

ture Harmony, and intended for the use of the chaplains. Of the two editions of the New Testament the one was intended for the ranks, the other for non-commissioned officers.

August 14.—Had a call this morning from C. A., whom for some time I had visited in the General Hospital, till he was discharged for duty. He wished me to write to the captain of his company at the Crimea, to request him to send a sovereign, due to C. A., to his wife in Scotland. He shewed me a very affectionate letter from his wife, and left another sovereign with me to be forwarded to her. Before he went away, he said he thought he could spare her another five shillings, and that he knew it would not come wrong to her. I cheerfully undertook to have it conveyed.

August 31.—During the past fortnight, little of incident has occurred in the hospitals, and my daily visits have been uninterrupted, except for a short visit to Broussa, which took me away from duty for a couple of days. The prevailing complaints are still fever and diarrhoea, with some cases of dysentery, and there have been also a few of jaundice. The hospitals are, on the whole, fuller than they were, though the number is scarcely the same two days in succession, and varies considerably after a large draft has been sent to England, or after the arrival of a ship-load of invalids from the Crimea. The attendance at the Sabbath services continues as formerly, and there are signs, I am happy to think, who value this mean of grace, and some whose opportunities of public worship after the Presbyterian form have been few indeed since coming to the East.

The position of our Presbyterian chaplains is considerably changed of late. Mr. Fergusson, after hoping for long to regain his strength in this country, was again placed upon the sick-list about three weeks ago, and, as instead of getting better under medical treatment, he gradually became weaker, he was at last resolved that a medical board should sit upon his case, and the result of their consultation is, that he has been sent home in the hope that change of air may benefit his health. He embarked for England on the 24th of this month, on board the Arabia. The same steamer takes home the Rev. Mr. Fraser, also in poor health, and who has for the last six or seven months officiated as Presbyterian chaplain in the Crimea. In addition to this, the Rev. Mr. Watson is at present here on sick-leave from the Crimea, and has been for some time almost constantly confined to bed, so that of nine Presbyterian chaplains, as many as three, or one-half of the entire number are now off duty. One of these, Mr. Fraser, it is understood, will not return to the East. By the removal of Mr. Fergusson, our numbers at Scutari have been reduced to two, and of these, he is shortly to leave, Mr. Drennan, he having been ordered up to the Crimea.

On reviewing the past, and looking forward to the prospect of being left as the sole Presbyterian chaplain in charge of the three hospitals at Scutari, there are many circumstances which tend to awaken the feeling of gratitude. When the work was new to me, I had a comparatively small share of it reposed on my shoulders, and the field of my labours has been gradually enlarged as I have become accustomed to hospital life, and learned by experience how to discharge most satisfactorily, at the same time, most expeditiously, my various duties. In the sudden change from a British spring to an Eastern summer, when the heat of the sun was most oppressive, and

its effects most relaxing, I had less to do. As the weather has become cooler, and the body somewhat acclimated, the amount of work required of me has only gradually increased. At the time of my arrival here, and when first setting foot on strange land, my introduction to chaplains on the spot placed me at once among friends, intercourse with whom, at this period, was to me among the greatest of comforts. Now, when I am better acquainted with Eastern ways, and have met with others from Britain, I am less dependent on these first friends. It is also pleasant to feel that one Presbyterian chaplain is still within five miles of this at Kuluhi, and that my intercourse with the Episcopal chaplains here has been of an agreeable character. At the same time, knowing that it will devolve upon me almost exclusively to attend to the spiritual wants of all the Presbyterian soldiers here, I feel deeply conscious of my own personal insufficiency and need of strength, and, for the more efficient discharge of the duties of the mission, most earnestly desire an accession of labourers. In the absence of any intelligence as to assistance from other quarters, one of the most consoling thoughts, in the meantime, is in the prospect of the speedy recovery and return of Mr. Fergusson. That God may strengthen him for renewed duty, and grant me the benefit and the pleasure of his co-operation, is my fervent prayer.

Having mentioned a visit to Broussa, I may remark that this was paid in company with Mr. Drennan and Mr. Johnstone, two brother chaplains, under the guidance of Mr. Hamlin, American missionary to the Protestant Armenian Church here. Mr. Hamlin has been now for about seventeen years resident in the East, and seems quite at home among the natives. We left Constantinople by steamer in the morning landed at Mundanya about two, and had a ride of sixteen miles thence to Broussa, through a most beautiful country, the first part of the way being hilly, but abounding in vine-yards and also mulberry trees, the latter part being through a magnificent plain, stretching some forty miles in length along the foot of Olympus and other mountains. Broussa lies close to this giant hill, occupying one of the finest sites that can be imagined for a city. It is said to contain between three hundred and four hundred mosques, and when the minarets were all standing, the effect must have been truly imposing. As it is, Broussa has suffered much from earthquakes, and, I think, without a single exception, all its graceful minarets have lost their apices, and appear of stunted growth. The last great earthquake happened in the spring of this year, and its desolating effects are frightfully visible in the overturned houses and blocked-up streets of the city. Large portions are a complete mass of ruins, and instances were pointed out to us in which dwelling-houses, situated on the slope of a hill, moved *en masse*, burying their inmates beneath their crumbling stones, and one instance in which a house so situated had altered its position but without injury to the inhabitants.

At Broussa we saw the tombs of the first sultans, of the Ottoman line, and the mosques which each prince in succession had erected on coming to the throne. Here, too, we had an opportunity of visiting the silk-factories, in which the first process is performed of removing the silk in spider-like threads from the cocoon. At Broussa we likewise tasted the delicious fruit of this fertile region, and only regretted that time did not permit us to try its famed sulphur baths.

But perhaps the most interesting circum-

stance, and that which best deserves a place in this Journal, was the reception we met with from the Protestant Armenians. Mr. Hamlin was everywhere received as a well-known friend; and because we had been brought by him we were made at home at once, and treated with true Eastern hospitality. Our ignorance of the language prevented us from joining in, or following the conversation, but one could gather from the readiness with which the little English at command was employed, as well as from the sparkling eyes and happy faces of all who were accosted by Mr. Hamlin, the real pleasure which it gave them to see him, and perceive at the same time that, despite all the differences of language and country, we were received as brethren for Jesus' sake, and the common name which we all named could bind us as members of one family, and the common faith we all professed prompt to the giving and receiving acts of Christian hospitality. The pastor of the Armenian Church at Broussa, who speaks a little English, was introduced to us. His brother pastor of Constantinople, who understands our language better, was our fellow-traveller from Constantinople, and our *vicarone* in the older capital. On parting, both requested an interest in our prayers on behalf of the flock of Jesus in this quarter. The circumstances call both for the prayers and sympathies of disciples everywhere. Christians here are still exposed at times to persecution, and the object of the visit of the pastor from Constantinople, was to inquire into, and if possible obtain redress in, one instance in which persecution has been endured. The church at Broussa had their own trials, too, of another kind. One shock had much injured their place of worship, and it was just about repaired and again made fit for use when a second levelled it with the ground. A very neat new building, which, it is hoped and expected, will be proof against the repetition of such casualties, is now in course of erection.

How beautiful it is to see America, in the person of Mr. Hamlin and his coadjutors, paying back to Asia what she has herself received from Asia, through the medium of Europe. What a testimony to the thoroughly unselfish character of our religion! Oh! for the time when Ethiopia, too, stretching out her hands unto God, the Scripture may be fulfilled, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ," and when the "great multitude, which no man can number, of all nations, and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands," shall be prepared to take up the cry, "Salvation to our Lord, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb!" May not the events which are now taking place on the earth, the wars and rumours of wars, be preparatory to this, and the aid rendered by western powers to eastern in the hour of need, as it is indicative of the wane of the crescent, prove to be also introductory to the further triumphs of the cross? May not one effect be the opening up of large tracts, now stagnant and barren, to the benign and healing influences of the Sun of Righteousness, and so far preparing the way for the entrance of the Good seed, "the truth as it is in Jesus."

LETTER FROM MR. FERGUSSON.

On Board "the Melbourne,"
Off Scutari, 26th December 1855.

MY DEAR MR. MACLEOD,—I have just embarked for Balaklava, for the purpose of doing duty