair to be taken at 10 o'clock. The Rev. Jonathan Watson of Edinburgh, and the Rev. W. Brock, have kindly consented to preach the Annual Sermons on Wednesday, April 29th, the former at Bloomsbury Chapel, the latter at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, the services to commence respectively at 11 a.m., and half-past 6 p.m. The Annual Public Meeting will be held at Exeter Hall on Thursday morning, April 30th. Chair to be taken at 11 o'clock by Joseph Tritton, Esq., of London. The Rev. Thomas Dale, A.M., of Birmingham, J. Makepeace, of Luton, and J. H. Millard, B.A., of London, are engaged to speak, and some one of the Society's missionaries who may be at home, and in sufficiently good health to render such service. We hope our friends will make it an object to attend these meetings, and come to them in a devout spirit of earnest prayer, and in the exercise of a strong faith in the Divine Promises. They will then be a blessing to all who take part in them, and will ensure spiritual prosperity to the Mission in all its departments of labour.

FINANCES.

The Treasurers and Secretaries of Auxiliaries are respectfully informed that all contributions which are to appear in the Report, must be sent to the Mission House on or before the 31st instant. For the convenience of the more distant places in the Kingdom, the accounts will be kept open three days, and finally closed on the 3rd April. Our friends will please to give attention to this notice.

CONTRIBUTIONS,

Received on account of the Baptist Missionary Society, from January 21st, 1863, to February 20th, 1863.

W. & O. denotes that the Contribution is for Widness and Orphans; N. P. for Native Preachers; T. for Translations. 0 0 0 1

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acknowledg N.B.—In the February bruary acknowledgement of Contributions under Scotland, th from Perth, should have been from STIRLING, and not Perth. Scotland, the £20 for China

FOREIGN LETTERS RECEIVED.

- ASIA-AGRA, Gregson, J. G., Dec. 30, Jan. 6; Gregson, J., Jan. 19. ALLAHABAD, Wittinbaker, M., & J. Rae, Dec. 19. BENALES, PARSONS, J., Jan. 2; Lewis, C. B., SEWRY, Ellis, R. J., Nov. 5; Williamson, J., Dec. 29. Jan. 20.
 - Dec. 29. Dec. 29. TENTAI, Klockers, H. Z., Dec. 18. AUSTRALIA-CASTLEMAINE, Smith, J., Dec. 25. BAHAMAS-NASSAU, Davey, J., Jan. 17. HAYTI-JAOMEI, Baumann, W., Jan. 9 and 25; Webley, W. H., Jan. 9. JAMAICA-ANNOTO BAY, JONES, S., Jan. 24. BETHANY, East, D. J., Jan. 22. BLACK RIVER, BAITETL, J., Jan. 6. BROWN'S TOWN, Clark, J., Jan. 22. SPANISH TOWN, Chillippo, J. M., Jan. 7 and 20. ST HELERA-Craig, T. R., Dec. 29. TRINIDAD-LAW, J., Jan. 7 and 24. SAN FERNANDO, Gamble, W. H., Jan. 20. Jan. 20. CALCUTTA, Lewis, C. B., Nov. 25, Dec. 18 and 22 Jan. 1 and 8; Shah Goolzar, Nov. 8. COLOMBO, Allen, J., Jan. 16; Pigott, H. R. Jan. 16; Waldock, F. D., Jan. 16. DELHI, Evans, T., Jan. 3. FANCT CHOW, Mills, C. R., Dec. 16. INTALLY, KETY, G., Jan. 19. JESSORE, HODDS, W. A., Dec. 18. KHOOINEAH, Johnson, E. C., Jan. 3. KONTUCK, Gregson, J., Dec. 16. MONGHYR, Edwards, E., Jan. 6. SERAMPORE, Etherineton W., Dec. 17. SERAMPORE, Etherington, W., Dec. 17.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The thanks of the Committee are presented to the following :---

A no interior of the Communication of the presented to the Jobb World gradient
Mrs. Sherring, Bristol, for a book for Rev. J. Davey, Nassau, Bahamas.
Mr. J. Smith (late Sup. of New Court S.S.) for a parcel of "Christian Cabinets," and Rev. C. H. Spurgeon's Sermons for Revs. E. J. Peacock and J. Diboll, Cameroons, West Africa.
Mr. J. T. Cheetham, for a parcel of Magazines.
Rev. J. Edwards, Lower Edmonton, for a parcel of French Tracts for the West Indies.
Mr. Stephen Williams, Claphan Common, for one year's "Baptist Magazine," and year's "Baptist Magazine," year's "Baptist Maga

"Evangelical Christendom."

Miss Bird, Beecles, for a parcel of clothing for Rev. J. Diboll, Cameroons, West Africa.

Subscriptions and Donations in aid of the Baptist Missionary Society will be thankfully received by Sir Samuel Morton Peto, Bart., M.P., Treasurer; by the Rev. Frederick Trestrail, and Edward Bean Underbill, Esq., Secretaries, at the Mission House, 33, Moorgate Street, LONDON; in EDINBURGH, by the Rev. Jonathan Watson, and John Mac-Andrew, Esq.; in GLASGOW, by John Jackson, Esq.; in CALOUTTA, by the Rev. C. B. Lewis, Baptist Mission Press. Contributions can also be paid in at Messers. Barclay, Bevan, Tritten, and Co.'s, Lombard Street, to the account of the Treasurer.