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China.

GENERAL LETTER FROM THE MISSION,
JULY 20, 1843.*Introductory Remarks.*

THE Herald for January contained a brief notice of a meeting, held at Hongkong in July last by the brethren connected with this mission. A General Letter embracing the results of their deliberations, has been since received. From this communication it appears that all the missionaries—male and female—sembled at Victoria, on the island of Hongkong, upon the occasion referred to, and entered upon a free and full discussion of the claims of China as a field of missionary labor. Meetings for business were held on the 15th, 17th, and 18th of July. "In the meantime," says the General Letter, "we were graciously permitted to celebrate the Lord's Supper, and to engage in other religious duties. The communion services were conducted by Doct. Parker, assisted by Mr. Abeel, and Dr. Legge of the London Missionary Society. The whole number of communicants was twenty-four;—there being with us several brethren connected with the London Missionary Society, and some officers and soldiers belonging to the British army."

The facts and considerations submitted to the Christian public in this General Letter, deserve the most serious and prayerful attention. It is the first united appeal which has come to us from these brethren, since that remarkable event which has thrown open to missionary effort some of the

most important cities under the Chinese government. Indeed it may be regarded as the deliberate presentation of the claims of one third of the human family upon those who have received the command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Men who left us with the confidence of the churches, and who have since stood, anxious and watchful observers, upon the outposts of this great empire, now tell us that "new missions must be established;" that "the American Board is called upon greatly to enlarge its operations in China;" that "our operations in behalf of China must henceforth assume a more vigorous and aggressive character," and "be extended in all ways and by all means." "Were our number five fold," they say, "were it five and twenty, instead of being simply five, it would barely suffice to supply the central posts, which your Board ought to occupy permanently and as speedily as possible."

What response will the churches make to this appeal? Will they say that the number of missionaries proposed by these brethren, is unreasonably great? But are twenty-five laborers too many to be sent out by the churches co-operating with the Board, to evangelize a population of three hundred and sixty millions? Is it said that China is not, as yet, generally accessible to the missionary? But five ports—the most important in the country—inhabited by a very large population, "affording access," says Doct. Parker, "to many millions of people," are now waiting to be occupied. And there can be no doubt that the whole empire will be thrown open, in the providence of God, long before Christians will be ready

tens have been seen attentively listening to the preaching of the word.

The operations of the press must not be discontinued. Bibles and tracts, both in Chinese and English, are in constant demand, and our supplies are nearly exhausted. Still the press will hold a subordinate, though a very important, place in all our labors. When the preacher has endeavored to make a few auditors understand some one of the cardinal doctrines of the Bible, and has awakened their attention, he may then place in their hands a tract, embodying the substance of what the Scriptures teach concerning the subject which he has been laboring to make them understand. Besides, tracts can go to a thousand places, and in many ways, where the living teacher cannot go.

The manner in which we ought to live and labor is a subject of the deepest concern. This is to give tone to all our operations; and not to ours only, but, in some degree, to those of all who are around us now, or who are yet to follow us in this field. What zeal, what love, what meekness, what watchfulness, what patience are requisite! The difficulty of attaining these, situated as we are, is very great,—so great that nothing but the sovereign grace of God, secured by his love in answer to the prayers of his church, can possibly enable us to surmount every obstacle, and endure unto the end. We feel this want of divine aid so strongly, that we cannot forbear thus to dwell upon the subject, in order that we may secure a strong and permanent interest in the prayers of God's people, to the end that his work may prosper in our hands.

Western Africa.

LETTER OF MR. WILSON, NOVEMBER 25,
1843.

Progress of the Mission—French Settlement.

THOSE who have felt a peculiar interest in the new mission upon the Gaboon River, will rejoice in the success which has hitherto attended the enterprise. Although the ultimate object of every such effort—the conversion of souls—has not been attained, a foundation has been laid, which, it is to be hoped, is destined to bear a permanent superstructure. The prospects of the mission, it will be seen, are as favorable as could be expected. In respect to the health of the missionaries, the fears of many have been disappointed.

The natives continue to be as courteous and kind to us as they were at the commencement of our operations; and though we have not, so far as we know, any conversions to report among them, they, nevertheless, give respectful attention to our instructions, and I trust we are sowing what will prove "good seed in good ground."

Mr. Griswold's buildings are so far completed that they are habitable. He and Mrs. Griswold will commence their boarding school for girls in the course of a week or two, while we are preparing to open one here for boys. We shall not receive into either of these schools more than fifteen or twenty pupils, unless you find it convenient to appropriate a larger sum of money for the use of our mission than you did the last year. We have commenced five day schools on different parts of the river; the most distant of them is about fifty miles from the sea-coast. Three of these schools are taught by young men educated at Fair Hope, and the other two by teachers who were formerly employed in the same neighborhood. Among our pupils there are a dozen or more adults, who are making good progress in learning. We have all given a considerable portion of our time to the study of the native tongue; and some of our number have been able to preach in it for several months past.

Preaching the gospel we make our leading business. We maintain stated preaching at six different places, occasionally at a still greater number. Our audiences vary from twenty to one hundred persons. The Sabbath is outwardly observed by the natives in this vicinity; but intemperance is a prevalent vice, and will, I fear, prove a serious hindrance to the progress of the gospel. He, however, who must overcome all other difficulties, will remove this.

Previous numbers of the Herald have alluded to the efforts of the French to obtain a permanent footing on the Gaboon River. Gua Ben, it will be remembered, yielded to their wishes; the settlement referred to in the following paragraph is in his town.

The French settlement is as yet confined to three or four small wooden houses. What their further designs may be, we do not, of course, know. A man-of-war has been lying in the river ever since the commencement of their settlement; but no interference has been attempted in relation to the trade or jurisdiction of the country. An attempt was made about a

month ago, by the captains of several men-of-war who happened to be in the river at that time, to get the people on both sides to acknowledge the authority of their governor at Gua Ben's town; but this they promptly refused to do. There is very little probability that they ever will voluntarily accede to this measure.

Romish priests are expected here; but when, or how many, is not known. The officers of the different vessels which have been here, have treated us with marked civility. Our duty seems to be to go straight forward in our work, leaving matters over which we have no control in the hands of God. The work is ours, results are his. If the conflict between Protestantism and Popery becomes general, as it threatens to be, we would not shrink from maintaining the contest here. The same arm which has upheld the cause of truth every where else, will support us; and we endeavor to indulge no needless anxiety.

Health—Natives—Baptist Missions.

The subjoined statements, particularly those which relate to the healthfulness of that part of the coast, will be read with great satisfaction.

We cannot but feel that God conducted our feet to this place; and, after a year's residence, I am free to say, that I know of no point on the whole western coast of Africa which combines a greater number of advantages for the prosecution of missionary work, or where the prospects of success, humanly speaking, are greater. We are much mistaken if the climate is not far more favorable to the health of foreigners than that of Upper Guinea. As a family, we have enjoyed better and more permanent health than we ever did at Cape Palmas. Mrs. Wilson has had no sickness to confine her to her chamber for a single day, since her return. The colored girl who accompanied her from America has scarcely had any thing that could be denominated "African fever." Vessels lie in the river two or three months continuously, without any fevers among their crews.

The natives, apart from those vices which prove them to be heathen, are really an amiable people. They are attentive to our instructions themselves, and not only do not throw any obstacles in our way, in getting access to the interior tribes, but afford us important advantages, by giving us a passage in their boats to every part of the country where they are in the habit of trading.

It was for the purpose of giving peculiar facilities to the mission mentioned below, that the (English) Baptist Missionary Society built and sent out, toward the close of the last year, an iron steamer, the cost of which was about ten thousand dollars.

The English Baptists are commencing an extensive mission at Fernando Po and the adjacent country on the Cameroons. They are afraid, however, that their operations at the former place will be embarrassed by the Spanish government, which has recently taken possession of that island, proposing to colonize it. That government has recently revived its claim to all of its former possessions on this part of the coast, embracing Fernando Po, the island of Corisco, about forty miles north of the mouth of the Gaboon, and the island of Anabona. Their real object is not known. It may be to bring these places into market, as it is supposed that England wants them in order to suppress the slave trade. Or it may be to facilitate the designs of the Pope on Western Africa. It is not probable that Spain has the resources for colonizing; and if she had, these possessions would make but a poor return, either in commerce or agricultural products.

Constantinople.

JOURNAL OF MR. DWIGHT.

Armenian Females—Justification by Faith—Enmity disarmed—The Bible understood.

THE period embraced in this journal is the third quarter of 1843. The reader will not be surprised to discover a general similarity between the present and previous communications which have come from the same source. So long as the reformation, now in progress, shall continue to advance with the quietness and regularity which have recently characterized it, this resemblance will be unavoidable. In the letter which accompanied this journal, Mr. Dwight remarks, "We have not had quite so many incidents of late which are calculated to render a journal interesting; though I cannot see that there is any real diminution of interest in the minds of the people. I have had many delightful conversations with individuals and companies of men, which I have not inserted. Indeed it is impossible for me to write down one quarter of what I hear that would be very gratifying to the friends of missions in America."