

by a gentlemen holding an office analogous to that of sheriff in Scotland.—

It is a remarkable peculiarity of our time, that many of the rich and powerful of this world, have, in our land, come to believe in the Lord Jesus, and work zealously for the kingdom of God. As an instance of this, Mr. O. H., proprietor of iron mines, and of a large estate in the neighborhood of Orebra, after losing, two years ago, four children in a very short space, has seen his ruin by sin, and has obtained healing in the blood of Christ; and now, in that dark district in which he resides, he every Sabbath gathers round him large companies of hungry souls, and proclaims to them the gospel. These crowds began to come to him, without any other invitation than just the announcement of family worship, as soon as he began to witness for Christ to his numerous dependents, and he now intends to erect a special building as a prayer-room.—Our King and the Crown Prince, during their recent journey (to Norway,) have visited Mr. H., and, at his invitation, took a meal at his house, when he informed them of the object of this building, and spoke of his domes, in proclaiming the gospel among his dependents. This work by a layman is, as yet, in our land, not so common; but many things seem to indicate that, with the help of God's Spirit, it will spread and increase in many directions.

Here, in my own neighborhood, has the wind of God's Spirit begun to blow powerfully. In many parishes remarkable and extensive awakenings have appeared, and still continue. The instruments of these have been one Christian minister, and, besides, many colporteurs, of whom two are sent out by Jonkoping's Tract Society, which, through the Lord's wonderful assistance, can now support, and that right well, those two, and also print and distribute a very considerable number of singularly good Christian tracts. The Lord has wonderfully, in his grace, countenanced this undertaking. Pray that he may continue to bless it. The visible means are indeed poor; but God has stirred the hearts of many, so that the contributors are incredibly numerous; and if they are able to give only a small assistance in money, they are nevertheless unwearied in intercession to Him who can give richly.

It is comforting, but astonishing, to find how the Lord, for extending amongst us the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, has, in our time, used the assistance of laymen of the working classes. In my own neighborhood alone I know many (among others, the drummer of a regiment) who, through the work of the Spirit in their souls, are very precious and lovely Christians, and have a gift of prayer, and an insight into the meaning of Scripture, manifested through explanation of the Bible, in most unusually rich measure.

Our beloved Dr. Fjelsedt instructed, in the autumn of last year, a number of young men, to be sent out as colporteurs; and many of these, so far as I know, have wrought with great blessing. One of them has suffered persecution, but with gladness. We hope that, under the new Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs, the persecutions of the Separatists will cease. But they still go on in Dalecarlia, even more severely than before; because the inferior crown-bailiffs extend, beyond what they have any right to do, their powers in dispersing meetings, demanding fines, &c. And the poor people, who do not understand their own privileges, and cannot, or know not, how to avail themselves of the freedom of the press, have no power to defend themselves against the oppression. Oh, dear friends in Scotland! pray for us, that the Spirit of the Lord may not abandon our beloved native land, but that God's kingdom, in spite of all opposition of feared and unlearned, may gain still more glorious victories amongst us; May the grace and peace of the Lord be in rich measure over you all, dear brethren in grace, in beloved Scotland!

MADERIA.—Our readers will, no doubt, re-

member the efforts of Dr. Kalley, to introduce the light of the Bible into Madeira, and the persecution to which he was, in consequence, exposed. It would appear that the same bitter opposition is continued to the circulation of the Bible. Its introduction into the schools has been successfully resisted, and Dr. Miller, the brother-in-law of Dr. Kalley, who, since the departure of the latter, has been diligently employed in circulating the Scriptures, has lately been fiercely attacked by several of the priests and by the Bishop. The latter has issued a pastoral letter to his flock, warning them against Dr. Miller. The light of the Bible, however, has been spreading in Madeira. The Inspector of Public Schools speaks boldly in defence of the Bible, and in his correspondence with the Bishop, bears decided testimony as to the hold which the Bible has taken of the minds of the people, and the eagerness with which it is sought after. His sentiments contrast most favourably with those of the Bishop. The following is an extract from this remarkable letter:—

To make the reading of the Scriptures, in the days in which we live, a *crime*—to tear from the hands of our children this unspeakable treasure of truth, and righteousness, and the love of God to men—to invade the sanctity of the domestic hearth, to hurt the holiest of books, as if it were contraband—it is abominable; and does your most reverend excellency know what has been the result of this incessant persecution? The persecuted book has burst all barriers—has eluded the vigilance of all officers—has been introduced surreptitiously, and spread in thousands. Those people who can read it, seek it with a greediness never seen before, but now seek it with the firm determination to read it, not only to be instructed, to satiate the thirst they have for the Word of God, but also to disobey (for such is the human heart), to go against the voice of the Church, to find in it new arms against her authority. What a disgrace!—an act, which in the beginning was innocent, unjust persecution has turned into a crime.

This is, indeed, a great evil, and I know of but one remedy. It is the want of the Word of God which the people feel, by the frank, sincere, and legitimate preaching of the doctrine of the Church; to accustom the people to read the Scriptures in the spirit of true devotion and piety, not for war, but for peace—peace with God, with the Church, with men, with their own consciences; it is to explain the gospel to the children, even in the elementary schools; to take away from this book, without breach of the respect which is due to it, the stamp of "the philosopher's stone," which on the one hand the prohibition of it, and on the other, the cheats of heretical proselytism, have unfortunately placed upon it; it is, finally, to offer prayers, and do every one his endeavour to regenerate the clergy, to restore to the *salt of the earth* its preserving efficiency, to place them on a level with the civilization of Christian society which they have the charge of directing in the ways of wisdom and righteousness, during their pilgrimage in this world.—H. & F. Record.

CHINA—CANTON.

DENSITY OF THE POPULATION.

We are more and more convinced that the Chinese government has acted honestly in taking the census. Judging from the density of the population in the prefecture of which Canton is the capital, we are ready to believe that the highest estimate is not beyond the truth. It is not easy to convey to you an adequate idea of the multitudes of people living in the most fertile parts of China, judging the wants and feelings

of men by what you see in the United States. This prefecture, for instance, covers an area of about twenty thousand square miles, divided into fourteen districts, each of them under the control of a district magistrate and his assistant, with other subordinates, all holding their authority with reference to the Governor. The villages, whether more hamlets or towns, containing five, ten, or even a hundred thousand inhabitants, are all ruled by the people themselves, acting through their headman, in co-operation with the district and township authorities. We have no list of the villages in a district or township; but we think we are within the truth when we estimate the number in the two districts of Nanhai and Pwanyu, in which Canton itself is situated, at two thousand. One of them, Fuhshan, is the great manufacturing place for foreign markets, and has suffered much during the last year, while it was held by one of the insurgent chiefs, who set it on fire when compelled to evacuate it.

There are several other important towns in the prefecture, containing from one hundred thousand to three hundred thousand people; but the Chinese prefer to dwell in smaller villages, containing from five thousand to twenty-five thousand inhabitants, for they can have a better government than when crowded into large cities. In a former letter, the entire population of the prefecture was reckoned at two and a half millions; but later investigations incline us to double it, even if that is enough.

Truly, this land is full of people, and it is also full of idols and wickedness. The faint knowledge which we have of the abominations here committed, has given us a higher idea of the infinite long-suffering and patience of God towards them, than we could ever have obtained in a land like our own. The dreadful exhibitions of cruelty and malice, seen during the past year, have proved more conclusively than ever, if that were needed, how utterly impotent are the teachings of Confucius, the chanting of Buddhists, or the mystical mummeries of Rationalists, to restrain the passions and purify the hearts of this people.

THE INSURRECTION.

In reference to the revolutionary movements in the region of Canton, the missionaries express following opinions:

The insurrection was caused primarily by, and derived its chief prestige from, the oppressions of the government, especially the undelings and lower grades of officials, who have less to lose than their superiors in rank and pay, practice more cruelty upon those who fall into their hands, and extort from the rich to the utmost. The grudges felt against the authorities and their licitors for these acts, joined to the desire for change among many restless spirits, only waited for a good opportunity to break out. The leaders of the rising were all of them members of the Triad Society; and every one who joined their standard, was made to swear opposition to the Manchus; and we mistake, if we infer from that a patriotic dislike of the Manchus stimulated these leaders or their adherents to rise in arms. There are not, probably, twenty-five thousand Manchus in the province; and during the last year, it is not likely that a hundred of this number personally came into action; for this force of about fifty-five hundred men is exclusively confined to the city of Canton. The troops and volunteers are all Chinese.

The example of Tai-ping-wang, and the inability of the government thus far to dispossess him of Nanking, encouraged the disaffected to arrange their plans; and an emeute at the town of Jungkwan, east of Canton, which the troops were unable to repress, served as a signal for a general rising. Hopes of redress, desire for plunder, love of change, and schemes for revenging personal feuds, all actuated these seditious men far more than the need they felt of reforming and remodelling the government. They proclaimed their wrongs, and held out hopes of