

however, in safety, having only seen some footsteps, and broken trees on which they had been feeding.

As Nuwara Ellia is about 6,000 feet above the level of the sea, barley, potatoes, cabbages, and other European plants grow luxuriantly. Three crops of potatoes are obtained a-year. Still, as the cultivation is yet very limited, and the expense of transport great, they sell in Kandy at three pence per pound; cabbages are one shilling each. While here we ascended Pedrolagalalla, the loftiest mountain in Ceylon, upwards of 8,000 feet in height. On the summit we found a *cairn*, just as you see in Scotland. The view was most extensive. It was sad to think that this vast tract was peopled with the avowed worshippers of devils, and that there was not a single missionary labouring among them.—So far as I am aware, no Society purposes to occupy the field, and unless some little be done for them by the distribution of books and tracts, they must descend to the grave as ignorant as the untold generations of their forefathers. I have furnished supplies to several Christian friends residing in the district. May the Divine blessing attend their circulation.

JOHN MERRICK.

—*Jur. Mis. Mag.*

THE REV. H. M. WADDELL'S RETURN HOME FROM CALABAR.

It is with very deep grief that we have to state to our readers that the condition of Mr. Waddell's health is such as to make it necessary for him to resolve to return to this country. The severe labours which he had in this country in 1849, brought on an illness under which he suffered for several weeks, and which made him less fitted than he was before for enduring the toils of a tropical climate. Since he went to Calabar, he has had repeated attacks of fever, which greatly reduced him. Still for several months he had been better, though weak; and letters which we lately received, written in February, intimated that he did not design to leave Calabar for one or two years. But the following communication, dated 23d March, shows that his medical advisers strongly urge his leaving as soon as practicable—that the brethren of this mission approve of his doing so—and that it was his intention to come away by the first opportunity:—

I wrote to you about the beginning of February, by the ship "Magister," from this river for Liverpool, with extracts from my journal for several months of the preceding year, and to Mr. Peck with my own accounts, and those of all agents at this station, brought down to the end of last year. Also I wrote to you a short note a few weeks ago from Fernando Po, whither I had gone for a few days, partly for the benefit of my health by an excursion to sea, and partly to transact some business with our merchant there, and get boards, if possible, for flooring my church.

In those letters I mentioned to you, that notwithstanding the solicitations of various friends at home, both in England and Scotland, that I should go home this year for the recovery of my health, I refused to entertain the idea, though I deemed it probable that next year, or the year after, I should find it necessary to do so. At the same time, I brought the matter under your notice, in the hope of obtaining some expression of your views, and those of the Board, which might serve to guide me as to the course I should pursue.

When in Fernando Po, I met Dr. Hutchinson, who was here all last year, and attended me when last ill, and indeed, most in the mission who required medical attendance, being reputed a respectable and qualified surgeon, and he voluntarily expressed his opinion that my trip to Fernando Po would be of no service, as I required a voyage home, and change of climate, to re-establish my health. On my return to Calabar, I learned that another very respectable and experienced surgeon, Dr. Morgan, who has been voyages to several parts of this coast, and resided in several of the rivers with his ship, who also attended me when last sick, and was, under God, the means of my recovery at that time, had expressed a similar opinion to the friends in Duke Town mission house. Though myself not at all of the same opinion, and indeed very averse to it, yet sensible of my declining strength, and of several unpleasant, if not serious symptoms, I deemed it my duty to submit a statement of my case for his opinion, in order to learn whether judicious medical treatment in the country might not supersede the necessity of my going to Britain for regaining my wonted vigour.

I wrote to him and mentioned that I usually felt so languid and debilitated, since my last fever, when he providentially visited me, that I could not perform even moderate duty without excessive fatigue and exhaustion—that I was subject to frequent and profuse perspirations, night and day, without adequate cause—that I suffered from frequent pains in my neck, shoulders, back, sides, and loins, for days, sometimes weeks, but which generally yielded to strong stimulating embrocations—that my pulse, which in previous years had usually in health been about 64, had latterly increased to 80 or 90 in the minute, and was so almost always, and at my most composed periods, accompanied by a shortness of breath on any slight effort, which produced some uneasiness in my breast, and a tendency to palpitations of the heart. I mentioned that I did not apprehend any positive disease in my case, yet finding my weakness and the symptoms mentioned to continue, if not increase, for a year past, I wished to have his best professional advice. To enable him the better to form his opinion, I mentioned that up to the winter of 1848-49, which I spent in Scotland, I had enjoyed excellent health, both in Jamaica and

in this country. That my health first seriously gave way in this country in 1850, when I had repeated attacks of the same kind of fever as that he saw me suffering under in the beginning of 1851, though none of them had reduced me so low as it, and that since that time I had no new attacks of fever, but merely suffered from the weakness and other symptoms of falling health which I had detailed.

On perceiving my letter, Dr. Morgan most kindly and promptly came up in the boat with my messengers, and we had a long conference on these points, and others not alluded to in my letter, prescribing for me, at the same time, a course of medicine which he deemed I would find in the meantime beneficial, though, he added, he feared it would be but of temporary benefit. Two days after, I had his reply to my letter to the following effect:—"Since our interview, and in reply to yours of the 12th, I beg to impress on you the necessity of change of climate, as, in my opinion, medicine will afford only temporary relief, and that should you continue much longer in this country, it may in all probability prove fatal. Consequently, I append a certificate to that effect, and hope that you will avail yourself of the first opportunity of returning to your native country, where I trust your health will be restored." In his certificate, he specified that I am suffering from "extreme nervous debility." Having further submitted the case to the brethren, and assured them of my own desire rather to remain, and received their opinion that I should act on the medical advice, I have judged it right to take the very first opportunity of making you acquainted with this state of matters, as painful to you, I doubt not, as it is to me.

The opinion of Dr. Hutchinson, and especially of Dr. Morgan, has taken me quite aback. I had no desire to go home this year, nor idea that it would be necessary; and would very much prefer stopping if it could be avoided, and that for various reasons, most of which will readily occur to yourself. The suddenness of it perplexes my mind, and deranges my plans of duty here which I had laid out for the year, and throws a gloom over the future which depresses my mind. But I trust the Lord will open up my way, and show me the path where I should walk, and make darkness bright before me, and strengthen my faith in Him as heretofore under all circumstances. After all my mind is not made up in the matter. I cannot say yet what may appear best, for I have two months' medicine to try, and there will be no ship from here for at least three months yet. I wait rather to see what the leadings of Providence may be, and thereby be determined, so far as I can understand them.—If the Lord will me to go, He will show me a way, and as yet I see no way plainly, unless at so advanced a period in the season, as to throw me into the winter on my arrival in England—a circumstance I must try to avoid, by waiting, if needful, to the ensuing spring. Notwithstanding my reluctance to move this year, yet if the Lord opens my way, every one says I should go; and there are these two weighty considerations which induce me to concede my own feelings to the judgment of friends in this matter. One is the suddenness of these attacks to which I have been liable, and the rapid sinking and utter prostration they produce; whence their chief danger to one not robust. It is not the violence of the disease, for in Jamaica we would have counted such fevers as slight and no ways dangerous, and so at first I counted them here; but it is in the low state of the general bodily health, the weakened constitution, arising from the debilitating nature of the climate, which makes them so serious. The cases of our brother, Mr. Jamieson, and of Dr. Wilson, and of Mr. Merrick, the Baptist missionary, and of others, are in point; therefore, though I should be no worse, and even have some improvement, it would not warrant much confidence, sensible as I am, and which others also observe that my constitution, for two or three years past, has been breaking down. I might, as on a former occasion, write you to-day that I am quite well, and before night be in a high fever, and two days afterwards be in a state to alarm my friends for my recovery. Another reason for disposing me to yield to the advice of the doctor and my brethren is, that this year I could be spared from the mission without throwing any place vacant, or any important duty being omitted. Mr. and Mrs. Goldie could easily come and take our place, and the other stations be still efficiently supplied. They can be spared from Duke Town. The change would, I believe, be beneficial to themselves. In this respect my waiting till next year could make no change for the better. Circumstances might occur which would make it more difficult to supply my place, and of course more difficult for me to get away, for I could not go and leave my station vacant; and vacant it would be if a married brother and his wife did not come and take our place. This consideration is one of great weight; inasmuch, that if a favourable opportunity offers for our going this season, in proper time, we may, in all probability, avail ourselves of it. If it be possible, I should like to wait and hear from you on the subject before I move. But I will not deem that indispensable so as to wait solely on that account. In conclusion, I beg to state that I am not labouring under any positive disease, and that friends must not be alarmed, for it is probable, that when they see me they will not see any change on me, and may, perhaps, think that nothing is the matter with me.—*Mis Record.*

UNION WITH THE FREE CHURCH—WHY NOT?

An old and worthy correspondent, whose whole life has breathed the spirit of union among all evangelical Christians, puts to us the question, Whether we do not think there might be a union between the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church? Various points must be considered before an answer can be given to this question. The doc-