

admit of no mistake,) spoken of as consisting of both good and bad members: to wit—the tares and the wheat—the bad and good fishes—the foolish and wise virgins, &c. Christ Himself says, “I am the vine, ye are the branches,” and we know one was a devil.

Taking the simple and beautiful similitude of the vine as our guide, the holy Catholic Church is “the vine,” of which we, the baptised, are the branches, both good and bad. The Communion of saints is the communion of the good only—the living branches of “the vine.” John xv.

Taking the equally simple similitude of the body as our guide, the holy Catholic Church is the “body” of Christ, of which we, the baptised, are members, both good and bad.

The communion of Saints is the communion of the good only, the living vital members of the “body.” 1 Cor. xii.

Thus showing that Christ is all and all: and at His second coming the holy Angels “shall gather out of His kingdom, them that do iniquity, and shall cast them into a furnace of fire.” Matt. xiii. 41-42.

And “the righteous shall shine as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”

Though we have, and should have our Christian liberty on various scriptural subjects, still there should not be the least confusion of thought concerning one of the articles of the Christian Faith—the simple, plain doctrine of the inspired Apostles—the grand Confession of eighteen centuries—the Apostles’ Creed. ISAAC WOOD.

ENGLAND.

A MEETING was held at Torquay, on the 11th ult., in aid of the movement for dividing the Diocese of Exeter, and restoring the ancient bishopric of Cornwall. The Bishop said he had found that the diocese was too large for any one man to work, and his engagements were so numerous that from the beginning of February to the end of July, not a single day was free. Meeting the objection that a large salary was required because of the Bishop's connection with the House of Lords, he said attendance on the House of Lords made no difference to him, and need not to any Bishop in regard to the necessity of being in London a great deal, because they were necessarily often enough in town for that conference which was needful, if the Church was to act as a whole and with unity. The Earl of Devon urged that advantage should be taken of the Home Secretary's offer to create the new see when an income of £8,000 was raised. Resolutions in favor of the movement were carried unanimously, and donations to the amount of £11,000 were announced in addition to the endowment of £2,000 a year offered by an anonymous lady and the Bishop of Exeter. About £20,000 more are required before the conditions of the Home Secretary will be complied with.

At the monthly board meeting of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the Master of the Charter-house in the chair, £2,000 was granted for the use of the Diocese of Melbourne (which was suitably acknowledged by the Bishop of Melbourne, who was present,) besides grants of £885 for various churches in the colonies, and £500 for educational work in the Diocese of Calcutta; while £282 was voted for book grants.

PRINCE LEININGEN, who distinguished himself by running down the Mistletoe, is to be promoted to flag rank, as some acknowledgment of his services.

JAPAN.

We have received from Col. Shaw, some letters written to him by his son, who is Missionary there. They will doubtless be read with much interest. Mr. Shaw was educated at Trinity College, Toronto. The following is the first letter of the series.]

Yedo, Japan, 5th Sept., 1875.

MY DEAR FATHER,—I was very thankful to receive your letter from wild Lanark, for I was beginning to despair of hearing from you.

I have had a long trip into the interior; have travelled little short of 800 miles, and a good part of that on foot. I think on the whole I feel better for it, although it was very hard work, the journey being almost entirely through mountains. I took down a few rough notes of the trip as I went along, and where they seem interesting I will give them to you just as they stand. Passing out of Y-do to the North-West, you travel for about 70 miles through a rich and very highly cultivated plain to a large town called Sokosaki. Before you come to this however you can see, among the mountains which bound the whole horizon from left to right, the craters of three volcanoes; two of them, Fajisan and Mantaisan are now extinct, but the third Asama Yama, to which the first part of my journey was made is still tolerably active.

Thursday, July 1st.—Left Matsinda a few miles from Takasaki at 6.30 for Miogisan, a beautiful spot off the Makasendo (one of the great main roads running from Yedo to Kyoto), road rough; heat intense; arrived at 9 o'clock at a Houjin (i. e. one of the best class of Japanese inns, where the Mikado stops when travelling, and in which there is always a room raised above the rest for his reception). Found there a grand grove of trees, Japonica and Cryptomeria, equal to, or surpassing those of Nekko, (the burial place of the old Tycoons); one of these trees was 40 feet in circumference. There is also a new Temple, the old one having been burnt 22 years ago; a well moulded bronze horse, and a stone pillar, (natural), 800 feet high, two miles further on.

Friday (Mary's birthday).—Left Miogisan at 5 a.m., reached the top of Naka no taki pass, at 6. Scenery very fine. Just below is a natural archway in the rock, with a height to the key, of 90 feet, and to the top of about 180 feet. There are said to be three others: we could only discover two. No foreigners had ever passed here before. Commenced the ascent of the Takai Ichi pass at 9 o'clock, a mile and a half up, two and an eighth down: excessively hot. Remained at a small village until the afternoon; great excitement among the people. Showed them my watch and a small looking-glass. In the afternoon had a lovely walk up a valley; good path. Reached Hadsuda at 7 p.m. Well received by chief of the village, a very patriarchal old Japanese, with long grey beard.

Saturday.—Left Hadsuda at 4:20 a.m., on a delicious morning. Reached the top of Wamiki pass (2,800 feet) by a gradual ascent of 2½ miles at 5.45. The woods are said to abound in monkeys, bears, and wild boar. At the top of the pass, the boundary post between the provinces of Goshin and Shinobin stands. Distance to Katsukaki at the foot of Asama Yama about 10 miles through a plain. Soil moist, swampy, volcanic. Many flowers and pheasants. We crossed a small river running to the west, the last pass being the backbone of the country. Found an inhospitable village at the river; reached Katsukaki at 8 p.m.

Monday ascended Asama Yama. Left

Katsukaki at 5 a.m., reached the top at noon, 7½ miles. First three miles, ascent gradual, among sparsely wooded hills, remainder steep, over loose lava, path marked by small heaps of stones. 2,000 feet from the top vegetation ceases, though animal life in the shape of some beautiful diptera dragon flies, and a specimen or two of lady bird were found at the very summit. The day was unfortunately for the most part cloudy, and a blacker prospect it would be impossible to conceive, upwards and all around disappearing into the clouds, a vast, lonely cone of lava and grey ashes, with nothing to relieve the eye. Such glimpses as we now and then caught of the country around, were both beautiful and grand. Green valleys, and masses of hills piled one beyond the other, far as the eye could reach, some of the mountains higher, apparently, than Asama Yama itself. On a clear day we should have seen Fuji San, more than 100 miles away. The aneroid made the summit 8020 feet. The crater was a terrific spectacle. Its breadth is 600 or 700 feet, its depth unfathomable. Venturing as near as is safe, and peering over, one can see down its polished sides, stained yellow and green with sulphur, to a depth of perhaps 800 feet; what lies beyond must be left to the imagination. From some vast cavern far below, clouds of sulphuretted hydrogen gas continually rise far above the mouth of the crater, with a noise exactly similar to that made by Niagara Falls, and which I have distinctly heard at a distance of ten miles from the mountain. Great fissures extend here and there at right angles from the top of the crater, showing unmistakable signs of recent formation; and indeed, I have heard since that only a few nights after we had been there, a large portion of the ground on which we had stood had fallen in. It was then too hot to allow of standing still on it for any time, and every now and then there was a tremor like that caused by a slight earthquake. Our guides were too terrified to approach near, and the other two members of our party being tired, Mr. Joyner and I set off by ourselves to make the circuit of the crater, which owing to the density and intolerable stench of the gas, we only accomplished with great difficulty. In descending, when about half way down, the clouds came on so thickly that we lost our way, and while standing in doubt questioning the guides, a furious thunder-storm burst directly upon us. Fortunately we each had oil-skins, and in an instant all that could be seen of us was four heaps on the mountain side, each squatting on the lava under a paper umbrella. The rain poured in torrents, and the thunder was terrific, but when the storm passed by, the air was clear, and we had no difficulty in regaining the path. Reached the tea-house at 5 p.m., wet, tired, and hungry.

I find that I shall not be able to write any more by this mail, but will continue my notes of the trip in my next. I am, your loving son, ALEXANDER.

BISHOP MACROBIE, of Maritzburgh, is shortly expected in England, and desires the use of a church or school, where he can set forth the needs and claims of his diocese.

THE English papers notice that Mr. Gladstone, having taken a more prominent part in the debates of this session, an indication is furnished that he intends to return at no distant day to the leadership of his party in the House of Commons.

MR. MECCHI has published his accounts for last year, showing as the result of his scientific farming at Tiptree, a balance of £580 2s. against £691 4s. 11d. in 1874. Mr. Mecchi owns 178 acres, and his valuation on the 1st of January, 1875, was £2,789.

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