

lest friends of missions, yet no Chinaman could be imposed upon by them. The success of the Circular would and could have but *one* interpretation in China—namely, “England is weak, and is afraid of China.” Let it be remembered that the Chinese have now got a great many rifles and trained soldiers, some arsenals, gunboats, and even rifled cannon; the Taku forts are now very strong, and nothing but a firm policy on the part of treaty Powers can prevent the Chinese from the mad attempt to make a trial of strength, which would first cause great misery to the Chinese and to all residents there, but which would speedily establish foreign ascendancy in China to an extent that no one at present hopes for or desires.—I am, &c.,

CARSTAIRS DOUGLAS.

(From *H. and F. Record of the Church of Scotland.*)

### Baptism of a Jewish Convert.

On Sabbath, 11th June, we were privileged to be present in St. John's Church, Edinburgh, at the baptism of one of the house of Israel, who had been brought to acknowledge Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. The services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Robertson of New Greyfriars, and the Rev. John Blumenreich, pastor of the German congregation in the city, whose instructions, under the Divine blessing, had been the means of bringing this son of Abraham to a knowledge of the truth. We subjoin a portion of Mr. Blumenreich's address on the occasion:—

I will now refer, before I conclude, to some of the steps by which it has pleased God, in His infinite mercy, to lead this son of Abraham who presents himself here to-day for admission into the Christian Church. His anxiety about his soul's salvation is another illustration of apostolic teaching, “that God has not cast away His people.” This descendant of the house of Israel is a native of Russia. His parents belonged to the pious—I might almost say to the fanatical—section of the Jewish race. When four years of age he received his first lesson in Hebrew, and devoted his whole time during fifteen years to acquiring a thorough knowledge of rabbinical writers. He left off studying the traditional books at the age of twenty-two. By that time he was a Hebrew of the Hebrews. His father is still

alive, and one of his brothers is a learned rabbi in Russia.

It is about four months since this stranger called upon me for the first time, with the special request that I would assist him in getting employment. I was not a little pleased when he told me he did not call for any pecuniary assistance, for he had as much as would keep him for a few weeks; all he wished for was employment. I promised to do what I could, although I saw difficulties in the way, my friend having no particular trade. But the Lord was pleased to open up the way; the man, by his own exertion, succeeded in finding work in a bookbinding establishment. I shall ever remember his smiling countenance when he told me he had got work; and when I put the question to him if he needed anything, he replied “No; I have work, and what need I more?” I then invited him to attend my service, and it was to me a source of unspeakable pleasure to see him regularly in my church, listening attentively to the Word of Life. Like all Jews, he had strong prejudices against the Gospel; but hearing me preach and expound the Oracles of God several days, he tells me—I use his own words—“I had a desire to examine the New Testament, and seek to understand its meaning.” Accordingly he wished to procure a Hebrew Testament, and having done so, he became a diligent student of the sayings of the Master and the writings of the apostles; and it is truly surprising the masterly way in which he acquired a knowledge of the Gospels and Epistles, which leaves no doubt as to his great anxiety in making himself familiar with the cardinal doctrines of the Christian religion. I won't say that it was all smooth sailing; the good man had his difficulties, but I could see his willingness to have them removed, and the Lord, in His infinite mercy, gradually took the veil from his eyes. He became a much more frequent visitor at my house, and many precious hours we spent together in reading and prayer, and the Lord was pleased to bless the means. I watched the inquirer carefully, and prayed for him. One day he came to me in great distress; some one had written to his aged father, and informed him that he did not attend on the services of the synagogue, but was walking in the ways of the Gentiles. He showed me the letter he received from his father, which, though short, was full of denunciations and threats. The man, who to-day is to make a good confession of his faith and hope in Christ, composed a letter in Hebrew, in which he assigns reasons for at least inquiring after the “old paths,” but upon my suggestion he delayed sending the letter. Still, he felt his father's displeasure