

## Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

(From the October Missions & Notices.)

### MISSIONS IN WESTERN AFRICA.—ASHANTI

We continue our extracts from Mr. Brooking's communication. The cruel Heathenism which prevails at the capital of Ashanti must shock and grieve every humane and Christian heart. Our Missionaries, who have instrumentally to contend with and destroy this pernicious system, and to introduce the Gospel of Christ, with its doctrines of peace and love, ought to have the constant sympathies and prayers, and the willing and liberal support, of the church of God in our more highly-favoured land.

As ANTI.—Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Robert Brooking, dated Kumasi, February 14th, 1842.

I shall now proceed to give you a few extracts from my journal, relative to several things which have come under my notice since the commencement of the present year.

January 2nd, 1842.—We had preaching to-day twice. Our services were well attended. In the afternoon it was rather conversational. Several questions were asked, and interesting answers given, showing that what was said was perfectly understood.

6th.—One of the King's daughters tied to-day, and a custom was made, during which three poor creatures were hurried into eternity in the shape of sacrifices, one of whose headless trunks I saw dragged along through the market place into the dell where the greater part of the sacrifices are thrown.

8th.—This evening a criminal was executed.

Sunday 9th.—I preached twice to-day, to very good congregations. A remarkable circumstance occurred during the time of service this evening. I was preaching from 1 Peter, ii. 17: "Honour all men. Love the Brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the King;" when, just as I was enforcing the latter duty, a Chief was executed, not a hundred paces from our house, for his repeated acts of disobedience. Many influential Chiefs were present; and, just at that very time, the King sent one of his messengers to me to ask me a few questions, as I afterwards had reason to believe, out of mere colour simply to keep me within doors whilst the execution took place. After the service was over I went out to take the air, and, not knowing what had taken place, came unexpectedly on the headless trunk. His hands were also lopped off, and one of the executioners was engaged in cutting off a part of the chin with the beard on it.

11th.—I went this morning to exhibit the phantasmagori, which the Princes brought out with them, with which the King was very much delighted.

12th.—This afternoon the King sent for us. In all our intercourse with the King, he seems to be as free and open as one could wish, and much more than we could have expected, and, if it were not for his advisers, I believe we could do almost anything with him. "This is the Lord's doing, and is marvellous in our eyes."

13th.—This morning the old Chief in Kumasi died, in consequence of which a large custom is making. During the day, twelve persons have been sacrificed. I witnessed the pushing of the knife through the cheeks of one poor creature, to prevent her from cursing the King. This was done almost instantly, after which her hands were tied behind her back. She was squatting on the ground, and in this way they left her some time. She seemed in a complete stupor, and when they went to take her away to sacrifice her, they were obliged to shake her, as one would shake a man to rouse him out of a deep sleep. I believe that the Lord mercifully interferes, in some peculiar way, to prevent the poor creatures from suffering the extreme horror of death which is frequently discovered in criminals when they are executed.

17th.—Two persons of importance were executed to-day, for conspiracy and treason. We saw those wretched persons with knives driven through their cheeks, their hands fastened to a log of wood behind their backs, with iron staples. They were exposed to public view in this way for some time, that their punishment might be a warning to others. I went from thence to Apoko's house; and in returning I saw the head of one of them struck off. His blood served

to besmear the King's drums, &c.; his heart was then taken out, and one of his ribs, what they did with this I did not know. All this was done in the sight of the survivor. What must have been his feelings! And, to add to his torment, an old woman sent her boy to beg his teeth when he should be killed. "No," said the executioner "unless she give me some rum, I will not take them out; but, if you like, you may take them out yourself." All this was done and said with the greatest spathy and unconcern imaginable. These two persons it is evident, retained their faculties to the last moments, and were quite aware of what was going on.

18th.—The King sent for us to-day, and had some familiar conversation with us. In returning from his house, we saw an individual carrying along the head and hand of those who were executed yesterday, with as much unconcern as a butcher's boy would carry the head of a sheep in England.

22d.—This day we were greatly alarmed by being exposed in a peculiar manner to fire. In the morning an immense grass-plot took fire by some means, and spread over several acres of it, and at one time threatened to ignite the row of houses of which ours forms a part; but, by dint of exertion, and the blessing of God, we succeeded in warding it off. Scarcely had we done so, however, before a house in another part of the town took fire, during which time the wind blew rather strong, and the fire spread and burnt down three-fourths of the most thickly populated part of the town, in the incredibly short space of four hours. It was through the interposition of divine Providence that our house was again saved from the devouring element; for just as a street that was connected with the one in which we live took fire, and which was but a few houses from ours, the wind veered round, and thus saved us from any apprehension. The King was exceedingly anxious about our safety, and declared that he would rather that any calamity should happen than that we should be burnt out.

I never saw such a scene before. The fire raged with incredible fury. The *harmattan* wind having been blowing for several months, every thing was as dry as powder; and, owing to the peculiar construction of their houses, there was every thing to favour the spread of a fire. It was truly heart-rending to see the poor women and children retreating before it with what little property they could snatch from the flames. Several lives were lost, and among the rest a Moor, to whom I have before alluded. He, the poor ignorant man, said that he would not leave his house, nor exert himself to keep off the fire; "for God," said he, "will do all that;" and in this way he fully perished in the flames.

25th.—Another fire took place, by which five houses were destroyed; and early on the 27th another, which was speedily got under, without doing much damage. Both the last proved to be the work of an incendiary.

29th.—This morning a fetish-woman was visited with a certain spirit of prophecy, and she predicted that the row of houses in which we live would be burnt down during the night; but the King, as soon as he heard of it, very prudently put her under confinement; and the prophecy remains to this day unfulfilled.

30th.—Mr. Freeman left us to-day for the Coast, so that I am now alone. I feel that I am left with an important charge. May God give me grace to fulfil the important duties devolving upon me!

This day a man of consequence died, and twelve individuals were sent into another world to accompany him, five of whose headless trunks were lying together at one time in the street, and six heads.

February 4th.—This morning about six o'clock I rode out to the saw-pit, and when I came in again, in riding into our house the back way, on turning a corner, I came at once upon a person, who had been sacrificed since I rode out. The head was lying at one place, and the body at another, and the vultures were preying upon both.

Although our reception was good, and our prospects are delightful, yet the scenes we sometimes witness are absolutely revolting to human nature. O for more grace, more Christian courage and zeal, more of that wisdom and love, that shall make me a true Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, that I may be instrumental in God's hands of introducing among them the Gospel of peace!

I have just now received a parcel from the Coast, containing letters, newspapers,

&c. from England, per Governor Maclean, by which I learn that two other brethren have arrived in addition to Mr. Allen, and for which I praise God. The letters I received from the Secretaries gave me much pleasure. One word more on the subject of letters. I am sure that if you enjoyed writing letters to me only the tenth part as much as I do the reading of them, I should have epistles sent every month at least. I do assure you, that a letter from any of my respected fathers or brethren seems to infuse new life into my soul; and especially now while I am here shut up from all intercourse with the civilized world. The perusal of yours to-day, afforded me unspeakable joy and comfort.

It gives me much pleasure to find that you are making such exertions for the Missionary cause, and that your exertions are crowned with success. May the God of Missions open the hearts of the people, and never suffer the glorious cause to be checked for want of the necessary funds to carry it on!

### MISSIONS IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.—HUDSON'S-BAY TERRITORY.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. James Evans, dated Norway-House, Hudson's-Bay, July 7th, 1842.

The spring express being about to leave for Canada, I cannot allow the opportunity to slip without dropping you a few lines, although the extreme and unusual lateness of the season has thrown this mail so near ship time, that any lengthened remarks are unnecessary.

I am happy to say that, through the divine mercy, our Missionary family, as far as I have heard, enjoy the blessings of health, and an unabating zeal to extend the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

My sheet would not allow me to make any extracts from the letters of our brethren in this country; nor, indeed, is it necessary, as I shall be forwarding very shortly the Annual Report, which, I trust, will afford you satisfaction, and an assurance that we do not labour in vain in the Lord.

Mr. Rundle, at the Saskatchewan, has, during the winter, visited Rocky-Mountain House, Assineboui House, and Lesser Slave-Lake Fort, and has some hopes of settling a band of Strong Wood Cree somewhere between his Station and the mountains.

Mr. Mason writes from Lac-la-Pluie Station, that the Indians of Lake Sal, one of the posts within his district, are extremely anxious for instruction; and he is at present on a visit to the neighbourhood. The Indians of Lac-la-Pluie are, I learn from another quarter, yielding gradually to the force of truth; some families are expressing an anxiety for the ministrations of the Gospel, and the instruction of their children, and I cannot but express my regret, that the post has been deserted all the winter, part of which Mr. Mason has spent at Bas-de-la-River, and part at Red-River settlement; Henry S'einhaur has been, however, usefully engaged at Rat-Portage, teaching school, as his services were quite unnecessary where Mr. Mason spent the winter, and in Red-River he was never called on by the Clergy to officiate. The Catholic Priest has just proceeded to Lac-la-Pluie; and I fear Mr. Mason's absence during the assembling of the Indians, will undesignedly favour his attempts at proselyting.

Henry S'einhaur is a useful and indefatigable labourer, and deserves my highest commendation.

At Norway-House, Mr. Jacobs has been unremitting in his exertions during my winter-tour; and I cannot possibly express myself too strongly respecting his Christian deportment, ministerial labours, and daily toil of instructing the Indian children. His school averages about forty scholars; and, although, from the very recent settlement of their parents, they had laboured under many disadvantages, they nevertheless, some of them, read well, and write better.

My winter-tour, I have every reason to believe, was made a blessing to many. I had the honourable delight of preaching the Gospel to many where its glad tidings never before broke the dismal silence, and of erecting, not a wooden, but a Guspé cross, where religion was seldom heard of, save in the frantic *pawas* of the benighted Heathen. In these remarks, I am no chargeable with that narrow-minded bigotry which unchristianizes all other than our selves, by declaring "We are the only

Ministers or Clergy who have visited these parts;" no; Methodism is the first and only form of Christianity which has penetrated beyond what may be termed the settlement, and the high-ways of this Territory.

I should be remiss in neglecting to acknowledge, which I do with unfeigned gratitude and pleasure, the kindness I have invariably received from the officers of the Hon. Hudson's-Bay Company in the several posts which I visited, and the direct assistance afforded me in every instance, as well as the facilities which I almost everywhere experienced, in communicating the instructions of Christianity to the servants of the Hon. Company, and to the natives.

Wesleyan Mission-House,  
Bishopgate-Street-Within,  
London, September 10, 1842.

### DEATH OF THE REV. PETER SLEEP, NEW-BRUNSWICK.

The following extract of a letter from the Rev. M. M. Leggett, dated Point de Bute, New-Brunswick, Augt. 11, 1842, contains the mournful intelligence of the loss which the Society has sustained by the death of Mr. Sleep.

I hasten to communicate the melancholy intelligence of the death of the Rev. Peter Sleep, late of Petitcodiac Circuit. The day before yesterday, Mr. Shepherd (from Sackville, and I committed the earthly remains of our lamented brother to the grave, and immediately afterward repaired to the Coverdale chapel, which was crowded to excess. I preached on the trying occasion, from "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

By this mysterious stroke of Providence we have lost an upright man, a devoted Christian, a faithful minister. Mr. Sleep was solid, laborious, and very acceptable to all on the Petitcodiac Circuit. The apparent cause of his decease was an inflammatory fever; perhaps induced by exposure and over exertion. It is, however, of a very malignant kind, and both contagious and epidemical. A number have been swept away from my circuit by its fearful ravages, and a number are now being carried off from Sackville, the adjoining circuit.

It is said to be unknown in the nomenclature of medical practice, and baffles the skill of our most eminent Physicians. Mrs. Crane, the widow of our departed brother who died in the West Indies, thinks it is nothing more nor less than the putrid fever which prevails in tropical climes.

Mr. Sleep has left a disconsolate widow with two helpless babes, the eldest not quite two years old. Our poor bereft sister looks more like the dead than she resembles the living. The God of our Mission-family protect her! She needs our practical sympathies.

### PORT NATAL.

The recent intelligence from this part of South-Eastern Africa, is of the most painful character. There has been a hostile collision between the Emigrant Farmers, or Boers, and the British troops, in which it is reported, that the former were successful, and have taken possession of the vessels in the Port. On board one of those vessels, the "Mazepa," Mr. Archbell and his family had taken refuge. Should this report prove correct, the circumstances of Mr. Archbell will have been harrassing and difficult; but we entertain no fears for his personal safety. A considerable party among the Boers entertain the highest respect for Mr. Archbell, as a Christian Minister; and will, we trust, interpose in his favour, should it be necessary. The ultimate effect of these hostilities on our Missions in the interior, and on the native tribes generally, it is painful to contemplate. It is hoped that a perusal of the following letter from Mr. Shaw will awaken the spirit of earnest prayer, in behalf of this large portion of the human family; and that in the closet, and in social and in public worship, and particularly in the Missionary prayer-meetings, earnest supplication and intercession will be made to God, that the dreaded calamities may yet be averted; and that the places which have recently being the scenes of violence and bloodshed may soon witness the establishment of peace, and the free and unrestrained operation of Missionary effort; that "the African churches may have rest and be edified, and, walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, may be multiplied."