



THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS.

W^E feel confident the Spring Meetings of 1885 will live long in the recollection of all those who were privileged to be present at them. On every hand we have heard expressions of devout satisfaction. The pleasing circumstance of the society beginning its new year with a balance of £70 in the hands of the treasurer doubtless helped in no slight degree to give to the services a tone of thankful joy. We can find no space to refer, as we would, to the valuable services rendered by the brethren who spoke on behalf of the mission. Their addresses were surely calculated to strengthen the sentiment happily becoming more prevalent, that the churches of Christ exist very largely for the purpose of making known the Gospel among the heathen, and to stimulate the churches to realize their high privilege. And for such results we desire to feel very grateful.

THE INTRODUCTORY PRAYER MEETING

was held at Bloomsbury Chapel, and was conducted by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. The passage selected for exhortation was the eighth verse of the second Psalm—"Ask of me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." It will readily be conceived that the words Mr. Spurgeon spoke on such a Scripture would be well adapted to prepare the heart for the meetings which were to follow.

THE ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

took place, as usual, at the Mission House, and was presided over by Mr. Thomas White, of Evesham, than whom the society has no more sympathetic friend.

The business, though of a routine character, is always regarded with much interest—indeed, it is felt by many to be *the* missionary meeting of the year.

THE SOIREE

at Cannon Street Hotel was more crowded than it has ever been. The chairman was Mr. J. Hampden-Fordham, and the speakers were the Revs. H. E. Crudgington, formerly of the Congo, and now designated for India; David Davies, of Regent's Park Chapel; George Hawker, of Luton, and W. R. James, of Serampore. We would fain give extracts from their speeches, but must refer our readers to the denominational papers.

THE ANNUAL SERMON

was preached by the Rev. Dr. Fairbairn, of Airedale College. It was a discourse of a very high order, and was listened to with rapt attention. Text, John xvii. 25, 26. We give the main ideas:—God is known in Christ; the Church the depository of the knowledge of God; that knowledge the supreme need of man. We thank Dr. Fairbairn for so appropriate and inspiring a sermon.

THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

in Exeter Hall was the most largely attended we remember—numbers were unable to find seats. Mr. Joseph Hoare, of the Church Missionary Society, kindly presided; the speakers being the Revs. T. J. Comber, of the Congo; J. H. Shakespeare, of Norwich; and Timothy Richard, of China. Mr. Shakespeare spoke with great power, and we would like to give his speech *in extenso*. We have, however, been compelled to be very cursory in our report of the meetings, so that we might give as much as possible of the important addresses delivered by our brethren Comber and Richard.

Mr. COMBER ON RECENT LOSSES IN AFRICA.

"It is with a heavy heart, weighed down by grief and disappointment, and bewildered at what our Lord God has permitted to happen to our band on the Congo, that I speak to you to-night. Sorrowful and bewildered, and yet clinging fast to my trust and hope in Him, and to the confidence that He reigns over all, and 'doeth all things well.' We have lost another dear, devoted, noble worker -- our brother Macmillan. We cannot understand it; and yet we must not be daunted, our hearts must not fail us; we are engaged in a high and holy quest, and sent by our great King, and must not falter nor be dismayed; still less must we hesitate and talk of reconsideration, lest the King should count us unworthy and take from us our great commission. 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die,' &c. One of the most flourishing and

vigorous missions in Africa is the Basle Mission at Accra. More than one hundred years ago, in the middle of the eighteenth century, eleven Moravian missionaries went forth to establish a mission at Accra. Ignorant of the conditions of life in the country and of medical art, one by one they died and were all buried there. Fifty years ago a second effort was made, and nine brethren went forth, and again, one after another, they laid down their lives, only one out of the nine being spared. Duty, however, kept the church at the work-they persevered-and now we find that that mission ranks as one of the finest in Africa. They have now thirty-two European missionaries, with twenty-two ladies ; ten stations, with sixty out-stations; fifty native evangelists and teachers, over 2,000 communicants, and nearly 3,000 children being taught.

THE GREAT EXTENT OF THE FIELD.

"The greatness of the field is not always realised. It is a large part of the Congo Basin, with its estimated forty millions of people. Entering the great seven-mile-wide mouth of the river under full pressure of steam; stemming the five-knot current up and up, until the water is too strong and swirly any longer to navigate; away up still, now overland to pass the thirty-two cataracts which impede the river's course; through various branches of the Congo tribe to a new tribe and people, the Bateke of Stanley Pool; again forward and upward along the now navigable river in our little steamer, through a bewildering maze of islands-a river with fifty channels, and spreading out to a width of from five to ten miles-Bayansi, Bailebu, Bamangala, Barua, Barundu, and Yambarri; people after people, tribe after tribe, tongue after tongue, along a river course of 1,400 miles; up the big branches and affluents of the river-the Bochini, Ruki, Lulongo, and Lulame to the south, and others north and east to the Nile watershed, the mysterious wells and the Shari of Lake Chad. All this is included in the field we have to occupy, and to which you have sent us."

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PEACE.

"I have given an account of that at every place I have been to, and many of you have heard it already; but it is such a unique and remarkable tale that, I think that wherever the story of the founding of the Congo Mission is told, it should be told how Grenfell put together the steamer Peace. Grenfell was to have had an efficient staff to help him reconstruct the Peace, the first building of which he had superintended. His speciallyfitted companion, our dear brother Doke, died just on the threshold of his work. The two young mechanics, engineer and riveter, fell on the journey up to Stanley Pool, which place they never saw. Thus, as far as skilled human assistance was concerned, Grenfell was alone. But with dauntless spirit and energetic effort Grenfell set to work to rebuild the steamer himself, although only an amateur. He knew her well, however, every plate and rib, every tube and tap and pipe and board, of hull, machinery, and fittings; and, calling around him the black men-natives of Sierra Leone, Victoria, Loango, and Congo-he laid the keel; plate after plate was fitted and carefully rivetedmany thousands of rivets; the complicated boiler, the engines, propellers, were all carefully adjusted and fastened into position; cabin, deck, awning, windows, doors, fittings-everything was carefully fastened in its place, and the day came for launching. God's blessing upon her! She slid down the launchways, and floated complete upon the waters of Stanley Pool; fires were lighted, and away went the messenger of peace and goodwill upon her Congo trial trip, making as good speed as she had done upon the Thames. When I think of the success of that part of our work, I feel that you must have been earnestly and fervently praying for us. The Peace has already made one journey of over 1,000 miles in going and returning, and is now away on a long voyage of four months to choose the stations on the upper river, for which there are as yet no men ready."

THE PROMISING CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE.

"In spite of all the ignorance, the foolishness, and superstition which I have described, the people are quick and intelligent, with good mental powers. In San Salvador, where we have as fine and intelligent a people to deal with as we have anywhere on the Congo, the people are trying to break from their old superstitions, cruel and sore. We have there a king who anxiously and sincerely, we think, has been inquiring what he should do to please and serve God; whether he should give up his twenty superfluous wives or not; with tearful eye and anxious manner listening to the story of the Cross, and assuring us of his grateful love to, and trust in, the Redeemer. We have men who listen to our teaching with earnest heed, and who are-two or three of them-trying to give up evil and follow good. We have boys in the school who are trying to serve and follow the Saviour, who, they believe, has washed away their sins. In no preparatory school in England will you find boys with quicker apprehension, more ready intelligence, greater power of acquiring knowledge than in our Congo schools. When once they have begun to learn, they, as a rule, become ambitious and eager to

A holiday is an learn quickly. abomination to some. They understand and feel keenly how far behindhand they are among nations, and wish to get on as fast as possible. Sometimes, as I sit writing at my table at Stanley Pool, till nearly midnight, I will have on either side of me a boy engaged also in writing-a copy, a letter, an exercise; they do not rise from the table until I want to retire, and they then say their 'Good-night,' go to the boys' house, kneel at their bedside in prayer, and then go to sleep. There is, indeed, a thirst for knowledge amongst these Congo boys. We find, as a rule, that they are teachable and impressible. They see and deplore the evils everywhere prevalent in their country, and they want to grow up different from their fathers. When we see, therefore -first, an influence gained over the people, holding back their hands from bloodshed; secondly, a friendly hearing everywhere we have hitherto gone given to our message; thirdly, ready intelligence and teachable hearts and minds readily discerning what is right, and often with a disposition to follow the right—I think I may assure you that, on the Congo, we have a promising field."

A very cordial welcome greeted Mr. Richard, for was it not his first return from China after sixteen years' toil in that land? The statement he made reported an amount of devoted work and wonderful blessing, over which we may indeed rejoice. We cull one or two extracts.

EARLY LABOURS.

"After about eighteen months' study of the language, during which time I made several trips of a few days' duration in the country, I took a long trip with one of the agents of the National Bible Society of Scotland, Mr. Lilley, across the gulf of Chili into Manchuria. Into the towns and villages, on the plains and on the mountains, of this great province we went. We were set upon by a band of armed robbers in one place; we were taken to be robbers in European disguise in another; and, after venturing inside the Corean gate, we were met by rebels who had made the comparatively uninhabited belt of land between Manchuria and Corea their place of rendezvous. Moreover, one of us had sunstroke by the way. Wherever we went, day after day, the first thing we did in every place was to go to the most public part of the town or village-one taking one part of the town, the other another, making two centres of attraction. There we opened our store of books, told them our message, sold them the Bibles, and gave tracts away. After disposing of all we had we returned to Chefoo, after an absence of about six weeks, very glad of what we had done. All the thousands of books we distributed told the wonderful message of salvation, and these books again would become texts for tens of thousands more of people to talk about. How could we be but glad?

"I will give you an instance of one of my earliest attempts at gaining the confidence of the people. InNorth China there are annual fairs held in the neighbourhood of celebrated temples. On the one hand the people have an opportunity of showing their gratitude to their gods, whilst, on the other hand, people of all classes bring wares there for sale, or bring money to buy them. Tens of thousands, sometimes hundreds of thousands, from all the towns and villages near and far meet on these occasions. About a fortnight before one of these country fairs I arrived at the nearest market town, which has a population of 5,000 inhabitants, in order to have an opportunity of making some acquaintance before the fair. I was on horseback, rode to the inn, and asked for lodgings. They said the innkeeper was not at home. I then went to the only other inn in the

place, but I was told the same thing there. It was plain what they meant. They were afraid to give quarters to any foreigner lest they should get into trouble. Seeing a big stone in the street, I led my horse to it and In a few minutes the sat down. whole town seemed to have turned out to see me. I addressed myself respectfully to the elderly people around, told them what I had come for, asked them about the crops and the market, and asked them what famous men had been brought up in their town, and continued on with such ordinary talk until they had gained some confidence in me. One. of the chief men in the place offered me a room in his own house. My host had an only son and a nephew both about my own age. They were very glad to hear of all sorts of wonderful things existing out of China. Their friends came and called; the schoolmasters of the surrounding villages also called. I visited their schools in return. In a fortnight I got to know most of the men around that place who pretended to any knowledge of books. Two days before the fair, I asked the son to come and show me the temple on the top of the hill, where the fair was to be held. He did so. It was Buddhist. It had two large courts, with a high bell-tower between. I said, 'I would like to preach from that. It commands both the courts and the space outside the wall, but I suppose neither the priest nor the people generally will be willing.' 'Yes,' he said, 'perfectly willing. The priest has been nominated to the place by my father, and as for the people, they won't object if I am with you.' With this he told the priest to get a ladder ready by the fair-day, so that I might climb into the bell-tower with ease. The fair-day arrived. Business of all

kinds was going on, articles of every description were on sale. About ten o'clock the whole hill top was one dense mass, or rather a sea, of living beings, tossed about by any excitement in the crowd. My appearance seemed to disturb its equilibrium more than anything, for I had not then adopted Chinese dress. Most of them had never seen a foreigner in their lives before. There was a perfect rush from all sides, carrying us who were in the centre entirely off our feet. In self-defence, then, I patiently and slowly made for the bell-tower. There I could see village after village coming up in procession, with flying banners on the top of long poles, followed by the music of flutes, cymbals, drums, and deafening fire-crackers. Each forced their passage through the crowds to the temple, which was the centre. Each procession passed into the temple court, and while the elders went in to present their incense and prostrate themselves before the idols, the fire-crackers were redoubled outside. Twenty-nine villages passed in and out of the temple court, twentynine thunders of fire-crackers rolled at my feet. When I saw all these thousands upon thousands ignorant of a better God, a better religion, a nobler worship, my heart was sad within me, and I longed to tell them

something of that only Name under heaven whereby men can be saved. The thirtieth village passed out. The last had performed its worship. It was twelve o'clock. There was a perfect stillness in both courts. \mathbf{It} was a relief that the din was over at last. Then I stood up and addressed them as affectionately as I could, speaking on and on until I was exhausted and could not speak any more. Although I stood in the most prominent part of their sacred temple, none offered any resistance, for the young man stood by my side. After my silence, the throng outside the courts, which hitherto were listening to me, now turned their faces to the south, where a historical play-half political, half moral or immoral-was being acted out. The people were beginning to disperse and return to their homes in the distant villages, tired with a day of religion, of business, and of play, and I wrestled in my soul with God to hasten the time when these thousands would meet together with their hearts centred in Him and in His Christ. I had had my desire of preaching at the fair fully gratified, and a short residence in their midst had removed prejudices and inspired some confidence."

REMARKABLE RELIGIOUS SECTS.

"The country all round Tsingchowfu is a perfect hot-bed of religious sects, which are neither Confucian, Buddhist, nor Taoist — the three national religions of China. The leaders of these sects are generally accepted as worthy men, who try to do good. I sent word to one of them to say that I would like to see him. He gave me an invitation to go. His house was like a telegraph office. The disciples were sending written petitions for the sick and the distressed, for this leader to present to his god, and he again was to obtain a reply as if from a Delphic oracle, and send it to them. An evil spirit had been before me, and so poisoned his chief assistant, that it was impossible to have any peaceful conversation in his presence, he insisting, in my face, that the Christians were guilty of all sorts of horrible practices. Finding I was exposed to the incessant malice of

that man, I said I must go, but would like first to have a few words with the leader in private, as I had a very important message to deliver to him. This leader was a man beloved. My soul was drawn out largely unto him in great fear lest his assistant and friends would be too much for him. I told him how God has His messengers in all parts of the world to unite mankind, not to separate them ; to heal, and not to wound; to save body and soul, through the man Christ Jesus, the great centre of heaven and earth, and only mediator between God and man. I said that salvation must come from Him who created and sustains the world, and who loves us more than a father his children, and not from local deities in which his followers trusted. God had sent me with these glad tidings to him, who was in his turn to tell them to his followers, so that they might all obtain forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting, from Him who alone can bestow it. I bade him think how the messages came first from heaven to earth, and then from

the ends of the earth across the great seas to him. It was the greatest message he had ever heard. With its reception was life and joy, with its rejection was despair and death. He grasped my hand, thanked me for the message. He would consider it. He. would not let me go; he kept me there two days. Some time after I heard of a religious man, who had lived some years in a cave in search of satisfaction for his soul. I visited and took breakfast with him in the cave. He was a disciple of the lastmentioned one. He told me, that in a meeting of his co-religionists his religious teacher had mentioned Christianity to them as one that promised a great deal; that he was making further inquiries about it, and if he found it worth accepting they would all learn it together. I had similar interviews with other leaders. I attended a meeting of some hundreds of elderly women, held at midnight, in the month of July, and spoke to some of the leaders there.

After a heartrending description of

THE TERRIBLE FAMINE,

Mr. Richard proceeded :---

"From first to last no less than fifty thousand pounds (£50,000) were raised by foreigners for this relief, and two-thirds of the whole passed through our hands. Not satisfied with the mere giving of the bread that perisheth to the assembled villages, we often addressed them about the bread that does not perish, and when we had no time to speak, tracts were written and posted up in the towns and villages, so that they might always speak during our absence whenever there was a man to read. And what was the

value of this kind of relief? We knew it was only a temporary relief and not touching the causes of famine. God seemed to drive us to the officials and the educated gentry of the land, for they are morally responsible in China for the good and ill of the people. The remedy must be applied there. An opportunity soon presented itself. Seven thousand candidates. for what we call the Chinese M.A. degree, were to come to the provincial capital that autumn for their examination. Special books and tracts had to be provided for them. In this

capital there were also some four hundred officials. What we had done by way of famine relief was known amongst the masses throughout the whole province. The question arose how were we to tell them again that we had come for a spiritual famine, that was, though not so apparent, yet infinitely more serious in all its varied consequences, temporal and eternal. We divided the province of about a hundred counties, each county being about half an English one, into districts, each pledging himself that he would have Christian books and tracts distributed in each county. Gospels and general tracts we had; but, in approaching the masses, as in meeting the officials and scholars, we were met with the same difficulty of not having tracts for the times. Only two of us had been a sufficient length of time in the country to be able to write tracts, so we shut ourselves in to write some books and tracts. This we found extremely slow work; months and years could show but little in quantity, and what was written in haste could not be good in quality. This drove us into correspondence with those brethren who are preparing Christian literature in other parts of China, and with the Religious Tract Society in England and America. As this want of adequate Christian literature was felt in several parts of China at the same time, the Religious Tract Society very kindly sent Dr. Murdock, their agent in India, to China, to inquire into the matter and report on it. Shortly after, a Central China and a North China Tract Societies were formed in order to assist in this work. In the meantime we had not only distributed tracts amongst the 7,000 candidates, but offered prizes to them for the best essays on questions religious and social. No less than 200 wrote. Mr. Hill also offered prizes to \mathbf{the} native Christians throughout China for a series of tracts to indicate the various stages of God's revelation of Himself to mankind, so that by periodical distribution of these the readers could be led step by step to appreciate the infinite wisdom and goodness of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. And I, finding many of the officials ready to hear what we had to to say, delivered monthly lectures for some years on topics which all enlightened rulers are bound to take interest in, never failing to remind them that the highest, noblest life this world has ever seen, having boundless aspirations and irrepressible powers in individuals and nations, is from God in Christ. If they accepted this, and the blessings flowing from it, even their temporal famines could be well Christianity has the provided for. promise of the life that now is as well as of that which is to come."

RESULTS.

"In a word, though we have not many converts in Shamsi, the whole province has been so opened that there were, when I left, no less than twenty-six missionaries, English and American, living there and enjoying as much peace as is to be found in any of the ports of China. In Tsingchowfu, in Shantung province, however, where I left Mr. Jones alone eight years ago, there has been under his very able direction a very noble work done. The few places where people met then for worship on the Sabbath have become fifty, and a few members have become more than a thousand. . . What is important to bear in mind is that these converts in our mission are selfsupporting, and I believe are so to a very large extent with the Presbyterians also. Men make a vow to go from home on a preaching tour for so many days. Women do the same, and take advantage also of the time when they visit their relatives, or are visited by them, to declare to them the Gospel message. Fully half these converts are women without a single paid Bible-woman in their midst, nor one unmarried foreign lady at work there. All are voluntary Bible-women. How the various leaders are instructed through the wise regulations made by Mr. Jones for this end would take

long to relate. The instances of zeal and devotion and consecration of many of these Christians, not only in enduring persecutions with patience, but in devoting their time and property, leaving their farms and their shops, and sometimes selling their very land in order to have means to go about to preach the Gospel, are simply astounding. And in the whole of China, where forty-three years ago there were only six Protestant converts, there are now 25,000 communicants, and as many more Christians in belief, if they had courage enough to endure persecutions and to resist the world."

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING

on the Friday evening, presided over by Mr. James Benham, and addressed by the Revs. R. Glover, Dr. Green, T. Richard, and T. J. Comber, was admitted on all hands to have been a decided success.

We have referred to the happy circumstance that we have begun our financial year without a debt, but it might prove a serious mistake were we not to take the earliest opportunity to impress upon the churches the need for a still further increase of income. The full charge of the extended operations of the society contemplated two years ago has not yet come upon the funds. The cost of the recent addition to the missionary staff must be met. Our hope is that again we may be able to raise the contributions during the year by £5,000. And we believe that with the blessing of God resting upon our efforts this hope will be realised.

J. B. MYERS.

The New Mission House at Tunduwa.

THE accompanying is a sketch of our wooden house, built by Mr. Hawkins of Camberwell, and now erected at Tunduwa or Underhill, our base station.

The ground into which the iron columns are sunk consists principally of solid rock, and this necessarily, with our limited means, took a lot of work in quarrying out. The hill on which it is built is about 150 feet above the river, and commands one of the best sites on the lower part of the Congo. From morning till night we have the advantage of every bit of breeze, and it should prove one of the most healthy stations, now that the turning of soil and buildings are nearly completed.

I am thankful to say that although Mr. Whitley, my wife, and I suffered so much sickness the early part of the year, Mr. Weeks, who came down from San Salvador, found the change do him a great deal of good, and Mr. Hughes writes lately that he has had much better health since he came to Tunduwa. The situation is a most excellent one, and my regret always was that, being single-handed and with a multitude of forwarding work and building to attend to, wé had so little time for more immediate mission work amongst the towns around. I am more than ever thankful in knowing that men are coming forward. Lives will be spared, energy economised, and a vast amount more work done, in proportion as we get more men in the field. May God in His great goodness give us by and by the reaping of this great harvest.

Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society. THE Bev. T. J. Comber writes:-

"In my little sketch of my brother's life, published in the HERALD for April, I find I have not by any means done justice to the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society, nor have I sufficiently recognised the great benefits my dear brother received from it. It appears that of the large sum (£415 I find) needed by my brother for his medical course at Edinburgh, more than half was paid by that society, and by the Coldstream Bursary (£15 a year). I had not known this when I wrote my little biography.

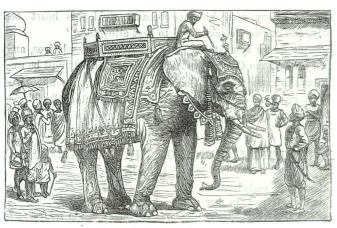
"We, indeed, owe very much to such a society as the Edinburgh Medical Mission, and every recognition should be made of the great and important work it is doing—of providing Missionary Societies with thoroughly well-trained medical missionaries. I hope, therefore, you will publish this letter in the MISSIONARY HERALD. I trust that we shall have my brother's place taken by one equally qualified from the same noble institution. Not one only do we want. We should have, at least, six good medical missionaries in connection with our Congo Mission. May the right men come forward—' necessity laid upon' them—for our glorious enterprise.

"Yours faithfully, T. J. COMBER."



Horses for Sale at a Mela.

Some very fine horses may be seen in the melas (fairs) in India, where they are brought to sell, as at fairs in England. £500 or more are sometimes asked for them. Here may be seen one such being trained.



A Magnificent Elephant.

ELEPHANTS, which are somewhat rare, and hence very valuable, are used only by the rich for riding purposes. The one shown in the picture, dressed out in beautiful trappings, is probably the property of some wealthy native prince. The Government often use elephants for the purpose of conveying stores from place to place, on account of their immense strength. The elephant, although so powerful, is easily driven by his keeper, who sits just behind his head, and directs him often with his feet.

Further Loss on the Congo.

IN the report which constituted "THE HEBALD" of last month we announced with great sorrow the death at Underhill Station, from fever, of the Rev. Donald Macmillan, after a few days' illness. The biographical sketch we are able to give is from the pen of Mr. Duncan, a fellow-student. This sad news has been followed by the intelligence of a further loss in the removal, by the same cause, of Mr. A. H. Cruickshank at Wathen Station. As we go to press full particulars have not reached us. Mr. Moolenaar communicates the following extract from a letter sent to him by Mr. Darling, who was with Mr. Cruickshank :---- "All that could be done was done. He took to his bed on Tuesday, March 24th, and on Friday morning he was too weak to stand the fearful bilious fever. His temperature was almost down to normal in the morning, but it at once commenced to rise. I sponged him from time to time, and so checked the temperature, but only a little. When it reached 106° he became delirious. I had to sponge him by force. He soon became comatose; I poured in quinine, brandy, beaf-tea, &c., per enema; applied blisters, &c., wrapped him in a wet sheet and plenty of blankets, but all to no purpose. Just after one I took his temperature, and it was 110° 1', and I then knew his recovery was beyond hope. Very soon his face became rigid, his heart beat very irregularly, and at two o'clock ceased to beat altogether."

Very deeply do we sympathise with his sorrowing relatives, and keenly do we feel the loss the Congo Mission has sustained. It will be some relief to our friends to know that the Committee and the Congo missionaries now in this country are in consultation with high medical authorities with the view of guarding against and treating more effectually the terrible African fever.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LATE MR. DONALD MACMILLAN.

"Scotland has embalmed in her annals, and enshrined in her song, names which recall chivalrous deeds and lofty enterprise. The history of her heroism is mainly connected with her chieftain strifes. In recent times, however, the heroic element, latent in every Celtic heart, has found new expression. From the heathery heights and craggy steeps several have gone forth, clad in the armour of God, and been honoured soldiers of the Cross. Thus, while early poets sang the praises of chivalrous loyalty to an earthly prince, later poets must tune their lyres to nobler strains, and tell of patriotism to the Prince of Peace. Past historians recorded the high deeds on blood-red fields of battle; future annalists must write the heroic deeds of those who have "hazarded their lives" for Jesus Christ. Duff and Burns, Livingstone and Moffat, each richly deserve a niche in the temple of Fame, for fighting the battles of the Lord and linking the name of Britain with the triumphs of the Cross in far distant lands.

"Although we cannot write his name on the roll with these illustrious dead, or speak of his imperishable renown, yet the bright, though brief, career of the subject of this sketch well deserves a passing notice. Although we cannot tell of brilliant genius, or high attainments, yet the story of one who willingly laid himself, a living sacrifice, on the altar of the Lord, and readily surrendered home and country at the call of God, should make us venerate his memory. and give to the name of Donald Macmillan, missionary to the Congo, a place in the great heart of the Church's love.

"We are told that, if we would rightly understand the man, we must consider the influences which surround his infancy: from these the formed character received its motive power and peculiar colouring. Macmillan was an exception to this rule. Naturally meek, quiet, and affectionate, he was thoroughly ingenuous and free from that sophistry which veils character. Little, therefore, need be said of his boyhood. Colonsay-a small island to the south of the Inner Hebrideswas his birthplace, in November, 1858. Here he attended school until he was about thirteen. At this period he gave his heart's trust to Jesus Christ, and so in early life dedicated himself to the Lord. Shortly after this he was engaged as under-gamekeeper on an adjacent island; still later near Oban. Wandering on the the hills was dreary work for a zealous Christian; he became anxious for other service—the Christian ministry. Dr. Flett, of Paisley, who has ever taken a hearty interest in the education of young men, kindly undertook to provide and supervise a preparatory

course of training. After a time Macmillan entered the Glasgow University. In 1882 he was enrolled as a student of the Baptist Union. Constitutionally weak, he was compelled, in the middle of session 1883-4, to cease his studies before finishing the usual curriculum. After a month's rest he was appointed pastor, pro tem., to the church in Branderburgh, in consequence of the serious sickness of Mr. McGregor, who died soon afterwards. Here Macmillan enthusiastically laboured for about six months with marked success. His preaching was characterised by that extemporaneous fervour which reveals an anxiety to make known the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. He ever sought to testify of the grace of God by proclaiming the reality of those truths which were the stay of his own soul and whose worth he desired to make known to others. His mind was undisturbed by intellectual questionings; hence he was always im patient with those who sought a refuge in reason for their doubts or unbelief. He had an implicit faith in the finality of God's Word ; its teaching unquestionably true; its commands unconditionally imperative.

"His peculiar tenderness of heart and inoffensiveness of spirit found a hearty response in the affections of the church members. His constant devotion and unflagging zeal won for him a foremost place in their honour and regard. But Branderburgh was not to be his final sphere. The claims of the Congo came forcibly home; so he determined to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to the heathen in Africa.

"Surely it was at the bidding of no mean impulse that a heart, warmly attached to a widowed mother and loving sisters, was wrenched from home and country to sojourn afar from their fellowship. Surely, it demanded courageous self-denial to bid farewell to inviting spheres and face the known difficulties of a missionary's life. Yet such was the resolve of Donald Macmillan. He sailed for Africa on the 4th of November, having said in his parting address:—'If I be spared and come back, then all is well; if not, then all is well.'

"During the voyage he conducted several services, and spoke faithfully to each one of the crew about the way of Eternal Life. En route, several traders joined the steamer. After describing two of them as being very like Highland publicans - whisky barrels-he wrote :- 'If traders can stand the difficulties of the climate for sport and earthly gain, surely missionaries ought to be willing to suffer a little for Christ. Be ashamed, O my soul, if thou wouldst not. Think of Him who was the Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief.' Several entries in his diary show the spirit in which he entered upon active service for a 'little while.' On New Year's Day he penned the following prophetic prayer :- 'How is this year to be spent? In useful service in the vineyard of my Lord, or called home to see Him as He is and behold His glory and majesty for ever? Lord, Thou knowest best. . . . In all things make known to me Thy blessed will, and give me grace to do it. . . .' After entries refer, with varying detail, to each day's work: meditation and prayer, school and teaching, learning language, &c. Often he wrote his thoughts about home, and generally short but pathetic prayers follow. Under date of Sunday, January 11th, we read these unexplained words :--

'I felt like weeping all the time My tears did come away.' Yet the record of the following day's work begins:—'Up early. Bright and happy.'

"He did not long share these mingled joys and sorrows. On the 9th of March, 1885, after a few days prostration from fever, Macmillan, at the age of twenty-six, entered the presence of his Saviour—

- 'His life, cries the world, he has perilled and lost,
- His life, answers faith, he has ventured and found;
- For his toils were in love, and though death was the cost,
- His reward shall be thrones where the martyrs are crowned.'*

"We need not connect his restingplace at Underhill with what is sad. No, let it be associated with reverent honour. His consecrated life must be fragrant with eternal issues. 'Even his death,' says Mr. Hughes, 'made a great impression on the schoolboys." Does not the shortness of Macmillan's life reiterate the language of Henry Martyn's picture—'Be in earnest; don't trifle, don't trifle'? Let the heroic example of Macmillan and other young Congo martyrs stimulate us to like noble service. 'Go ye into all the world' is the unconditional and unrepealed commission; it must not be limited. The millions that people the Congo Basin must not be left in hopeless night, to pass, benighted and sorrow-stricken, in a never-ending procession from their cradle to their grave. We must fill up the breaches in the broken missionary phalanx, for—

- 'The voice of the fallen ones even from their dust,
 - Cries onward, still onward, Messiah must reign.
 - * * *

*

* Adapted from a poem by Dr. Edmond.

- With your shields, on upon them ! cried matrons of Greece,
- As they sent forth their sons for their country's defence,
- Shall the patriot dare more than the preacher of peace?
- Shall our faith be called coward ! our love a pretence ?
- To the rescue, young men! ye are brave, ye are strong ;
- With the cross for your ensign, the Word for your sword,
- Till from Niger to Nile burst the dark lands to song,
- When the sons of the Ethiop are sons of the Lord.""

M. DUNCAN.

Important and Cheering News from Mr. Grenfell.

Stanley Pool, 9th March, 1885.

MY DEAR MR. BAYNES,----

Of God's good mercy the *Peace* and her crew, after a five months' voyage, are safely in port once more. I have already commenced detailed letters, but cannot possibly get them off by the opportunity which offers on the morrow of our arrival—they shall follow in a few days. We have journeyed more than 4,000 miles, one-third of the distance being entirely new ground, not previously visited by the white man.

Our farthest point north was 4° 30' up the Mobangi River, the waterway being still open to us. Up the Ukere our way was blocked by cataracts at 2° 50'. The Mburra is one navigable for a few hours from its confluence with the Congo. The Lubilash we traversed as far as 1° 30' south.

We spent Christmas at Stanley Falls.

This, with a line to my mother, is all I can get off. Whitley sends a note to Comber on my behalf.

Yours very sincerely, (Signed)

GEORGE GRENFELL.

We learn from Le Mouvement Geographique that Lieut. Weissman, who has been commissioned by the International Association of the Congo to explore the Valley of the Kasai, has reached that river in safety, and has established a station in the Baluba country, on the banks of the Lulna, $5^{\circ} 58'$ S. lat., $22^{\circ} 20'$ east of Greenwich. The exploring party have been well received. Dr. Wolf, one of the party, will explore the country between the Kasai and Sunkuru. After three months, to be spent in consolidating his station, Luluaborg, Lieut. Weissman will explore the Kasai Valley, up to the confluence of that river with the Congo ; this he hoped to accomplish by the end of last month. This will give us a knowledge of a most interesting region, which our brethren on the Congo hope to reach before long.

In Memoriam of a True Soldier of Jesus Christ.

THE REV. SIDNEY COMBER, M.B. Who died of Remittent Fever at Wathen Station, Africa, December 24th, 1884. "The memory of the just is blessed."

> E fell not 'mid the shouts of men, But solitary—alone ; Pierced by the shaft of God's own love, Thus carried to His throne ; The Heart of Christ, this was his rest, His love his spirit's home ; Nor did he fall until he heard.

His Captain whisper, Come.

. Not to exhibit pride or self, To reach a glorious name, Went forth this soldier to his work, His motive this world's fame ; To reach the poor, the outcast lost, Men pierced and bound by sin, To save their souls at any cost From pain without, within. No monument may mark the spot Where God's own hero sleeps : Though Christian love in many lands For such its vigil keeps ; Such work as this we need not praise, Its silence speaks-sublime ; Its music lives in heaven above An everlasting chime.

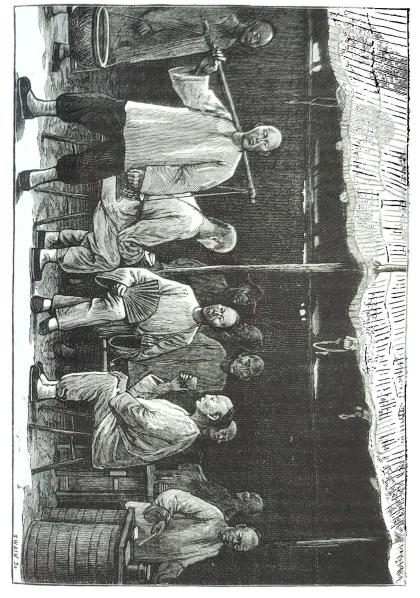
W. POOLE BALFERN.

Tea Booth, Tai Yuen Fu, Shansi.

THIS picture represents a tea-booth on the banks of the Tai Yuen Fu pond. The public-house and beershop, as they exist at home, are unknown in China, but the tea-stall takes its place. The booth shown in the cut is simply made of mats and poles, and is put up at a slight expense.

The group of Chinese is very characteristic. Notice the long, gaunt, stolid faces, with but little display of intelligence, and none of vivacity; the pipe, the inseparable companion of almost every Chinaman, and the queue twisted round the forehead so as to be out of the way.

The extreme thinness of some marks the confirmed opium-smoker.



THE MISSIONARY HEBALD, JUNE 1, 1885.

Mission Work in the Bahamas.

BY A MISSIONARY'S WIFE.

THE following account of a recent Missionary visit to San Salvador, in the Bahamas, is from the pen of Mrs. Wilshere, wife of the Rev. David Wilshere, of Nassau, addressed to a lady in England, by whose kind consent it appears in these pages :--

SAN SALVADOR.

"St. Salvador, formerly one of the most important islands forming the Bahama group, is historically noted as being the supposed land first sighted by Christopher Columbus after so many weary months of anxious anticipations and disappointments. Watlings, however, is the true spot, being on modern charts called St. Salvador, and the latter Cat Island. In slavery days fine estates, now in ruins, were scattered over the island, the land serving splendidly for agricultural purposes, much now, however, being useless, owing to improper cultivation and neglect, but which, were the necessary means and energy forthcoming, might possibly regain its former renown, as to-day it still ranks first in this respect. Pineapples, sugar cane, Indian corn, guinea corn, bananas, sweet potatoes, are its chief marketable products, these, with the addition of a few peas, beans, poultry and eggs, are what the people on the many small settlements subsist on, a fish sometimes may be also added to the usual fare. The former inhabitants were Indians, a race now extinct ; the present are the children of slaves owned by former proprietors of the island, and who, for the most part, are an intelligent, industrious, and kindly disposed people, especially those under the mission supervision. Physically, too, they are remarkably well developed, being tall and well proportioned, the men particularly so. The women, however, are

not wanting in energy, for many work fully as hard at domestic and field labour, often carrying on their heads astonishingly heavy burdens, such as wood, fruit, etc. Communication is kept up and visits are made to each other by means of small boats, and when within easy distance by walking over the rocky coast or sandy sea shore. The hurricane last year, and a severe storm this, caused sad distress, destroying all the crops save a few sweet potatoes, these, with wild berries, served to keep the sufferers alive until help reached them from Nassau. Boats were sunk, many houses and some chapels were blown down, several lives lost at sea, others not heard of for a long time; yet when speaking of all that had occurred, many said, 'God has been good and merciful, His hand hath done it all; we must submit and bow to His will, for what He doth is right,' showing they knew and recognised a higher power than their own.

ISLAND LIFE.

"Nature is again recuperating herself; the damaged foliage still looks very queer, with its weird colours, yet charming in contrast with the new growth of bush, varying but little, the same kind growing everywhere on the Bahamas, one island serving to describe the whole. Few flowers greet the eye. No birds thrill the ear with charming sound; a few there are with bright plumage, but these are rare. Wild animals there are none. Tame ones, such as horses, pigs,

sheep, are scarce, and belong only to the few. The dogs are lean and lanky. Insect life is more numerous, musquitoes sting, sand flies torture, flies buzz, grasshoppers jump, the singer bursts in his efforts to excel, the lady-bird looks dressy, and the fireflies, emitting a most brilliant light from their dull little bodies, make luminous the darkness, as they flit here, there, and everywhere. Naturalists searching for specimens might be rewarded by finding some few snakes, lizards, frogs, spiders, centipedes, beetles, and bugs, the latter being land crabs. Cocoanut palms used to flourish, and a salt pond to exist; the former now are scarce, and the latter is no longer worked. The dwelling houses are chiefly built of rough native stones, piled one on the other, cemented together by means of mortar made with coarse lime and sand, being, when finished, whitewashed within and without; the floor ditto. The roof is thatched with palmetto palm leaves, serving admirably for good shelter when neatly done, and lasting some little time. Hats, baskets, mats, and many useful articles, are made from this useful plant, very young children helping to make and manufacture one of the exports of the island; the remuneration, however, scarcely paying for the labour entailed.

THE START.

"At 10 a.m., Monday, November 3rd, Mr. Wilshere, with myself, said goodbye to Flora (our faithful domestic), bidding her take good care of herself and the mission premises, which she willingly promised and faithfully performed, and made our way to the public wharf, where a boat was in readiness to take us on board the much loved mission schooner, the A. H. Baynes, then lying in the stream. We term her our sea home, and a safe one she has proved in many a perilous

hour, and a happy one too, for some who have travelled by her. All hands being on board and ready, the order was given to haul up the anchor, set sail, and get under way. The wind was moderately fair, and we got safely through the east end of New Providence, a nasty, difficult piece of navigation even at the best of times. All day Monday I managed to keep bright, but the wind shifting, and meeting with heavy seas during the night, Tuesday morning found me very unwell, in consequence of the constant retching, Mr. Wilshere deemed it advisable either to return to Nassau, or anchor for awhile. On my assuring him I should soon be better, he did the latter, under some very pretty cays, where, after a day's quiet and a good night's rest, I awoke feeling myself fairly well again, and able to go on. Once more the anchor was hauled up, and we were speeding on our way, steering somewhat out of the usual course, the wind compelling us to go by way of Governor's Harbour (a pretty settlement about 60 miles from Nassau), which place we sighted and entered about 9 p.m. on Thursday, just in time to avoid a furious storm of rain and wind which fell and raged furiously outside, immediately after our anchoring inside the harbour. Feeling tired and thankful, we commended ourselves to Divine protection, and enjoyed a good night's rest. The previous evening had been spent in watching some porpoises which followed the vessel pretty closely for a few miles, their blowing being distinctly heard; also the twinkling lights on shore, and the stars overhead. These, with the phosphorescent waters beneath, formed a most impressive scene, causing my thoughts to revert to Him who made them all, and set me thinking of loved scenes and faces dear to us in dear old England and elsewhere.

POWELL'S POINT.

"Friday morning. Awoke with the dawn, feeling refreshed and gladsome. Dressed in time to witness a glorious sunrise, a sight never so grand in England as here; bade two friends good morning, who had come alongside in their boat to say 'How d'ee,' and see whether the missionary intended staying there or no. A cask was sent on shore to be filled with water. While that was being done, Mr. Wilshere also went ashore for a few minutes; made and answered inquiries; ascertained that the chapel, then in course of erection, had sustained damages, caused by the recent storm; spoke a few kindly words, bade the friends good-bye, promising to visit them as soon as he could at some future time. The anchor is up, and once more we are on the weigh, gradually losing sight of Governor's Harbour. Two porpoises are enjoying their morning gambols, seeming very queer to the onlookers, as they are sporting in an unusual mannerviz., sideways, exhibiting the white portions of their bodies uppermost. Past Rock Sound and Tarpum Bay, places well known to many residents in the city as being their birthplace, and where Methodism flourishes-the Wesleyan element being very strong, nearly as strong as the rock it germinates on. Breakfast is announced; tea, toast, and oatmeal porridge made palatable with canned milk and a spice of contentment, constitutes the bill of fare, which is a good one. That being dispatched, Mr. Wilshere takes the wheel; and his wife seating herself by his side, talks, reads, watches the men at their work, deck cleaning, rope splicing, &c., &c.; all the while enjoying the scenery on shore and beneath the transparent waters, where might be seen lovely sea-ferns, corals, fans, fishes, sand, white and

glistening-the whole making a perfect panorama as the A. H. Baynes goes over it all; the sun, too, making the foam to sparkle with rainbow colours. On and on, nearing Powell's Point. No talking allowed now with the man at the wheel, for the steering is intricate and caution is requisite; shoals are ahead, and the sand bars threaten. Now we touch the bottom, but only for a minute; a bump, and the tide has lifted the vessel, and once again we are in deeper water. That danger over, another awaits us : a dull dark cloud has been gathering over the horizon ; now the contents, in all their fury, burst upon us ; 'tis, indeed, a most terrible storm. I am sent below to be out of the way, and for safety ; am not idle, however, as full buckets afterwards testified to those on deck.

DEEP CREEK.

"Meanwhile all hands trying their utmost to reach Deep Creek, and so gain a safe anchorage, being very nearly blinded and thoroughly drenched in their efforts to do so. It was very near this spot, during the hurricane of 1883, that the Inagua mail boat was wrecked, the crew were saved, and all passengers drowned. The crew were robbed, and the dead met with no greater pity from the hands of the settlers on this coast. They bear a bad name, being treacherous and cruel. We, however, met with kindness from two who came on board, and helped in our time of need, getting us safely inside, where we The rain prevented any anchcred. going ashore, and any services being held by the missionary that night. Being very wearied with the day's toil, all assembled in the cabin, where a portion of Scripture was read by Mr. W. Josey, the cook afterwards offering up an earnest hearty prayer of thanksgiving; good nights and wishes were exchanged, and all retired to rest and

slumber, none making afraid. Saturday morn we woke very early, commended ourselves to Divine keeping, and then commenced the day's duties by turning everything upon deck to get dry We succeeded in getting them partially so, when the order was given to get under weigh once more, a long day's sail being before us, in order to reach Bennett's Harbour by evening. All day we sped along, towards evening the wind falling almost to a calm, but Dumfries is sighted, and bush is seen burning on the shore, a sign we are seen and recognised; but we pass there, and again see bush being burnt farther along the shore, which is Bennett's Harbour.

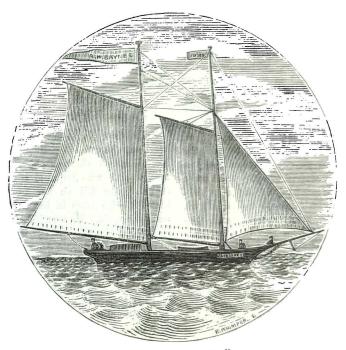
BENNETT'S HARBOUR.

"A light is waved from the vessel, a horn blown, a gun is fired several times, but no one on shore puts out to meet us, saying, in the morning, they were not sure it was the mission schooner. Tired, disappointed, yet glad to be so near our destination, we drop anchor, evening worship is conducted, and all seek rest, rocked on the bosom of the deep. Sunday : awoke at sunrise ; thought of those far away in the dear old home land, and prayed we and they might spend a happy day, praising Him who died for us all; looked out, and found we were anchored in a most beautiful creek, surmounted by a hill covered with variegated foliage, at the foot of which several friends were seated, each anxious to give a morning welcome. Voices, too, were heard on board, 'How d'ee, Mr. Wilshere ; how d'ee, Missey; how is so and so : we've been looking for you so long.' The friends would go on chatting for ever if that could be; but after making arrangements with our aged friend Mr. Roxborough, respecting the day's services, the friends are reminded that it will soon be time to commence the morning service, and those on board

have to break their fast and prepare for going on shore ; accordingly they take the hint and leave. We all join in singing a hymn, and listen to the reading and prayer which follows. Breakfast is enjoyed on deck, and soon we are donned in Sunday attire and put on shore, where the good native brother, Mr. Roxborough, is waiting to receive and conduct us to the chapel. Up the hill, over the rocks, then through a field of guinea corn we go, some of the stalks twelve or thirteen feet high ; I feeling so small, yet so happy, as I pass through, knowing it means food and money for the growers. On and on, our friend asking questions, first about our own, and then of his dear children in Nassau; looking pleased as we say all are well, and then solemn as we tell him of the death and burial of a grandchild one short week ago. Higher up the hill, friends greeting us on either side with 'How d'ee, massa ; how's dem dear childen in England ? Ah, thank God ! We's glad, and glad to see our minister and the missey. Take care the swamp, and don't get your feet hurt missey,' both being a necessary caution to the traveller. On reaching the summit, a pleasing prospect rewards the toiler-viz., a large lake with fowl swimming on it, a splendid view of the sea, a prosperous settlement, having on it a good neat chapel, with a goodly number of bright faces eager to welcome and exchange salutations."

SUNDAY MORNING.

"On entering, the chapel soon fills, a hymn is sung to a good modern tune, and all heads are bowed in prayer, after which another hymn, and then all listen most attentively to a good sermon. A collection is taken up, the benediction pronounced, and a notice given out that the communion will be administered. Another service held in the evening, and baptismal and missionary services at Dumfries on the morrow. Many partook of the bread and wine, after which all shook hands and went outside, where other friends were waiting to walk down to the shore with us, every voice joining with us in singing some of their own anthems, to their own peculiar melodies. Bidding them all good-bye for a little while, we step in the boat, and a short pull takes us safely to our water home, where we enjoy the dinner Josey has prepared for us on deck. After resting and reading, my husband goes once more on shore to conduct the evening service, I staying on board, quietly enjoying the next few hours, either reading, or talking with the crew, or joining



THE "A. H. BAYNES."

in their singing. Lights are seen coming down the hill, farewells are heard, and soon we on board welcome a tired, yet cheerful happy worker, loved by each and all. With kindly good nights, all retired, feeling happy, their confidence being in Him whose word never faileth (Psalm xci.). Monday : wake before sunrise, dress, and go up on deck, where preparations are being made for leaving. A few friends are on the shore, some to say good-bye to us, and others to send produce by a schooner going down to Nassau, by which also we send messages to Flora, letting her know our whereabouts. Saw two cuttle fish, which, on being touched, exuded a black liquid, darkening the water, and so eluding their would-be captors. Bade good-bye to the pretty creek, the only safe anchor age on all St. Salvador; though a wrecked vessel inside speaks volumes, inferring it was not always peaceful even there. A messenger has been sent asking the friends to prepare for the early baptism service.

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM.

"On reaching Dumfries, we find the people assembled, and very soon the missionary is in their midst. prepared to administer the pleasing rite of baptism, always a most impressive sight, especially when viewed from the deck of a mis-The service was a sionary ship. very orderly one, which over, the friends dispersed to their homes until the bell summoned them to the 11 o'clock service, the flag on the mast of the Baynes denoting the time to those on shore. Breakfast was disposed of, and again we made ready to meet the friends. A short row soon took us there. We crossed over the beach on to the road leading to the chapel, which, when reached, proved to be a neat building. We entered, the clean minister taking his seat in a box kind of pulpit, made out of old jalousies' door panels, etc., at the entrance of which a chair was placed for myself. The bell ceased, and every head was bowed, as, in low earnest tones, a blessing was invoked. Then followed the usual service, every part being well rendered and apparently enjoyed by all present. The congregation being dismissed, the members of the church stayed to celebrate the Divine institution of the Lord's Supper. The right hand of fellowship was given to the six dear friends who that same morning had publicly declared themselves as being on the Lord's side. At the close I spoke a few words to the candidates, some of whom were crying much, for very joy, the tears falling like rain, when up came the aged brother, Mr. Roxborough, from Bennett's Harbour, who, shaking hands

with each one, said, 'Don't fret, my children, don't fret ; be glad to-day ; see what God has done, he has washed your sins in the precious blood, so be glad, my loved ones, and don't fret.' The words were so kindly and lovingly spoken, I must confess my own eyes were moist as I bade them goodbye. He is a good old man, and will soon be gathered to his rest. Close by this chapel was a large, neat square of rock, which, I was told, was the foundation of another, the old building being considered too small, one friend observing, 'What our parents did for us, we must try to do for our children.'

A GOOD MAN'S MEMORY.

" Mr. Capern's memory is lovingly cherished here; some time ago, on Mr. Wilshere showing his portrait to a woman who inquired if he was still alive, she fell on her knees and kissed it, with tears in her eyes, over and over again. He was indeed loved on the out islands. On our way down to the beach the people sang anthems, They were reminded of the etc. missionary meeting to be held during the evening, and a promise was given it should be a good one if possible. Many promised to attend, and the result hoped for was realised, those left on board, too, enjoyed a serious and pleasant conversation, until the arrival of Alec and the minister, who said he would like to get very early on the way to Roker's Town next day, as there was to be an early baptismal service there. At daybreak the people and candidates assembled themselves on the beach, and never was there anywhere a more orderly service held. It was a happy sight, long to be remembered. The friends were told there would be service held in the chapel after breakfast, and we would soon be on shore. Accordingly, we were soon there, walking over the rocks, past the church and cemetery, then over a long bridge of loose stones, laid in the water, a false step endangering life and limb, then up the hill until we come to a most unusual sight in these parts, viz., a large playground for the children, their teacher, Mr. Anderson, planning and seeing the whole cut out and levelled for their special benefit, parents falling in with the idea as it kept the children near to their homes. The missionary, a M. B. E. in Nassau, recommended the teacher, and was the means of having a schoolhouse erected. That admired and commented on, we walk a little further, where, on the top of a lovely hill, stands a good chapel, supported inside with stone pillars, and nicely pewed, and is in every respect neat and comfortable. A great many friends were already seated, and soon every pew was filled with bright faces, all anxious to hear the glad news of salvation, which was clearly set forth, and the English anthem was capitally sung by the choir. Notice was given out that the friends would meet a hearty welcome from their friends at the next settlement, viz., the Bluff. Here, too, the communion was administered, six others being admitted into church fellowship. Good-mornings were exchanged, and then Mr. Wilshere with myself leading the way, the people following, we walked down the hill leading to the beach.

NATIVE SONGS.

"As usual they struck up singing, and this is what they sang-

'Oh, my minister, how I love you, We must part ; But if I never see you, I'll love you in my heart,' repeating and repeating, substituting the word 'minister' for 'sister,' 'leader,' 'school children,' etc., etc.

- 'We'll leave all the world, and take up the cross,
 - And follow our Saviour, all the world around.'

"These and others are sung everywhere; it is a remnant of slavery days, that being the only way that they could worship; the historical parts of the Old and New Testament are set to verse, and so thoroughly learned by young and old, even the very babes chime in, wondering what it all means. These songs will never die out whilst there are coloured people to sing them, the tone and pathos with which each are rendered being peculiar to them only. Music is their forte, vocal, and sometimes instrumental; we, however, do not hear these in the city, and only occasionally in the suburbs, on festive occasions. At the foot of the hill I am asked to sit down, one friend wiping a stone, so that Missey might not soil her dress, as the friends gather around to present their offering of eggs, fruit, vegetables, shells, and a fowl from one and another, who remark, 'they wish they could do better, but the gale served them so badly, they could not give more.' One little girl put a chicken into my lap, telling me I was to take it down to Nassau. The children, too shy to speak to me, asked their mothers to let them go home with the white lady, as they designated me. On being told their request, I said as that couldn't be I would try and see them all again, and what I could do for them, but hoped some day to see them all in heaven. The friends sang 'Farewell,' and L'How I love you,' until, with choking sobs, I was lifted into the boat waiting to take us on board, a wave of a handkerchief expressing what I could not utter; although the love was not all meant for me, but part for him whose cheery smile and unselfish care chased the tears away.

(To be continued.)

A Visit to Monte Christi, San Domingo.

THE Rev. R. E. Gammon, writing recently from Puerto Plata, San Domingo, says:-

"On the morning of November 6th, I left here in a small sloop for *Monte* Christi, a little seaport town near the boundary line between this republic and that of Hayti. It is about seventy miles west of Puerto Plata by sea, but much further going by land. The soil around the town of Monte Christi, and several miles of the surrounding district to the east, is (unlike the greater part of the island) sandy and barren, with little growing except the cactus, various species of which abound, together with small stunted bushes. However, it is said that the "cotton-tree" could be made to thrive, and prove very remunerative here, with scarcely any trouble. Since my first visit to this town, in February, 1880, it has increased in size very rapidly, having, during that time, more than doubled its population and the number of its houses.

"I was here during the last days of July (this year), and, during this visit was able to unite a few members in fellowship; for the *first time*, too, in the history of Monte Christi, I baptized (as others would say 'by immersion') *two* candidates on a profession of their faith. Naturally, therefore, the administration of the ordinance aroused very much the curiosity of the people. The baptism took place near the end of the small pier, the Commandante of the port very kindly offering me the use of his office in which to change my clothes.

"The interest excited by the *first* baptism naturally brought crowds, while I was there last month, anxious to know if, and when, we were going to have another baptism. This time I spent a fortnight amongst the people, holding meetings almost daily, the intervals being occupied in visiting and conversing with them.

"On the first Sunday I baptized four candidates, and two on the second (these latter were unable to be present the previous Sunday). On each occasion the small pier and all the available boats and small vessels were crowded with people (many coming some distance on horseback) anxious to witness the baptism, which must have appeared a strange sight to them, the Commandante of the port again kindly placing his office at my disposal for a dressingroom. Considering the circumstances, and that no such service had ever been conducted there before *last July*, the audience behaved remarkably well. We now have a small company of *eighteen members* at Monte Christi; and one young man, whom I baptized in July, conducts the services during my absence. Our prayer is that the few followers may remain steadfast and consistent, the 'little one . . . become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation.'

"It is said that a merchant in the town, and an American engineer, have a concession from the Government for turning the course of the Yaquí River through to Monte Christi Bay. It seems that many years ago, the mouth of the Yaquí opened into this bay, but somehow got blocked up, and its course changed and divided into several small streams, these flowing into the Manzanillo Bay, which is just to the west.

"Not only is it supposed that this plan, if carried out, will provide fresh water for the town, where, in the dry season, water is very scarce, being sold for 1s. per demijohn (three gallons), but also that it will drain several miles of land, now a vast lagoon, and reclaim some thousands of tons of logwood—the chief article of export from that port. This would naturally give increased employment to many men, and thus improve the commerce of the town.

"Altogether I am hopeful that good may be done in this district, and that a few converts to the Gospel of Christ may soon multiply.

"On Sunday week a few candidates are to make a public profession of their faith in our Puerto Plata Church. So, though slowly, our cause makes some progress. "R. E. GAMMON."

Recent Intelligence.

We are pleased to report the safe arrival of the Rev. A. Cowe at Banana, Congo River, on Monday, the 13th of April.

CHRISTIAN VERNACULAR EDUCATION SOCIETY.—At the last quarterly committee meeting the following resolution was cordially adopted :—

The attention of the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society having been called to the history and labours of the Christian Vernacular Education Society for India, formed at the close of the year 1857, as a memorial of the fearful mutiny of that year, desire to commend its support to the friends of this Society. By its three training institutions for the instruction of Indian youth in the art and practice of teaching, it has supplied several of the largest missions in India with about eight hundred Christian schoolmasters; and, by the preparation and issue of school-books and of Christian literature to the extent of eleven millions of copies in several of the most important of the vernacular languages, specially adapted for circulation among the vast myriads of the population.

They have further been enabled to arrange a system by which some of the indigenous schools of Bengal have been brought under Christian instruction and supervision. Native Christian inspectors belonging to our own and other missions, and under the superintendence of our missionaries, have been appointed to visit these indigenous schools at regular periods, and give instruction in Holy Scripture. In addition to these most useful labours, colporteurs have been employed to circulate by sale and otherwise the numerous publications that have been written and translated by authors of reputation and skill.

At the present moment, when the Government of India is about greatly to

enlarge its school operation among the masses of the people, it is more than ever desirable, nay, necessary to provide such agencies as this Society maintains for the purpose of bringing the rising generation under Christian influence, and to diffuse among the people a pure literature, imbued with Christian principles and truth. The Committee are, therefore, glad anew to commend this institution to the cordial sympathy and warm support of their friends.

We would call the attention of our readers to a series of articles appearing in "The Sunday at Home" on "The Congo Basin and its Missions," by our esteemed missionary, the Rev. W. Holman Bentley. The first article appeared in the May number. Much new information will be given.

The first edition of Mr. Tritton's book on "The Rise and Progress of the Work on the Congo River" having been exhausted, a second edition has been prepared with an additional chapter, giving the most recent intelligence at the time of going to press. The volume can be obtained at the Mission House for the small sum of sixpence, or sevenpence halfpenny by post for circulation among Sunday-schools, senior scholars, Bible-classes, and young people's missionary associations.

A very welcome donation of \pounds 500 has been received from G. F. Muntz, Esq., of Umberslade, Birmingham, in acknowledgment of the financial condition of the Society. Are there not other friends who may also wish to recognise the pleasing circumstance of the year beginning free from debt?

Contributions

From 16th March to end of Financial Year.

When contributions are given for special objects, they are denoted as follows:-The letter T is placed before the sum when it is intended for Translations; S, for Schools; NP, for Native Preachers; $W \notin O$, for Widows and Orphans.

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Cherryhinton	0	8	9
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Great Shelford	19	6	8
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Calstock & Metherill	2	10	0
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Do., for NP	0	16	4
Falmouth	18	17	2
Do., for W & O	2	0	0
Liskeard	0	2	6
Penzance	21	2	8
Do., for W & 0	1	10	0
Saltash	12	8	2
Do., for W & O	1	15	3
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Do., for Congo		11	7
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Do., for Rome	5	0	0
Do., for Congo	Б	0	0
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We regret that we are compelled to defer the acknowledgment of other contributions until next issue.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

It is requested that all remittances of contributions be sent to ALFRED HENRY BAYNES, Secretary, Mission House, 19, Castle House, Holborn, London, E.C., and payable to his order; also that if any portion of the gifts are designed for a specific object, full particulars of the place and purpose may be given. Cheques should be crossed Messrs. BARCLAY, BEVAN, TRITTON, & Co., and Postoffice Orders made payable at the General Post Office.

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