

go. The season of feasting is approaching and many of the heathen say when that is over the word of God will again be *Tchasee* on this island, i. e. it will rapidly spread,—it was so last year.

I hope you will not be discouraged by the above statements; we are not. The poor natives often say that this island is no longer Satan's kingdom but God's, and that his word will triumph in it. In the missionary work we require something to keep us down, as well as to lift us up, otherwise we would forget our dependence on God. And bear in mind also that our troubles have arisen out of our successes. Nor is it any new thing for the heathen to rage and the people to imagine a vain thing."

I have not yet administered the sealing ordinances of religion to any of the natives. Several have applied for them as they wish to yield obedience to all the commands of Jesus. I have felt the responsibility of organizing a church so great that I have hitherto delayed, hoping that when the *John Williams* arrives I may meet with brethren whom I can consult on the subject. Of many of our natives I have reason to hope well; but there are a few who entertain a doubt. A church of heaven-born souls in the midst of these dark islands would be a spectacle for angels.

During the year I have prepared and printed a small book of selected portions of Scripture to which I have appended six hymns in the native language; also sheets of words and sentences for the use of schools. The amount of press work is as follows:

600 copies translated portions of Scripture, 25 pages, 14000; 600 copies of native hymns, 4 pages, 2400; 600 sheets of No. 1, 600; 600 sheets No. 2, 600; total number of pages 18000. The editions of all our books have been too limited for want of paper, and the supply which I had is now all worked up. I desired some more to come by the *John Williams*, which I hope we will soon receive. It will be necessary to make new editions of our elementary school book and catechism, as we will soon be out of them. The demand for books is very great all around the island. I saw the day when natives feared the sight of a book as something that generated disease and death; but now, I fear that a few go to the opposite extreme, and value a book as a charm to keep away these evils. It is pleasing to see the efforts which natives beyond the reach of our schools are making to learn. One or two individuals will go and remain a few days with some friend who knows more than themselves, and after learning a few letters or words go home and teach their neighbors.—And when natives from a distance visit me they will often ask me to sit down with them, and give them a lesson.

I have the gospel of Matthew in hand at present, which I am endeavoring to translate. I find the work less difficult than I expected, yet it is a very laborious one. Every word must be critically examined, and suitable terms chosen to express religious ideas.—The language has a fullness and variety of expression for the ordinary affairs of life, scarcely to be expected among so barbarous a people, and just as much subject to rule as the classic languages of Greece and Rome; but when used as a vehicle for religious truth it is greatly at fault. For many theological terms such as repent, justify, sanctify, judge, church, &c., there are no suitable words, and of many of the implements, employments, animals, customs, &c., recorded in Scripture these islands have never heard. But these difficulties are not unsurmountable—in some some cases new words must be coined, in others the idea must be expressed by circumlocution. After one book has been translated, others will become comparatively easy. In preaching to the natives, if we do not find a suitable term to express an idea new to them, it is possible by explanation and illustration to convey what we wish, but translation does not admit of this liberty. I do not expect to complete the gospel by Matthew for a few months, but when it is finished how is it to be printed? I cannot undertake the printing of it, with my present engagements; it is as much as I can do to provide such books as our schools require. It has occurred to me that the printing might be done at some of the presses in New Zealand. I have two excellent friends at Auckland, Rev Messrs. Inglis and McDonald, (late of Samoa,) who I am sure would interest themselves in such an undertaking. They might carry through the press a distinctly written manuscript, and the native boy whom I sent to the Bishop's Institution is within their reach, and he might render them valuable assistance, for he can read his own language. I design to correspond with the brethren whom I have named on the subject.—*Miss. Reg.*

#### A TOUR IN CEYLON.

To the Young Peopl. who support a Printer in Ceylon:—

I shall give you an account of a short journey I lately made through part of the interior of Ceylon. My chief objects were to see what could be done to promote the circulation of tracts in the southern part of the central province, and to ascertain the opinions of the people respecting the Creator, in places where they have not come into contact with Europeans. I left Kandy in company with a Ceylonese friend. Our road wound along the foot of a mountain range, whose summits were covered with coffee estates. About sunset we came to a rivulet near which were a few houses, where we resolved to spend the night.—Whilst a man was preparing some food for us, we went down to the stream to bathe. The water was lukewarm from running over rocks, but still very refreshing. Below us were some buffaloes lying in the water, apparently much to their satisfaction. On our return we had some conversation with the people and distributed a few tracts. Sev-

eral of them were from the maritime districts, where Christianity is professed by great numbers. Many of them, however, who remove to the interior, being far away from the means of grace, and surrounded by Buddhists, relapse into heathenism. During the last few months, a Kandian convert has travelled a good deal through the country, selling, at a low price, the tracts printed at your expense, bound into volumes. Inquiries have been made by some of the purchasers for copies of the Scriptures. I expect soon to be able to furnish him with a supply. It is to be hoped that their perusal will tend, in some measure, through the blessing of God, to prevent them, though mingled among the heathen, from learning their ways.

I felt much interested in a fine boy who came near us. He was lively, smart, and obliging; but utterly ignorant of religion. He could not tell who made him, whether he had a soul, or if there was a state of existence beyond the grave.

"He knew no heaven, he fear'd no hell,  
"Those endless joys, those endless pains."

I could not help contrasting his condition with that of many in Scotland. How much more highly favoured are you, my young friends!—While you thank God for this, remember that "to whom much is given, of them shall much be required."

We had a regular native supper—boiled rice, eaten with some vegetables, and a little salt fish. We slept outside the house, in the verandah, which is sheltered by the projecting roof. The people often sleep here. They wear a long cloth, somewhat like a highland plaid. In this they wrap themselves at night, head and all; and they may be seen in the morning, lying like so many dead men in their shrouds.

We started about three o'clock, next morning by clear moonlight.—The road presented the same character as it did the previous day. A stranger, surveying the fertile valley beneath him, with its well cultivated terraced rice fields, its luxuriant vegetation, and the magnificent scenery of the surrounding mountains, might suppose the district to be the seat of peace and plenty. But it is far otherwise. A few weeks ago, I had occasion to visit a village in the immediate neighbourhood, and found nearly the half of it burnt down. Two of the inhabitants had a quarrel. One of them adopted a very common mode of revenge in this country. He privately removed his most valuable goods, set fire to his house, and brought a charge of arson against the object of his hatred. The case, however, was not proved, and the accused was discharged. As the houses are built close to each other, and merely thatched, the fire had spread, and several others had been consumed.—The owner of one of them thus destroyed, was absent when this happened. On his return, in revenge, he set fire to the house of the original incendiary, when some more buildings were burnt. The second fire raiser was taken into custody. But a day or two before the trial was to come on, the principal witnesses suddenly took very ill, from poison which had been administered. The affair had not been settled when I went to the village. I saw women weeping amid the blackened ruins, and pointing, with tears in their eyes, to the ashes of grain, and the miserable remains of their little property. Such is a specimen of the condition of the people where the Gospel is unknown.

Space will not permit me to detail the varied conversations I had with the people during the day, and on subsequent occasions. After a long day's journey, we began in the afternoon to ascend a steep mountain. As we proceeded, the air gradually became colder, and colder; and the vegetation assumed a different character. Cocoa-nut trees, bananas, &c., were no longer to be seen. Their places being supplied by plants resembling those of temperate regions. I suddenly met with some black brambles, the first I had seen for nearly nine years. They recalled to memory, the scenes of my boyhood, the companions with whom I strayed through the woods of Scotland. I thought of the wide continents which separated me from most of them; of others, scattered abroad like myself over the earth and of not a few gone down to the silent tomb. In a foreign land, far away from one's kindred, a person can enter more fully into the spirit of the declaration that we are but strangers and pilgrims, and that we should desire a better country, that is, an heavenly.

The sun had set before we reached our resting-place, a coffee estate belonging to a friend in Kandy. Next morning, I had an opportunity of witnessing the mode in which coffee is prepared for the market. It grows on a low tree or rather shrub, with a profusion of slender branches covered with dark green leaves. The flowers resemble those of the jasmine; and diffuse a fragrance somewhat like the hawthorn, but much stronger. The fruit, when ripe, is red like a cherry. When the berries are gathered they are put into a machine where a revolving cylinder rubs off the pulp. The beans are then washed and dried. In this state they are called parchment coffee. An inner skin is afterwards removed by a sort of mill and the process is complete. A few years ago, coffee cultivation was unknown in Ceylon, now the annual production amounts to about 15,000 tons, which is equal to the total consumption of Britain.

We set out in the morning for Nuwara Eëlla, to reach which we had to pass through a large forest, abounding with elephants. Generally they feed in herds, and retire at the approach of man. Sometimes, however, single ones are found, called "rogue" elephants by the natives. They have been expelled from the society of the others, on account of their quarrelsome dispositions. They are greatly feared as they sometimes attack travellers. We reached the end of our journey,