

the immense of Mr. Randall, took a seat on the throne. Mr. Clark now seated to the King and chiefs, their objects in coming; the letter of the King of the Hawaiian Islands was read, and some present made to the King, among which was the Bible, both in Hawaiian and English; and then they feasted on a generous pile of coconuts which had been brought in. The interview was closed by singing the Missionary Hymn — "the first time, probably, that these islanders had heard a Christian song of praise."

Will these islanders have the Gospel? It will cost self-denial to go and live among them. But men for the sake of gain voluntarily meet this self-denial. And Mr. Snow well says, "He who should hesitate to enter such a field, to elevate an ignorant and degraded people, and to save souls, on the ground of its discomforts, ought to question the sincerity and entireness of his consecration to his Divine Master." With the blessing of God, abundant fruit would result from labour bestowed here: Mr. Randall and Mr. Darnet were decided in their opinion, that the people would embrace any religion that should now be presented to them, with unusual readiness. The people on all the islands, though governed by independent kings, are one in origin, language, customs and religion. It is therefore a wide field; it is a perishing field; it may speedily be so occupied with tares, that the good seed can with difficulty be sown in it. Who, then, will go and recover it for his Lord and Saviour — *Journal of Miss.*

LETTER FROM CHINA

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN.)

CANTON, China, March 26, 1853.

I wrote to you more than a year ago, stating my impressions of the origin and extent of the disturbances which had existed in the adjoining provinces of Kwáng So for some time. At the close of that letter I intimated that if anything important in relation to them occurred, I would inform you. The time has come for fulfilling that promise.

These disturbances appeared to be caused by bands of robbers and outlaws, who, while resisting the troops sent against them to disperse them, were principally intent on plunder and profit. Since then, chiefly owing to the weakness of the Government, they have merged into a regularly organized and very formidable rebellion, and seriously threaten to oust the Manchu Emperor, or deprive him of the best part of his empire.

Early in 1852 these insurgents were driven out of Kwáng So province, which had been the seat of their operations for three years, leaving the whole in peaceable possession of the Imperialists. They went towards the north-east into the adjoining province of Húán. While traversing Hunan province, they destroyed two or three cities, and laid contributions on others, but kept possession of none.

Still marching north-east, they came into Hupe province. Here the insurgents began again to stand and make headway against the Imperial forces, though subject to some reverses. About October they appear to have made great improvements in their tactics, and to have followed a settled plan of operations. Since then the Imperialists have been able to make little effectual resistance. Their first great success was the capture of the Capital city of Hupe in December. This is a very important city, situated on the Yang tee Kiang river, a main artery of the empire and separated from the greatest mart of internal commerce in the empire only by the river. Having thus reached this great artery, they maneuvered all their forces to descend the river to attack the old capital Nanking, which is only second in importance to Peking itself.

The last advices from Shanghai, dated 21st inst., states that the insurgents had invested Nanking, and that though the Imperialists still held out, the fate of the city was very doubtful. Great fear and alarm pervaded all the surrounding country, especially the great commercial cities of Soo-chow, Hang-chow, and Shanghai. At Shanghai all business was suspended.

The reports are still current, both here and at Shanghai, that they destroy all the temples, or at least cast out all the idols, and a proclamation, professing to have been issued by them, has been circulated at Shanghai, exhorting all men to cease worshipping idols, and worship Shangti, only by which term they probably designate Jehovah.

Their object, as now stated, is to drive out the Manchu dynasty, and establish a race of monarchs of Chinese origin. They have chosen for their prospective dynasty a most distinctive Chinese title, i. e., the Hán dynasty. The previous Hán dynasty existed from B. C. 207 to A. D. 203. The Chinese often designate themselves as the men of Hán. Some reports state their design is to take Nanking, and make it their capital; and then take the twelve southern provinces, leaving Hien Hung for the present, the six northern ones. These twelve contain the districts that produce the great staples of foreign commerce. This course of proceeding would be the most easily accomplished.

What may be the result of this movement, no human foresight can forecast. Of this we are sure: He who presides over the destiny of nations will overturn all these combinations for the accomplishments of his holy purpose, and the furtherance of the gospel. It would be a wonder to see this great empire opened entirely to the gospel by a power which commenced as a band of robbers.

Now that we have a bi-monthly mail to England, you may have China news nearly as often as European.

I remain yours very truly, ANDREW F. HAFER

Since the above was in type, the *North China Herald*, published at Shanghai, has been received in this country, containing the remarkable proclamation of the insurgent chief, to which Mr. Hafer alludes. It is as follows:—

"Yang, entitled the Eastern King, and General-in-chief, with Scow, entitled Western King, and General-in-chief of Tientsing, by divine appointment Emperor of 'Tien-ko, the celestial dynasty, unitedly issued this proclamation, to announce that they have received the commands of heaven to slaughter the tyrant and save the people. According to the Old Testament, the Great God (Shang-ti) our Heavenly Father, in six days created the heavens and earth, the land and sea, men and things. The Great God is a spiritual Father, a ghostly Father, omnipotent, omnipresent; all nations under heaven are acquainted with his great power. In tracing up the records of bygone ages, we find that since the time of the creation of the world the Great God has frequently manifested his displeasure, and how can it be that you people of the world are still ignorant of it? The Great God in the first instance displayed his anger, and sent down a great rain, during forty days and forty nights, by which means the flood was produced.

"On a second occasion the Great God manifested his displeasure, and came down to save Israel out of the land of Egypt. On a third occasion he displayed his awful majesty when the Saviour of the world, the Lord Jesus, became incarnate in the land of Judea, and suffered for the redemption of mankind. In later ages he has again manifested his indignation, and in the 'Ting-yow year (A. D. 1837) the Great God sent a celestial messenger, who was commissioned by the Lord of Heaven, when he ascended on high, to put to death the fiendish bands. Again he has sent the Celestial King to take the lead of the empire and save the people from the Mow-shun to the Sinhen year (A. D. 1818-1851); the Great God has compassionated the calamities of the people, who have been entangled in the meshes of the devil's net. On the third moon of the latter year the exalted Lord and Great Emperor appeared; and in the ninth moon, Jesus, the Saviour of the world, manifested himself, exerting innumerable acts of power, and slaughtering a great number of impious fiends in several pitched battles; for how can impious fiends expect to resist the majesty of heaven? and how, we would ask, can the Great God fail to be displeased with men worshipping corrupt spirits and performing corrupt actions, by which means they grievously offend against the commands of heaven? Why do not you inhabitants of the world awake? Having been born in the present day, when you are permitted to witness the glory of God, how fortunate may you esteem yourselves! Happening upon such a time as this, when you experienced the great tranquillity of the days of heaven, it is time for you to awake and arouse. Those who comply with the will of heaven will be preserved, and those who disobey the celestial dictates will be destroyed.

"At the present time this Tartar fiend, Hien-sung, originally a Man-chou slave, is the perpetual enemy of the Chinese race. Moreover, he has induced men to assume the form of fiends, to worship the corrupt, while they disobey the true Spirit, and thereby rebel against the great God, on which account heaven will not endure, and men are determined to destroy him. Alas! you assemblage of valiant men, you do not seem to know that every tree has its roots, and every stream its fountain; while you appear willing to invert the order of things, coveting the smallest advantages, turn round and serve your foes; and having been entangled in the machinations of the evil one, you ungratefully rebel against your true Lord. You do not seem to remember that you are the virtuous scholars of the Middle Kingdom, and honest subjects to the Celestial dynasty, and thus you easily bend your steps in the road of ruin, without compassionating your own selves. Moreover, you valiant men are, most of you, adherents of the Triad Society, and have entered into a bloody compact that you will exert your united strength and talents to exterminate the Tartar dynasty. Whoever heard of men joining a solemn covenant, and then turning their backs upon their foes. Now, throughout the different provinces, there must be a variety of determined men, numbers of famous scholars, and of valiant men not a few; we desire, therefore, that you may elevate the lofty standard, and announce that you are determined not to live under the same heaven with the Tartars, while you earn for yourselves some merit in the service of our new King; this is what we, his Generals, most fervently desire. Our army, wishing to carry out the virtuous feelings with which the Great God loves to foster human life, and receives men into his compassionate embrace, has set forward on his march of benevolence, embracing all in its charitable folds. At the same time we lead forward our generals and troops, carrying to the utmost our fidelity in recompensing our country, in which we cannot refrain from displaying the same spirit to the end. These, our views, are now communicated to you all. You ought to know, that since Heaven has sent forth the true Sovereign to rule over the people, it is yours to aid the monarch in establishing his dominion. Although the devilish fiends should amount to thousands, and their artful schemes to thousands, yet how could they withstand Heaven? To kill without warning would not be agreeable to our feelings, and to sit still without saving the people is not what a benevolent person would do; we, therefore, earnestly issue this special proclamation, urging you people early to repent and vigorously to awake. Worship the true Spirit, and reject corrupt spirits; become men once more, and be no longer fiends; when perhaps you may attain longevity here, and the happiness of Heaven hereafter. But if you still persevere in obstinate stupidity, both guns and stones will be alike demolished; and then when you come to gaze your own navels, it will be too late to repent. A special proclamation."