

citizens of Egypt were literally baptized with the spirit of this licentious goddess, we may believe that their political masters had become their religious teachers. Nor is there not only the similarity of names between Athor and Astaroth, but the very name of the town, Pathros, like Paphos, might indicate the same relation the dwellers sustained to Paphian Venus. But the very cakes alluded to by the prophet Jeremiah, which were made in the shape of the *star* and *new moon*, indicate that the female worshippers adored the same goddess propitiated by the Egyptians. Besides Venus, in the land of bondage, was frequently represented by the head of a cow, or bull, both of which symbolised the Apis of the Egyptians.

What traveler has ever passed through this ancient valley, teeming with the memorials and wonders of former times, without feeling that he can read the Bible with new eyes and a closer and clearer appreciation of the truth of every line. One in imagination could see the Jews, after exchanging the sterile lands and barren mountains of Judah for the prodigious fertility of the valley of the Nile, lifted up with profane pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness (the condemnation of Sodom,) and answer the sacred warnings of the prophet—"We will not hearken unto thee!"

There stands the prophet; lifting up his holy form, and raising his hand toward Heaven, he cries, "Because of the abomination which ye committed, therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant as at this day"—every word of which is fulfilled before the eye of the traveler. Before I saw Palestine and Egypt, the feelings of charity for the poor Hebrews' infirmities formerly shielded somewhat the guilt of their rebellion. But, when one sees the solemn and overpowering evidences of Divine goodness which they rejected wilfully, obstinately, perseveringly, age after age, and when one sees their perfect infatuation against the Gospel, their madness against Christ, their spitting and scorn at His HOLY NAME, wonder ceases that the curse rests so fearfully upon them. The very monuments which this hour render Egypt and Palestine venerable, and which in great part render a dwelling and burial there so intensely desired and longed for by the Jews, are nearly all identified with their rebellion in rejecting this same despised Nazarene. The glory of the Holy Land is the condemnation of the Jew. *Christian Treasury.*

SCUTARI MISSION.

MR. MACNAIR'S JOURNAL,
Continued from page 68.

September 16th—Sunday.—Preached this morning in barracks to the men on duty. Audience smaller than last day, between 20 and 30, and 1 woman. Several of the men employed in bringing up invalids just arrived from the Crimea. At 10½ in the Palace Hospital, audience 10 or 12, with as many more in bed. At 2 in Barrack Hospital, audience 17, of whom 12 were invalids. The smallness of the attendance is often discouraging, though, considering the limited number of Presbyterians in an hospital, and the fact that some are confined to bed, or otherwise disabled from attending, there is reason for thankfulness that even so many are found present. Perhaps in the Barrack Hospital the audience is most disproportionate to the number of invalids. This is partly to be accounted for by the immense space which is covered by this Hospital, rendering the distances which many

have to come too great for them in their weak state of health. But no doubt a more thorough visiting during the week, if it were possible to give it, would bring up a larger number; and this must be aimed at.

I was surprised to-day to see C. J. in the Barrack Hospital. He was discharged some time since from the General Hospital, has been on duty here since, and expected to be sent back to the Crimea. But human prospects are often thus blighted.

September 17th.—A wet day. Visited in Barrack Hospital; saw several men in I. corridor; visited one half of A., and all B. and C. Am generally well received, and attentively listened to, though sometimes difficult to know whether this is the result of that military training which teaches deference to a superior officer, or springs from a real interest in what is spoken. Saw one fine young lad, who had been at the assault on the 6th and 7th, and though obliged to go to hospital before the taking of the Malakoff and Redan, and subsequent possession of Sebastopol by the allies, had seen the Russian ships on fire before leaving the Crimea. Was more surprised in the evening to read, in the district orders for the day, a copy of a letter from Her Majesty expressive of her congratulations to her brave army on their recent success, and at the same time her sympathy in regard to the losses which had been sustained, and the sufferings which many of them were called to undergo. This letter must have been telegraphed to the Crimea, after the decisive event of the 8th was known in England, and a copy transmitted here by ship from the Crimea.

18th.—Called this morning at the Harem (hospital a little way from the Palace), having heard that a number of fresh patients had been recently admitted. Have not visited this hospital much of late, owing to the very small number of Presbyterians here. On my last visit there were only 2 in hospital. To-day I found that 1 of these had gone to England, but that 7 others had been admitted. These men, being all convalescent, promised to attend service at the Palace on Sabbath. On my way home called at the General Hospital, and visited one-half of the upper division. Met one or two interesting cases. Distributed some books here, as I had done in the Harem. Visited corridor F. of the Barrack Hospital in the afternoon, and found several new cases to add to my list. Am surprised to find so many men without copies of the Scriptures. Thousands must have been distributed here and in the Crimea. Some instances, however, do occur in which men evince a real desire for the Word of life, and these I am always glad that friends at Home have put it in my power to supply.

22nd.—Visited, as usual, this week in all the hospitals. With one or two exceptions, none of the men are seriously ill. Large drafts are being sent Home.

23rd.—Preached to-day, as formerly, in the morning to the men on duty, about 30 in attendance; in the Palace to about a dozen, besides those in bed (some of my audience here had walked over from the Harem); in the Barrack Hospital to upwards of 20 invalids, and about half-a-dozen others; and in the General Hospital to 11.

24th.—Had a long day of visiting in the Barrack and General Hospitals, ending with calling on a sick officer at the Kiosk, as I contemplate being absent to-morrow.

25th.—Had set apart this day, in accordance with a practice I have followed for some weeks past, of taking one day in the week of entire relaxation from all hospital work. In this I believe I shall have the sympathy, as well as the approval, of every member of the Committee. There are few who can engage, day after day, in the same round of duties, without the intervention of, at least, the weekly rest. And the work of chaplain to an hospital has too little variety to form an exception to the rule. As the Sabbath is to me as much a work-day as any of the seven, I feel myself justified in employing another as a rest-day. And, though the scarcity of chaplains might seem to some a sufficient reason for inter-

mitting this practice, I feel that, on the other hand, this makes it all the more incumbent to take every precaution for the preservation of health. And if, by such practices as I refer to, I have been enabled to visit Broussa, (as noticed on a former page); to hold intercourse with friends at a distance; to thread the tortuous windings of the Bosphorus; to dip into the valleys in the interior, and behold the bounties of Providence in the abundant produce of vineyards, and oliveyards, and figtrees; to climb the steep banks of neighbouring heights, and wade through the tall heather which clothes them; to take my stand on some commanding eminence, and from one and the same spot feast the eye with pictures of the Black Sea dotted with sails—the Bosphorus, its sides capped with stately palaces, itself clouded with smoke from the busy passage-boats plying on its surface—the far-famed Stamboul, with its portly domes and pointed minarets, covering seven hills, and with its ample suburbs, containing a population of well nigh one million souls—the extensive cypress-groves, rising, according to eastern usage, over the houses of the dead—and the Sea of Marmora, displaying, on one hand, huge factories with their tall chimneys, washing, on the other, the shores from which the Olympic range rear their heads, and bearing on its bosom some giant steamer freighted with news from Home; if, I say, I have had my soul enlivened and my heart enlarged by such views and prospects as these, I trust I shall not be considered as therefore wanting in duty, so long, at least, as there are no cases in hospital under my charge, calling for daily visits. Rather may I not expect, from a survey of the works of nature and of art, to derive new strength for carrying the message of mercy to those placed under my charge. For one thing I cannot be too grateful, that, whether owing, in part, to this practice or not, I have hitherto been in the enjoyment of excellent health. To God be the praise.

I was resting myself after this day's ramble when intimation was brought to me that one of my patients in the General Hospital had been very low to-day with fever, and a few minutes later a soldier came with a message from the Barrack Hospital, saying that a sergeant, who had come in a day or two ago, was anxious to see a Presbyterian chaplain. Both cases I found time to visit, as well as one or two others in neighbouring wards, thankful that my day of relaxation had still left me some time for duty.

26th.—Visited in Barrack and General Hospitals, and saw among others the two men referred to last evening. The sergeant wished me to write to his wife, so I took down some particulars to note in the letter. Saw also B. W. in a very weak state. He was to have gone Home with last draft, but was then too poorly to be put on board ship. Last night he was scarcely conscious when I saw him, and to-day was restless, and seemingly in great pain. Read and prayed with him. How many cases have I now seen to show, if need were, the folly of trusting to a sick-bed repentance. When the body is racked with pain, the mind is little fitted for entertaining the great question which it is so loath to solve in the day of health. In the next bed of this young man lies an Episcopalian, with whom I have often conversed, and who is suffering from a wound or bruise inflicted by a sand-bag. Last night he was in great pain, and could not bear the weight of the bed-clothes. Then he confessed himself a sinner, and was ready to listen to all I had to say. To-day the pain is greatly gone, and I am glad to think that he is not destitute of gratitude to the Giver of every blessing. I trust that his spared life may see resolutions of amendment carried out.

27th.—Visited in Palace, and the worst cases in Barrack Hospital. To-day I am sensible of a considerable diminution of late in the number of patients throughout the hospitals, and, if they continue as at present, I can see a gleam of hope, and conceive a faint prospect of overtaking the work intrusted to me. But the prospect is but faint, as the men are so scattered that much time is consumed in finding them out, and passing from ward to