

## MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

## BAD NEWS FROM CAPE PALMAS.

We can do no more at this moment than invite the attention of our church to the sad news we give below, and to unite in the hope that the condition of this much cherished mission may be the subject of general prayer:—

*Messrs. Editors:*—It is deemed important to give as early information as possible concerning the recent troubles at Cape Palmas, and the somewhat disastrous results attending the same.

Through a course of many years, since the establishment of the colony at Cape Palmas, no serious difficulty has occurred between the colonists and natives; and we trust the present unhappy state of things will be followed by a long season of quietness and peace.

In letters from Bishop Payne, dated December 29th and 30th, and from the Rev. Mr. Rambo, Jan'y 7th, we have full particulars, part of which we now give:—

## EXTRACT FROM BISHOP PAYNE'S LETTER.

"The past week has been the most eventful in the history of the colony at Cape Palmas and Grahway towns, eight in number, and driven their inhabitants, not far below six thousand, into the forest, or such interior villages as would afford them shelter; and the natives, on their part, have burned several unprotected houses in the colony, and amongst them our first station and our first African home, Mt. Vaughan.

"Prudence seemed to require that the families residing there, Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Thomson's, should leave on the breaking out of hostilities; and the place was left unguarded and unprotected, except by guns at two stations on either side. On the evening of Christmas day it was set on fire, and the two mission buildings and office reduced to ashes.

"Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Thomson will probably find accommodations in the asylum and in Harper (on the Cape), and perhaps sufficient house-room may be there obtained to carry on the high-school, when peace is restored, as there is a prospect of our having it within a short time.

"But Mt. Vaughan is the most suitable place in the colony for our high school, and I am therefore anxious to have a suitable building erected for this purpose in the shortest possible time."

## ENCOURAGEMENTS AND TRIALS.

"I may add that our missionary work still prospers. Within the past six months I have baptized twelve adult converts from heathenism, and there is a candidate for next Sunday. At the stations under brother Hoffman, God is graciously present also.

"All the Members of the Mission are well. Mrs. Payne suggests to me to ask you to let friends know that there was not time to write by this opportunity."

## EXTRACTS FROM MR. HOFFMAN'S LETTER.

"I write in the midst of the realities of war. On the 13th December there was a report that a conspiracy had been formed by the natives to cut off the colonists. An investigation took place the following week, which was not satisfactory to the Government, and on Monday, the 23d, the head men were called, and propositions made for their immediate removal and the purchase of their towns. There not being listened to, war was declared, and the cannon opened fire on the dwellings of the natives; they made some resistance, but soon the town was in flames, and they fled with precipitation. Only one of the Americans was killed, and one wounded. The natives, during that night and the two following, avenged themselves for the loss of their towns, by burning the houses of the colonists; and on Christmas evening, (our 20th anniversary,) they burned Mt. Vaughan.

On that day, a party of colonists, with their allies, the Rocktown natives, in conjunction with the Cavalla people on the other side, went to the Grahway towns, and, after a pretty warm contest, succeeded in burning the four Grahway towns, and proceeded down the beach with the Cavalla natives to Cavalla, where they spent the night. Not a man of the colonists was lost, though the natives suffered, and fought bravely. They returned on the 27th, and the natives fled before them. Most of them have gone three days' journey into the interior, and to-day sent to make overtures for peace.

The Cape is now entirely clear, and will be kept so, and there will be much more security than when two thousand natives divided the settlement.

Through the whole of this, we have endeavoured to maintain our neutrality, and I had a number of families and children at the asylum who came for secu-

city; besides having our native teacher (Mr. Harris) and family and his fourteen scholars. Some nights we have had sixty or seventy people beneath our roof.

Now things are becoming more quiet, and people are returning to their homes, when not too far from the military posts.

In the loss of Mt. Vaughan, Mrs. Thomson has lost everything except her clothes; her furniture, bedding, books, linen, and household articles, which for twenty years have been gradually accumulating. I hope kind friends in America will remember her. She was one of the first teachers in the mission, commencing her labors in March, 1830, and has been connected with the mission ever since.

The Rev. Mr. Gibson who has also lived at the Mount, lost most of his things—his library among others. Cannot an effort be made to get him a library? he is a studious and excellent young man, and makes good use of good books.

The excitement of war has interrupted a very interesting state of things in the church. I had nearly forty candidates for confirmation, and our Convocation was to have been held the week of the war. The Bishop could not, of course, come up, and all was excitement and confusion.

In the burning of the native town, St. Mark's Church took fire; and, had it not been for the efforts of Mr. Davies it could not have been saved; the injury done, however, was slight. Our examinations, also, were interrupted, except those at Cavalla, from whence I returned only thirty-six hours before the war.

## EXTRACT FROM MR. RAMBO'S LETTER.

"This war, it seems, grew in part out of the war last year between the Cape and Rocktown natives. The affair was nominally, not really, settled last April by an American man-of-war. Since then the two hostile parties have not fought, neither have they exchanged visits.

"Governor Drayton, of the State of Maryland, in Liberia, early last month, (Dec.,) went up and made the Rocktown people a visit. They, perhaps, stated their grievances. He, it seems, promised his help and influence to recover certain captives, if I am rightly informed. The Rocktown people, at any rate, formed a mutual alliance with the government. Soon after this the Cavalla natives, (where Bishop Payne lives,) did the same. The Cape natives and their colleagues, the Grahway people, felt excluded at this."

Out of this state of things, it was that the difficulties arose which have resulted in the disasters above mentioned.

We cannot venture to ask for further space in your paper, and conclude by expressing our earnest desire that the sympathies, and prayers, and offerings of the church may be the more abundantly drawn forth by the facts here presented. Yours,

S. D. DENISON,  
Sec. and Gen. Agent.

Mission Rooms, N. Y., March 7th, 1857.

## VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

A writer in the *Colonial Church Chronicle* urges strongly the establishing a complete mission in Vancouver's Island. He says:

This can hardly be thought a premature step, when it is considered that "this is the only Colony of the British Crown, in which British subjects reside, in which no attempt has been made by the Church of England to preach the Gospel to the native inhabitants." We have, perhaps, no statistics to enable us to say, with any degree of certainty, what is the population of Vancouver's Island, which is commonly estimated at about 10,000; while the whole native population in the British territory West of the Rocky Mountains may be reckoned at from 80,000 to 100,000, among whom at present not a single Missionary clergyman of the Church of England is to be found.

It cannot therefore be said that a mission is not needed for so vast a field of labor, any more than it is premature to send one; while on the other hand, many circumstances contribute to render such a step most important at the present time. If, happily, we are blessed with a continuance of peace, it will hardly fall but that in a few years we shall become much better acquainted with the northwest coast of North America, and ports that are at present unknown will become the busy scenes of commerce; and it will be far better for the cause of the Gospel, that the missionary should precede the merchant, than the merchant the missionary. At present, the native, if we may trust to the reports of those few persons who have had the opportunities of becoming acquainted with them, offer an encouraging field to the Christian

labourer. They are brave and manly, skilful and ingenious; resembling much in character the inhabitants of the Islands in the South Pacific. And if only a Mission could be at once established in all its fulness, with a Bishop to preside over it as earnest and self-denying as other Colonial Bishops, it would not be too much to hope that Vancouver's Island might prove to the mainland of Northwest America, what England herself was in former times to the Northwest of Europe, the seat from which holy men should go forth to gather in the savage tribes within the fold of Christ's Church.

In a few years the opportunity which now offers itself will most probably no longer exist, and the Mission will then have to be undertaken at a greater cost, and with less hope of success. Land is at present cheap. European vices are not so common as they will be in a short time; and the expenses of the Mission need not be large. Only let the Society determine to establish it at once in all its fulness, and a grant of 500*l.* a-year would be a greater service now, than 1,000*l.* in ten years' time.

## Youths' Department.

## "SWEAR NOT AT ALL."

We hope none of our young friends were ever guilty of taking God's name in vain. And we also hope that you may never do such a thing. And yet perhaps all of you have often been shocked by hearing others do so. Some as young as yourselves, who have uttered expressions that have made your very blood run cold.

We write on this subject, and thus remind you of the words of the Saviour, so as to put you on guard against all persons who take his name in vain. Run away from a boy who is in the habit of swearing, as quickly as you would run from a mad-dog. Avoid him as you would a loathsome pestilence! God is angry with him; Jesus frowns upon him; and if he does not repent and reform, he will surely be punished for so great a wickedness. There is danger, dear young friends, even in listening to an oath; for, when you least expect it, and it may be in years after, Satan will bring the same words to your remembrance, and in an unguarded moment, you might be tempted to utter them yourself.

But, sometimes invent excuses for some of their sins. But no apology can be made for profane swearing. If detected in stealing, they often plead their hunger, or their need of clothing or covering from the storm. So in other cases, they blame their strong desires, appetite or passions, or speaking of powerful temptations; but for taking God's name in vain, there is not even the shadow of an excuse. It is only a vile, wicked, sinful habit!

God hears the swearers' prayer, and sometimes answers it by sending them to perdition almost as soon as the words escape their lips. There are many such sad cases on record that you may never forget them.

"I know a man," says a correspondent of the *Tract Magazine*, in 1825, "who was very much addicted to swearing." He was a laborer in a stone quarry, and having one day fastened a stone to a rope for the purpose of being hoisted up, the man at top of the quarry said he thought the rope was not strong enough. The man below immediately replied with a most dreadful oath; "Then let it crush me to atoms." The wretched man had hardly uttered those words, when the stone fell and killed him.

"In the neighborhood of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, there lived a man who, having a cross child frequently wished with an oath, that his next child might be both deaf and dumb. He afterwards had three children, all of whom were both deaf and dumb."

"A coal merchant at Brigg, in Lincolnshire, had occasion to send a boat to Boston with a cargo of coal, and ordered one of his men to take charge of it. As the boat was leaving the wharf, a person civilly asked him where he was going. 'I am going to hell,' said he with an oath. Awful to relate, he died suddenly before he reached Boston."

The Rev. William Romaine, of London, came up with a man once who was swearing, and who called upon God "to damn his soul for Christ's sake!" Mr. Romaine laying his hand upon the blasphemer's shoulder, said, "My friend, God has done many things for Christ's sake, and perhaps he will do that too," and passed on. The reproof went to his heart and was the occasion of his "turning from the power of Satan unto God," and becoming an exemplary Christian.

Remember the second commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."—*Episcopal Recorder.*