

# The Protestant

AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS.

"PROVE ALL THINGS: HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."—1 THIM. v. 21.

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## The Protestant,

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## The Eternal God.

[The original of the following poem in the possession of Dr. E. G. Gold's, a Scotch poet of some note. It is said to have been translated into English by order of the Emperor, and being published in gold in the Temple of Jeddah. It has been translated also into Chinese & Persian languages, and is on a piece of rich silk, and suspended in the Imperial Palace at Peking.]

O thou eternal God! whose presence bright  
All space doth occupy; all nature gladdens;  
Unshooked through Time's all-decaying flight,  
Thou only God! there is no God beside!  
Being alone all things! Three in one!  
When none are comprehended, and none explore;  
Who fill'st existence with Thyself alone;  
Embracing all—supporting—ruling o'er—  
In us we call Thee God—and know no more!

In its sublime research, Philosophy  
May measure out the ocean deep—may count  
The sands of the sun's rays—but God! for Thee,  
There is no weight nor measure; none can count  
Up to Thy mystery; Reason's brightest spark,  
Though kindled by Thy light, is vainly spent  
To trace Thy essence hidden and dark.  
And Thought is lost, thy thought can soar on high,  
Even like the post moment in eternity.

Thou from primordial nothingness didst call  
This chaos, then existence; Lull'd on Thee  
Slept they by Thy power; Thy voice was heard  
Singing forth from Thee—of light, joy, harmony,  
Springing forth; all life, all beauty Thine.  
Thy word created all, and death created;  
Thy spirit fills all space with rays divine.  
Light-giving, life-sustaining Potency!

Thou shalt the unnumbered universe surround—  
Upheld by Thee, by Thee inspired with breath!  
Thou the beginning with the end hast bound;  
And hastest mightiest life and death!  
As spirit moves upward from the fiery mass,  
So we are born, so we shall spring forth from Thee;  
And on the wings of the sunny rays  
Shine round the ether's crown, the progeny  
Of heaven's bright airy spirit in Thy train.

A million tribes, lighted by Thy hand,  
Wander scattered through the wide abyss;  
They own Thy power, strengthen Thy command;  
Yet in my spirit, Thou art in a higher light—  
What shall we call them? Gods of crystal light—  
A glorious company of golden streams—  
Lamps of celestial ether burning bright—  
Shine lighting systems with Thy joyous beams!  
But thou to these art as the moon to night!

Thou art a drop of water in the sea,  
All this magnificence is Thine; is lost;  
What are two thousand worlds compared to Thee?  
And what art I, that Thy Creator's number'd host,  
Thought multiplied by myriad, and array'd  
In all the glory of brilliant thought,  
Yet in my spirit, Thou art in a higher light—  
Against Thy power, I am a weaker thought,  
Against Thy light, I am a fainter light—  
Against Thy love, I am a fainter light!

Rejoice! But the influence of Thy light divine,  
Penetrating worlds, hath reach'd my home too;  
Yet in my spirit, Thou art in a higher light—  
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## Trials of the Makololo Missionaries.

[From the Edinburgh House of the Churches, for Jan.]

The London Missionary Society some years ago established a Mission in Makololo, Central Africa. The Report of the Society read at the last Annual Meeting, held on the 9th of May last, gave a most touching narrative of the recent calamities of the mission.

The following is Mr. Price's account of the illness and death of his fellow-laborer and their children—  
Now, says Mr. Price, writing to the editor of the *Edinburgh House of the Churches*, the history of the Makololo mission, which, perhaps, there are not many quarters in the Church of Christ, in the course of about a week we were all laid low, but more especially Mr. and Mrs. Helmore, the four children, and all our servants; but through the great mercy of God, Mr. Price and myself were still able to move with a little, although with great difficulty. We were able to attend a little upon our dear friends the Helmores, neither of whom could hardly move a limb. As I was going round one evening to see if they were comfortable, I found the four children lying on a bed on the outside of the tent, and Mrs. Helmore by the side of the bed on a cushion. They were all dead, and their faces were cold; at last I came to dear little Henry: he was cold; he had just slept the sleep of death. I immediately went and informed his father, who was lying in the tent; he told me he had better not tell Mrs. Helmore till the morning. I took the child into the tent and wrapped up the body in a piece of carpeting, and engaged men to prepare a grave, that we might bury him the next morning. He was buried by the side of his father, my wagon-driver, who had died a few days previously. When I was told Mrs. Helmore she took no notice whatever, although it was her dear, precious little Henry. This was on March 7th; on the 9th our dear little baby died. On the 11th, little Helmore died, and on the same day Thelma of Lathrop. On the 12th Mrs. Helmore died. Mr. Helmore had some conversation with her shortly before she expired. She said she had no desire to live, her work was done, and she wished to go home to Jesus. After that, Mr. Helmore, and I, and Willie improved considerably, until about the middle of April, when Mr. Helmore paid a visit to Subletia in the town, and I came back very tired, and feeling very sore. From that time he became worse and worse, and on Friday afternoon, April 20th, he fell into a kind of sleep, and continued in that state until the evening of Saturday, about thirty-five hours, and then, on the night of Saturday, breathed his last.

All these I wrapped up and consigned to the silent tomb with my own hands, with the exception of my own child, which was buried in the morning. I would not say that I was in any way helped from fever. Now here I see so much Christian courage, patience and joy for Christ's cause displayed, both in Mr. and Mrs. Helmore, amidst all they endured, both on the journey and at the Makololo.

When we saw that Mr. Helmore was becoming seriously ill, we endeavored to get him to go some distance from the tent, and to the camp of his mother and children and his goods. But, alas! it was too late. He had in a great measure lost his power of speech, and was only just getting a faint question in him that we could understand anything, for he could not say any more than just yes or no. One thing he particularly desired me to do was to take his children to Cape Town, and see them safely on board ship for England. We were from this time of great anxiety and death the solitary missionary and his devoted wife prepared to depart as the only means of saving their own lives and the lives of the little orphans intrusted to their care.

Of the troubles which followed, and the death of his own wife, he says:—  
But I forthwith began to make preparations for returning to the South, although I was obliged to be carried off about four miles; and packing for a couple of hours in the morning, I was up completely for the two following days. However I managed to get all ready by the end of May. Up to the time of Mr. Helmore's death, the Makololo were pretty quiet; whether we lived or died they did not seem to care. They being very ill, and I began to prepare for going away, then began our real troubles. By day things were taken before our eyes by force, if they were not given up willingly; and by night stealing by whisper; my clothes, my tent, my wearing during the day, were stolen at night from the feet of my bed. When I was ready to go away, Subletia came, and took possession of Mr. Helmore's new wagon, and a host of goods of his mine. They being very ill, he demanded two front and two hind oxen, wherever they were; then he compelled me to remain and let my men train oxen for him. All my goods and ammunition, both tents, and a host of other things, were taken away. I was still at the tent. One day I was lying on the ground hardly able to move, when a messenger came from Subletia demanding some more goods before I could go away. I said if they did not let me go, they would have to bury me beside the others. I was simply told that I might as well die there as anywhere else.

At length, on the 19th of June, we left the town, accompanied by Subletia and his wife, and a few men. We reached the river of Lathrop, and on the following day all the remaining goods were taken over in canoe. This being done, a message came to me from Subletia to the effect, that the goods were ready, and that they would remain as until I went over and delivered up all Mr. Helmore's goods; I consented, but in my mind I was like a man in a lion's mouth. A great many of my own things also I had to deliver up. Three oxen also and several oxen were taken at that river. Having thus got a good deal of things, I proceeded to the Chobe. I took on all my goods ready for crossing, and then a messenger came to me that Subletia had hitherto got only Mr. Helmore's goods, and that now he must have more. After a good deal of pleading I was allowed to free things for the journey, such as a couple of shirts, a vest or two, two or three pairs of trousers, an old coat that I had worn in England about two years, an old pair of gloves which I had on, and already they had taken my bedding, with the exception of what was just sufficient for one bed; for the other we had a horse. But before my own could cross the Chobe, I must needs deliver up my blanket, every pair of oxen which I had for food for the journey, and for all these things I did not get even a grateful glance for the road. There were my prospects for a journey of several days of a steaming mile to Crossland.

Also I when will this dark chapter end! On the plains of the Makololo, on the evening of the 4th day, Mr. Helmore's two children, my own dear wife, and I, met together for our evening meal, when we entered into conversation about what we had seen and suffered; and feeling that we were about to breathe again the free air of the desert, we admonished one another to forget the past and think of our mercies; for we felt that we had still what might, through the mercy of God, bring us with us in our march. My dear wife had been for a long time utterly helpless, but we all thought she was getting better. She went to sleep that night, and awoke in the morning, and I found her breathing very hard. I spoke to her, and tried to wash her, but it was too late. I watched her all the morning, and because she was so weak, I had to hold her up, and she took her last breath on the 4th day. I buried her in the same evening, under a tree; the only tree on the whole of the immense plain of the Makololo. This was a most heavy stroke, but God was my refuge, and strength, a very present help in trouble. These things are hard to bear; but God knoweth our frame, and as our day is, so is our strength.

## Idiotry in India.

Rev. Dr. Duff writes as follows to Rev. Dr. Tweedie, of Edinburgh, respecting a movement made by the government toward the suppression of Idiotry in India:—

It is so seldom that it has been in my power to report anything really christian in the conduct of our government in its dealings with heathenism, that it affords me a most agreeable pleasure to announce an event which is at least an approach towards something christian. Nothing in the dealings of our government with heathenism proved more offensive to truly christian minds than the method of dealing with all public idiotism. They were, in fact, put on the same footing of irremediable madness with the Christian Sabbath. They were not only sentenced to a week's confinement in the government lunatic asylum, but were made to undergo the irremediable madness of the Christian Sabbath. They were not only sentenced to a week's confinement in the government lunatic asylum, but were made to undergo the irremediable madness of the Christian Sabbath.

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the familiar word at the head of this article. I had just gone on board a steamer, which had been previously advertised to leave for Perth at a certain hour. My fellow-passengers had done the same. The bell was tolling away the minutes that remained. The steaming engine seemed restless for the journey, and all were in a state of expectancy. At length the signal was given, the plank was drawn in, and away glided the boat like a thing of life. But no sooner had we parted from the wharf, than we discovered, not far distant, a coach approaching. Had it been a matter of life and death, the horses could hardly have been made to whirl the vehicle more rapidly round the corner and over the intervening space, till they reached the spot we had just left. The boat was but a short distance from the wharf, when we discovered, not far distant, a coach approaching. 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