

by the mbiaidiong (sorcerers) with having caused the death of several traders belonging to a person named Yellow Duke. A man and a woman died under the ordeal. King A. has not attended Church for some time on this ground. Some weeks ago he administered *esere* to several parties when a friend of his died. I had a note from one of the schoolboys on the subject. A friend, to whom I showed the note, inadvertently mentioned it to King A., who sent to me to demand the name of the person who wrote the note. This I could not and cannot do; knowing that it would lead to the death of the writer. King A. has given me notice that he will never come to Church again till I give him the name of the writer of the letter. It seems plain to me that my duty is to withhold the name.

A person of the name of Etan Ekrikok—making himself famous now-a-days by his deeds of blood—has killed three women with the *esere*. He threatens the lives of other four of his slaves. The pretence for the ordeal is, that the parties subjected to it are bewitching his mother, and causing her to be sick.

TRANSLATION OF HYMNS INTO CHINESE.

The Rev. W. C. Burns has of late been much engaged in the preparation of psalms and hymns in the different dialects of China. They are not only in use at several of the missionary stations, but are becoming very popular in the towns and villages among the Chinese. Mr. Burns is acting upon Fletcher of Saltoun's well-known saying, "Let who will make the laws, let me make the ballads;" and hopes by this means to supplant the profane and foolish songs of the Chinese, and introduce the truths of the gospel to the Chinaman's fireside. He has just printed at Foochow a new hymn book, which has thirty-three hymns in the collection, several of them founded upon the psalms, as the 1st, 23d, 63d, 100th, and 103d. The 54th paraphrase, and such hymns as—"Just as I am, without one plea," "There is a fountain filled with blood," "Awake my soul, and with the sun," "Come, thou fount of every blessing," "The happy land, &c., with the same tunes and choruses as in the Carrubber's Close hymn-book, are in the collection. Mr. Burns' idea has proved a happy thought. He has the hymns also printed on single sheets which are eagerly sought for; and it is a new thing in China to hear the children reciting or singing them with all their heart. A gentleman remarks, in a letter, how strangely it struck him to hear the Chinese singing the tunes of Martyrdom, Balerna, and Old Hundred, same as in Scotland. The mission at Amoy continues to be signally favoured, and has now five stations. There have been a number of remarkable cases of the natives making a profession of Christianity in the past year.

OUR CHURCH NEWS.

DEATH OF THE REV. WILLIAM MILLER.

The Rev. William Miller of Mahou, C. B., died at his residence on Tuesday the 16th November. On the Sabbath the 7th, he preached in the Presbyterian Church there with unworsted earnestness, as if he had a presentiment that this would be his last opportunity of preaching "Christ and him crucified." His last text was, "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinners appear."

The day was cold, wet and stormy; but Mr. Miller rode five miles to be at his post. The storms and the sunshine of seventy-five summers had found him faithful, and he was faithful and unflinching to the end. When urged to remain at home, in consideration of the inclemency of the weather and a slight indisposition of which he complained, his reply was, "Perhaps this is the last time I shall be able to preach: I must go!" And go he did, through pouring rain and raving wind, resolved to deliver the last message God had given him.