

## MISSIONARY HERALD.

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## American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

## Constantinople.

## LETTER FROM THE EVANGELICAL ARMENIANS.

A LETTER, of which the following is an accurate translation, has been written by our Armenian brethren at Constantinople, and sent to this country. It will doubtless be read with pleasure by all the friends of missions, as it shows that the labors of American Christians in behalf of a most interesting people are not only not in vain in the Lord, but are duly appreciated by those who have been benefitted thereby. The translation was made by Mr. Dwight.

To the Members, Patrons, and Friends of the A. B. C. F. M.

Constantinople, Jan. 1, 1844.

*Beloved Brethren in Christ and honored Friends.*

We render daily thanksgivings and praise to God, our merciful Father in heaven, whose favors and mercies appear indeed very numerous in this sinful world, in these our days. It is he who has moved your pious hearts to care for those nations which are deprived of the knowledge of the truth, by making liberal donations; and to labor for their salvation with all earnestness. And our unhappy nation being one of this number, we have shared most freely, up to the present day, your kind spiritual labors.

By your Christian aid and direction Mr. Goodell, with great labor, has brought to the light a translation of the whole

Bible into a language understood by all; by means of which the ignorant are instructed in the knowledge of God's word, and the wonderful works of God are declared by the lips of the people at large. And now, by giving wise explanatory lessons on the Holy Scriptures, he opens our minds, and helps to confirm our faith.

Mr. Dwight, without tiring, teaches and preaches, always, with forcible and sweet words combined; in love he invites sinners to Christ, fearlessly reproving sin; he comforts despairing souls by pointing them to the cross of Christ; he replies to opposers with wise and convincing arguments, and silences them by his short and learned writings.

Mr. Adger, overcoming the weakness of his body, labors with unwearied efforts to bring out continually useful books and tracts, adapted to promote the salvation of men. And especially, at the present time, by abridging and translating the History of the Reformation, he confirms us in the truth of the gospel, and he encourages us to strive to obtain a true Christian spirit, and to go forward with courage in the Christian warfare.

Mr. Hamlin, the beloved teacher, by his active habits, laboring unweariedly night and day, instructs his pupils in various branches of erudition from his well stored mind; and he trains them in the way of piety, inculcating the doctrines of the gospel. Mr. Wood, as a special helper, labors in love and with earnestness, together with Mr. Hamlin, for the

LETTER FROM MR. WILSON, MAY 8, 1844.

*Aversion of the Natives to the French.*

THE following extract from a letter which has just been received from the Gaboon, contains the latest intelligence respecting the instance of French aggression which was described at length in the last number of the Herald.

Mr. Walker wrote to you some time in the early part of April, giving the details of the difficulties between King Glass's people and the French. Since then nothing of very special importance has occurred. The people have forwarded a protest to Louis Philippe against the claims of the French authorities here to exercise jurisdiction over their territory, and an appeal to the English government for their interference; both were signed by more than one hundred persons. Until they hear the result of this protest and appeal they will remain passive. In this they act in accordance with our advice. Thus far no forcible measures have been resorted to, and the country remains in the same condition as formerly. Indeed the French are not prepared for the outbreak which they apprehend will take place, as soon as the people come to understand that they have signed a paper which cedes their land to the French crown; when they were told that it was only a letter of friendship to Louis Philippe; and for the present they are trying to conceal this fact from the natives.

Some weeks ago a large party of armed soldiers were landed at King Glass's town, from two French men-of-war anchored off the place, to demand satisfaction for one or two beacon-posts—set up to survey by—that had been thrown down and destroyed on the beach; and although they received the most satisfactory assurance that it had not been done by the countenance of the King or of any of his head men, they nevertheless seized all the best boats and canoes of the natives, carried them off, and still detain them in custody. A few days since a proposition was made to deliver up these articles, if the people generally would add their signatures to the paper which had been obtained from King Glass. This offer they treated with contempt; and they feel not a little exasperated against the French at the present time. What course things will take, should their appeals to the French and English fail, cannot be foreseen. Their present feelings would lead them to retire from the river and seek ample revenge for this

breach of justice. Indeed we have been told repeatedly, that it is out of regard to our advice that they remain quiet under existing circumstances. But they cannot contend with the French; and the probability is that they will be obliged, in the absence of English interference, to seek some other home on the coast.

Mr. Wilson continues to entertain the favorable opinion respecting the healthiness of the Gaboon River, which he has hitherto expressed. "We think the climate here," he says, "more favorable to the health of Europeans than that of the other coast."

*Sandwich Islands.*

LETTER FROM MR. LYONS, FEBRUARY 8, 1844.

THE present communication contains the annual report of Mr. Lyons. The extracts which are given below, relate more particularly to the condition of the schools and churches in that part of Hawaii where he is stationed. It will be perceived that the statements are less cheering than some which have been brought to us from this field. The influences of the Spirit have not been granted unto it as in past years; while the emissaries of the Man of Sin have been unwearied in their efforts to obstruct the progress of the truth. The report in respect to the schools under the care of Mr. Lyons is perhaps as favorable as we ought to have expected. Those who are acquainted with the embarrassments which hinder the introduction of a thorough system of education into some parts of our own country, will not be surprised at the difficulties which are encountered at the Sandwich Islands.

*State of the Schools.*

Twice a year I collect the teachers together at Waimea to give them instruction in those branches, or parts of branches, in which they are deficient. It is also necessary for them to review frequently what they have once studied; for I find that after a while they forget what they formerly knew, though they are constantly teaching it in their schools. That they should retrograde, is not strange, as they have no time for study. Out of school hours they must provide for their families, build their houses, &c. When night comes on, they are more disposed to sleep than to study; or if they wish to study they have no light perhaps; or the house is so full of confusion that it is impossible to attend to a book.