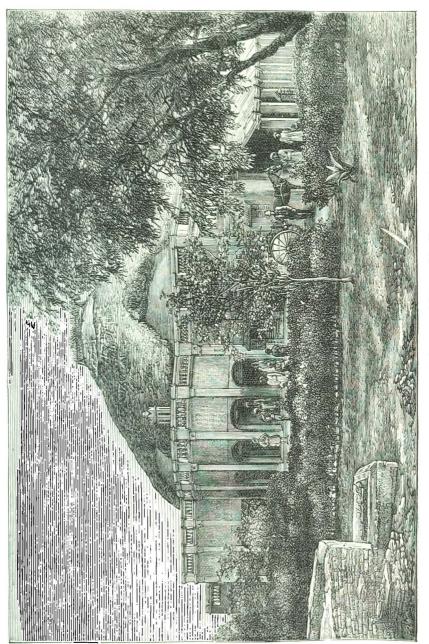
THE MISSIONARY HEBALD, DECEMBER 1, 1886.



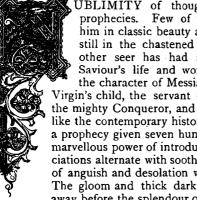


THE Irish Baptist **D**agazine.

DECEMBER, 1886.

NATURE AND THE SUPERNATURAL.

Thoughts on Isaiah, xl. 12. By Rev. JOHN DOUGLAS, of Brixton, S.W.



UBLIMITY of thought is characteristic of Isaiah's prophecies. Few of the sacred writers have equalled him in classic beauty and simplicity of language; fewer still in the chastened splendour of his imagery. No other seer has had such rapturous visions of our Saviour's life and work. His graphic delineation of the character of Messiah as at once Emmanuel and the Virgin's child, the servant of Jehovah, the stricken Lamb, the mighty Conqueror, and the Prince of Peace, reads more like the contemporary history of Jesus than the utterance of a prophecy given seven hundred years before. Isaiah has a marvellous power of introducing contrasts. His fiery denunciations alternate with soothing words of comfort; his visions of anguish and desolation with promises of joy and victory. The gloom and thick darkness of Naphtali suddenly melt

away before the splendour of the Light that arose in Galilee. The humiliation and death of the Messiah are relieved by visions of His transcendent glory, when He should have "swallowed up death in victory," and, amid the chaos of conflicting nations, would establish a universal empire of everlasting joy and peace.

In this fortieth chapter of the prophecy these transitions are strikingly illustrated. The mourning daughter of Zion hears echoing from the peaks of the surrounding mountains the joyous tidings of deliverance and peace. The utter nothingness of idols is set in sharp contrast to the creative majesty of Jehovah; the feebleness and helplessness of man are heightened by contrast with the matchless power and tenderness of the These lofty conceptions awaken in the mind the consciousliving God. ness of sublimity. The infinite power and glory of Jehovah is the sublimest theme that can ever occupy the mind of man. Nowhere is that glory more vividly displayed than in the visions of Isaiah, and as we ponder the truths he brings before us, we cannot but feel the

THE MISSIONARY HERALD

OF THE

Baptist Missionary Society.

1887.

New Year's Day Prayer-Meeting.

O^N Saturday morning, January 1st, 1887, we hope to meet at eleven o'clock, in the Library of the Mission House, Castle Street, Holborn, for special prayer in connection with Mission work all over the world.

Many will doubtless recall with thankful joy hallowed memories of similar occasions in years gone by, and will join in earnest supplication that the approaching gathering may be rich in blessing and memorable in result.

We trust our honoured and beloved Treasurer, Joseph Tritton, Esq., will preside on this occasion.

Sacramental Collection for Widows and Orphans' Fund,

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN THE NEW YEAR.

THE appeal on behalf of this important Fund has been prepared, and will be issued carly during the current month, so as to be in the hands of pastors in good time to permit of the needful announcements.

Very earnestly do we desire to call special attention to the needs of this Fund in view of the increasingly numerous claims of the widow and the fatherless. In March last this fund closed with a debt of $\pounds 205$ 6s. 1d.; and unless the receipts for 1887 show a considerable increase in March next, this debt will be doubled. Amid the glad associations of the new year we plead for a place for the widow and fatherless.

Our brethren on the field are greatly cheered by knowing that, in addition to the affectionate sympathy of personal friends, they are specially remembered at such a season throughout the churches.

They call for our tenderest sympathy; they claim our constant prayers; and as the messengers of the churches and the glory of Christ, they demand our cheerful and generous support. A small increase in the sum collected from every contributing church, and a collection from every *non-contributing church*, will more than supply all the funds so urgently needed.

Christmas and New Year's Cards for Native Preachers' and Evangelists' Fund.

THE Christmas Cards are now being sent out, and we desire to call the special notice of our young friends to this most interesting and important Fund.

The native preachers enable the missionaries to form new stations, to take long journeys into the country where they live, to visit fairs, markets, and heathen festivals, to which great multitudes come to pay honour to their false gods. To these people our native brethren declare the Gospel, and distribute amongst them tracts and copies of the Scriptures.

The Society sustains a very large number of preachers in India, Ceylon, China, Japan, the West Indies, West and Central Africa, and Europe, connected with more than four hundred stations.

The sum raised last year for this purpose amounted to only £792, considerably less than the year before. Will our young friends try this year to raise at least ONE THOUSAND POUNDS? Let all do what they can, and this sum will be secured without difficulty.

We shall be thankful to supply friends with cards who may desire to assist in this good work; applications should be sent to A. H. Baynes, 19, Furnival Street, Holborn, London, E.C.

1887 Anniversary Services.

THE dates selected are as follows :---

INTRODUCTORY MISSIONARY PRAYER MEETING, THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 21st.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF COMMITTEE, FRIDAY, APRIL 22ND. MISSION SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH.

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING, TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 26TH. MISSIONARY SOIREE, TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 26TH.

ANNUAL MISSIONARY SERMON, WEDNESDAY MORNING, APBIL 27TH. EXETER HALL ANNUAL MEETING, THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 28TH.

MISSIONARY CONFERENCE BREAKFAST, FRIDAY MORNING, April 29th.

EXETER HALL YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING, FRIDAY EVENING, April 29th.

Will our readers and friends be so kind as to make an early note of these arrangements, with a view to their being present at some, if not at all, these services.

"It is Time for Thee, Lord, to work." PSALM CXIX. 126.

O LORD, through long and weary years, With wrestling toil and pitying tears, Thy Church has scattered far and wide The seed Thou hast Thyself supplied.

And yet the signs of life how few ! What darkness bounds faith's eager view ! Unstirred by Mercy's quickening breath, O'er millions broods the calm of death.

"'Tis time for Thee to work," and bring To earth's bare fields the blush of spring, And with Thy life Divine upraise Her ransomed sons to swell Thy praise.

For what can our poor help avail? Without Thee, seed and sowers fail; And chosen workers, falling, leave Unwrought what they would fain achieve.

They come and go—not slack their toil, But scant the yield of sacred spoil; Yet Thou canst make rich harvests bloom Luxuriant round each starless tomb.

"'Tis time for Thee"—the seed is sown, Nor will it, Lord, "abide alone"— For this Thy people's cry shall be, "'Tis time for Thee!" "'Tis time for Thee!"

Spirit of God! Through sun or shower, Reveal Thy life-imparting power, And in renewing glory clad, Make Thou the very deserts glad!

Bloomfield.

J. TRITTON

A Letter from the Congo.

THE following letter from Mr. T. J. Comber, dated "Wathen, Sept. 27," and addressed to the Treasurer, is, by Mr. Tritton's kind permission, inserted here :---

"MY DEAR MR. TRITTON,-For several months I have been intending to write you, but have been so busy. Mr. Silvey gave me your kind message that your promise still held good for 'Bloomfield'-cow or donkey. It was to me a confirmation, though not a reminder; for, before the arrival of the week's party, and while I was doing a little evangelistic work in this neighbourhood, I had made up my mind to try again a donkey-only one that I could have housed and groomed occasionally, and that perhaps would live; and to remind you, after purchasing it, of your offer, that evening long ago in 1879, when you gathered us, with my dear wife, at your house. Of the associations of that evening, this new purchase often reminds me.

"THE 'CONGO BLOOMFIELD.'

"Your thoughtful message, how ever, came before I bought our Wathen 'Bloomfield,' the only riding animal in our mission at present. And now I am writing specially to acquaint you directly with the fact of the purchase, to thank you for your kind gift, and to report upon 'Bloomfield,' after six months' possession and use. You will be glad to hear that he keeps well, feeds himself almost entirely, and gives no trouble, involving neither groom nor stable-boy (our school-boys rubbing him down when he needs it); also that he is not vicious in temper. less obstinate than donkeys usually are, and goes at a good pace, being really a good serviceable donkey-a confirmatory bray to this last is just sounding from the stable. 'Bloomfield ' is not to be taken long journeys,

but generally accompanies me to all the towns within easy reach, and so saves me much fatigue. One day last week I was in the saddle for four hours. Short distances of half-anhour to an hour he usually canters briskly nearly all the way-really sometimes he does as well as a horse would do. To-morrow I am going to one of our principal towns, five miles distance, and shall be on his back for two hours or more. So you see 'Bloomfield' is of real service to us, as our famous Cameroons 'Jack' was in our '78 pioneering journey, and as our eleven donkeys in '79 were not. I bought him at Banana, where he was born. Our old brave 'Jack' was born in Victoria. Most of the '79 donkeys were imported from the Canary Islands. In finishing up about our missionary donkey 'Bloomfield,' I should perhaps mention that he is more often called 'Jack'-our boys finding it difficult to say 'Bloomfield.' Many times a week do our schoolboys come and say, 'Please, may we play with the donkey ?' and, with the obtained permission, off they go, and mount him barebacked, and take their turns in a canter round the station; for ' Jack,' or ' Bloomfield,' is quite goodnatured, and lets them do almost all they like with him.

"EBENEZERS.

"It is now close upon a year since our party arrived on the Congo. Pleading earnest loving prayer was offered for us by, I believe, many thousands, to whom our work was dear, and by very many, too, to

whose large and loving hearts we personally were dear. Especially was spared life and health praved for. Oh! has not our Father answered the cries of His children? From my dear brother's death, in December, 1884, to the following May-less than six months-five of our dear brethren had fallen. From June, 1885, to January, 1886, nearly eight months, we have lost one. And since the death of our brother Maynard until now-another eight months-we have been graciously preserved, and number sixteen in all, besides the Bentley party of seven more, due to arrive to-morrow at Banana. Truly, He is good! And all those whose hearts have been rising in prayer on our behalf may offer fervent thanks, giving with no less fervent continued supplications.

"' THE DAY DAWNETH,'

"And then, too, although I often feel keenly dissatisfied with our progress amongst these people, yet I cannot but see that there is progress, and feel that our own God is blessing and shall bless us. We are all very busy at all our stations, trying to establish and extend our work, and the perfect little Peace, under Mr. Grenfell's direction, has been flying over the Congo and its tributaries in all directions, as you know. Here we are three-my brother Percy, Mr. Silvey, and myself. The work is specially in three branches-school and training boys, medical, and building our permanent brick station. In all these departments, progress is rapid. I am hoping to be able to write shortly that preaching in the towns, and itinerating generally, is as special a branch of our work as any other. I feel constantly restless to get to it, and chafe at the correspondence falling to my lot as one of the senior brethren, and at my

medical practice, both of which, however, are important and necessary. So much of my time hitherto since last arrival has been taken up with escorting new brethren and sisters to their stations. We have succeeded in turning out good bricks, and have burnt about 25,000, and have two small brick houses built. Our schoolboys-all boarders-number twentyfive now, most of them bright, promising little fellows. Just at present my brother is superintending building. Silvey naturally looks after school-work. I am doing the medicine, which gives me two or three hours busy work every day, my patients being very numerous-men, women, and children. Five little grass houses now occupy a part of our mission site, with in-patients, of which three are women. This will show the confidence the people place in us. Each patient has one or more of his or her family living in the same house to wait upon them, fetch water, wood, &c. And then many of the people seem to us to want to hear about God. This has been late in coming. I have never seen the heathen longing and crying for the Gospel, and have never thus described them; I wish it were so. But now I do see the people wanting and longing to hear about God, and I feel deeply grateful, and very hopeful. Oh! may great blessing be in store for our work !

"I cannot write more now; but, with many thanks for the donkey, and for all your kindness to us, and asking you to still continue in prayer for us, and with kind regards to you and your family,

> "I remain, dear Mr. Tritton, "Yours very sincerely, "T. J. COMBER.

"To Joseph Tritton, Esq., "Bloomfield, Upper Norwood."

Tidings from the Congo.

THE following letter from Mr. Philip Davies, B.A., we are able to print in the HERALD, by the kindness of his father, to whom it is addressed :--

"Kinshashar, Stanley Pool,

"August 17th, 1886.

"MY DEAR FATHER,—At the Pool at last you see. I left Ngombe on the 7th, and reached here on the 13th. The journey was in many respects as before, but the road was much better —no toilsome hills nor tall grass, and all the rivers low and easily crossed. The scenery, too, was better, more tropical-looking at the rivers especially—more trees; and as the State had cut a road to bring up a steamer on, it made avenues through the woods instead of the usual track.

"ON THE ROAD.

"As everything was favourable for travelling, I had neither tent nor hammock, and did not need either. Once I slept out, and made a cover for myself with a large waterproof sheet to keep off the dew, and a few grass mats to keep off the wind. Another night, but for the name of the thing, I might almost as well have slept out, as the house I was in had no roof; the walls, though, kept off the wind, and the sheet served to roof in one end. It is rather handy to have a house not finished (another I had, had a roof, but only three sides), as you get a little more daylight in the early morning; and, as a rule, the native houses have no window, and only a small door. Food was easy to get on the road; nice fish, smoked to preserve them. Some I had given me, though, had not been smoked soon enough, and a sanitary inspector would have detected it a few streets off. I bought some choice rats on the road, too. I hope you won't feel your loss too much, but they are a luxury you cannot get in England. I have had some hippoo since I got here; an Englishman who belongs to the State goes out and shoots one every week to get beef for his people.

"It was tender, not unlike English beef in appearance and taste, but only moderately good-not a thing to go into raptures over, like the rats. Perhaps you have been thinking of me on the banks of the Congo, but after the day I left Underhill till I got two or three days from here, I have not seen The road up is usually two or it. three days' march south of the river. As I got near here it was generally in sight—at present thirty or forty feet below its highest level-large rocks and sandbanks along the sides and in its course, and the water roaring along. There are stretches of it navigable by canoes, but generally it does not look inviting for a row.

"STANLEY POOL.

"The Pool is about the size and shape of the Isle of Wight. From our station we get a fine view of about half of it; it makes the finest outlook of any of our stations. The further part of the Pool is hidden by the islands that are in it, though we can see the hills that bound it on all sides. I have had a few hours on it in one of our canoes, and we saw some few hippos about. They like to get on the sandbanks, almost, or quite under the water most of the time, coming up for fresh air occasionally. I met with the following device about here for catching birds. Two poles, thirty feet or so high, are put into the ground, with a string stretched from the tops of them, and hanging from this a number of fine string nooses for the birds to fly into; no bait is put. I suppose the birds fly in before they notice it. Round the Pool there are a great number of races-the territories of seven or eight meet on the shores. I have had one trip on the Pool. We were taking one of Bishop Taylor's men to their station at Kimpoko, at the eastern end of the Pool; we were two days going up on account of the current, and four or five hours coming down. It reminded me of camping on the Thames, landing for chop, and sleeping on a sandbank at night.

"I give you a few sketches, to show some of the modes of coiffure in vogue here. Some of them are more extraordinary than pleasing, and the same remark applies to the incisions on the face. Many of the headdresses, though, are really good specimens of hair - dressers' art; the hair is always crisp and curly, but is wonderfully long in many cases..

"THE CONGO FIRE.

" I have got my gold watch out of the fire, the works all spoilt, of course. The gold case will fetch something. I can hardly imagine how the watch did not get melted up, as beads and brass wire, and all things of that sort, were run together into inseparable masses. Everything in the way of clothes, books, and tinned provisions was as completely destroyed as things can be. After I get to Lukolela you must be be prepared for great irregularity in my communications, as I shall be mainly dependent on our own steamer, and shall have to send off letters when

I can. The best news I have to tell you—and I could not send you any of a better sort—is that I have full reason for believing that my boy has been converted, and I feel all the more glad about it as the difficulty of getting at the people's souls was beginning to be more apparent to me as I stayed in the country.

"THE PEOPLE.

"It is fairly easy to get on good terms with the people, but the ideas we preach are so altogether new that it must take a long time to make intelligent Christians of them. They pay wonderful attention, and you think you are really making some impression on them, when you are stopped by someone inquiring if the devil is a white man, and other things of that sort. Our boys we have about us always, and they get a good bit of teaching, and heathen ideas are prevented from entering, or, at any rate, getting firm hold of their minds. During all the travelling I have had since the beginning of April, Lo and I have been thrown a good deal together; and at night in the tent, when everything was settled for the night, we generally talked together a good bit about God and His Son; and while I was very pleased with the conceptions he was forming about God, I never said anything to him to make him declare himself a Christian, but preferred to wait and let careful instruction bear its own fruit in course of time. There was always the utmost naturalness and freedom in all we said, and it was he, more than I, who led our chats round from things in general to God and salvation. I shall never forget the decisive night, in a native house a day's march from here. We had had an hour or two's talk first with some of the carriers, which Lo carried on for me with great earnestness with them.

"Lo's DECISION.

"By nine o'clock they had all gone out to sleep, and, as usual, we had a little quiet talk between ourselves, only, instead of gradually settling down to sleep, he made more anxious inquiries than I had ever heard before about salvation, asking me to teach him. He told me he wanted to serve God and to do right, but felt unable from his weakness; and a thing that pleased me was, he seemed to want more to be saved from sin-from sin itself-rather than the punishment of it only. He showed so much knowledge of the true nature of God and of sin, that I felt I must do all I could to help him to be really converted that night; and as he leant over the side of my bed and took my hand, I put my arms round him and drew him to me, and I could feel all his frame trembling and his breast throbbing, not with hysterical excitement, but with intense emotion; in fact, we were both so quiet, that anyone half asleep would not have heard us. For long intervals we could neither of us speak at all, but we both prayed; and as I thought of things that might be helpful, I spoke to him. We went on in this way till nearly midnight, when we lay down again, he possessing the new heart which he was longing for. Everyone that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth; and with all his heart he had that night asked for salvation and sought the Saviour. He is only a boy, perhaps fourteen years old, and he needs help. I have loved him for a long time, and all the more now; and as his failings and weaknesses much resemble mine at his age, I may be able to help him till he has developed a strong Christian character, and, as far as man's help goes, can stand alone. The same evening he was telling me about his speaking to some of the people what we had taught him, and he said, 'I told them there must be something in it, or these white men would not leave their beautiful country, with all its wonderful things, and come here and be ill so much and die.' A little before he had been asking me how many of our men had died. It made me feel that what little suffering I had had, had not been in vain, and that there was some purpose after all in the deaths that have occurred, and that it was not all loss, as it might seem to us.

> "Your loving son, "PHILIP."

RECENT CONGO INTELLIGENCE.

The Rev. W. Holman Bentley writes from the Congo River, October 1st:---"We reached Banana on Sunday last, and expect to be at Underhill tomorrow. We are indeed thankful to find ourselves thus far in good health and cheerful spirits."

Mr. Bobert D. Darby, one of the new missionaries of Mr. Bentley's party, writing from Underhill, nine days later than Mr. Bentley, says :— "I am sure you will be equally glad with us that we have all landed safely at Underhill. We had a very beautiful passage out. God heard the prayers of His people, and undoubtedly gave 'the winds and the waves charge concerning us.' We found, from letters received at Underhill from Mr. Comber, that our brethren were all well up river. Some of the American Baptist Missionary Union brethren had come down from Banza Manteke to meet their friends. They gave very cheering accounts of the progress of work in their district. We gathered round the Lord's Table in the evening, and we devoutly thanked our Father for His care of us, and prayed for His blessing on our work, and for grace and help to live earnest and upright lives, and thus impress the people with the beauty of the religion of Jesus, by being ourselves monuments of His great goodness. Continue to urge the churches at home to pray for us, and to give liberally to the great work of carrying the glad tidings to those who are in darkness and misery."

We are grieved to report that, in consequence of ill health, Dr. Seright has been compelled to return home, after only a very brief residence on the Congo. Writing to the Secretary, from Govan, N.B., under date of October 24th, Dr. Seright reports :—"It is with deep regret that I have to inform you that constant fevers compelled me to leave the Congo by the mail of the 16th ultimo. How deep the disappointment to me is you can scarcely conceive, and I know it must be very great to yourself and the Committee. You will be glad to know I have somewhat benefited by the voyage, but I am still very weak."

The Committee feel that the course taken by Dr. Seright was the only wise one, under the special circumstances of his case. They deeply sympathise with him, and earnestly hope he may very soon be restored to his usual health.

The Committee, still feeling the great importance of having one or two fully qualified Christian medical men on the Congo, desire to re-issue the following appeal under which Dr. Seright offered himself for this special service.

With a view to secure thoroughly efficient medical and surgical treatment for the brethren of the Congo Mission, the Committee of the Society have resolved to appoint and send out, at the earliest practicable date, one or two fully qualified and well-equipped *medical men*, for a limited term of service, under certain special and well-defined conditions; such professional men being of course Christians, in full sympathy with Christian missions, and ready, to the full extent of their opportunity, to engage in mission work. Detailed particulars can be secured on application to the General Secretary, Mr. A. H Baynes, at the Mission House, 19, Furnival Street, London, E.C.

Miss Spearing, writing from Stanley Pool, reports:—"Since my arrival at Stanley Pool I have had time to think about the necessities of my work among the girls, and to learn a little respecting their character, from my own observation and from Mrs. Grenfell, and feel more deeply convinced than when I was in England that it will be necessary for me to make my home with the girls if my work among them is to be as successful as it should be. Mr. Grenfell has already arranged for me to have a separate house, in which I can live with the girls.

"I am very thankful to be able to tell you that, although I have had a slight attack of bilious fever, God has raised me up again, and renewed my strength so quickly that I feel that I may hope for many years of work here, and trust that, as He has fitted me physically to bear the climate, He will grant me every good gift and grace necessary for successful work, and that His blessing will rest upon our work here."

"The arrival of the new brethren, with Mr. and Mrs. Bentley, has filled our hearts with joy, and made the prospects of Upper River work much brighter. May God bless them all, and send many more to aid them in this blessed work."

Mr. S. Silvey, writing from Wathen (Ngombe) Station, under date of September 30th, reports :--- "I arrived here from San Salvador on the 16th inst., and found Mr. Comber, Percy, and Richards all looking remarkably well. They have scarcely had any fever at all for months. Mr. Richards left the following morning for Stanley Pool to join Mr. Davies. We have since heard that they have started in the *Peace* for Lukulela, and they intend to commence work there at once.

"I was six days on the road from San Salvador to Underhill, and ten days from Underhill to Wathen; and although travelling alone is quite a new experience for me, I am glad to say I arrived here none the worse for my long journey.

"Wathen is a fine large station, and when the new brick Mission-house is

finished, will be second to none on the Congo. Already 16,000 bricks have been burned, and one or two brick outhouses have been erected.

"There are twenty-six boys in the school, all boarders, and we hope soon to largely increase the number.

"At San Salvador there are twenty boys boarders, whose ages run from twelve to twenty years, and about forty boys in constant attendance under twelve years of age. Some of our elder boys have, we have good reason to believe, given their hearts to Jesus. Since I arrived at Wathen I have received a letter from Nlekai, the boy Mr. Weeks took home to England, in which he says, respecting a visit paid to his mother and town, fifty miles from San Salvador:—

"'The people wanted me to stay there, but I eaid to them I want to go back, because I want to learn more of our Lord Jesus, that when I come back to this town again I shall be able to tell you something about our Lord Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save sinners. They said that is a very good palaver, go and learn much of it. They seemed very glad to hear about it. Some of the women there said, "Now we will let our sons go to school, because we see you are learning something better;" so I brought two boys back with me. I thanked our Heavenly Father very much for his mercy to me, and for hearing the people say it is a very good palaver to learn about our Lord Jesus.'

"I am sure we have much reason to thank God and take courage. In a very short time we hope to have a large band of earnest Christian young men who have been trained in our schools, and who, we trust, will proclaim the Gospel far and wide to their own countrymen.

"My own health is still very good."

In consequence of continued fever Mr. and Mrs. Weeks, with their infant boy, have been compelled to leave San Salvador for Madeira, where they will stay for a season's change.

The Congo Mission "Quilt."

W ITH much pleasure we give a few details concerning the "Quilt." The centre, given by Mr. Seivwright, of Aberdeen,'is fifteen inches square, and represents Stanley Pool, with the steamer *Peace* in the foreground; above and below are the initials of the ten brethren, beloved by many, who have "laid down their lives" in their Master's service on the Congo field. The "Quilt" itself consists of some 2,700 squares, bearing the initials and monograms of warmhearted and earnest friends of mission work.

To those who have been behind the scenes the "Quilt" represents an amount of prayerful and loving interest little dreamed of by an unthinking world.

One, an invalid for fourteen years, writes: "Many prayers have been worked into mine, and I am sure it does one good, not only to give money, but time and strength, to further in any humble way the extension of 'our Master's Kingdom.' It has brought pleasure to me in many ways, and has been well worth any tiredness it may have involved. The best of our Master's service is that it brings its own present reward in the doing it 'for Him.'"

Another says: "We have read about the 'Quilt' in the Christian World, and, although poor, my dear wife thought we might write for a square. I wish it were in our power to do more, but I have been an invalid for four years, and we have had a struggle to live."

Over £140 have been received, many of the contributors being amongst the young; three squares from Redditch have five or six initials on of Sundayschool children. Applications have been received from conductors of Bibleclasses, mothers' meetings, and secretaries of Juvenile Missionary Associations, and it is hoped that this united gathering up of the "fragments" may result in greater interest, larger self-sacrifice, and fuller consecration in years to come.

Photographs have been taken by Mr. Thurston, of Luton. They are eleven inches by nine inches, and most of the initials are easily recognised without a glass. Price 3s. each; with packing and postage 3s. 6d. The profits will, of course, go to the Mission Funds.

Applications to be made to Miss Pewtress, 41, Penn-road, Holloway; E. Marlborough & Co., 51, Old Bailey, E.C.; or Mr. Thurston, Hastings-street, Luton.

The "Quilt" is to be exhibited at the Schoolroom, behind Camden-road Chapel, December 1st and 2nd. Admission 2d.

Agra, N.W.P.

BY REV. JAMES SMITH, OF DELHI.

(See Frontispiece.)

FORTY years ago, Agra (or Akhbarábád) was said to be famous for pigs, ravines, and Baptists. This quaint description of the ancient capital

of the once mighty and extensive Mogul Empire was by no means misleading. Well do I remember the ugly, barren, broken ground stretching away from the moat surrounding the fort towards the Taj in one direction, and the military lines in another. Also the innumerable droves of disgusting, filthy pigs that wandered about, almost unseen, among the numerous small watercut ravines by which the whole space was intersected. No resident in India in olden times, before the existence of municipal institutions, will question the wisdom of the Mosaic code regarding that wonderfully unclean animal—the pig; and certainly their numbers, and the filthy condition in which they managed to exist at the period to which I refer, was sufficient to attract the notice of strangers, and might well be pointed out as one of the characteristics of the famous city. And as to the Baptists, what a number of venerable figures crowd on the memory, representing a community of Christian men and women who for sterling piety and godliness, accompanied by manly independence, have scarcely had their equals in India! When I was first introduced to them 'in January, 1846, there were two churches—one in Cantonments, and the other two miles away in the Civil lines. They each had their own pastor, and both were supported without touching the funds of the Missionary Society. The Cantonment church, of which Richard Williams was pastor, practised close communion, whilst the Civil lines church, of which Mr. Lish was pastor, not only kept an open table, but admitted members of other denominations to full fellowship and equal privileges. Each church had its missionary organization, supporting and superintending a number of valuable native preachers and evangelists. The chapel in 'cantonments was first built through the efforts of the late Capt. W. Parry ; then rebuilt on a larger scale by Havelock and his men ; and lastly the church has found a home in the fine building erected through the instrumentality of the Rev. Gelson Gregson.

Richard Williams was a faithful, old-fashioned pastor, in thorough sympathy with his people, sharing their joys and sorrows, and looked up to as a true friend and adviser on all occasions of difficulty and trial. His hands were held up by deacons and fellow-workers, men of strong faith, whose hearts and affections were fully engaged in the Master's service. Not a regiment was ever stationed in Agra, that did not carry away with it substantial fruits, the result of the faithful labours of the brethren connected with the old Cantonments Baptist Church, and many now in glory look back at the old honoured place as their spiritual birthplace. I look back with intense admiration for the characters of some of the extraordinary men and women with whom I laboured in Agra. Mr. Parry had been through the Kābul campaign, a Baptist of the old school, upright and downright, proud of his principles, and never tired of making them known; Mr. Ritchie, of the Agra Bank, an acceptable preacher, who often edified the church and congregation when the pastor was on a missionary tour; P. B. Reid and his devoted wife ; also John Jahans ; Doyle and Fordham, and, somewhat later, Johnson, editor of the Agra Akhbar, a most acceptable preacher, educated in England under the guardianship of Mr. Ryland; J. C. Parry, then a young man just beginning life, now an honoured member of the Baptist Mission Committee, and the only survivor of those early days of Baptist history in Agra.

The church in Civil lines was under the care of the Rev. A. B. Lish, a Serampore student during the time of Carey, Marshman and Ward. In the year 1833 he was ordained at the Lal Bazar chapel, Calcutta, a missionary to the Khasias; Leechman, Mack, and his father-in-law, the Rev. W. Robinson, taking part in the proceedings. Through a failure in health he was obliged to relinquish his interesting work and return to the plains. The distance of

the Civil lines from the Cantonment chapel prevented many from attending the means of grace there, and thus a number of friends were induced to ask Mr. Lish to commence a new cause nearer their homes, and with a constitution large enough to admit others to unite with them, who were not Baptists. Under most favourable circumstances Mr. Lish commenced his ministry, formed a Union church, and built a commodious chapel. For thirteen years he laboured with great happiness and success in the midst of a loving people and under the Master's smile. His death was sudden and unexpected. I performed his funeral service, and preached his memorial sermons, and, although thirty-four years have subsequently run their course, the sorrowing crowds who surrounded his grave are still fresh in my memory. The leading men of Mr. Lish's church were largely from Serampore, educated in the College, and the fruit of the early labours of the honoured brethren who pioneered missionary labours in Bengal. The Gordons, father and two sons, were remarkably able men, and rose to the highest honours men in the uncovenanted service of Government could They served their generation, and with a host of others-Frazer, reach. Crawfords, Carters, Ledlies, Smiths, &c.-are nearly all gone to their rest. The Baptists of Agra were a most useful, united, independent and laborious people, sustaining the cause of Christ amongst themselves and carrying on vigorous operations among the heathen, with great self-denial and success. Nor was their influence confined to Agra. The Gordons, being in God's providence removed to Bombay, were the real founders of the church now under the pastorate of the Rev. W. Bell; others were removed to Allahabad, and there established the present Baptist church; a few were removed to Lahore, and were the means of infusing new life into the Union church, under the excellent ministry of the American Presbyterian missionaries. The present English church and flourishing missionary operations in Agra. grew out of the old vigorous stock so ably planted by the sturdy Baptists of olden times. On reviewing the past, admiration for the plans and labours of the founders of our Mission can scarcely be avoided. Through the College at Serampore, the scattered pupils carried with them the principles and energy and independent spirit of their masters, all over India; and had there been no break in the plans and steady outflow of godly, trained, indigenous men of the Serampore stamp, our influence would probably have been now paramount in India. The American Episcopal Methodists are largely following in the steps of the first great mcn our churches sent out, and in some places have stepped into our shoes, and we rejoice in all their success. It is a subject for gratitude that the College at Serampore is now devoted to the training of an indigenous ministry for the Bengali-speaking nations, and, with the indefatigable labours of our brethren Summers and James, we trust

the cause of Christ will soon manifest new spiritual life as well as mental power. Delhi is fast becoming the Serampore of Northern India; and the theological and normal school, under the able management of Mr. Guyton, will we hope send forth a band of men of sanctified intellect, who may prove a lasting blessing to the millions of Northern India.

The frontispiece to this number represents the present Mission House at Agra, occupied by brethren Jones and Potter. Although the old people have passed away, and the Station has undergone great changes in consequence of the removal of the seat of government to Allahabad, yet the work of the Mission is being carried on with vigour and success. There is a large amount of sturdy independence in the native church. Its members assist in evangelistic labours. Bazar preaching, cold weather evangelistic tours through the extensive districts around the city, with a fair amount of educational work, are all sustained with zeal and faithfulness. The English Church occupies an important position in relation to the large number of soldiers residing in its immediate neighbourhood; and its early traditions and success will no doubt stimulate the present generation to acts of zeal and self-denial worthy of the venerable men, now in glory, whose places they occupy. The addition of the Zenana Mission, with all its activities and busy agents, renders the organisation and equipment of the Mission complete, and gives the prospect of future usefulness. May the seed sown in the past of the faithful labours of our brethren result in the gathering into the Saviour's Kingdom of a great harvest of souls!

Mission Work in Central Africa and the Church Missionary Society.

WE are confident that all readers of the HERALD will, in the words of the following letter, just received from the Committee of the Church Missionary Society, join in earnest prayer on behalf of the native converts who still survive in Uganda, and for the devoted and heroic missionary, Mr. Mackay, that they may be divinely sustained and upheld in this season of "fierce and fiery trial," and that these mysterious and distressing providences may yet be overruled for the extension of the kingdom of the Redeemer, and the true enlightenment and uplifting of the degraded peoples of the Dark Continent of Africa. We earnestly appeal to pastors and members of our churches to offer special supplications on behalf of their afflicted brothers and sisters in Uganda, asking also that special wisdom and grace may be given to the Committee of the Church Missionary Society, that they may be divinely directed in all their deliberations in this season of sore trial and perplexity :--

"Church Missionary Society,

"Salisbury Square, London, E.C.,

"November 17th, 1886.

"DEAR SIR,—As you are probably aware, a fierce persecution broke out, last June, against the infant church in Uganda, Central Africa. Many Christians—thirty-two on one single occasion—after barbarous tortures, were burnt to death.

"The painful details of these sad events have recently reached this House, and from their exceptional character, and the almost unprecedented (in modern missions) extent and severity of the persecution, the Committee of the Church Missionary Society, assured of the earnest sympathy of their sister missionary societies, venture to request their prayers.

"May we, therefore, ask you kindly to lay before your Committee our affectionate request that they will unite their intercessions with ours in behalf of the native converts who still survive—as we trust some do—in Uganda; for Mr. A. M. Mackay, our devoted brother, who is detained in the country by King Mwanga; and for the King, and chiefs, and people, that they may obtain mercy, and that in them Jesus Christ may show forth all long-suffering for a pattern to them who shall hereafter in Africa believe on Him to eternal life.

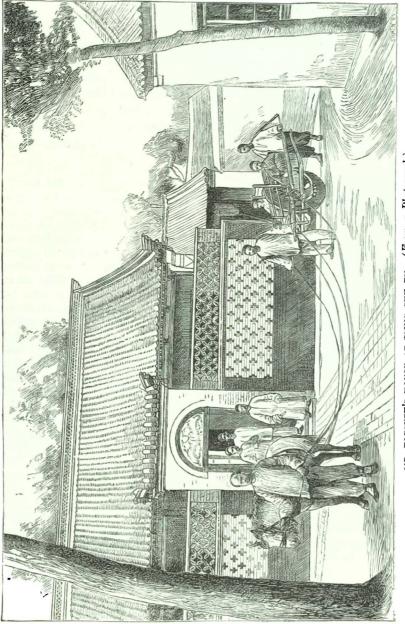
> "Believe us to be, "Faithfully and affectionately yours, "CHR. C. FENN, Secretary, C.M.S.

> > "G. FURNESS SMITH, Acting Secretary, C.M.S.

"To A. H. BAYNES, Esq., Secretary, Baptist Missionary Society."

Mission House, Tsing Chu Fu.

M. R. C. FORSYTH, of Tsing Chu Fu, sends a photograph which we have had engraved, and writes—" This picture was taken in my front yard. The back-ground is my house. On the barrow Mr. Whitewright sits to the left, Mr. Couling to the right. The barrow has horse attached, and is fully equipped for country travelling. In the doorway I stand in the centre, Dr. Watson to my right, and Mr. Wills to the left. The horse is owned by Mr. Whitewright, and is called 'Curly.'"





The Bible Translation Society. LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY.

W^E invite the special attention of our readers to the following letter from the esteemed Secretary of the Bible Translation Society, and earnestly plead for a practical and speedy response.

There is to-day, in India especially, a very widespread demand for the Scriptures and Scripture portions, our missionaries reporting that "almost any book about Jesus Christ is welcomed by the people." In this respect a very marked change has taken place of late, for formerly, in the words of one of our brethren, "the people would spit on and destroy all such books."

To the Editor of the MISSIONARY HERALD.

DEAR SIR,-Few facts connected with Indian Missions have been dwelt on by yourself with more satisfaction, or been welcomed by your readers as more full of promise, than the increasing interest of the Hindus in the Christian Scriptures. The spread of education, and the quickening of religious inquiry have rendered possible a greatly enlarged circulation of portions of the New Testament, and larger editions of these have been required to supply our brethren in their evangelising tours. Though some price is generally received for the copies distributed, it is always a mere nominal one as compared with the cost of production; and therefore larger editions necessitate larger resources to supply them. In former years the income of the Bible Translation Society easily furnished these; but for some time past, chiefly through the decease of old and hearty supporters, that income has been diminishing while these demands on it have increased, so that in March last the balance against it at the Mission Press in Calcutta (as stated in the report) was some £300, and later advices intimate that since then this adverse balance has greatly increased. The report of the Committee having probably reached only a few of the supporters of our Mission, or the importance of the statement not having been realised, there has been little improvement where most needed. Through the HERALD, therefore, allow me to make it more widely known, that if the fund of the Bible Translation Society be not soon and largely increased, our missionaries cannot through it obtain the supply of Scriptures upon which, to a great extent, the officiency of their itinerancies depends. The result of this will be, either they must become burdensome to the Baptist Missionary Society as no other missionaries are to the societies sustaining them, or they must take Scriptures which they cannot but regard as obscuring or misrepresenting one important positive demand of our Lord, or be content to say to thoso wishing to possess some of our sacred books, "You cannot have them unless you pay much more than we have been wont to require." Feeling assured that neither of these alternatives will be viewed with satisfaction by the friends of our Mission Society, I make through you an appeal for the Auxiliary to that Mission which has been the means of originating or rendering more perfect versions of the Scriptures in the languages of 150 millions of our Eastern fellowsubjects, and has hitherto been able to give to our missionaries all the copies they could judiciously distribute.

Appeals for help to print other versions or editions in the Japanese and a modified form of the Garo languages have been received, and will be gladly responded to as the liberality of their friends enables the Committee to do so.

Allow me, in conclusion, to assure your readers that the Committee have not been indifferent to the suggestions of their friends respecting the more economical arrangements needed in home expenditure. Some changes in these have been made, and others will be as they are found practicable. In the judgment of the Committee, however, the lessening of its income is chiefly due to the general want of accurate knowledge of the work it attempts, and the need of its continuance for that work to be done. Only this day an illustration has been communicated in an annual subscriber of ten shillings withholding this year his contribution, under the impression that now that we have "a Revised Version," its work was done. As its Secretary—and that not through my own solicitations—believing in both its work and necessity, let me solicit from my brethren their hearty co-operation in making both known, and express to them my readiness to give—by address, or letter, or publication—the information about its action and aim which in many cases only requires to be known for it to receive the help it needs.

Believe me, dear Mr. Editor, yours very truly,

JOHN TRAFFORD.

Zenana Mission.

O^N behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Angus wishes very gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of parcels or boxes of clothing, dolls, and fancy articles, for Christmas gifts, from friends at the following places: Alnwick, Bloomsbury Chapel, Bratton, Bridgwater, Bristol, four boxes (by Mrs. Polglase, Mrs. Medway, Miss Gotch, and Miss Roleston), Cambridge (by Miss Carley), Cardiff (Mrs. Jones), Chester (Mrs. Jones), Chichester, Clapton (Downs Chapel), Edinburgh (Marshall Street Chapel), Enfield, Forest Hill, Gloucester, Harrogate, Hebden Bridge, Hereford, Huntingdon, Kimbolton, Kingston-on-Thames, Manchester, Margate, Newbury, Nottingham (George Street Chapel), Plymouth, Putney, Rawdon, Salisbury (Mrs. Short), Southport, Southsea, Taunton, Tonbridge, Truro, Watford, Wellington (by Mrs. Price and Mrs. Burnett), Wisbech, and Wood Green.

Also from Mrs. Barclay (Montrose), Mrs. F. Benham, Mrs. Burchell, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Carey Coombs, Miss Crosfield, Mrs. Doulton, Miss F. Gale, Mrs. Gould, Mrs. Higham, Miss Jennings, Mrs. Johnson (Brixton), Mrs. Lindsay Johnson, Mrs. Maslen, Mrs. Moore, Ledy Peto, Mrs. Pinniger, Mrs. Salter, Miss Smith (Acton), Miss Southwell, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Tritton, and Mrs. Wellden.

Some friends kindly sent money to be spent in things most needed; and, consequently, a small supply of Mrs. Grimke's text-cards, both large and small, in Urdu, Hindi, Bengali, &c., and some scissors and thimbles were added.

All these acceptable gifts have been sent to the ladies at our different stations in India, with full information, in each case, as to the donors thereof. In a few months, doubtless, these kind friends will receive accounts of the warm reception which has been given to them.

Sketches in India. By Rev. Joseph J. Doke, of Chudleigh. No. V.—ALLAHABAD.



THE BLIND FAKEER AND THE IDOL HANUMAN.

NOT far from the throne of Baba Surada, the blind Fakeer, but below the bank on the dry bed of the river, reclines the hideous idol called "Hanumān," the monkey-god. A large room has been formed by excavation in the river bed, and roofed in by reeds, with the customary adornment of flags. Steps—hardly approachable in flood time—lead down to the floor at either end, in which a large grave has been made. Here reclines, on his back, the large vermilion-coloured image—about five or six feet long—as represented in the sketch. Mr. Dann kept the repulsive—looking Brahmin in conversation for a time to enable me to snatch a portrait, and meanwhile men and momen were tramping round the idol, bowing, offering baskets of flowers, sprinkling it with Ganges water, and shouting, "Ram ! Ram ! Ram !"

Of course we were not allowed to enter so sacred a place.

This Hanuman has a somewhat peculiar history, accounting for the reverence now paid to his memory. He is said to have helped the divine king, Ram, some 5,000 years ago, to rescue his wife Seta from the King of the Demons. The story is a very foolish one, and not worth recording, save as revealing the absurdities of Hindu mythology. The legend runs thus :--After his loss poor Ram was greatly troubled. He asked all manner of beasts and birds where Seta was in hiding, but they could not tell. At length, after bathing here at this junction of the waters, while the multitude of gods lined the banks, filled with wonder, he discovered that Seta was a prisoner in Ceylon. He then gathered a large army of monkeys, divided into regiments with officers, but was unable to cross the Gulf of Manaar. On this, Hanuman appeared, and told Ram to go to sleep, and in the morning he should see what he would see. During the night this eccentric gentleman brought down a mountain from the Himalayas, and thus Ram with his army was enabled to cross, fight the Demon, and rescue Seta. From that time, Hanuman has been worshipped as the monkey-god.

There is one point in the narrative more luminous than the rest. That is where Seta is beguiled out of the circle which Ram had prohibited her to leave by Rāvan, the Demon King, appearing as a holy Fakeer. Truths may lie beneath this absurd covering touching Fakeers in general. Or the fact may be implied thus—that evil may assume the appearance of good, "Satan be transformed into an angel of light," for a purpose.

But whatever spiritual meaning once shone through these legends, it is lost now to the people, and these tales are undoubtedly regarded as history, and the stone idol as a god.

Look at this Brahmin's face! How utterly idolatry appears to rob the devotee of even human likeness. This, you know, is, what some call, *harmless* idolatry! Harmless, indeed, when the god is so much below thoman, and to reach godliness one must struggle downwards!! The very features are influenced; but the life—alas! how sad.

Visit to Madampe, Ceylon.

BY MR. FRANK M. LAURIE.

HAVE been thinking that perhaps you would find a corner in your valuable Magazine for a few notes of a visit which the Rev. H. R. Pigott and I made to a Singhalese out-station, some forty-four miles from Colombo. I may say that only a few years ago I looked upon all Missions as a failure, especially those in Ceylon. Since then the Lord Jesus has put His love in my heart, and has given me the desire to live for the praise and glory of the One who has purchased me with His own life's blood. So you will see that these are notes from an independent source.

ON OUR JOURNEY.

We left Colombo and travelled by coach for some twenty-three miles through a very prettily wooded part of the country, where most of the road was shaded by cocoa-nut palms as well as other trees of rich foliage. This brought us to a delightful little seaside town, where we had dinner, and then started again in a bullockcart, travelling all night in the cool, but bright, moonlight the remaining twenty-one miles. We arrived at our destination about dawn in the morning. This is a pleasantly situated station, some two miles from the sea-shore, with a pretty little church, built some sixteen years ago by Mr. Pigott, from plans supplied by the Rev. F. D. Waldock; and the latter gentleman has just made a plan for a new house for the native pastor, which is to be built at once. His present residence, being only a temporary kind of shed, is now in a dilapidated condition. There are some well-to-do families who live in the town, most of whom are not only members of the church, but many, praise God, are working for the dear Lord Jesus, who has brought them "out of that horrible pit." Before starting on this journey we were praying that we might go in the power of the Spirit, and we found the working members in a ready, prayerful, willing state, which rejoiced our hearts and made us praise the Lord. Soon after our arrival in the station, we were taken round by the Rev. Raphael Perera (the resident pastor) to call on some of the families. Wherever we went we were received with the greatest kindness and welcome; and the Lord enabled us, by the gracious Spirit, to speak words of encouragement and comfort to some, as well as words of warning to others.

OUR FIRST MEETING.

In the afternoon, about 4 o'clock, Mr. Perera invited us to join him with his fellow-workers in a street meeting, to which all joyfully responded. We went singing down the principal thoroughfares, some ten of us, out of which six spoke to the assembled crowd in turn, pointing out "the way of life and the way of death." I could not sing the words, as I did not know Singhalese; but my heart was so full that I made up to some extent for the want of knowledge of the language, by singing the English tune which was set to the native hymn. The people were most attentive; but, towards the close. some zealous Buddhist went to fetch the priest, so we had an extra listener, who, after we had finished, spoke to the people himself on Buddhism.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

On Sunday morning, at about 8 o'clock, there was a Sunday-school at which some forty boys were present. These were addressed by Mr. Pigott, who spoke some earnest words during which they were very good and attentive. At 9.30 a.m., the hour for morning service, I had been asked to speak by interpretation, and, after waiting on the Lord in prayer, I received as a message, "The Brazen Serpent." I felt utterly unfit to deal with such a subject, yet I knew God could and would bless the feeblest word, so I trusted in Him to do so. There was a good congregation of some ninety adults, besides children. The people sang heartily as they were led by Mr. Pigott.

At two o'clock, as is usual on Sunday afternoon at this hour, the

"Young Men's Christian Union" held their meeting, at which those who are desirous to work in the Lord's service meet and tell their week's experience of blessings or difficulties, trials or temptations, and so encourage one another. They take it in turn to speak and pray also, and, if an anxious one is met with, he is brought in and prayed for. Hearing of and seeing these meetings rejoiced one's heart, and we congratulated the pastor, who started them, on their success, and told him that we believed a great blessing would be the result.

At 4 o'clock the Rev. H. R. Pigott preached an impressive sermon on "Blind Bartimeus" to an appreciative audience, who seemed much interested. Thus ended a very happy Sabbath-day.

Colombo. FRANK M. LAURIE.

Tidings from Italy.

OPENING OF A NEW STATION IN SOUTHERN ITALY.

THE Rev. W. K. Landels reports from Naples, under date of November the 6th :--

"On Tuesday morning last we opened our new hall in Bosco Reale. We had a magnificent meeting, the best I ever saw, especially in this part of Italy. We have twenty-four chairs and a small table in the room. Every place was occupied an hour before the time for beginning, and when we commenced all standing room was occupied, the people being packed like sardines. There were over a hundred persons in the little hall, and as many again could not get in. Taiani, Libonati, and I, all spoke. The people listened with the greatest attention, many of them were weeping, and when we had finished, they came round praying us not to leave the place, and saying they had never heard so much about Christ before. A great impression has been produced on the people, and I have no doubt the work will be greatly blessed of God. I am hoping that we shall be able in a short time to make that work quite independent. There are a number whom I believe to be converted. I intend going down there once a week from time to time, besides sending on the Sunday. I shall instruct them as to the meaning of baptism, communion, and the church, and when I am able to form them into a church, shall propose to them to choose a minister from among themselves. There is one of them, a man in an independent position, who could do this very well."

The Lord Loveth a Cheerful Giver.

ONCE again we gratefully record the receipt of many gifts indicative of deepening interest in the work of the Mission. "A Friend of the Mission," Bristol, writes: "I have a great and increasing love for the Mission cause, and, were I rich, should be glad to send a liberal donation, but I am not, and am only able to contribute my mite from time to time as the Lord prospers. I have, however, a few little articles of jewellery, which I value as souvenirs from dear friends; but which I can cheerfully part with for the Master's work. If you will kindly dispose of them for me, and devote the proceeds to the Congo Mission." "A Lover of the Congo Mission, Hitchin," sends a pair of gold sleeve-links for the Congo work. "F.S., a Governess at Hampstead," sends ten shillings for the Congo, "only regretting she is not permitted to engage personally in such blessed work." "Miss J. E. H.," Birmingham, per the Rev. J. J. Brown, sends a collection of various articles of jewellery on behalf of the Congo Mission. "A Servant Girl," at Kirkby Stephen, a silver brooch, per the Rev. Geo. Macdonald. "Two Sisters at Hampstead," a chain bracelet and small brooch for the Congo Mission, "in memory of a dear mother only recently taken from us." Three studs from "Anonymous." "One of the Lord's Tried Ones," Ipswich, a locket and pendant for the Congo Mission. Two rings and a brooch for the Congo Mission, and a little thimble, per the Rev. E. B. Preston, of Hounslow, from members of his Bible-class. Two silver bracelets and a charm from "M.A.," Weymouth, with feelings of great regret at inability to send anything more valuable. A gold locket and small chain placed in the collecting box at the door of Burlington Chapel, Ipswich. A diamond ring from George Street, Plymouth, placed upon the plate after the Annual Meeting. Half-a-crown from "A Young Gardener," who writes: "I have read with much interest the letter in this month's HERALD, from the Rev. J. J. Turner, of Hsin Cheo, Tai Yuen Fu. I enclose postal order to help in the education of the man 'Liu,' the seller of karo, and I pray and trust that he may be converted to Christ, so that he may yet be a 'real light in the darkness.'" Four shillings, per the Rev. Thos. Bentley, of Chipping Norton, who writes: "A young woman belonging to my congregation has requested me to send you the enclosed contribution as an expression of her deep sympathy with the work of our Congo Missionaries, and of her wish to do a little toward making good the loss occasioned by the recent fire. The sum is but small in itself. But it is a most generous contribution when the position and means of the donor are taken into account." £1 12s. from Belize, British Honduras, from Mrs. Waring, who writes: "We were very much grieved to hear of the sad loss which the Mission on the Congo has sustained by the terrible fire on the Arthington Station, and would like very much to assist in repairing the same, but it is such a struggle with us to keep afloat, that my husband does not feel justified in making any extra demands upon our people as yet. I, however, brought the account in the HERALD before the notice of the young people in my Bible-class, and the enclosed order is the result of my little effort. I should have been better pleased if the amount had been four times as much, but they are only beginning to learn to give for

Jesus' sake. May God in His mercy give us wisdom and grace to do our part acceptably. Kindly name the little offering in the HERALD as coming from my Bible-class, Belize, British Honduras. Perhaps this will act as a stimulus for further work." £1 1s. 6d. from Mrs. Howieson, of Great Leighs, who writes: "I have the pleasure of sending the enclosed cheque for the Congo Mission. It is the result of mentioning at our female prayer meeting and mothers' meeting the calamitous fire on the Congo. I made no appeal for money, thinking it best to leave the matter to the consciences of the women themselves. The next morning I was delighted to receive the enclosed note with 3s. 6d. from one of the mothers who had been absent through illness; and when I tell you that her husband has only 13s. 6d. a week, and that she has five children entirely dependent on her own and her husband's exertions, you will be able to appreciate the self-denial spoken of in her note: 'Dear Mrs. Howieson,-I have sent a little for the special collection for the Congo Mission. I will deny myself of something that I may give something to help the work.'" A silver spoon from "An Old Soldier," for the China Mission. A few triffing articles of jewellery from "An Old Widow" for the Congo Mission. A silver knife from a "Governess" for China, and a small silver pencil case from "A Domestic Servant."

The Committee are specially grateful to Edward Rawlings, Esq., of Wimbledon Common, for the generous gift of £500 to be expended on the education and equipment of specially endowed Missionaries for work in China, in pursuance of the desire of the Rev. Timothy Richard. At the present time there are four Missionaries-Elect to China undergoing such special preparation, the expenses of whose special studies will be met out of the generous contribution of Mr. Rawlings.

The Committee desire also to acknowledge, with cordial thanks, the receipt of the following welcome and most timely contributions:-Mr. Ed. Rawlings, £100; Mr. W. Stead, Harrogate, £50; Mr. J. Dodson, Eastbourne, £40; Mr. J. W. Clarke, Leicester, £26 5s.; Mr. R. C. Morgan, £20; Mr. W. Duncan Knight, £20; Mr. J. Masters, New Bilton, for *China*, *Congo*, and *Italy*, £15; Mr. G. S. Stowe, Cardiff, £15; Mr. Joseph Tritton, for *purchase of donkey*, 'Bloomfield,' for Mr. Comber, £12; Mr. E. W. Davies, per Bankers, £10; W. M. C., £10; "A Friend," Sheffield, £10; "In memory of the late Miss Hope, Seaforth," £10; Mr. J. Arundel, New South Wales, for *Debt*, £10. The cordial thanks of the Committee are also presented to "Young Friends" at King's Road Chapel, Reading, for the gift of £70, being the proceeds of a sale of work by the members of the Juvenile Missionary Working Party, this sum to be devoted to the work of the *China Mission*.

Acknowledgments.

THE Committee gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following welcome and useful gifts:—Miss A. M. Trusted, West Bank, near Ross, a a parcel for Mrs. Wall, of Rome; Mr. E. S. Clifton, Ipswich, a box of drugs, for the Rev. G. C. Dutt; Mrs. C. H. Spurgeon, Upper Norwood, two copies of Henry and Scott's "Commentary," for two native preachers, under the Rev. R. Spurgeon, of Barisal; Mrs. Benham, Norwich, a parcel of printed and woollen goods, for Mrs. Wall, Rome; Mr. J. W. Kemsley, Woodford, magic-lantern and slides, for Rev. R. Spurgeon, Barisal; Mrs. G. Thompson, High Wycombe, two boxes containing numerous useful articles, for Mr. C. H. Richardson, Bakundu, Cameroons; "An Aged Christian Sister," Aberdeen, socks and cotton shirts for Congo Mission; Two Welsh Girls, Holyhead, box of fancy articles, for Congo Mission; Friends at John Street, Edgware Road, box of clothing, &c., for Mr. Weeks, San Salvador; Friends at Sutton, per Miss Starling, at Arthur Street, Camberwell Gate, per Miss Pedley, and at Nottingham—presents for the children at Victoria and Cameroons, through Miss Saker; Mrs. Johnson, Canterbury, parcel for Mrs. Wall, Rome.

Mr. R. C. Forsyth, of Tsing Chu Fu, writes : "Will you please convey our best thanks to Ed. Rawlings, Esq., of Wimbledon Common, and Mrs. Grimke, of Manchester, for valuable gifts of books and illuminated Scripture texts. It is to us a tangible proof that we are in the personal remembrance of friends at home, whom we know not face to face, but who have us in their thoughts and in their hearts."

Recent Intelligence.

THE Rev. R. Bion, of Dacca, after forty years of most devoted work in Eastern Bengal, has been compelled by sadly broken health to remove to Monghyr, the drier air of that district being, in the judgment of his medical advisers, likely to conduce to his restoration to health.

By the kindness of Mr. John Chown, the Committee have received a very excellent permanent photograph, appropriately framed, of the late Rev. J. P. Chown, for the Mission House Portrait Gallery.

The Rev. W. Bowen James, of Dinagepore, in consequence of a very severe attack of malarial fever, has been compelled—by urgent medical advice—to leave India for a season of rest and change. He proposes to winter in Malta, proceeding to England in the coming spring.

The Rev. Charles Jordan, of Calcutta, has resigned the pastorate of the Circular Road Church in that city, with a view to devote himself entirely to vernacular work, and the Committee of the Society have very gladly received him upon their Indian staff again, in pursuance of an understanding arrived at when he accepted the Circular Road pastorate, more than three years ago.

We learn, with feelings of great satisfaction, that at the recent Autumnal Meeting of the Shropshire Baptist Association, held at Wem-Mr. A. H. Price, Chairman—the following resolution, moved by Mr. G. Lloyd, of Bridgenorth, and seconded by the Rev. H. Reid, of Whitchurch, was unanimously adopted:—"That we hereby offer an expression of our deep sympathy to the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society, and to our brethren on the Congo, on the disaster that has recently befallen the Mission there, and, while we rejoice to know that the amount needed to repair the loss has been so promptly raised, we heartily commend this, and all other branches of the Foreign Mission, to the prayerful, and increasingly generous support of our churches."—(Signed), W. J. DYER, Secretary.

Congo Fire Fund.

Subscriptions received from 16th October to 15th November, 1886.

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Contributions

From 16th October to 15th November, 1886.

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; N P, for Native Preachers; $W \notin O$, for Widows and Orphans.

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