

trety by the East India Company. The Indian mutiny has providentially prevented the attainment of this object for a time at least. Strenuous efforts should therefore be made now to resist such an attempt on the part of a Christian Government to encourage and perpetuate the vices of a heathen nation.

"After an interesting statement of the proceedings of the mission by D. Matheson, Esq., Dr. Candlish said:—He would not enter into the details of the mission, but the rapid sketch given by Mr. Matheson, especially as connecting this mission with other missions, and tracing the analogy apparent in the history of all these missions, was deeply interesting. Reflecting on the proceedings of the past year, he thought they had reason to acknowledge the hand of God in his dealings with us as a nation in connection with this very mission of China. They had reason to apprehend during that time that a very decisive, prompt, and successful effort would be made on the part of Government to procure the legalisation of the opium traffic in China. There was every reason to believe that a strenuous effort would be made by the plenipotentiary sent out from this country to get the East India Company out of the difficulty in which it was involved in connection with the raising of opium in India by either persuading or coercing the Chinese Government to legalise the traffic in China,—a traffic which was at present illegal according to the Chinese law. Of course it would occur to any mere statesman, actuated by the mere reasonings of statesmanship or politics, without a regard to higher considerations, to be a very short and simple way of cutting the knot by getting the traffic legalised. The whole difficulty would in this way be got over, and the East India Company could be no longer charged with ministering to an illegal traffic; but God had by those troubles which had arisen in India interposed in a very remarkable way, and had arrested the march of things, as regards our intercourse with China, and now they had a period of suspension. To all appearance there would be no settlement of Chinese affairs until things were settled in India; and the efforts of all Christian men and of all Christian Churches should be directed to secure that in any settlement of the affairs of India, this country should wash its hands from the iniquity of the opium trade altogether. (Applause.) The Chinese Government was itself the best judge of what was good for its own people; and if that Government thought right to prohibit the opium trade, it was not for the Government of this country to assert the contrary.

Professor Smeaton stated that both Mr. Smith and Mr. Grant, the two missionaries recently sent out, had attended his classes, and that they were men whose simplicity and godly sincerity, and whose talents, high scholarship, and singular devotedness, would render them worthy associates of those noble men who were already in the missionary field in China. This country was now getting a new view of missionary labour, and had opportunities presented to it for seeing how important it was. The events of India and China were reading to them a most emphatic commentary on the importance of missionary labor, and proclaimed that this British nation of ours must be a missionary nation, or must bethink herself of abandoning her over-sea empire. (Here here.) He rejoiced to find that they were discovering that missionary work was not meant only to be occasionally taken up, but that it was a part of the Church's organic growth, and that the time seemed to be ripe for taking measures to enter on the field in the East at once with redoubled energy. It must have gratified them to hear that this Amoy mission had been carried on, without let or hindrance, in those troublous times, and that the storms which had been passing over China had left it untouched, to be, he hoped, a centre of influence for good and light in that benighted land. He hoped that those mighty

events, which had occurred of late, would sweep away many petty jealousies about missionaries, and may suspend about their interfering with their home work, and lead churches to take a right view of their duty in supporting the cause of Christ both at home and abroad, and of maintaining a constant warfare with error, immorality, and ungodliness.—*English Presbyterian Messenger.*

AMERICAN MISSIONS IN CHINA.

In the churches at Amoy and Chioh-be there is much encouragement.

"The congregation meeting in the two places of worship in Amoy are quite large. At Chioh-be, all open persecution has ceased. The reports of the evangelists, and other native brethren who assist in the work there, represent the attendance at the chapel as encouraging. We still have also much comfort, and great aid in our work, from the abounding labours of those who are employed as assistants in various positions, and from the brethren in general; who seemed to esteem it a privilege, according to their ability and opportunity, to witness publicly for Christ." "Since the beginning of this year, it has been our privilege to welcome twenty-one persons to church fellowship. Of these, four have been received at Chioh-be, and one of these baptized at Amoy is from that place." "If a month passes with no addition to the number of God's professed people, it is an exception to the general rule." In all, nearly two hundred persons have been gathered into the two churches connected with this mission, at Amoy and Chioh-be.

FU-CHAI.—Here, as well as at Maeno, a serious storm has been experienced by which the mission buildings have suffered. Mr. Hartwell writes: "We had a very severe storm September 4, which did our mission buildings much damage. The church was partly unroofed, and the tiles were blown from the rest of the roof. It was the severest 'typhoon' I have known in China; and had not our church been built with brick walls, it is my opinion that it would have been blown down entirely. The house in which I live was much damaged. One room had the wall blown in, and water was entering, and the ceiling falling, in nearly every room in the house." "It will cost about \$400, I think, to repair damages to our mission buildings, and our loss is small compared with that of some of the merchants."

SHANGHAI.—Mr. Bridgman wrote, Sept. 15, that there was "not much to note beyond the ordinary routine of every day work" in the present circumstances of the mission; but as the 5th of September completed half a century from the arrival of Dr. Morrison in China, and the commencement of protestant missions there, he briefly reviewed these fifty years of missionary effort. "The whole number of laborers sent by Protestant churches now amounts to about four hundred. Of these nearly one-half have been ordained ministers of the gospel; a few have come out as medical missionaries or secular agents; the others have been either the wives of the missionaries, or unmarried ladies." "These have been sent out from more than twenty different Boards or Associations, embracing Protestant Christians of almost every denomination. The number of laborers now in China, male and female, is not far from 150, about half of whom are ordained missionaries. The greatest success in the way of hopeful conversions has been experienced at Amoy; but in some other missions there have been more additions to the churches, during the last eighteen months, than in all the previous years of their history."

ASAM.—At Asam there was great fear of a revolt. One Missionary writes:—"You see we are living on the very crater of a smoking volcano. The Musulmans do not disguise their choice, but openly and boldly rejoice at the success of the rebels. There is scarcely a man among them who would not cut our throats in a moment, if they thought they could do it with impunity. And the Hindus are but very little better."

BURMAH—KAREN MISSION.—The following is an extract from a letter of Dr. Mason, dated Toungoo, Aug. 22nd, 1857.—"It is thirty-two years since I first learned the existence of the mission to Burmah. But how changed. Then the missionaries were driven from Rangoon, and Judson was in prison at Ava. The name of the Karens had not yet appeared in the annals of the mission. And now when I am writing the minutes of the first meetings of the Bghai Association, and the Bghai Home Mission Society, there are in all nine Karen Associations, spreading over six degrees of latitude. 'It is the Lord's doing, and is marvellous in our eyes.' The Bghai, the last Association formed, and at whose first meeting I had the pleasure to preside, with about two thousand Karens present," reports three hundred and forty-six baptized during the year, with two exclusions, four suspensions, sixty-one deaths, and a present number of one thousand two hundred and seventy-four.

DR. LIVINGSTONE'S PLANS FOR AFRICA.

If the reader has accompanied me thus far, he may be disposed to take an interest in the objects I propose to myself, should God mercifully grant me the honour of doing something more for Africa. As the highlands on the border of the central basin are comparatively healthy, the first object seems to be to secure a permanent path thither, in order that Europeans may pass as quickly as possible through the unhealthy region near the coast. The river has not been surveyed, but at the time I came down there was abundance of water for a large vessel, and this continues to be the case during four or five months of each year. The months of low water still admit of navigation by launches, and would permit small vessels, equal to the Thames steamers, to ply with ease in the deep channel. If a steamer were sent to examine the Zambesi, I would recommend one of the lightest draught, and the months of May, June and July for passing through the delta, and this not so much for fear of want of water, as the danger of being grounded on a sand or mud bank, and the health of the crew being endangered by the delay. In the months referred to, no obstruction would be incurred in the channel below Tete.

Twenty or thirty miles above that point we have a small rapid, of which I regret my inability to speak, as (mentioned already) I did not visit it. But taking the distance below this point, we have in round numbers, three hundred miles of navigable river. Above this rapid we have another reach of three hundred miles, with sand, but no mud banks in it, which brings us to the foot of the eastern ridge. Let it not, however, be thought that a vessel by going thither would return laden with ivory and gold dust. The Portuguese of Tete pick up all the merchandize of the tribes in their vicinity, and, though I came out by traversing the people with whom the Portuguese have been at