

home of his youth a life-long farewell, himself so changed in feelings and in circumstances that he could scarce believe he was the same individual who had gone forth from it with his heart full of Innocentia.

There was little more than two months now before the first of July, which was to see her union with his brother, and the arrangements he had to make fully occupied that time. Anthony was anxious to see Captain Saxby before he sailed for Africa, and he wrote and asked him to spend a fortnight with him at Darksmere, and then accompany him to the wedding, where the old sea captain had been invited to be present, as one of Rex's nearest relations. Anthony had not cared to communicate his plans to his old friend by letter, so it was not till they were spending together the first evening after Captain Saxby's arrival at Darksmere, that Anthony told him he had returned to all his original plans, and was going straight to Zanzibar, to enter on the mission on behalf of the African slaves which had been his first and brightest dream. The old sailor was almost wild with delight at the tidings. "That is the best news I have heard this many a long day, and it is the best news for the poor slaves that has ever been heard! I warrant you will do a noble work, Anthony, and one that is worthy of you. I always felt that you were completely thrown away, tied hand and foot to that young brother of yours, and obliged to spend all your life in taking care of him."

"Yet had it continued to be my duty, I think it might have been a life well spent, since even one human soul is so precious that we know our Saviour would have died for that one alone had none other required redemption."

"True, true; in that sense you are right, no doubt, but, happily, nothing was ever more clear than that you are now freed from all duty towards Reginald; his wife and his father-in-law will take very good care of him, and you are released from your bonds to that one soul to be the messenger of mercy to many thousands."

"It is a glorious thought, is it not?" said Anthony, his eyes kindling.

"Yes, indeed; and it is a very comfortable one to me, too, in connection with my own private interests. I am growing very uneasy about my dear child Vera."

"Why so?" said Anthony; "she wrote to me some months ago, and she seems to be doing a good work, and only to regret that it is more limited than she would wish. I hope to be able to help her greatly to enlarge it when I arrive in Zanzibar."

"I hope you will help her to act with common sense, and not run her head into folly and danger," said the captain, with some asperity.

"What has she been doing?" said Anthony, smiling. "She seems to be remarkably sensible, judging by her letters."

"That is all you know about her. What do you think of her taking in a runaway slave-girl, and standing a siege in her little house from the trader, who threatened her life?"

"I think it was a splendid action!" said Anthony, enthusiastically. "I hope she got safe out of it, and was able to keep the slave."

"No thanks to her prudence if she did; but she managed to get a message conveyed to some of the influential people there, who came to her rescue, and so she gained the day. But that is not the worst of her mad proceedings. The girl she had rescued told her of some companion officers who was suffering dreadful ill-treatment from the same trader, and this headstrong child of mine actually laid plans for going herself to try and rescue the slave from her mad master. Happily some of the English in the town got wind of the matter, and stopped her; but it shows me that Vera is really not to be trusted, so I have applied to be put on that station again, on purpose that I may go to Zanzibar, and see what she is doing. I had indeed quite made up my mind that I should bring her away with me, and not let her remain there any longer. However valuable her work may be, my child is still more valuable to me, and I was not going to let her stay there to get knocked on the head by some furious brute of a slave-master some fine day."

"I should trust there was not the least fear of that," said Anthony; "and it does seem a grievous pity to take her away from so glorious a work as that in which she is engaged."

"Well, that is just what makes me, as I said, for my private interests so thankful that you are going out there. It will make all the difference to me to know that she has your advice and protection. I shall reconsider the question of removing her when I come to Zanzibar, and hear your report; in the meantime, it takes quite a load off my mind that you will be with her till I can come. I was greatly troubled when I found I could not get a ship for that coast for some months to come, but now I shall trust her to you till I can make my appearance."

"You may be quite sure that I shall do all I can for her," said Anthony.

But in his secret heart he had a strong conviction that Miss Saxby was a resolute enough person to take very good care of herself, and that she would probably laugh to scorn the pretensions of any one who would seek to give her either advice or protection.

The fortnight soon passed away during which Captain Saxby remained at Darksmere, and, on the day previous to that fixed for the wedding, he and Anthony set out together, to be present at the marriage of Rex and Innocentia Vivian.

(To be continued.)

THE FAMINE AND THE OPIUM TRADE.

A correspondent at Peking writes to the *London and China Telegraph*:-

"You will have observed the Edict of October 13 against opium cultivation and smoking. The price of opium has risen greatly. The Government seems to be in earnest. Many of the opium dens have been closed, and a wholesome dread has seized the minds of the people, and there seems a widespread desire to get rid of the habit. The Christians of Peking have held several meetings, with the view of or-

ganizing an anti-opium Association. They are anxious to provide a refuge for the smoker who wishes to give up the pipe. The people and officials generally are talking a great deal about the question. These distressing famines have brought up the question very seriously, and that the Government is strictly issuing orders against its cultivation in the teeth of the famine is equally remarkable. The higher value of the cereals in the distressed districts will itself militate against the cultivation of the poppy. The people take to its cultivation from the enhanced value of the drug over millet and grain generally. But at present it might be supposed that a laxer regime would mitigate the severities of the famine, and afford people an opportunity of acquiring the means of procuring rice, wheat, and millet. On the other hand, the drought is equally severe against the poppy, I presume, which requires the best land and much irrigation; and also, the people are too poor to indulge in smoking, and take to eating the drug and its ashes. I found in the streets of Peking lately a man selling a large broad-sheet for a half-penny, calling upon the people to give up the evil habit, pointing out the evils of the drug and the causes of its prevalence, laying great stress upon the lack of a proper bringing up on the part of the parents and the inculcation of the sentiments and principles of virtue. The man lectures at the same time, and has great crowds round him. He is not a Christian, and seems to be doing it on his own account. He sells over 200 of these sheets daily. The Envoy to Great Britain has memorialized his Government on the subject of opium."

WHERE JOB LIVED.

As for the scene of the story, history and tradition combine with all the indications contained in the poem itself to place it in the *Hauran*. On the east of the Jordan, in that strange, lovely, and fertile volcanic region which stretches down from Syria to Idumea, there is every reason to believe that Job dwelt, and suffered, and died; and in the upper part of it, north of Edom, north even of Moab, within easy reach of Damascus itself. The Arabs who live in this district to-day claim it as "the land of Job." The whole district, moreover, is full of sites and ruins which tradition connects with his name. And it fulfils all the conditions of the poem. The personages of the story, for example, are admitted to be without exception descendants of Abraham—not through Isaac and Jacob, but through Ishmael, or Esau, or the sons of Keturah; and it was in this great belt of volcanic land, stretching down from Damascus to Idumea, that most of these Abrahamides found their homes. On the east, too, the *Hauran* is bordered by the "desert," out of which came the great wind which smote the four corners of the house of Job's first-born. To this day it is rich in the very kinds of wealth of which Job was possessed, and is exposed to raids similar to those which deprived him of his wealth as in a moment. It presents, moreover, both the same natural features, being especially "for miles together a complete network of deep gorges,"—the wadis or valleys, whose treacherous streams the poet describes, and the same singular combination of civic and rural life which is assumed throughout the book. Even the fact that the robber-bands, which fell upon the ploughing oxen of Job and smote the ploughmen with the edge of the sword, came from the distant rocks of Petra, and that the bands which carried off his camels came from the distant plains of Chaldaea, point to the same conclusion. For, probably, Job had entered into compact with the nearer tribes of the marauders, as the chiefs of the *Hauran* do to this day, paying them an annual tax, or mail, to buy off their raids, and was surprised by those remote freebooters, just as to this day the *Hauranites* are often pillaged by freebooting tribes from the neighbourhood of Babylon.

I take it, then, that we may with much reason conceive of Job as living, during the remote patriarchal age, amid the fertile plains of the *Hauran*—so fertile that even now its wheat ("Babylonian wheat," as it is called) "is always at least twenty-five per cent. higher in price than other kinds," with its deep wadis and perfidious streams, the volcanic mountains rising on the horizon, and the wide sandy desert lying beyond them.

PONDER THE WORD.

The Word of God, read cursorily, will be as vapid and as uninteresting upon the heart and life as if it were a mere list of dates and names; it must be deeply, and constantly, and prayerfully pondered. Read over simply the eighth chapter of Hebrews, the sixth chapter of Romans, or the fifteenth chapter of 1st Corinthians, and they will come upon the ear with no more power than would the noise of sounding brass or tinkling cymbal. But take these passages, sentence by sentence, and word by word—ponder them with the deep conviction that a golden treasure is enshrined in their unattractive exterior, and you will find a beauty, and a glory, and a vigor in these passages, which, while it refuses to manifest itself to the cursory seeker, waits to bless the laborious and prayerful. Sometimes a single word contains in itself an amazing depth of meaning. I have by me a hymn, written by a lady who was a sister of the late Archdeacon of Bombay, in which she describes the power upon her heart of the word "freely." (See Rom. iii. 24, or Rev. xii. 17.)

"When to my inmost heart,
Thou didst one word impart,
Mighty in strength,
Larger and yet larger grew,
On my astonished view,
Its breadth and length."

I would say then, Read! read! Strip the tree of life of its fruits, bough after bough. As you advance you will find one crowding after another; and when you have found a prize, the natural result will be a desire to run and tell its glories, and induce others to come and share your gladness.—*Episcopal Recorder.*

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE owners of the vessel that recovered Cleopatra's Needle are to receive the reward of \$10,000.

THE Church of Scotland has sent five young men to China to inaugurate its mission work in that country.

THE American Baptist Missionary Union closes its financial year with a deficit of \$26,000; its total receipts were \$218,000.

DR. J. V. C. SMITH of Boston asserts that the habitual use of lager-beer is the cause of the great increase of kidney diseases.

HARON LIONEL ROTHCHILD's wedding present to his niece, Lady Rosebury, was a house in Piccadilly which cost \$1,500,000.

By the death of Rev. Jacob Vonbrunn, a missionary among the Bassas in Liberia, the American Baptist Missionary Union is left without a representative in Africa.

THEY have contractors of the shoddy sort in the Russian army. Bread furnished to their troops in Bulgaria is found to have 19 per cent. of sawdust, and 14 of sand.

THE Rev. Dr. Talmage expresses himself against Russia. He says that "Russia is puffed up, and thinks that because she can carve a turkey she can slay a lion."

FACTS prove a falling off in the number of Congregational churches in the United States. In 1858 there were 947 churches. In 1878 there are but 898 churches.

THERE are over 1,000 Christian congregations in Madagascar, with 45,000 children in the Sunday-schools. The London Missionary Society has the general supervision of these schools.

THE London (Eng.) Y.M.C.A. have had a series of six addresses to business men from prominent clergymen, among whom were Rev. Dr. Punshon, Dykes, Alton, and Canon Fleming.

THERE has been a severe earthquake in the Punjab. It was felt at Peshawur, Rawul Pindie, Lahore, and Murree. A large portion of the inner wall of the Fort at Peshawur fell down from the shock.

A GENTLEMAN in a Boston suburb was asked if it did not hurt his lawn to let children play on it. His witty reply was full of parental wisdom and love, "Yes, but it doesn't hurt the children."

THE herring fishery on the east coast of Scotland, which generally employs several thousand persons, will fail this year, as, on account of the unsettled relations with Russia, no fishermen have been engaged.

A NEW Presbyterian church has been opened at Havestock Hill, London, the original congregation of which was gathered by Richard Baxter, and for two centuries worshipped in Oxenden street, Haymarket.

A RECENT steamer from the River Platte took to England between 40,000 and 50,000 ox-tongues, giving some idea of the enormous slaughter of oxen in the Argentine and Uruguay Republics of South America.

THERE are still 260,000 people on the Madras relief works. The corn prospects in many districts are very unsatisfactory. A great deal of distress prevails in the Bombay famine districts in consequence of the failure of most of the crops.

REV. HUGH STOWELL BROWN, at a meeting in Liverpool, said that if Christ had been in London lately and had stood up among the rowdiness and said, "Love your enemies," he would have been in imminent danger of being hanged on the nearest lamp-post.

THE Rajah of Pooree, in Cuttack, the hereditary guardian of the Temple of Juggernaut, is being tried for the murder of a gossain or holy man, who was worshipped by the people as a god. The man, it is alleged, was tortured in an abominable manner, and was left to linger for fifteen days in agony.

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Rock" says that a few weeks ago the vicar of a church at Birmingham announced from the pulpit that no children under fourteen years of age would be allowed to enter the church, unless they previously obtained from him a ticket of admission, which ticket had to be given up to the policeman at the door!

A LOCAL paper says:—"Outside the Roman Catholic chapel at Chislehurst, in Kent, is a handbill on which is printed the suggestive words: 'It is necessary to state that this is the only Roman Catholic Church in Chislehurst!' Those who know anything of the parish church and its offshoot will at once appreciate the force of this notice."

THE Chinese Government is doing all in its power to save its people from the evils of opium-smoking. It is closing the dens where the victims of this debasing habit saturate soul and body with the poison. The people are waking up to the evil, and there is a growing desire to free the nation from the curse. The Christians of Peking are giving their influence to the reform.

THE ruthless demands of fashion for the plumage of bright-winged birds to be used for millinery and other decorative purposes, have caused a wholesale slaughter of these beautiful creatures. We are glad to see that the authorities of some of the West India islands have passed laws forbidding by severe penalties the killing, selling or exporting at certain seasons of the humming-birds and other varieties of their gorgeous birds.

IN Victoria the Anglican and the Presbyterian Churches work together in a harmonious manner. A mission society collects and distributes funds with a view to the religious instruction of people wherever they can be found. This society is managed by a committee of ten laymen, five of whom are members of the Church of England, while the other five are Presbyterians. For seven years this committee has done its work without quarrelling. One of its rules is that, whenever necessary, the same church building shall be used by both denominations.