

THE
MISSIONARY HERALD,

CONTAINING

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions,

WITH A VIEW OF

OTHER BENEVOLENT OPERATIONS.

FOR THE YEAR 1853.

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American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Amoy.

LETTER FROM MR. DOTY, SEPTEMBER
16, 1852.

The Rebellion.

CONTRADICTION reports have been brought to this country, in regard to the insurrection which has broken out in one of the provinces of China. Among the people of that empire it seems to be very difficult to ascertain the truth in such matters; it is not strange, therefore, that we should receive statements that are not easily reconcilable. Even at Amoy, Mr. Doty says, there are no certain means of information which are accessible to the missionaries; and nearly all that is known there, has been gathered up from various reports. Still the Chinese in that city suppose the rebellion to be of a formidable character. This is inferred from the fact, that soldiers have been drafted from the surrounding region to assist in putting down the insurgents. The following remarks on this subject are worthy of special attention.

There appears good reason to suppose the report correct, which affirms that there is a religious element in the movement, the future bearings of which none can foresee. According to this rumor the chief mover, who has assumed the style and title of Emperor by the designation of Fian-tick (Heavenly Virtue), is a professed Christian, and was baptized by Mr. Gützlaff at Macao in 1840. The rebels themselves have either assumed the title of "Shang-ti-hui," (association of Shang-ti,) or are thus design-

nated by the opposing party. It is also reported that they have books concerning Jesus among them, which are regarded as sacred, and that a war of extermination is waged against idols and the temples. It may be that we have in these facts one of the reasons, perhaps the chief, for the increased jealousy of foreigners manifested by our young Emperor and his government. And this state of things may operate against the contemplated extension of our mission to the city of Chiang-chiu, if it does not ultimately affect us unfavorably in this place. Thus far, however, there are no special grounds to fear the latter result.

But we think it requires no spirit of prophecy to foresee, that very much, in reference to the future spread of the gospel in China, may depend on the issue of this contest, should no other agencies and influences be brought forward to modify and control that issue. If the rumor as to the religious feature be substantially correct, the success of the movement in Kuangsi may quite revolutionize the whole empire, and the prophecy concerning the land of Sinim be verified at no distant period. But failure, on the other hand, may have the effect to annul the religious toleration which has been conceded; and China, like Japan, may make trampling on the cross a test of loyalty to the throne. How constantly importunate in prayer should all Christians be, that He who is Head over all things to the church, may cause the issue of these present commo-

After referring to other services held for the benefit of the natives, and to the favorable impression made thereby, Mr. Stocking bears the following testimony to the good conduct of Mar Yohannan.

In all our efforts to benefit the people, Mar Yohannan has given us the full weight of his influence; and he has greatly facilitated our labors in every branch of our work. We have had ample opportunities for observing the Bishop in his daily intercourse with his family and people; and, though there are many remaining imperfections in his Christian character, arising from his early habits and his acknowledged official authority over them, divine grace seems generally to prevail; and we are led strongly to hope that he belongs to the family of Christ, and that he is destined to do still greater things for the spiritual renovation of the Nestorian church.

The people of his diocese, while they readily acknowledge him as their ecclesiastical head, generally regard him as different from what he formerly was, both as to the character of his preaching and as to many customs and practices which he now boldly discards. He seems disposed to exclude many of the peculiar practices of his church, as fast as the people can bear the change. He has long since relinquished the ordinary prayers in the ancient language in the family, together with the ordinary Wednesday and Friday fasts. His audible voice is uniformly heard in his retirement, at early dawn and evening, praying for his family and people with an earnestness and fervor truly refreshing to our hearts.

And the remarks here made respecting the impressions of the people generally in relation to the Bishop as a reformer, are also true of our helpers, and the pupils educated in our schools. The line of demarkation between an evangelically reformed church and a mere dead Christianity, is becoming more and more distinct, as the aggressive spirit of true piety manifests itself among them.

LETTER FROM DR. WRIGHT, NOVEMBER
20, 1852.

Unexpected Friends.

DR. WRIGHT reports the prevalence of the cholera in Tabreez; and Mr. Stevens, the English Consul, had been told that twelve thousand

persons were cut down by this fell destroyer, prior to the date of the present communication, in that single city. In consequence of this great mortality, several of the principal officers of the government removed temporarily to Oroomiah; so that the labors of the mission were brought more directly under the notice of men in high places. One of these, Khodadad Khan, who is a Mohammedan of rank and wealth, has become particularly interested in the operations of our brethren, as will appear from a note addressed to G. A. Stevens, Esq., a brother of the Consul, whom he styles "the high in rank, the companion of greatness and renown, the kind and faithful friend," in which he says: "During the few days that I have been in Oroomiah, I have observed the affairs of the American missionaries; that their object is the instruction and enlightening of God's creatures from pure benevolence; that they exert themselves, night and day, with this object in view; therefore it is obligatory on all the servants of God to assist them. That I may not be without an interest in this beneficent work, I request you to pay to them yearly, from this date, the sum of ten tomans on my account. I am sure you will do as I request. I will trouble you no further."

Nor is this all. The wife of the Khan has also become interested in the labors of our brethren; and she has written to G. A. Stevens, Esq., "the exalted in rank, the kind and noble friend," as follows: "As the Khan has informed me in detail of the labors of the American missionaries, and commended them to me, I will trouble you with this request, namely, that you will pay over to them yearly the sum of five tomans on my account. I am sure you will do me this favor; and I hope they will accept this my trifling donation." Fifteen tomans are equal to thirty dollars.

Enlistment of Nestorians.

The following extract will be read with regret; and yet the information which it contains is valuable.

You have been informed that the Persian government is raising a regiment of Christian soldiers, mainly from the Nestorians. The enlistment was commenced more than a year ago, and it is not yet completed. The people are much opposed to entering the army; consequently the enlistment has been mostly a forced one. Great corruption exists among the officers charged with the business; and in some cases serious oppression is practiced. At present there is such a state of excitement among the people on the subject, as in some measure to interfere with our labors.

Strong influences have been brought to bear upon the government to induce

it to relinquish the plan of raising the regiment; but the King and his ministers still adhere to it; and of late peemptory orders have been received by the government agents here to complete the enlistment. It is conjectured that the King intends to make this regiment a part of his body-guard. It is said that he has lost confidence in his Musulman guard, since the attempt on his life last summer by five or six persons of the Bâbee sect. They approached him when out on a hunting excursion, under pretence of having a petition to present. Not suspecting any evil design, he reined up his horse and stopped. The ruffians then drew forth pistols, which they had concealed under their garments, and discharged them at the King. He fell from his horse wounded, though not seriously. The affair was investigated; and wherever persons were found, who were suspected of belonging to the Bâbee sect, they were seized and put to death with every variety of torture. Several hundred persons were killed in this manner at the capital; and messengers were dispatched to various parts of the empire with orders to the local governors to show no mercy to those professing bâ-beeism.

Dr. Wright says that both the seminaries are in operation. The applicants for admission to these institutions were so numerous, that many were of necessity rejected.

Gawar.

LETTER FROM MR. COAN, OCTOBER 11, 1852.

THE letters from Mr. Coan, which were published in the December and January numbers of the Herald, will have created a desire for additional information in regard to the course of events at Gawar. This communication, it will be seen, leaves that station in circumstances which may well enlist our sympathies and our prayers; for our missionary brother presents the question, briefly but truly, in the following sentence: "The future with us is yet dark; and we are still called upon to walk by faith."

Visit of a Turkish Official.

You have been informed that Kamil Pasha, of Bashkullah, was absent on a tour through Koordistan last summer, and that Mustapha Pasha, the military Governor, transacted the business in his absence. Kamil Pasha has been as far

south as Amadieh; and he was expected, on his return to Bashkullah, to pass through Gawar. Knowing his humane and friendly character, we hoped that he would investigate our matters, and so espouse the right and redress the wrong. We also hoped that he would bring with him the orders, which Mohammed Pasha had assured Mr. Loftus were sent to him, authorizing the recommencing of our building.

In describing this visit, with its effect on the interests of the station, Mr. Coan uses the following language:

After staying here six days, Kamil Pasha left yesterday for Bashkullah. I called upon him twice, once in company with Dr. Wright, who kindly hastened hither to aid us with his counsels and presence. On both occasions, the Pasha received us with very marked attentions, and treated us with the utmost urbanity. The day of our second call was a great day, the troops having been reviewed. All the principal men of the district were there, and received presents from him. We were with him in his tent during these ceremonies; and his attentions to us could not but make a favorable impression on the people.

But he had no authority from his superior in relation to the release of Deacon Tamo or our building. He regretted that the matter had passed out of his hands, as he would most gladly have done every thing in his power for us; but now his hands are tied, and he can not with propriety interfere. He said that Mohammed Pasha had written to Constantinople on the subject, and that Deacon Tamo could not be released till word should come from the Porte. He assured us that nothing would give him more pleasure than to serve us; and he should anxiously await orders from his superior, allowing us to proceed with our building. Meanwhile he would interest himself in our behalf; and, to prove his sincerity, he would authorize us to build a room or two for our fuel and for the accommodation of our guard, irrespective of his superior's orders.

The subjoined extract shows the kindly feelings of this Turkish dignitary towards our brother:

The day after our interview Hourrem Bey, whom the Pasha called his son, came to see us at Memikan; an attention which we hardly expected. The night previous a band of robbers had