

district. At three days' journey from the city he sank under exhaustion produced by excessive heat: but full details of the sad event have not yet been received. Mr. John Fraser, now in his thirty-ninth year, was the fourth son of the late Provost Fraser of Inverness, and bore his father's name. The eldest son of the family is Mr. Alexander Fraser, of Cobourg, Ontario, and a member of the Legislative Assembly of that province; the second son is the Rev. Donald Fraser, of Marylebone; and the third, the Rev. William Fraser, of Edinburgh. Though very thoroughly educated for the Presbyterian ministry, John Fraser never sought ordination, and, showing strong bent toward individual freedom of action, never acted under any missionary committee. His chosen work was to serve as a pioneer, opening up new ground, and pressing forward into arduous fields and among neglected populations—work for which he was singularly qualified by his faith, courage, self-denial, and elevation of spirit. His labors in Scotland were so abundant and wide-spread that he will be deeply lamented by many in both Highlands and Lowlands. His first labors in the East were at Cairo, in Egypt, where he laid the foundation of a thorough acquaintance with the Arabic language. Thence he removed to Beirut, where he taught for some time in the Syriac Protestant College, making excursions into the region of the Lebanon, and not only preaching in villages, but reading the Greek Testament in the Maronite and Greek Catholic Convents. In Baghdad, his last station, he labored among Mohammedans and Jews, and cast wistful eyes towards Persia; but like Henry Martyn, whose spirit he breathed, he has died and been buried far away from his native land and kindred. But he has not lived or died in vain. He rests from his labors, and his works follow him. He is a witness that the spirit of heroism and martyrdom is not extinct; and that, while men who love their lives lose them, a man who hates his own life, for the Lord's sake, 'keeps it to life eternal!'"

PERSIA.—*The New York Foreign Missionary* gives a very harrowing account of the famine in Persia:—"Owing to the drought of last year, famine reigns throughout all the southern and eastern provinces. One of our Nestorian preachers, by name Kasha Guergis (*Anglice* Presbyter George), is laboring as assistant to Mr. Bruce, an English missionary, in Ispahan. A letter of his gives a terrible picture of suffering. He says: 'Here in Ispahan the famine is fearful. It is impossible for tongue to describe its horrors. Multitudes are dying of starvation, and multitudes have fled. Their appearance is fearful to behold. They hardly look like human beings. As I go into the streets the dead and dying and speechless meet the eye on every side. They snatch at everything to eat—chaff of barley, blood of animals, flesh of horses and donkeys. Shopkeepers stand before their stalls with clubs to keep the hungry and starving from carrying everything away. Lamentations and bitter crying for bread are heard on every hand, as the poor people stagger along the streets. You will see people in the public square selling their clothes and everything they possess, in order to get a few pence to buy some bread to prolong their suffering for a brief hour, when they must die. Mothers run frantic, crying, What shall I do? my children are dying for the lack of bread. Three-fourths of Ispahan to-day are beggars for bread. The news from the south is still more awful. Straw or provender for horses can be found with the greatest difficulty. The poor animals are dying, and the hungry people strip their bones at once. Whole families are dying off, and the dead lie without burial.'"