

cumstance. The Lord of Fresenberg, a territory between Hamburg and Lubeck, had frequently visited the Netherlands, and had witnessed the persecution of the Baptists by the Romish clergy. He not only pitied them, but he tolerated and acted kindly toward those who were driven by persecution from their homes. Although this nobleman was originally of a cruel disposition, and on that account an object of general dread, he continued to afford them his patronage. The Archbishop of Kiel, and after that the King of Denmark, interfered to prevent it: the latter even commanded him to expel them, but he always found means to evade the mandate. Hence the pious Baptists fled thither from all quarters, and soon formed a church. This district had been hitherto inhabited only by boors or peasants, who were the property of their lord. Among the refugees were many ingenious artizans, and some persons of property; in consequence of which many trades were set up, the country became flourishing, there was a great influx of inhabitants, and Baptist Churches were established, and ministers settled over them. It was to this district that Menno determined to retreat. He settled in a village called Wüstemfelde, where he enjoyed protection during the remainder of his life, which he devoted to the gospel ministry.

The nobleman above referred to became to Menno and his friends what the Elector of Saxony had been to Luther and his colleagues; and he was well rewarded for his kindness and good policy by the increased prosperity and value of his territory. Notwithstanding the displeasure of the neighbouring nobility and clergy, and a prohibition on the part of his Danish Majesty, he continued till his death the protection which he had promised to afford to the strangers.

Among the plans which Menno adopted for doing good, one was the establishment of a printing press, by means of which he published the grounds of his faith, a defence of himself against his opponents, and various other works. A man of some consequence in the neighbourhood came upon him by surprise and seized his press; but his patron collected together his vassals, and compelled the invader to restore it to its owner.

After a life of ardent zeal, and indefatigable industry, this great man died on the 15th of January, 1561, and according to the custom of the primitive Christians, in the times of persecution, was buried in his own garden.

Before the time of Menno, the Baptist Congregations in Holland and some of the neighbouring states were very little connected with each other, and generally in a disorganized state; but by his skill and attention arrangements were formed to bring them into an undivided Christian body; and from this circumstance they were called Mennonites. Mr. Ward, the Serampore Missionary, visited them when he was last in Europe, and has given some valuable observations upon them in his "Farewell Letters." There are more than two hundred Mennonite Churches in the United States, of whom Mr. W. says that they are mostly the descendants of the Mennonites who emigrated in great numbers from Paltz. The Dutch Baptists have published a large history of themselves and their numerous martyrs. They differ in some respects from the English and American Baptists; but their peculiarities need not be stated here.

Not only was Menno extremely assiduous in labouring among the people of his immediate charge, but he travelled to various places to proclaim the gospel of Christ and rectify the disorders that prevailed among