

## RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE. INTERESTING MISSIONARY MEETING.

## MORE MARTYRDOM AT MADAGASCAR.

## WESLEYAN MISSIONS.

## SOUTH AFRICA.

{ THABA 'NCHU, BUCHUANA DISTRICT,  
October 8th, 1840.

## HONOURED FATHERS AND BRETHREN,

I send you herewith a copy of the "Prodigal Son," in the Sirolang dialect, printed at our Mission Press, on this station. I am happy in being able to inform you, that I have succeeded in getting this department of our work into a more efficient state than it has hitherto been. We are now able to supply all the schools on the different stations with lessons, books, &c. in the various dialects of Sihuana spoken in this part of Africa. I have lately sent to the different stations in this district a large supply of school lessons in Sirolang, Sisuto, and Dutch. For our Mantateo Stations, I print in Sitlokua, in which dialect I have a large supply of scripture extracts ready for distribution. Thus a people who, a few years since, were in utter darkness, have the word of God supplied to them in their own language, and are able to read it. I have been enabled lately to translate the Wesleyan Catechism, No. 1, into Sirolang, the first half-sheet of which is worked off, and the second in type. We have long felt the want of a Dutch hymn-book, for the congregations to whom we preach in the Dutch language. In order to obviate this difficulty, we are now printing a selection of about two hundred hymns, several of them translations of Mr. Wesley's Hymns, by the brethren Haddy and Cameron. The book will contain three hundred pages. We are printing a thousand copies.

The difference between the various dialects of Sihuana, spoken in the Buchuana country, somewhat impedes our progress. The lessons which are adapted for one station, are not in all instances suitable for others. We have, therefore, to print in Sirolang, Sisuto, and Sitlokua; and as we advance farther eastward, we shall doubtless have to supply our schools with lessons in other dialects than those with which we are at present acquainted.

I am, Honoured Fathers and Brethren,

Very respectfully and affectionately yours,  
RICHARD GIBBY.

To the General Secretaries, &c.

## INTEREST FOR THE GOSPEL.

Mr. COAN, in writing from the Sandwich Islands to the American Board, gives affecting statements of the interest of the people for the Gospel:—

"My frequent tours give me access to the sick and feeble of the flock. Some of these I visit at their dwellings. Others are brought on litters, or on the backs of friends, to the place of meeting nearest their place of residence. Some of the decrepit and helpless, who are not near a school-house, or place of meeting, are brought and laid under the shade of a tree by the way-side, where they are instructed and prayed with. The blind are led by a string, a stick, or a strip of kapa. The sightless husband follows the wife, the wife the husband, and the parent the child; while the 'little child' leads the afflicted parent, or the trembling grandsire, to the place of prayer—to the place where blind eyes are opened, and deaf ears unstopped—where the lame man leaps as an hart, and the dumb tongue sings. It is affecting to see this class of people patiently treading their way over hill and dale, and through jungle, loath, and river, in order to hear the word of life, and to see the 'Light of the world.'

"One blind man, Bartimeus, a member of this church, followed me thirty miles, over rivers and precipices, on the most difficult road I ever travelled, to hear the Gospel, and pray for the peace of Jerusalem. I would have pronounced it incredible, if not impossible, that he should have passed safely over such a road, had I not seen it. He was exceedingly animated with the tour, and in order to keep up, and lose none of the meetings on the way, he would run wherever he found a few rods of level road. 'My natural eyes,' said he, 'are blind, but my soul sees.' He is a devoted and good man, but he has not yet attained to the first. Bartimeus, who left us two or three years ago, and who now resides at Wailuku on Maui."

Rev. Mr. GILL, a Missionary in the South Seas, of the London Missionary Society, gives an interesting account of the formation of a Missionary Society at Rarotonga, one of the stations: Timua, the Chief, was appointed Treasurer, and Setephano, his son, Secretary. The collection consisted chiefly of arrow root, and amounted to 700 lbs.; and dolls, and half dolls, &c. were given to the amount of fourteen dollars. Afterwards, a large quantity of miscellaneous offerings were presented, of little value in themselves, but pleasing to be received, as showing the disposition of the people: these being their only property. Among them were thirteen bundles of pierce, the native mica; thirty-two small neatly wrought native baskets; sixty-two stones of murder, used formerly in their wars; one basket of breast ornaments, and other heathen fineries; seven baskets of various kinds of sea-shells, by the poor children; and a great number of heathen ear-drops.

"The people, with gladdened hearts, sat down afterwards to a feast prepared for the occasion; many sincerely praising the Lord, and all counting themselves happy to have lived to see such a day. In the afternoon, another service was held in the chapel, in order to give many an opportunity to express the feelings of their hearts, and to exhort one another to diligence and love in the work of the Lord. Twelve or fifteen speeches were delivered, which exhibited much humble gratitude and holy joy on the part of those who, prior to the introduction of the Gospel, sat in darkness, and revelled in all that can be conceived as polluting and debasing.

"There was one old man present who had been a great warrior, and who, in his heathen state, seldom appeared without human flesh hanging on his hook; but who now, having obtained redemption by Christ, is washed and sanctified, and for many years has united with the faithful in commemorating the dying love of Christ. This poor man, having on his person many scars of his ancient sanguinary conflicts, referred our minds, in the course of the remarks which he made, to the years of darkness which he had witnessed, stating, that 'he had lived to behold a new and wonderful thing—the gathering together of the people to send the word of the true God to the heathen. It is true,' he said, 'formerly we used to assemble, but it was either to plan attacks of murder, or to flee from attacks made by the enemy; either to devise schemes of theft and pollution, or to carry those schemes into execution. We then met in fear, and with hearts filled with envy and malice, and dared not to assemble our wives and children; but now the darkness has fled, and the true light of the True Sun has shone upon us—Jesus, the Lord from heaven. The spears of our wars are lost, and we hold in our hand the sword of the Spirit—the word of the Lord; we bring with us our wives and our children, and feel that our hearts are filled with love one towards another. We not only love those of our own settlement, but we love all, and are loved by all; and, above all, this day we have met to show our love to those who are as we were, living in darkness, having no God, and no hope; this is a new and a wonderful event, brought about by the great love of God.'

"After many expressions of gratitude to Divine Mercy, and exhorting others to cherish the same spirit, he most affectionately addressed the young, who listened with much attention; and I trust his exhortations will prove a word in season to many."

## MADAGASCAR.

## THE PRESS IN MADAGASCAR.

INFORMATION has been received that a printing press is now established, but only very recently, at Tananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, and by the Missionaries; and that four of the natives have been educated as compositors, and are able to take their station at the frame or case. It is added, that they are engaged in printing a version of the Madagascar language. Further, that other natives are employed in "correcting the press," and other occupations connected with printing-office business.

Rev. D. JONES, Missionary of the London Society, writes, that soon after his arrival at Tananarivo, July 20th, 1840, he was told that sixteen native Christians were arrested, and waiting their trial. They had succeeded in protecting themselves from the persecution of the Queen for two years; but, in making an attempt to escape from the island, to a land where they might be Christians without the fear of death, they were overtaken, and brought back. Nine of them were doomed to die.

On the morning of the day designated for the tragic scene, the preparations were commenced by a tremendous roar of cannon, and thousands of soldiers appeared, marching towards the parade-ground. About noon, the first officers went forth to deliver the kahary respecting the sixteen Christians who had been taken in attempting to flee to the Mauritius, and to make proclamation that the Queen had ordered nine of them to be put to death in the afternoon. The firing of cannon was kept up at intervals, all day, but the meaning of this ceremony was not generally understood. Between three and four o'clock, the Christians, each tied to a pole, and quite naked, were borne by men along the western side of the town to Ambohipotsy, the place of execution. After a short interval, a cannon was fired as a signal, the executioners approached, the nine were instantly speared to death, and their spirits fled to eternal glory.

Thus it is seen, that the spirit of persecution against the Christians continues to rage with unabated rancour and malignity, and that the hostility manifested by the Queen and her counsellors to the Gospel and the work of Missions, is such as to preclude the least hope of the door being opened for us to resume our labours in this country, until some great change take place in the present system.

A MOST interesting service took place in Whitehall Chapel (Eng.) last month. The Rev. Dr. Vincent Gomez, the Rev. Padre L. Mello, from Lisbon, and the Rev. Padre di Minna, from the kingdom of Naples, made a public adjuration of the faith of the Church of Rome, in the presence of the Bishop of London and a numerous congregation.

## THE JEWS.

Sir ROBERT ENGLIS, in his late speech in Parliament on the "Jews Declaration Bill," stated, that two centuries ago there was not a Jew in England.

## LITERARY NOTICE.

ASHANTEE AND THE GOLD COAST: being a Sketch of the History, Social State, and Superstitions of the Inhabitants of those Countries; with a Notice of the State and Prospects of Christianity among them. By JOHN BEECHAM. 12mo., pp. xix., 376. (With a Map of Western Africa.) John Mason.

WE have read this small but very comprehensive volume with no ordinary feelings of pleasure. We are glad to have information on which we can depend concerning a part of Africa which, though at all times important, from its connection with the dense population lying to the southward of the Great Sahara Desert, becomes increasingly so, when the Niger Expedition is remembered. We are glad, too, to have a volume which, if it describes the horrid darkness of the night brooding on such multitudes of the children of Ham, points, likewise, to those cheering indications which foreshow the speedy approach of the day-spring from on high. Mr. Beecham is well known as the zealous asserter of the great principle, that savage nations can only be civilised by Christianity; and the present volume furnishes such proof of its correctness, that the reader will earnestly desire its more extended application, and, if he has the means of so doing, he will strive to promote it. At the approaching missionary services, Africa, we hope, will be one of the principal and most interesting themes; and for this, among other reasons, we are glad that the volume has appeared just now. We sincerely thank Mr. Beecham for it, and earnestly recommend it to the very favourable notice of our readers.—*Lon. Watch.*