

Missionary Intelligence.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

Tuesday, February 6th, 1856.

The Lord Bishop of London forwarded a letter from Bishop Kip, Missionary Bishop of California, dated San Francisco, California, Nov. 20, 1855. The Bishop, who had been sent out by the American Episcopal Church, had found a large number of English in California; the gold mines having attracted many. Some being the younger members of good families in England, who had gone thither to improve their fortunes, but had been thus deprived of the means of religious worship and instruction. In every part of the country in which he had been, he had met with our countrymen. In the vast diocese of California, with a sea coast of 900 miles, there are but ten clergymen. Still the Church is stated to be advancing, and becoming established. Three church edifices are in progress; and in the spring, the Bishop trusts, several others will be begun.

"How," said he, "the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge could aid us, I do not know. Collections of books of a practical character for parish libraries would be of great use."

"There is one subject, however, though not connected strictly with the operations of the Society, which I would beg leave to bring before your lordship. There has scarcely been a time during the past year when some of the British ships of war have not been in this harbour. We have had the 'Monarch' line-of-battle ship, and the frigates, 'Pique,' 'President,' 'Amphitrite,' and others, containing together more than 2000 sailors. Whilst I am writing this letter, I hear the guns of the 'Amphitrite,' firing a salute for the celebration held to-day for the fall of Sebastopol. I have seen much of their chaplains and officers, one of the latter of whom is to be confirmed at a confirmation I propose holding next Sunday. Some of these vessels remained here several months at a time. They had generally been a long while from home, so that their supply of religious works were exhausted, and through their chaplain or some officer, I have supplied them, as far as I could, with Bibles and Tracts. I had no English Prayer Books, nor had I any supply of works for general religious reading."

"I would suggest, therefore, that some of the Societies in England send out a supply of Bibles, Prayer Books, Tracts, and particularly Books for general religious reading, to be kept here for the use of English vessels. If consigned to me, I will place them in proper hands to be distributed exclusively to British ships of war or merchantmen. It would afford me pleasure to make this distribution from our own depot, but the different mission stations drawing upon us, generally leave too limited a supply on hand to do what is necessary."

"With my earnest prayer for the prosperity of our mother Church in England, and that the ties which bind us together may each year be strengthening, I subscribe myself," &c.

F. H. Dickinson, Esq., of Kingweston, Somersetshire, in a letter to the Society, expressed a hope that some Books and Tracts would be sent out and placed at the disposal of the Bishop of California.

It was agreed that a supply be forwarded to the value of £20.

The Rev. H. P. Wright, Principal Chaplain, who is now in England, and is about to return to the Crimea, was present at the Meeting, and took the opportunity of thanking the Society for the aid afforded by it to the army in the East. He said, "It is impossible for me to tell you how much the Society's books are valued in the Crimea, especially the beautiful copies of the Prayer Book, which, while clear in print, are thoroughly portable. The soldiers sought them with avidity, and often read them in the trenches. To one of the Chaplains the small Prayer Book was, by God's mercy, a shield indeed. Mr. Robinson having lately arrived was taken by an officer to the front, and inadvertently strolled towards the very advanced works; there a Russian rifleman perceived him, and sent a ball into his coat, through half the leaves of the Prayer Book, and bruised the skin immediately over the heart. The volume had been requested from me during the morning as peculiarly calculated for camp use, but a merciful Providence allowed it to be a defence little thought of by its bearer when he entered upon his walk through the trenches."

MISSIONS IN ABYSSINIA AND PALESTINE.—The following extract of a letter from Bishop Gobat, contains some interesting information respecting, especially, the religious state of Abyssinia.

Jerusalem, Nov. 5, 1855.

"With respect to the Abyssinian Mission my first difficulty arose from the bankruptcy of Messrs. Strahan and Paul: but, seeing the believing cheerfulness of four of the brethren, I have determined to send them, *via* Cairo, to wards the end of this month, unless I should discover in the meantime that the state of my funds absolutely prevents it."

"My first object in sending them is to disseminate the Word of God as widely as possible, whilst the King is in favor, and gives the example of having the Bible read in the vernacular Amharic."

"So that even if they should not find it possible to settle in Abyssinia as missionaries, the best of all missionaries, the Bible, may remain to witness for Christ in as many places as possible. If they can settle and work there, it is all the better, but even if they cannot and must return, it will be little worth while to make the trial."

"I have just written to the Bible Society for a large supply of Bibles to be sent immediately, that the brethren may start from Cairo, during the first part of January, before the hot season in Nubia and Sennar. Pray that God may prosper this work, which I undertake after many prayers for Abyssinia."

"The brethren are not only sound in faith, but I believe they live in faith. I am about to write my annual letter, if I can find time, and therefore I cannot enter into many details respecting this country."

"The congregation of Nablous is going on quietly and nicely under the care of Mr. Bowen."

"I have sent M. Kawan to spend a few months with the American missionaries at Beyrout, for his own improvement. I have every reason to be satisfied with him."

"The young men at Nablous begin to come out, but the priests will not allow people to give them employment. Popery is making great progress in this country, by means of large sums of money, and the influence of the French Consulate."

"Sir Mosse Montefiore's visit has done much harm to the Jews. I fear many will starve during the winter. Pray for them, and for us; and believe me ever faithfully yours, "S. ANGL. HIERONOL."

Fouths' Department

REMEDY FOR MOTHS.

We were examining our wardrobe after the summer, and found to our surprise and grief, many of our choicest articles of apparel sadly damaged by the moths.—In the midst of our trouble, and the discussion as to modes of protection against moths, which had been handed down by tradition, our Julia came in.

"Aunt Julia, how do you keep your winter clothing from the moths?" we both asked eagerly, as that good lady proceeded to lay aside her handsome shawl, which looked as well as ever after seven years' wear.

"I used to suffer from moths as well as any one," replied aunt Julia, taking her knitting from her little basket, and sitting down; "but I found a recipe in an old-fashioned book which has relieved me of much solicitude on the subject. It was many years before I could be persuaded to try it. In my young days money was not quite so plenty as now, but provisions were cheap, and a farmer's daughter began her married life better supplied with blankets, linen, and bedquilts than many a jewel-decked city belle. As I was an only daughter, and was not married too young, a noble pile of blankets, feather beds, bed quilts, &c., became my portion. For many years after we removed to the city, I used to dread my summer's work of airing beds and packing away fine home-made blankets and quilts stuffed with softest down, I tried snuff, tobacco, camphor, pepper, and cedar chips, and yet, as we changed our place of residence several times, some colony of moths, old squatters among the beams of the garret, or in some unobserved scrap of woollen cloth, would perforate tiny holes in my choicest possessions."

"Why, aunt Julia, I thought you had a cedar closet."

"Yes, when we moved into our new house, by that time my closet was too small for my increased wealth, and till I used this recipe I seldom passed a year without some moth-holes, but now I have not seen one in nine years."

"What was it, aunt? Have you the book? or can you repeat it from memory? It is too late to save these things, but I will write it down, and try it next spring." So saying Anna took out her little recipe book and pencil, while aunt Julia prepared to record the moth preventive.

The book was an old one, with the title obliterated; and the title page torn out by some careless child, but the directions were these:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth

where moth and rust doth corrupt. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal."

"Oh, Aunt Julia, is that all? How does that help the matter?"

"Wait, Anna, and hear my story out.—One day as I was mourning over my choicest blankets, eaten by the moths, and airing my down bed-quilts and feather beds, which had been rendered obsolete by the introduction of spring mattresses, as I stood ready to cry with vexation to see my choicest articles eaten in the most conspicuous places, as you have experienced to-day, my eye rested on an old Bible, which lay on the top of a barrel of pamphlets in the garret. I opened it, and almost unconsciously read the receipt for avoiding moths which I have given to-day. I then recollected that they seldom trouble clothing in frequent use, and that the articles which caused me so much care were not needed twice a year. I then thought of Sophia Baker, with her large family and sick husband. They had been burned out the spring before, and were just entering upon a cold long winter of poverty. I sat down, and writing her a note, sent her two feather-beds and four blankets, and an old-fashioned 'coverlid' that very day; and two more blankets I despatched to a poor old rheumatic neighbor whose destitution had never occurred to me before. I then began to breathe freely, and before another week, two more blankets were gone to comfort tired limbs and aching hearts. The cast-off coats, cloaks, and old pieces of carpeting which had long lain in my garret were given to the deserving poor. A bag of woollen stockings and socks which had been kept for cleaning brass, were sent to a charity institution, never again to become a temptation to the moths. I inquired particularly the next year, and found the beds and blankets were in such excellent preservation that I cheerfully laid up more of my surplus property 'in heaven,' and out of the way of moth and mould.—My cedar closet and trunks hold all I wish to preserve, and when they begin to run over, I commit more articles to the keeping of my widowed and fatherless acquaintances."

"But, Aunt Julia, yours is a peculiar case. You had the home-made outfit of a farmer's daughter, and did not expect to make use of it, besides, the Bible does not encourage wasting our goods extravagantly."

"I do not think the Bible leads to what is called the extravagant side. The rest of the chapter following the verse I have quoted gives little encouragement to much forethought, either in food or raiment, and in another place says, 'He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none.' This rule leaves very little to pack away in a cedar closet. In my opinion, God's providence is far from encouraging extensive accumulation either of money or possessions, especially among Christians. Fire and flood, drought, mildew, and moth stand ready to rebuke the spirit of covetousness which the Lord abhorreth."

"Surely, aunt Julia, you would not have me give away the new furs you gave me yourself last winter?"

"No, my child, but let us examine for a moment this moth eaten pile. Here are three coats of your husband's, which he could never possibly wear again."

"Those are for fishing, aunt."

"How often does he fish?"

"Once in four or five years," said Anna, looking slightly discomfited.

"Well, here is a bag of outgrown, shrunken socks, and those old dresses of Ada's, and these overcoats of the boys, that I heard you say were unfit for wear, even in the play ground, and besides I think you remarked that the whole difficulty originated in an old carpet which has been harboring moths many years, when it might have been out of harm's way, upon some poor widow's floor."

"Well, Aunt, I believe you are half right."

"Try my rule, Anna, not after your property is ruined, but when you find you can spare it—even at the risk of sending some of your property to heaven before you have obtained all you could from its use. Many an old garret have I known to be infested with moths, when the whole evil might be traced to an old coat or carpet, selfishly or carelessly withheld from the poor. We are God's stewards, and our luxuries are not given us to feed a covetousness which is idolatry, but are talents which may be increased ten times before the great day of final account. When people ask me how to prevent moths, I always, long to say, 'Lay up your treasures in heaven,' because I have found from experience it is a sure and convenient way."

"Well, aunt, I own I never have thought much about it before as a matter of Christian duty. I will try before another year, to confine my care to the articles I need, and shall hope for better success.—*New York Evangelist.*"