

in all ways to provoke us to a quarrel, but this we very carefully avoided, and about noon the people grew fewer, and we began to think all danger was over, but at about one in the afternoon a gong was beaten on the street opposite our yard gate, and at once twenty-five or thirty men marched quickly in, went directly to the gate leading into our living rooms and, pushing it off the hinges, rushed in, and in about ten or fifteen minutes everything was cleared out of those rooms. Our clothing, bedding, books, tables and chairs, and—worst of all—my medicine chest, containing instruments and medicine, was carried off.”

The case has been referred to the British Consul at Tientsin, who has promised to bring it under the notice of the Viceroy, L. Hung Chang. In the meantime Messrs. Goforth and McGillivray are “holding the fort” in Chu’ Wang, and intend to stick to it till the last.

AFRICA:—British steamers are now running up and down the great Zambesi river, and roads are being opened into the vast interior of the “dark continent.” How David Livingstone’s heart would rejoice to see this day! No doubt he did see it with the “eye of faith,” but he could not expect the revolution in the prospects of Africa to take place so soon. Two millions of square miles of African territory have been added to the vast tracts previously under the British flag. It is truly the hand of the Lord. He has heard the cry of the distressed children of darkness.

Over two hundred African converts in Uganda and the regions round about have suffered death rather than give up their faith in Christ. The age of martyrdom will not pass till after the age of missions! Living faith and eternal hope, and love to Christ, are at the root of missions; and these are the inspiring principles of martyrdom.

Sketches from Palestine.

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III. MODERN JERUSALEM.

THE Jerusalem of Bible History now no longer meets the gaze of the traveller in Palestine: the city of which the old Testament prophets and poets spoke so many glorious things in the palmy days of

David and Solomon, the magnificent city as it existed at the beginning of the Christian era, has passed away; but modern Jerusalem has still the power of attracting pilgrims to it every year from all parts of the habitable globe.

Jerusalem is beautifully situated on a picturesque plateau about forty miles from the Mediterranean, and about twenty miles from the river Jordan and the Dead Sea. The elevation of the city above the level of the Mediterranean is in round numbers about 2,500 feet, and the Dead Sea is 1,300 feet below the level of the Mediterranean. The old hills on which the city stood in successive periods of its past history are still discernible, as I was delighted to see, in the foundations of modern Jerusalem. The western portion of the city is built on two hills: Akra and Zion. The eastern portion of the city is built on two hills, Bezetha and Moriah, the latter of which slopes down to the more southern knoll called Ophel. And then as in ancient times the old Tyropoean Valley—in plain English the Valley of the Cheesemongers—still winds its way mainly north and south between those eastern and western portions of the city. In former times this famous Valley was much deeper and broader than it now is, and was spanned by two magnificent, arched bridges, on which the thronging citizens crossed and re-crossed from the Temple-area on Mount Moriah to Mount Zion, “the city of David”. It has now to a large extent been filled up by the accumulating debris which has fallen into it at each successive overthrow of the city. But the obvious outline of it which still remains is quite sufficient to give the city a romantic, undulating appearance.

Jerusalem is surrounded on three sides by a natural trench of valleys, or ravines, from three to four hundred feet deep. On the west there is the Valley of Gihon, on the south the Valley of Hinnom, on the east the Valley of Jephoshaphat, or as it is often called, the Valley of the Kidron. And then beyond these natural ravines the mountains are still, around Jerusalem as in the days of old: Olivet, Mizbeh, Gibeon, Ramah, Sephus, and other and more distant mountains.

The walls of the city have quite a solid, substantial appearance. They were built, as the inscription over the gates testifies,