

of Abraham obtain mercy, even an everlasting salvation in Christ Jesus!

We desire to sympathize with our brethren in India, who now mourn the loss of their honoured fellow-labourer, the late Rev. J. Macdonald. Our beloved Free Church has lost in him a distinguished, faithful labourer, and the Church of Christ universal, a bright and shining star, whose radiance will now be eternal among those who have been honoured to turn many to righteousness. How many of our brightest luminaries have ceased, during the past year, to shine in the Church militant! Surely the call is loud and pressing to be everywhere at the throne of grace, seeking grace to obey the command: "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that he would raise up, qualify, and send forth labourers at home and abroad." Apathy or indifference here, will prove that we ourselves are sleeping the sleep of moral death. The Lord give us grace to work while it is called to-day!—Yours affectionately, &c.

ARRIVAL OF REV. MR. BURNS IN CHINA.

We have great pleasure in announcing that, through the good providence of God, our beloved missionary, Mr. Burns, has safely arrived in China. The following letter has just been received by the Rev. James Hamilton, the Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee:—

HONG KONG, Nov. 26th, 1847.

DEAR FRIEND,—In the great mercy of God, I am at length permitted to address you from this far distant shore, which we reached in safety ten days ago, after a passage of fully five months. We had a good deal of stormy weather after reaching the Cape, and at intervals were detained by calms; and, in the China Sea, a few days before our arrival here, we were in not a little jeopardy from a typhoon or hurricane, which raged for some hours with amazing fury, and was driving us very fast upon the land, which, when the wind changed its direction (as it most mercifully did about the middle of the storm), was not far distant. It pleased God, in His abundant mercy, to spare us, and to bring us in peace to this our wished-for haven. I had many opportunities on board the vessel of labouring for the good of the crew and passengers; and, since my arrival here, I have been encouraged by finding some doors providentially opened for doing what I can in the meantime, especially among our own countrymen. I preached once last Lord's-day in the chapel connected with the London Society's Mission, and have been asked to continue this service regularly while I continue here. A good many of our countrymen, I understand, were present. During the voyage I made some progress in acquaintance with Chinese, especially as a written language; and I am now endeavouring to master the common speech of the people here, who generally use the Canton dialect. An acquaintance with the language in this form of it is of the first importance, as opening up one's way, not only to the people of Canton city, but to the whole of the lower section of this vast empire. I live close to the London Society's Mission-house, and can have daily opportunities of uniting in worship, conducted by native Christians; and this, with other occasions of intercourse with the people, is a great assistance which the first missionaries did not enjoy. The language, you well know, is very peculiar; and, I must add, with many who have gone before me, it is difficult. The written language does not teach what is spoken, and even when you know the spoken words, you cannot, without knowing the local pronunciation, and still harder without attaining certain peculiar intonations, be sure of speaking so as to be understood. The Chinese language fills but very poorly the mouth of those who are accustomed to the more lengthened and weighty phraseology of our western tongues. It is but little I have seen of China's population; but even here, on land and sea, are astonishingly great. I have, as yet, had no intercourse with them generally, but from the specimens we meet with, in house-servants and tradesmen, &c., they seem an intelligent and interesting people.

The boy that waits on myself and another come to me occasionally to learn a little English. They are very apt scholars, except where met by sounds that are foreign to their own language, and they repay me in Chinese for all that I can give them in this way.

I have not yet seen much of the moral and spiritual state of our countrymen here. In our part of the town last Sabbath it was pretty quiet. The only interruption to this which met my ears was the din of the Chinese workmen employed, as usual, close to my lodging in sitting up a Roman Catholic Foundling Hospital! The friends of the Gospel here have generally welcomed me very cordially, and are ready to aid me by every means in their power. But, in regard to my first days in Hong Kong, I may refer you for further particulars to Mr. Gillespie, of the London Society, who, with the family of another missionary (Mr. J. Stronach) left us a day or two ago in the "Monarch," for London. Their departure was an affecting scene, and to me not the least affecting part of it was the missionary's closing address in Chinese to the inmates of the Missionary Institution, and the closing prayer of an esteemed native Christian teacher. In regard to my future plans of labour, I can, as yet, determine nothing. The field which is here open to me among the British population, and the facilities which I here enjoy for acquiring the Canton dialect, determine my stay for a season at least in Hong Kong. Further light will, I trust, be given us we advance. Dr. Balfour has corresponded with you about a medical missionary's work. I feel at a loss, after much thought and conversation with him, what I ought to say on the subject. Happy should I be to see one capable of speaking Chinese, and employed as a good physician, ministering to the wants of the people, temporal and spiritual; but I believe he is right in thinking that without at least one minister permanently conjoined with him in his medical arrangements, he could effect little good of a spiritual kind; and I do not feel at liberty to bind myself in such a way to a particular spot in this interminable harvest field. I may see reason—it may be even soon—to alter this view; but this is all the light I have at present. It will be a cause of thankfulness when the Lord of the harvest sends any of His own servants from among you to join us here. But I need not say, send none under the idea of strengthening us by numbers. The natural and spiritual difficulties of the field will try the faith and patience even of those who are most clearly called of the Lord to enter on it. I say not this to discourage any one. The grace of our covenant God and Saviour is all-sufficient, and is ever equal to the necessities of His people; but it is right that we should count the cost; and living in this atmosphere of death we have need to know, and have access to the fountain of spiritual life. Scotland, as you and we both feel at present, is slow to part with her Gospel ministers; and for this I am thankful on her account, while I must lament it for the sake of other less favoured lands. May the Lord soon multiply His own servants among us so greatly, that the gain of the foreign shall not be the loss of the home field, and may He deliver my dear countrymen from the sin and the curse of cleaving to ministers while they reject the Divine Master!

I am very conveniently situated; and at no great expense as a boarder with a Mr. and Mrs. Power, having beside me, within a range of a hundred yards, Dr. Balfour's house and the Mission premises of the London Missionary Society. I enjoyed good health during the voyage, and our late arrival here has brought us at a season when the climate is delightful, and quite invigorating. I am agreeably surprised by the appearance of Hong Kong—both the town and the situation. The lofty encircling hills and placid enclosed bay, studded with British shipping, give the whole scene a picturesque and a home aspect.

I shall not write further at present, but with Christian regards to all friends, and trusting to be continually borne on the hearts of God's people at the Throne of Grace, expecting also to hear from you, I remain, ever yours, affectionately,

Wm. C. Burns.

P.S.—I omitted to mention the solemn fact, that before we reached the Cape, during a dark and rainy night, one of the ship's crew, a young lad from Rothsay, fell overboard and disappeared! Thus, with many other circumstances, made our voyage a very solemn one. W. C. B.

Luther began the Reformation with burning the Canon Law. Nevertheless, there is one point much insisted on in it which well deserves your serious consideration; that is, *Restitution*. Where men have obtained riches without right, or have heaped up wealth in any dishonest or criminal way, a restitution will be a necessary and essential part of that repentance which alone will find acceptance with heaven. The solemnity of this thought may stand like "an angel with a drawn sword" in your way, when you may be under a temptation to leave the path of duty and go after "the wages of unrighteousness."—*Cotton Mather to Gentlemen of the Law.*

NOTICES.

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

Our space does not allow us to give any report of the Meetings of the College and Home Mission Committees, though the Minutes are now before us. Presbyteries will be apprised of the distribution of Missionaries and Catechists, for the period intervening until the Meeting of Synod, by the Rev. Mr. Robb, of Hamilton, one of the Conveners. The Home Mission Committee meets again at Hamilton, on the 10th May, at seven P. M.

COLLEGE COLLECTIONS.

The congregations in the Cobourg Presbytery are reminded, that all the subscriptions for the College were made payable on the 18th of this month; and all congregations who have not yet subscribed or paid to this important fund, are reminded that the Synodical year ends with the month of May. So the arrears of other funds, whether Home Mission, Foreign Mission, or Synod Fund, should be paid to the respective Treasurers in the course of this present month.

Toronto, 25th April, 1848.

SYNOD.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada meets at Toronto, on Wednesday, the 21st day of June next, to be opened with Sermon by the Moderator, at seven P. M.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

The Presbytery of Hamilton will meet in Knox's Church there, on the second Wednesday of May, at 11 o'clock A. M.

M. Y. STARK,
Presbytery Clerk.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY OF KNOX'S COLLEGE:

The Rev. R. McCheyne's Works, from Mrs. Burns, Toronto. Also, Tucker's Light of Nature, from Mr. Thos. Nisbet, Toronto.

NOTICE.—Catechists and Students of Knox's College may expect a short letter from the Convener of the College Committee, in the next number of the *Record*, according to instructions from the Acting Committee.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Several communications have been received too late to appear in the present number. We cannot promise a place to any article that is not forwarded before the 20th of the month preceding our publication.

REMITTANCES RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST.—Belle-ville; J. F., Otonabee; Dalhousie; Lanark; Toronto; W. H., Norval; W. H., Streetsville; J. R., student; W. M., Woodwich; J. McG., Pelham; St. Thomas; W. H., Beachville; W. W., London; W. F., South Dorchester; Hamilton.