

The valley is very beautiful ; indeed, it is the most beautiful scenery that any one can wish to see. The lake, surrounded by the green hills and the lovely groves, forms a scenery that attracts the eye and will never be forgotten if once seen.

We will never forget your visit to Round Lake and the many encouraging and kind words spoken to us. Pray for us, that we may become stronger in the Lord and become more fit for His service and that we may have success in our work. The children all join me in much love to both yourself and Mrs. Jeffrey.

MISSION STUDIES.

The Nestorians, and Nestorian Women and Girls.

By MISS FERRIER, CALEDONIA.

The Nestorians are a people living in the mountains lying between Turkey and Persia, and in the plain of Orcomiah in northern Persia.

At the commencement of the Christian era, in all the country lying eastward from Syria to the Persian Gulf, the Aramaic, the vernacular of Christ and His apostles, was in common use, and this facilitated the early introduction of the gospel. Ancient writings and special traditions indicate that the apostles Thomas and Bartholomew were the first missionaries to these regions, and it is certain that the gospel made as rapid progress in the East as it did in Europe. The Nestorian Church had its origin in these early times, and has a history full of interest, as it long held and practised the truth in its purity, and was distinguished for missionary zeal, carrying the gospel into the remotest parts of Asia, and founding churches in India, Tartary, and China. In course of time, however, its light grew dim, fasts and formal ceremonies took the place of spiritual worship, education was neglected, and the ancient translation of the Scriptures ceased to be intelligible. The conquest of Persia by the Moslems greatly diminished the number of Christians, and at length, in the 16th century, a fierce persecution drove the remnant of the Nestorians to take refuge in the mountain fastnesses, near which their descendants still dwell.

Cruelly oppressed and despised by their Moslem rulers, poor and uneducated they had been long sunk in ignorance and superstition, when, in 1835, work was begun among them by a band of devoted missionaries from America, the Rev. Justin Perkins and his wife, and Dr. and Mrs. Grant. They found the people in a lamentable state of degradation, living in miserable hovels, which they often shared with the cattle. Women and children, as well as men, were shockingly profane, and lying and stealing were universal. Women were regarded by the men as drudges ; they were born among cattle and died among cattle. They labored in the fields, carrying their babies on their backs, and mourned when a daughter was born to them. In their deep degradation they were filthy, passionate, and quarrelsome, and not only ignorant but perfectly willing to remain so. When asked if they would not like to be taught, girls would invariably answer, "Do you want to make a priest of me?" and both sexes thought it immodest to know how to read, but the missionaries soon opened a school for boys. Mrs. Grant succeeded in getting a few little girls to come to her, but she was not long spared to carry on the work, though she did so to the last, for when too weak to leave her room she taught her