

Missionary Record, THE LOO-CHOO MISSION.

"THE mission originated with Lieut. Herbert John Clifford, R. N., who was on board the *Zyru*, when, in 1816, that ship, in company with the *Alceste*, visited the great Loo-Choo Island on the occasion of Lord Amherst's embassy to China. During their six weeks' stay at the great Loo-Choo Island, where they were hospitably received by the natives, Lieutenant Clifford had frequent intercourse with them: but being at this time, as he himself states, in unbelief, he omitted the opportunity of making known to them the truth as it is in Jesus. Having subsequently become deeply impressed with divine truth, he endeavoured for nearly fifteen years to prevail upon some of the great Missionary Societies to establish a mission in Loo-Choo; and, failing to do so, he, with a few other naval officers, established, in the year 1845, the 'Loo-Choo Naval Mission.' Sufficient funds having been raised, they sent out Dr. Bettelheim with his wife (an English woman) to Loo-Choo. Dr. Bettelheim is a Jew, born in Peath in Hungary, and was educated and practised as a physician; but about seven years before his engagement with the committee he had been converted to Christianity, and had been employed in missionary work among the Jews and Gentiles.

"Dr. Bettelheim arrived at Hong-Kong in January 1846, and at Loo-Choo on the 2nd of May following; and preached his first sermon in Loo-Chooan on the 16th November 1846—thus acquiring in the course of nine months the knowledge of a new language, in addition to the ten or twelve languages he had previously mastered. The Loo-Chooan language is stated by the Bishop of Victoria, in the narrative to which reference will hereafter be made, to be identical with or a mere dialect of the Japanese, and to be polysyllabic with a rich vocabulary; which latter quality is increased by the great number of Chinese terms which have been engrafted on the original tongue. It is represented as not very difficult of attainment to a European of ordinary diligence. Its affinity to the Japanese is shown by Dr. Bettelheim's having been able to preach to and make himself understood by the Japanese sailors who have visited the island. He has translated parts of the Scripture and of the Liturgy of the Church of England, and compiled a Grammar and a Dictionary, of this language, thereby pioneering the way for future labourers.

"The Government of the country (the Bishop of Victoria observes) appears to consist in a grievous oligarchy of literati immediately dependent on Japan.—They look to it, and not to China, for protection in time of need. The Loo-Chooans, however, have a tradition that it was through the influence of China that Loo-Choo was raised to the dignity of a separate kingdom. In token of vassalage, every new king receives a formal investiture from a Chinese officer, specially deputed and sent for that purpose from Foo-chow, to which city also a biennial tribute junk is sent from Loo Choo. The soldiers and garrison are Japanese, and part of the trade between China and Japan passes through Loo Choo. The inference to be drawn from these facts undoubtedly is that, while Loo-Choo nominally belongs to China, it is virtually under the dominion of Japan.

"The system of reserve and distance pursued towards Dr. Bettelheim by the Loo-Chooan Government, and under their influence, by the people, harmonizes with the general policy of the Japanese Government towards all foreigners. Rather than admit of a fair intercourse, they find him with a house and part of his provisions, and supply him with servants; and have at the same time set a guard and erected a guard house or hut near the entrance to his residence; and in order these persons should not be converted, the servants and guards, or todzies, have been repeatedly changed. To these however, Dr. Bettelheim has perseveringly preached the Gospel, so that the very steps taken to defeat the spread of the knowledge of the truth among the natives may, with God's blessing, have the contrary effect. Dr. Bettelheim reports that one of these guards, named Satchi Hama, has suffered martyrdom in the cause of Christ, of which a full account will be found in the extracts from his Journal in the Appendix."

"We have already noticed the visit of the Bishop of Victoria in the *Reynard*, when giving an account of his journals, which were published last year. The Report goes on to say that—

"The visit of the *Reynard* has, we are happy to say, been followed by that of the *Sphinx* (Captain Shadwell, R. N.) in February 1852. On this occasion Captain Shadwell was admitted into the royal city, where he delivered a letter from Lord Palmerston to the Regent, who with his Ministers received the same in state. The following is the letter delivered on that occasion:—

"Her Majesty's Government having learned with regret that a system of annoyance and persecution has been practised towards Dr. Bettelheim, apparently for the purpose of compelling him to leave Loo-Choo, have accordingly deemed it advisable to despatch a ship of war on a friendly and amicable mission to Loo-Choo, in order to ascertain the actual position of Dr. Bettelheim, as well as to afford him that countenance and support to which, as a British subject he is fully entitled. The British Government cannot comply with the request of the Loo-Choo authorities that the missionary Bettelheim, should be removed from the island, since he has committed no offence which can require that he should be removed; and on the contrary his good conduct entitles him to protection and good treatment. These her Majesty's Government fully relies on the Loo-Choo authorities not withholding from him; and for the purpose of ascertaining that that missionary is treated with kindness and hospitality by the Loo-Choo authorities, a British ship of war, from time to time, will visit their islands."

"During the conference which took place on the presentation of the letter, respecting the affairs of Dr. Bettelheim, the Loo-Choo authorities expressed most friendly intentions towards him. Indeed, he reports, that since the visit of the *Reynard* in October 1850, his position has been much improved, and that his medical labours have been eminently successful during the prevalence of the small pox. A deputation from the committee had an interview with Lord Malmesbury (the then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), in July last, when they not only obtained permission to publish the above despatch, but also received the assurance of his lordship that her Majesty's Government would give full effect to Lord Palmerston's instructions.

"From the commencement of this mission down to the beginning of the year 1852, its affairs were conducted almost exclusively by Lieutenant Clifford,* who acted as one of its secretaries, and resided at Trimore in the county of Waterford, where he was engaged in the Coast Guard service; and by Commander Downes, who acted as the other secretary, and lived at Nottinghill near London. The committee consisted of naval officers, many of whom were actively employed in active service, or resided at a distance, so that they could only be consulted through the medium of the Post office. This state of things was so inconvenient that, in the summer of 1850, Captain Coote, R. N. one of the committee, endeavoured, but in vain, to form a committee of naval officers in London. His remark to a friend was, that if Lieutenant Clifford and Captain Downes were to die or be laid aside, the mission must fall to the ground. When Captain Coote had alluded to, as possible, in part took place. In the early part of the year 1852, Captain Downes was taken to his rest, and Lieutenant Clifford was incapacitated by serious illness from attending to any business whatever; but the result anticipated by Captain Coote did not, blessed be God, follow: the Lord having, in His Providence, pre-arranged all things for the carrying on of the mission.

"In August, 1851, Dr. Bettelheim had addressed a letter to an individual residing in London, to whom he was wholly unknown, entreating his assistance. This letter led to the reconstruction of the committee by the addition of naval officers and laymen resident in London. The new committee thus formed immediately adopted measures for obtaining increased subscriptions and suitable men to join Dr. Bettelheim in the mission. It was in the brief space of a fortnight which elapsed between their first and second meeting that it pleased the Lord to withdraw Lieutenant Clifford from the work and to take to Himself Captain Downes.—The committee opened a correspondence with, and sought the advice of, the Bishop of Victoria, who has not only become a patron of the Society, and contributed to its funds, but has also placed himself at the head of a corresponding committee at Hong Kong, and urged the London committee to send out two missionaries not later than in April next, whom he proposes to ordain and accompany to Loo Choo at the time of his making a journey of visitation to Ningpo, and, if circumstances will permit, he hopes during his visit to ordain Dr. Bettelheim. Of Dr. Bettelheim the bishop, in his introduction to the narrative referred to, says:

"He possesses many qualifications for his work: is an able linguist, possesses great energy of mind, is indefatigable in his labours, and has braved many trials and surmounted much opposition, cheered by the one hope of being permitted to diffuse the Gospel in Loo Choo, and through Loo Choo to the secluded and benighted empire of Japan."

* Son of the late Dr. Clifford, M. D. Naval Hospital Halifax.

"His lordship's testimony in favour of Mrs. Bettelheim towards the close of his interesting narrative is in no less glowing terms. He speaks of her as one who in all the fervent yet unostentatious zeal of a Christian heroine, bears uncomplainingly, yea, rejoices ardently in suffering privation and exile, borne in the noblest of enterprises, humbly treading in the footsteps of His most blessed example, who, 'for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.'

"This devoted pair have for nearly seven long years borne the burden and heat of the day alone, during which period Mrs. Bettelheim has seen the face of but one Englishwoman, and that only for a few days. Their children are growing up to an age when they require to be placed at some school, away from the manners and habits of the heathen. Not only does the mission require to be strengthened, but an opportunity should be afforded to Dr. Bettelheim to superintend at Hong Kong the printing of his translations, and the placing of his elder children in the care of such as may be willing to take charge of them. It is, therefore, proposed at once to raise additional funds and send forth additional labourers."

We need not add anything more to recommend this Society. The Report speaks for itself. But it requires to be known—especially at this season of the year, when we are afraid that it will not have its claims advocated at any public anniversary held by its supporters.

Youth's Department.

BOYS MIND YOUR MOTHER.—Come, boys, here is a story for you. I want you all to come together and listen. I was a boy once, and I recollect how boys feel. I am a man now, but I have had as much to do with boys as I have had with men.

I suppose you all have a mother. What I want to tell you is, how you ought to treat your mother. When I was a boy, no larger than you are, my mother used to tell me that she never knew any one so proper who did not treat his mother well. She said that when she was young she knew several children who did not honor their mothers, and they all came to a bad end.

There were several boys among my acquaintances, whom I knew to have disobeyed and ill-treated their mothers. I thought I would remember them, and see how they turned out in the world. I should think it was as much as fifteen years ago. I will call these boys William, George, and Herbert. I remember as distinctly as though it was but yesterday. They were classmates at school. I remember their mother perfectly well, for many a play-afternoon have I passed at their house.

William was a very pleasant boy, and a fine scholar. One afternoon I was at his father's house. We were playing on the green in front of the door. William's mother stepped upon the door stone and called him. We were busily engaged in play with some other boys. William took no notice of his mother's call.—After she had spoken several times, he stopped a moment to hear what his mother had to say.

"I want you to go down to the shop and carry this box to your father," said his mother.

"But I don't want to go, mother."

"Well, you must go."

"But I'm playing, and I can't go."

"William, I tell you you must go; for your father must have this immediately."

Just then one side of the party who were playing ball had beaten the other. William heard the merry hurra, and exclaimed, "Well I won't go—there." He picked up a stick, and throwing it at his mother, ran eagerly off to join the victors. I turned just in time to see the stick fall from his mother's dress, and to see how sad she looked as she went into the house.

I never before saw a boy strike his mother, and it made me feel so badly that I could not play. I told the boys I believed I must go home. I thought I would always remember William, and see if he prospered.

Perhaps it would have been better if William's mother had spoken more kindly to him, but that was no excuse for him. But what I want to tell you is, what became of him. Before he grew up he was taken very sick, and after many years of great suffering he died.

The next boy was George. His mother indulged him very much. She used to let him do pretty much as he chose, and any thing he wanted he was sure to do for him, but any thing he wanted he was sure not to do it for her. In fact, he seemed to have far less regard for his mother than for an older scholar, who used to be a leader in all our sports. He never minded any thing his mother said to him, and his mother might as well have talked to the currant bushes in the garden, as have