

sequel of it all was a great revival, that gathered in a mighty harvest from the ruined City of Ingersollville.—*N. Y. Witness.*

### THE JERUSALEM RAILROAD.

BY MRS. C. O. VAN CLEVE.

It seems impossible that, when the whole world is so thoroughly stirred up as at the present day by commotions and overturning of nations, anyone with the Bible in his hand, can fail to be interested and aroused as he notices the trend of events. It may be that some who from time to time gather around the table of our Lord, do not read the missionary magazines, but it is safe to conclude that they do read the daily papers, and they may see there statements of facts in regard to various parts of the great field which is the world that, in the light of prophecy are, to say the least, startling. Have any such Christians noticed an article by Mr. Dana, in a late paper entitled *Modern Jerusalem*? And have they read it? If not they have missed a great deal that would have edified them. He tells of a trip through the Holy Land by rail when, landing at Jaffa or Joppa—the very name of which seaport town suggests to the mind Peter praying on the house top,—he took cars for Jerusalem. He records that this road was built by the French, but that American locomotives are used, and the time required to make the journey is three and a half hours. In the old times when the apostles made their journeys from place to place, it required two days to accomplish this trip. It seems that it is a generally received opinion among the Jews that the coming of the railroad is to precede the advent of the Messiah, and we can imagine the deep feeling with which they are looking forward to this great event, for which they, as a people, have waited through the ages. The prophecy on which this hope is based, is found in the last chapter of the prophecy of Isaiah, the 2nd verse, which reads "And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the Lord, out of all nations, upon houses and in chariots and in litters, and upon mules and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the Lord," etc. Now it seems that the Hebrew word *kirkaroth* which is translated *swift beasts* means, according to Dr. Mendes, a learned Hebrew scholar and a Jew, a "swaying furnace," and is not applicable to camels, dromedaries or other beasts of burden. But the translation was made long before steam was harnessed and made to do man's will by sea and by land, and as it implied rapid travelling, they could only translate it *swift beasts*. It is remarkable too that this is the only place in the

Bible where the word *kirkaroth* is used, and Mr. Dana says, "the phrase fits the locomotive exactly and the 'swaying furnace' is a better term for the locomotive than the one in general use. The prophet could not have used a more appropriate name, had he seen the swaying locomotive make the descent over the hills and chasms from Jerusalem to Joppa." He tells us too, of a hotel on "Mount Zion," which the prophet describes in such glowing colors, he passes *Bethlehem*, and the fields where *Ruth* gleaned after the reapers of *Boaz*; the cave of *Adullam*, which furnished a hiding place for *David* when purchased by the *Philistines*, and *Bethany*, the little town on the slope of the *Mount of Olives*, where our dear Lord so often went for rest and refreshment from His cares and toils. The grave of *Lazarus* too is pointed out to the tourist and the *Dead Sea* and the mountain of *Nebo*, from which *Moses* saw the promised land which he was not permitted to enter. All these scenes are most interesting as sacred spots, connected with the memories of our childhood and the stories told to us as on Sabbath afternoons and evenings we have gathered round our mother and listened again and again, with never ceasing delight to the old, old story, of *Jesus* and His wonderful life on earth, His gentleness, His love for little children, His kind consideration of the poor, the sick, the sinful and the suffering, and of his cruel death, and the holy land seemed to us a very sacred place. And it was indeed holy ground when our blessed Lord walked there. But "He came unto his own and his own received him not," and they are now looking at the "swaying furnace" as the harbinger of the coming of their long promised Messiah.—*N. W. Cong.*

THE *Agaan* has the following account of a "feeling after" God in the case of a Kaffir woman: "Even when I was a young girl, and before ever the Gospel had been brought into this land, I felt a trouble of heart. On a certain day, while working in the field, I was all at once drawn to thinking about the great God. I looked up to heaven, fell upon my knees, but could say nothing, for I only felt how bad my heart was. I went home and related what had befallen me to my parents, who assured me that the bird which makes the thunder had caused that feeling in me; I must fetch and burn a bunch of long grass and thorns, and rub the ashes vigorously into my skin and then I might expect to feel better. Of course I did so, but it was of no use. I remained wretched until a missionary came here. People told me about him. I lost no time in going with my husband to see and hear him, and we resolved to settle in the dwelling-place of the Christians."