

killed, which was about fifteen miles further on. Mathew Holmes, with half the company, went on to that place, while I, with the remainder, returned. My horse was a poor animal, and would not eat, and fearing that the rebels might cut off my retreat, I came home again. The French had gone out that morning early to attack them, and we did not know but that they might drive them on our road. It has since appeared that they did not find them, and now there is no danger to the party that is out. I was the only married man in the company, and felt justified in returning, (there was another married person in the party, who had a Chinese wife.)

Since I have come back, I have heard that a man, who says he was an eye-witness, states that Parker and Holmes were killed and stripped, and then burned. I presume the rebels felt afraid after they had murdered them, and desired, by burning the bodies, to avoid all detection. If this be the case, Mathew Holmes will not find them.

I had heard, some days ago, that they were burned, and I am disposed to believe it. Along the road, yesterday, I saw sights which were appalling. In one village, where great slaughter has been done, were more than thirty bodies lying unburied. The ponds seemed filled with women and children. In some instances, the poor wretches were bound with their hands behind them, and then burned in their houses. I asked one of the villagers how many had been killed; he said the number could not be counted. All along the road with the exception of persons returning home, it was as still as death. Some villages were almost entirely deserted. Every where we could see the poor survivors burying their dead. It was an awful day with me.

Wednesday, 16th.—Well, it is all over. The bodies of our poor friends have been recovered and decently interred. They were found about one hundred and five "le" from here, most frightfully mangled. Holmes had received ten wounds, most of which were about the head, inflicted with a sword or spear. All the upper portion of his person was burned. Apparently, he had fallen into a fire, or upon a pile of fodder, which was afterwards set on fire.

Parker had some six or seven wounds, most of which also were on his head. His right hand was cut through at the nuckle, where the fingers join the hand. They were evidently defending themselves, for most of the wounds were on the right side. We had their bodies placed in Chinese collars, the decomposed state of them both preventing any delay. This morning, at nine, the English gunboat *Drake* carried them across the harbour to an island upon which other bodies are buried. A little more than a month since Parker and Holmes attended the funeral of two children there. We have had every kindness shewn us. Mr. Morrison, the English consul, who is a son of Dr. Robert Morrison, has attended most assiduously upon every desire. He seemed to anticipate our wants always. I believe if he had not come out to Chookie on Monday night, Mrs. Smith, myself, and all who were there, would have been killed before other help could have come.

We have depended chiefly for all our help upon people of other nations, and English, French, and Germans have all shown themselves very ready to do us kindness. I can scarcely realize what has happened during the last ten days. I have been in a very great state of excitement; have been broken of rest, and engaged in most unnatural and unwelcome duties. Mrs. Parker will, of course, return to Shanghai, and thence to America. How soon I cannot yet tell, for all her affairs, furniture, &c., at Chookie, have yet of the housekeeping here at Holmes' house, be-

to be collected. Doubtless she will go down in less than a month hence. Mrs. Holmes, I believe, thinks of remaining here, and doing what good she can among the people. She is thoroughly at heart a missionary, and has already been teaching the poor fugitives in the house something. As for myself I have had no time to collect my thoughts. Our hour is in quite good order at Chookie, and we could be comfortable there. I have had strong feelings toward remaining here, and applying myself most vigorously to my work.

My teacher, who is a very respectable man, and would long ago have been a mandarin had he been rich enough, is evidently deeply impressed with what has occurred. His house was plundered, all his furniture and clothing stolen, and now he is living here in Yen-Tai with me. A great change seems to have pervaded his mind, and the other night he came in the house voluntarily to tell me that he valued the friendship of foreigners more than that of his own people, and that, after a while, when he should be instructed, he would like to "enter the doctrine." I have much confidence in him, and hope some day to see him the first disciple of our church in Shantooing.

By next mail I will be more able to tell you more; and after I get your reply to this, can more fully decide what is best to be done. One thing is certain about these rebels—they have no religious feature about them. There are no temples destroyed and no idols broken. Plunder alone is their object.

I have a strong desire to make, through our minister, or some other personage fitted for the office, a demand upon the Taiping government for all damages we have suffered. I am of the opinion that they ought to be made to pay most severely for all this that they have inflicted upon us. Some steps ought to be taken with regard to the murder of Parker and Holmes. It is time for foreign nations to put a stop to that most abominable imposture whose headquarters are at Nanking; and I trust that the death of these two men, who ventured themselves among them on a peaceful errand, will be the turning point of foreign interference with them.

Mr. Hartwell heard a rumour that our friends passed the outskirts, not having any thing to do with the advance-guard, and penetrated to the headquarters of the chief. After they had talked awhile with him they asked him how he could go through the country murdering and plundering in this way, and, I suppose, telling him (what he doubtless knew) that it was very wrong. The chief would submit to no such reproof, and in anger commanded their death. This I do not believe; but that the sight of two good horses excited their cupidity, and to obtain them, they were instantly set upon and killed. I send you the report which a French medical man has made after examination of the wounds of our brethren, so that you may use it in making an official demand upon the rebels for reparation. The rebels are now ravaging all the promontory to the eastward of us, and will doubtless return to the southern shore, to their main army, before cold weather sets in. Next spring, I presume, they will try to reach Peking. The French have some soldiers here now, and a large frigate. The English have two gun-boats, and will, all the winter, have a man-of-war at this port; so that it is beyond the power of the rebels to do any harm to Yen-Tai. It seems that hitherto they have not attacked any walled city, having no arms fit for such an undertaking. Mr. Hartwell, who is here from Tung-Chow, has heard that a larger army is to come down to take all such cities as have walls around them.

Mrs. Smith is fully employed. She has charge sides the sad office of comforter to the two

bereaved ones. She is quite well, and keeps going all the time. Fauny is also very well, and fatter than ever. Harry has a couple of play-mates in two little Chinese "protoges" of Holmes. He wept sorely when he heard of his father's death, and does now whenever we talk with him about it.

The weather, fortunately has been bright, and warm; otherwise I know not how we could have done.

Dear Bishop, this will be a sad letter to you, and it grieves me sorely, sorely, to have to write it. By one means or another, our poor mission is shortened of its members; yet each removal makes me cling closer to it. Oh! that I could do something! I have gone over, in my mind, more than once lately, your visit to our seminary, when so many of us gave ourselves to your call. Only two remain. I remember the pleasure with which you told us that "Mr. Parker, who is from my own native State, is going." I pray that God may keep your heart strong in this sad bereavement.

#### CONSECRATION OF A RUSSIAN CHURCH IN PARIS.

An interesting spectacle has been lately witnessed by the inhabitants of Paris: I refer to the solemn consecration of a church, according to the Oriental or Russian type. The building cost one million two hundred thousand francs (£48,000). It is constructed according to the rules of orthodox architecture—that is to say in the Byzantine style. It consists of a double church: the one, the upper church, dedicated to the Trinity; the other subterranean, dedicated to S. Alexander Nowski. The whole is surmounted by five gilded domes, having golden crosses.

A Russian Bishop, Monsigneur Leonce, coadjutor of the Metropolitan of St. Petersburg, came expressly to Paris to preside at the ceremony. He was assisted by an archimandrite, seven priests, several deacons, and a large number of choristers. The Russian Government had given orders that all possible magnificence should be displayed in this festival. It appears that Monsigneur Leonce is the first Bishop who has consecrated an orthodox church in the West.

The edifice was filled by a numerous and brilliant audience. The Russian Ambassador was there as the representative of his Sovereign. Marshal Vaillant and the Prefect of Police of Paris, both in official costume, had been directed by Napoleon III. to take part in the ceremonial: it was a guarantee and an expression of the religious liberty which reigns in France.—*Evangelical Christendom Correspondent.*

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED TO FEB. 15.

To End of Vol. 9.—J. H. L. W., Cobourg; Mrs. S., Picton; J. B., Thornhill; Rev. H. H., Fort Erie; Miss H., England; Rev. E. M., Barrie; Rev. E. H. M. B., Carltonplace; W. H., Carltonplace; J. H., ditto; C. D., Pakenham; Rev. T. B., Arnprior; Dr. M., Toronto; Prof. C., Toronto; J. M. C., Tallamore; A. H., Prescott; J. S. M., Prescott; W. P. T., Fitzroy Harbour; Lord Bishop of Montreal; Rev. T. A. Y., Coteau Landing; Rev. J. H., Hamilton; Prof. B., Toronto; Rev. Dr. F., Toronto; Rev. S. B. A., Barrie; Asst. Com. Gen. F., Prescott; Rev. Dr. R., Orillia; Miss R., March; Rev. J. G., Belleville; Rev. F. L. O., Dundas; Judge J., Cornwall; Rev. G. A. B., Barton; Rev. B. G. P., Quebec; Rev. J. McN., Thorold; Rev. Jas. H., Kempville; Rev. E. D., Toronto; Rev. A. S., Kingston; Rev. Dr. A., St. Catharines; Rev. V. C., Peterboro'.