

for the arrow that flieth by day." We need to have our faith strengthened, that so we may say with the Psalmist in the 3rd Psalm—"I hid me down and slept, I awaked, for the Lord sustained me; I will not be afraid of ten thousands that set themselves against me round about." And we intreat your prayers that the Lord would grant us this strong faith and all needed grace for our trying position.

We have much cause to be grateful to God, that he has kept us in such a measure of health as to make us to go on with our various duties; although of late Mrs. Stevenson has not felt as well, being enfeebled by sleeplessness induced by the excessive heat and the great anxiety. I am also sorry to say that the Catechist has been laid up for the last three weeks, and being unable to leave his house except once. His illness was occasioned by much walking and preaching in this hot season; and although his health is restored, he still feels unable for the exertion of walking. Meanwhile, I have endeavoured to supply his place as well as I could by going every day to the School and hearing the different classes recite their lessons to the teacher. I have also still many English-speaking natives who call on me and to whom I impart religious instructions. The Catechist although otherwise unfit for work, has of late been able also to converse with those who called upon him at his own house.

I trust the mission here will receive in these momentous times, a large share in the prayers of the Lord's remembrancers. Who knows but that the time to favour India may be at hand? It is God's way to bring order out of confusion, light out of darkness, and life out of death. "Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters and thy footsteps are not known,"—Psalm 77-19.

With kind remembrances to our friends,

I am, yours affectionately,

GEORGE STEVENSON.

BANCOORAH, June 29, 1857.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I had hoped when I wrote to you last mail, (a fortnight ago) to have been able to send you more encouraging accounts by this mail. But I am very sorry to say, that matters have become much worse, and every day brings fresh accounts of one Native Regiment after another rising in mutiny and committing horrid cruelties on their Officers and the European residents at the respective stations.

To show you the present state of the Army, I send you the following vidimus taken from reliable sources of the mutiny up to the present date. "Thirty regiments in open revolt—eleven disarmed, two disbanded—nine Shaky." Upwards of fifty regiments lost to the state, at an average of 800 men—40,000. Every one now believes that the whole Native army is disaffected, and that they have determined to exterminate all the Europeans in the land.

As regards ourselves, we are still in the same critical condition described in my previous letter. We are completely defenceless, so far as human help is concerned, for a band of Sepoys is in the midst of us, and we are far from any European force. All the Ladies have been allowed to leave the station and are actually leaving it.

The only gentlemen who will soon be left, are the Judge, and Dr. Cheek, the civil Surgeon and a kind friend to our mission. We have been under the painful necessity of suspending the mission in the meantime. The Catechist who had been called upon by government to give what information he knew about the Sepoys here has been threatened by them, and feels under the necessity of retiring to Calcutta. As I can do no work of myself and as the language may be acquired as easily

at Calcutta as here, I have also resolved to leave this early next week for Calcutta. We shall remain there for some time with the hope that the insurrection may be speedily and effectually put down by the arrival of European Soldiers, and that we may after a time return and resume the work here. Meanwhile the school will be kept going.

I regret much the interruption of the work at present, as I had secured the assistance of a Pandit to teach Mrs. S. and myself Bengalee, as for the last fortnight the catechist has been left free to devote his whole strength to the School, where one class was instructed in the Gospel of Luke, another in the Gospel of John and two classes were taught to commit to memory the 1st. Bengalee Catechism.

We cast ourselves on the sympathies and prayers of the Lord's praying people that we may be preserved and strengthened and comforted in these very trying times—our hearts are like to fail. We feel pressed above measure, and our lives hang in jeopardy every hour.

We feel that we have a special claim on your prayers and those of the church, and we would ask for that word to be made good in our experience. "My grace is sufficient for thee, and my strength is perfected in weakness." "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

We leave everything here till our return, at the risk of losing our all. Our house rent must be continued to be paid, and our board in Calcutta, at this time when so many are taking refuge in it, will also press heavy upon us.

With kindest regards to all friends,

I am, yours in the Gospel,

GEORGE STEVENSON.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

As the mail steamer has been delayed by Government after the time fixed for sailing, I embrace the opportunity of writing you a few lines in addition to the letter already dispatched from Bancoorah by this mail.

We have much cause of thankfulness to God that we arrived here safely, after having travelled continuously the whole of a night and day. The night journey was accomplished by Palkees. We required to have sixty men, as there were three changes. We set off at eight o'clock in the evening, and reached Ranegunge, the railway terminus, at five o'clock next morning, travelling alone and unprotected thirty miles. Next day we left Ranegunge and came to Calcutta by rail, a distance of one hundred and twenty miles, reaching Calcutta at six o'clock in the evening.

Calcutta is very crowded at present, as European families from the North and North-west are taking refuge in it, or in those few places where there is a European force. Among others the families of the Chota Nagpore Mission—the one next to Bancoorah in the Sental district are on their way to this—the Sepoys stationed there having threatened to rise in mutiny.

By the kindness of our beloved friend Mrs. Milne, of the Free Church, board was provided for us on our arrival. We will remain here a few weeks at least, to see what may be the issue of the present alarming crisis. Every day brings to light fresh conspiracies. The King of Oude is now a State prisoner in the Fort at Calcutta, and all the Sepoy regiments in Calcutta are disarmed.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the draft for £100 contained in your letter of date 13th April, which came to hand a few hours before I left Bancoorah. We will return to the mission station as soon as there is any likelihood of safety, as our expenses here are very great; our board alone not including servants, several of whom we required to have on account of the peculiar customs of the country, is £15 a month.

There is great need, if the country were quieted, of sending out one of your preachers to join us, and to share in the labours and responsibilities of my arduous position. Indeed, Dr. Bull, to whom I mentioned the subject, agrees with me, that you should not be content without sending out two of your best preachers; and he insists strongly as I now also do from painful experience, that those sent out should be young men whose constitution adapts itself more nobly to the climate. This is also the opinion of our kind friend Dr. Cheek of Bancoorah, who has been forty years in the country. When he saw me suffering so much from the climate, he told us that our sufferings were much greater than they would have been, had we come out ten or twelve years younger, and that those who come out to work in this land should be as little above twenty as possible.

We have great need of your prayers dear friend, and those of the church. Your mission has been commenced in times of unprecedented trouble and distress. But it is no new thing to God to put a check on an enterprise which it is His purpose eventually to prosper in a signal manner. Witness the South Sea Islands, when the first missionaries were forced to flee for their lives, and abandon the mission for a time; yet what great success did not the Lord vouchsafe, just when the darkness had reached its farthest limit!

What though we may be cut off or forced to abandon the mission for a time, God, I have no doubt, will raise up others from amongst us to resume the work under more propitious circumstances. India is passing through a severe ordeal. We are only, I fear, at the beginning yet of our troubles. What the end shall be, God alone knows. But this much we can safely say, India is Christ's by right, by the solemn gift of his Father in virtue of his atoning sacrifice; and in spite of all combinations of Hindoo, Mussulman, and Sikh, it shall be Christ's by actual possession. And as Christ earns his triumphs by the rod of his power sent forth from Zion, we must look to the missionary of the cross, and the preaching of His Word, for the great result being achieved in the subjugation of India to the sway of the Redeemer.

It is often God's way to make the shaking of the nations, the precursor of the triumphs of the cross. "I will overturn, overturn, overturn it, and it shall be no more until He come, whose right it is, and I will give it Him"—Ezekiel xvi. 27. The walls of Jerusalem were built in troubled times. Pray much for us—we never needed it more.

I am, yours affectionately,

GEORGE STEVENSON.

CALCUTTA, August 7th, 1857.

MY DEAR MR. FRASER,—

As I suppose you will have returned by the time this reaches, I send this to your address, and altho' I have little to say yet I feel it my duty to write you, as I know that in the present state of Bengal, you will be anxious to hear of our welfare. We are not without much fear and apprehension even in Calcutta, for it is well known that a large quantity of arms is in the possession of the Mussulman population; and as their great festival the Moharrem takes place at the end of this month, during which the followers of the false prophet are wrought up to a great state of excitement, and in times past have made frequently assaults upon their Hindoo neighbours, it is feared that a rising may on this occasion take place in the city. The festival of the Bughreed—another of the Mahometan festivals, has just passed over. It took place on the 2nd, and 3rd, of this month, during which time, the Government had cannon placed at different parts of the town, and