

THE

Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

SEPTEMBER, 1875.

It was stated by mistake in the July number of the RECORD, that the Synod of the Maritime Provinces was to meet on the second Tuesday of October. We would now direct attention to the official notice of the Clerk, from which it appears that the time of meeting is the first Tuesday (5th) of October.

DARK PLACES OF THE EARTH.

Christless humanity—how dark, how dim, how terrible, how hopeless! Our earthly life at best has much in it of darkness, pain and sorrow; but woe, woe, woe, to the people who are away from the beneficent light of the Gospel. No illustration of this could be produced more impressive than the story of the missionaries who spent four years amid the cruelties and horrors of the Ashantees, chiefly in Coomassie. That story is now under our hand in a volume written by the captive missionaries, Messrs. Ramseyer and Kuhne, and introduced to the English reader by Professor Stadlieb, of Bonn.* Missionaries, as the followers of the Crucified One, must be ready to confront every danger, and death itself, in pursuing their work. Every age has had its martyrs; every country has had its battle and its victory. Every missionary of the Christian Church has had its faithful unto death. But the men who endured four years of toil and cruel persecution in Ashantee were true martyrs,

although they did not perish on the field. They had daily to witness abominations and fiendish barbarities; there lives were in constant peril, and at the mercy of a despot who cared literally nothing for human life. This ordeal lasted days, months and years. Their final deliverance was really wonderful, and was justly regarded as an answer to the prayers of their friends at home.

The Monarch who so cruelly maltreated these eminent servants of God has himself been humiliated and his kingdom all but ruined. He is a suppliant at the feet of the British rulers whose power is now paramount, and whose influence will ever be on the side of the Gospel missionary, whatever his nationality. England has conquered, almost crushed the Ashantees: what Letter for England than to send the seed of the Gospel after the sharp plowshare of war? We anticipate that the volume under our hand will do much towards rousing the churches to a livelier sense of their duty towards the dark places of Africa, where "horrid cruelties" still prevail to an extent that is altogether astounding.

The Ashantees were the conquering race on the west coast of Africa. So proud and insolent had they become that they did not fear the power of Great Britain, but continued to insult her allies. This is what led to the "Ashantee war," so swiftly and happily terminated by the generalship of the brave Wolseley. The German missionaries were dwelling with another tribe when the Ashantee invasion took place. The terror of the blacks was so great that there was a hasty rush away to some quar-

This book is for sale at the B. A. Book & Society's Depot, Halifax.