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Calendar.

CALENDAR WITH LESSONS.

| Day & Date | MORNING. | EVENING. |
|------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| S. July 6 | 1 Sam. 12, Luke 17 | 1 Sam. 13, Col. 1 |
| M. 7 | Prov. 21, 15 | Prov. 23, 1 |
| W. 8 | 23, 19 | 21, 8 |
| Th. 9 | 25, 20 | 23, 4 |
| F. 10 | 27, 21 | 25, 1 Th. 1 |
| S. 11 | 29, 22 | 27, 31 |
| | Eccles. 11 | 23 Eccles. 21 |

Poetry.

EXHORTATION TO PRAYER.

Nor on a prayerless bed, nor on a prayerless bed,
Compose thy weary limbs to rest:
For they alone are blessed
With balmy sleep,
Whom angels keep;
Nor, though by care oppressed,
Or anxious sorrow,
Or thought in many a coil perplexed
For coming morn,
Lay not thy head
On prayerless bed.

For who can tell, when sleep thine eyes shall close,
That earthly cares and woes
To thee may e'er return?
Arouse my soul,
Slumber control,
And let thy lamp burn brightly;
So shall thine eyes discern
Things pure and sightly,
Taught by the Spirit, learn
Never on thoughtless bed
To lay thine unblest'd head.

Hast thou no pining want, or wish, or care,
That calls for holy prayer?
Has thy day been so bright
That in its flight
There is no trace of sorrow?
And art thou sure to-morrow
Will be like this, and more
Abundant? Dost thou yet lay up thy store,
And still make plans for more?
Thou fool, this very night
Thy soul may wing its flight.

Hast thou no being than thyself more dear,
That ploughs the ocean deep,
And when storms sweep the wintry, lowering skies,
For whom thou wak'st and weep'st?
Oh, when thy pangs are deepest,
Seek then the covenant ark of prayer,
For He that slumbereth not is there;
His ear is open to thy cry;
Oh, then, on prayerless bed
Lay not thy thoughtless head.

Arouse thee, weary soul, nor yield to slumber,
Till in communion blessed,
With the elect you rest,
Those souls of countless number;
And with them raise
The notes of praise,
Reaching from earth to heaven,
Chosen, redeemed, forgiven;
So lay thy happy head,
Prayer-crowned, on blessed bed.

Religious Miscellany.

(From the Colonial Church Chronicle, for April.)

THE MISSION FIELD.

TINNEVELLY* is one of those "Collectorates," or provinces, each comprising about a tenth of the area of England, into which British India is divided, and is the most southerly province on the eastern side of India, or, as it is termed, the Coromandel Coast. Cape Comorin, the southern extremity of the Indian peninsula, is included in the native state of Travancore; on the Malabar or Western Coast; but Tinnevelly may be regarded as commencing at Cape Comorin, for it commences only about three miles to the east of the Cape. It contains an area of 5,482 square miles; and a population of 1,269,216 souls; consequently the population amounts to 233 in the square mile, which is

* I once visited a certain town in England for the purpose of attending a Missionary Meeting, and on my arrival at the clergyman's house, was accosted thus:—"Oh, Mr. C., you have arrived just in time to settle a dispute between my wife and me. We have been disputing as to where Tinnevelly is: my wife maintains it is in India, and I maintain it is in South Africa; now, which of us is right?" I have learned from that and similar remarks that many highly respectable persons are not very deep in geography, and that in descriptions of India and Indian Missions one can scarcely enter too minutely into details.

exactly equal to the average population of the midland counties in England. Tinnevelly is separated from Travancore by the great mountain chain of the Ghauts, which form its western boundary, and on the east it is bounded by the Gulf of Manasar, by which it is separated from Ceylon. Its greatest length to the north-east is about 120 miles, and its greatest breadth from east to west about 75 miles.

The southern extremity of the province being only 8° 5' north of the equator, the heat is necessarily very great. During the whole period of my residence in Tinnevelly, I never noticed the thermometer lower than 70°, and rarely as low as that. When it sinks to 75° we call it cold weather, and feel obliged to put on additional articles of clothing. Though our so-called cold weather is warmer than the average of summer heat in England, it is a comfort that during the hot season the thermometer is not proportionately high. I have not known it higher in my own house at any period of the year than 91°, and it is rarely more than a few degrees higher than that even in the hottest localities. This would be reckoned a very moderate degree of summer heat in northern India, where, though it sometimes sinks in the cold weather to the freezing point, it rises in the hot season to 110° or even 120° in the shade. In Tinnevelly such violent extremes of temperature are unknown, the annual range being rarely more than 20°; but owing to the entire absence of cold weather, properly so called, the aggregate of heat throughout the year is much greater than in northern India. We have not the alternatives of being roasted one part of the year and frozen the other, but gently simmer over a slow fire the whole year round. On the other hand, the heat of Tinnevelly is not a moist, enervating heat, like that of the Malabar Coast and Ceylon, but a dry, healthy heat; and there are few provinces in India which agree so well, on the whole, with the European constitution. As there is no province in India where missionaries are more numerous, so there is none where they are able to remain longer in their spheres of duty. Though the dryness of the air is conducive to health, it is not conducive to fertility. The drought is so excessive that much of the land lies uncultivated. On the southern coast, where my own residence was, the average annual fall of rain was only 22 inches, which is less than the average fall in England; and three-fourths of the entire quantity fell during a single month, November. In the three years that elapsed before I left, only 35 inches of rain were registered during the whole period. This excessive drought is owing to the Ghauts, the great mountain range, or rather mountain plateau, by which southern India is divided into two portions, the Coromandel and Malabar coasts. The steep sides of this plateau form a continuous chain of mountains, from near Cape Comorin for about 200 miles northward, and the breadth of the plateau gradually increases from a mere point at the Cape to about 80 miles at "the Coimbatore gap." The average height of the ridge is about 3000 feet, but there are peaks which rise to double that height. This elevated range acts as an effectual barrier to the rains of the south-west monsoon, which is the great monsoon of India, and to which the greater part of India owes its fertility. On the Malabar coast, the western side of the Ghauts, there is a great abundance of rain; consequently, we have there perpetual verdure, and perpetual fertility and beauty, for in the tropics, wherever we have rain, we have all the elements of vegetable wealth. But on the eastern side of the Ghauts, on the Coromandel Coast, including the whole of the Carnatic, the supply of rain from the south-west monsoon is almost entirely intercepted by the Ghauts; the north-eastern monsoon feebly supplies its place; and the evil reaches its maximum in Tinnevelly, which is not only shut out from the south-west monsoon, but is robbed, by the vicinity of Ceylon, of half its due share of the north-eastern. Ceylon is supposed by some persons to lie wholly to the south of India, but its northern extremity is nearly two degrees to the north of Cape Comorin; hence the whole length of Tinnevelly is overlapped by it. Though so little rain falls in Tinnevelly, and though the greater part of the province suffers severely in consequence, there are regions which are as fertile and beautiful as the

oyo could desire. Besides smaller rivers, there is one of considerable magnitude, the Tamraparni, or "copper-coloured" river, which irrigates and fertilises the extensive tract of country through which it flows; and as this river rises in the Ghauts, it is filled by the rains of both monsoons, so that two crops of rice every year are produced all along its banks. Similar advantages are enjoyed by the districts in the vicinity of the mountains; and hence, though Tinnevelly does not participate directly in the rains of the south-western monsoon, yet in the neighbourhood of the rivers and mountains it participates indirectly, yet largely, in the fertilising influences of those rains. In consequence of this, in the amount of revenue derived from "wet cultivation"—rice, &c.—Tinnevelly ranks next to Tanjore amongst South Indian provinces. Notwithstanding the advantages enjoyed by particular portions of the province, nine-tenths of the entire area are parched and arid through excessive drought, and there are districts as sandy, burnt up, and dreary as any in the deserts of Africa. I have stood on a mountain peak about twenty miles from Cape Comorin, from which both Travancore and Tinnevelly are visible at once, and have been much struck with the difference apparent between them; Travancore beautifully green, and diversified with hill and dale, wood, lake, and river; Tinnevelly an immense fiery-red plain, with patches of cultivation few and far between. On closer acquaintance the reality is found to be better than the appearance; for the "regur," or blistered, black cotton soil of the northern districts is well adapted to the growth of cotton, about 60,000 bales of which are annually shipped at Tutocorin for England and China, besides what is required for use in Tinnevelly itself, and the adjacent provinces; and the red sands of the south-eastern districts are admirably suited to the growth of the palmyra palm. In those districts the chief dependence of the people is upon the palmyra, which is to them what rice is in Bengal, or wheat in England—the staff of life. During the brief and scanty rains of the north-eastern monsoon a crop of pulses and of inferior sorts of grain is raised from the better kinds of soil; and where water is available for irrigation, the plantain or banana is largely and successfully cultivated. Along the lower slopes of the "teries," or red sand hills, which form so peculiar a feature of the palmyra districts, the water lies near the surface, and is available for plantain gardens, and hence each of those slopes is beautified by a belt of the richest, brightest green, which presents a grateful contrast to the uncultivated, naked, fiery red ridges of the "teries." The staple produce, however, of the sandy districts is the palmyra. If one were to judge from abstract probabilities, he might expect to find those districts uninhabited; but Divine Providence is there as well as here, and it has pleased Providence that the palmyra palm should flourish more luxuriantly in those sands than in any other part of the East, and should feed an abundant population, with its saccharine sap. The sandy districts in the South teem with human life, and it is remarkable that it is amongst the inhabitants of those districts that Christianity has made greatest progress. Hitherto, from a variety of causes, Christianity and the palmyra have appeared to flourish together. Where the palmyra abounds, there Christian congregations and schools abound also; and where the palmyra disappears, there the signs of Christian progress are rarely seen.

As the majority of the people who have been converted from heathenism in Tinnevelly, and who form the bulk of our Christian congregations, are cultivators of the palmyra, and as most of my own sphere of labour was included in the palmyra forest, I shall here give my readers a description of that remarkable tree.

(Conclusion next week.)

I have a power in my soul, which enables me to perceive God; I am as certain as that I live that nothing is so near to me, as God. He is nearer to me than I am to myself. It is a part of His very essence that He should be nigh and present to me. He is also nigh to a stone or tree, yet they do not know it. If a tree could know God, and perceive His presence as the Light of the angels perceive