

of the Proverbs into intelligible Efik. [The Shorter Catechism, translated into Efik by Mr. Anderson, is being printed in Glasgow, under the care of Mr. W. C. Thomson.]

The burning of the mission-house has been already reported. The new house, sent from Leith, was put up on the 1st December, and we have occupied it during the most of the month. It is a very neat little edifice; but we would have found it much too small, had we had no other habitable apartments prepared. I have not heard either of the birth or the death of any twin children. I do not think that the poison-nut has been administered during the year by any of the gentlemen in this quarter; but I know of two cases in which parties took it of their own accord, in order to show they were free from the influence of *ifot*. Both cases were, happily, reported by the friends interested, and the means used by us were successful in saving the lives of the persons affected. In the month of December I was invited, for the first time, to attend a native funeral. The deceased was an influential lady at Henshaw Town, aunt to one of the young men belonging to the church, and mother-in-law to another. I attended, along with Mr. Goldie. We found a great number of people, chiefly women, making a dreadful noise, which they called mourning. The grave was dug pretty deep, some 14 or 15 feet, in one of the apartments of her house. The coffin was brought to the grave's mouth, and all the men listened to a short funeral service, conducted by Mr. Goldie and myself, but the women would not stop their howling. The coffin was then lowered, and we left.

OLD TOWN.

The following letter from Mr. A. Sutherland, dated 28th February, shows the beneficial influence which the recent treaty, according to which liberty has been granted to the people to rebuild their town, has had on them.

"I forward you a copy of the treaty lately formed by H.B.M. Consul and the chiefs of Old Town, feeling confident that it will give you satisfaction. The people here are highly pleased with it, and evince a strong desire to keep it; within the last few days they have mostly all gone off to their plantations, so that the rebuilding of the town will not commence till the planting season is over.

"As evidences of their regard for the treaty, as well as of a change to the better, I may mention the following, which I consider encouraging. During the past week a daughter of Ephraim Cobham's died, and, instead of the barbarous and cruel work attendant on such an occasion in former days, everything was peacefully and quietly gone about. Concerning their steadfastness we had at first some doubts and fears, as this was the first death from among the free-born since we came here.—The other circumstance which I wish to mention occurred two days afterwards. At the most distant of the Old Town plantations, a child died, and the father was accused by the mother of the infant of having "*ifod*" for it, and thus causing its death; she wished him to take the "*esere*" or poison-nut, but he refused, and the public feeling being against him, he got away and took refuge at Ephraim Cobham's, who, along with the other Old Town gentlemen, immediately gave orders that the man was to be allowed to return to his home, and remain unmolested. At Ephraim's request, Mrs. Sutherland and myself walked out to his plantation, and heard the man's story from himself, with the decision that had been come to. We gave Ephraim our cordial approval of what had been done, and encouraged him to persevere in this course of conduct.

"The facilities afforded us for holding meetings in their yards on Sabbath, together with the friendliness and good feeling shown by both the Old Town and Qua chiefs, have cheered and encouraged us not a little. At present we have six meetings on the Lord's day, three with the Old Town, and three with the Qua people; though, owing to this being the planting season, none of them are very largely attended, yet the total number who thus have the truths of the gospel brought to their dwellings is not inconsiderable. At Qua, the following incident occurred one Sabbath morning lately.—On going into the king's yard we found him busy with an "*Abi-idiong*," who was no doubt enlightening him on some future event; both looked very foolish on being surprised by us, but his Majesty came forward to greet us, and immediately ordered mats to be spread and the people to be called to hear us, while the poor conjuror sat on the ground in sullen amazement, to think that we should be heard before him. Mrs. Sutherland invited him to come and hear