

Christian Mirror

AND GENERAL MISSIONARY REGISTER.

"MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO, AND KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED."—DANIEL xii. 4.

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POETRY.

PRAYER FOR JERUSALEM.

OH THOU, whose promise like yon ris'g sun,
Still watches where thy grandest work is done;
How long shall thine avenging anger last
The land thy wisdom chose in ages past?
What though of old her reckless sons forgot
Their fathers' God, for gods that ward them not;
What though with blinded zeal they dared to slay
The Prince of Peace, and mock'd to hear him pray;
Hath not thy wrath its burning lightnings poured
On all their hearts revered, or pride adored?
Hath not thy winnowing ear pursued them still,
And clung to every shrine and every hill?
The ancient Hermon mockingly owns the rod,
And on his dewy harp-string pleads with God!
Hark! 'tis sad Jordan rolls his dirge along,
And gentle Kedron moans a pensive song!
There Zion bows her penitential head,
And Salem's tears are and her feet are shed!
Oh God! have mercy on thy chosen land,
Where age on age adored thy holy hand!
Along whose vales thy tender mercies flowed,
And on whose hills celestial chariots glowed!
O Thou, who canst forgive her follies yew—
O Thou, who never canst her faith forget—
God of unchanging plans, and words that live,
Fraught with a glory only Thou canst give,
Here once again let all thy nature shine,
Here stand again triumphant and divine!

THE INDEPENDENTS.—The Independents are much to be respected, indeed, for their numbers, but far more to be held in lasting veneration for the unshaken fortitude in which, at all times, they have maintained their attachment to civil and religious liberty; and, holding fast by their principles, have carried to its utmost pitch the great doctrine of absolute toleration; men to whose ancestors this country will ever acknowledge a boundless debt of gratitude as long as freedom is prized among us; for they, I fearlessly confess it—with whatever ridicule some may visit their excesses, or with whatever blame others; they, with the zeal of martyrs, the purity of early Christians, the skill and courage of the most renowned warriors, obtained for England the free constitution which she now enjoys.—*Lord Brougham.*

GENERAL LITERATURE.

THE BLOODLESS VICTORY.

IN ONE of the South Sea Islands the Christians had become so numerous that they burned several of the idols, and the heathen determined to exterminate the "god-burners." Rev. John Williams, the martyr missionary, gives the following account of the attack and the defence.

"This roused the spirit of the people to such a pitch, that the heathens shouted simultaneously, 'There is no peace to be made with god-burners, until they have felt the effects of the fire with which they destroyed Oro,' and determined to make the attack on the following day. The night was a sleepless one to both parties; for the heathens were employed in listening to the vociferations of their priests, in feasting, rioting, and exulting in the anticipated triumphs of the coming day; while the Christians spent the hours in prayer, and in raising an embankment of stones behind which to defend themselves as long as possible.

Early the next morning the heathen party, with flying banners, the shout of the warriors, and the sound of the trumpet-shell, bore down in an imposing attitude upon the affrighted Christians: while they, on their bended knees, were supplicating the protection of God against the fury of their enemies, whose numbers, whose frightful preparations and superstitious madness, rendered them peculiarly formidable. A long shoal of sand stretched from the shore of the Christian encampment; in consequence of which the heathen party were compelled to land at a distance of half a mile from the spot. Before they arrived at the place of disembarkation, one of the Christians, formerly a noted warrior, said to the chief, "Allow me to select all our effective men, and make an attack upon the heathens, while in the confusion of landing. A panic may seize them, and God may work a deliverance for us." The proposition was agreed to; but the chief himself said, "Before you go, let us unite in prayer." Men, women, and children, then knelt down outside their stone embankment, and the king implored the God of Jacob to cover their heads in the day of battle, and on concluding, thus addressed his little band of faithful followers: "Now go, and may the presence of Jesus go with you."

Taking a circuitous route behind the brush-wood, until he arrived opposite to the place where the heathens were landing, the commander extended his little army as far as it would reach, and gave strict orders that no noise should be made until they were emerging from the bush. The heathens were seized with consternation, and after a short resistance, threw away their arms, and fled for their lives; for they expected to have met with barbarous treatment, similar to that which they would have inflicted had they been the conquerors. But perceiving that no injury was sustained by those of their brethren who fell into the hands of the Christians,

they peeped from behind the bushes, or shouted from the trees in which they had taken refuge, "Here am I; spare my life, by Jesus, your new God."

The remainder of the day was spent by the Christians in conducting their prisoners into the presence of the chief, who remained for several hours upon the very spot where in the morning he commended his little band to the protection of God. A herald stood by his side, and shouted, as the fugitives approached, "Welcome! welcome! you are saved by Jesus, and the influence of the religion of mercy, which we have embraced!" When the chief of Tahaa, who led the heathen, was taken, and conducted, pale and trembling, into the presence of Tamatoa, he exclaimed, "Am I dead?" His fears, however, were immediately dissipated by his brother chief-tain, who replied, "No, brother; cease to tremble; you are saved by Jesus." A feast was immediately prepared for the prisoners, when nearly a hundred large pigs were baked whole, with a proportionate quantity of bread-fruit and other vegetables. The heathen eat down to eat, but few could swallow their food, being overwhelmed by the astonishing events of the day.

While they were thus seated, one of the party arose and said, "This is my little speech: Let every one be allowed to follow his own inclination; for my part, I will never again, to the day of my death, worship the gods who could not protect us in the hour of danger! We were four times the number of the praying people, yet they have conquered us with the greatest ease. Jehovah is the true God. Had we conquered them, they would, at this moment, have been burning in the house we made strong for the purpose! but instead of injuring us, or our wives or our children, they have prepared for us this sumptuous feast. There is a religion of mercy. I will go and unite myself to this people." This declaration was listened to with so much delight, and similar sentiments were so universal, that every one of the heathen party bowed their knees that very night, for the first time, in prayer to Jehovah, and united with the Christians in returning thanks to Him for the victory he had on that anxious day so graciously afforded them. On the following morning, after prayer, both Christians and heathens issued forth and demolished every marae in Tahaa and Raitea; so that, in three days after this memorable battle, not a vestige of idol worship remained in either of these islands! All this will acquire additional interest in the reader's estimation when he is informed that it took place solely under the superintendence of the natives themselves, for at that time there was no Missionary at either of the islands.

MURKIN IN EGYPT.—One of the plagues of Pharaoh's time is again visiting Egypt, and 100,000 head of cattle are estimated to have recently perished by it. Next year's crops are likely to be seriously affected by the loss. The Pasha's artillery and cavalry are demoralized, and the horses sent to assist in agriculture.