

sonary makes upon them, are altogether important in their bearings on successful labours afterwards. In things about which they are conversant, they are men; but about other things, they are children; and like children, the announcement of a new subject awakens their attention, their curiosity, and their energies; and it has been remarked by a Methodist missionary who has laboured among the Indians, that many seemed to embrace the gospel on its first being offered, and that those among the adults who failed to do so, were rarely converted. If, from any motives, or from any cause, instruction is delayed, and their expectations are disappointed, they relapse into their native apathy, from which it is difficult to arouse them.

"We had an opportunity, whilst we continued in this place, to collect much information about the Indians in the Sioux country, from Maj. P., the agent appointed by government to the Yanktons, a band of the Sioux. He appears to be not only intelligent and candid, but also well disposed towards Indian improvement. The following is the substance of the information which he gave us in regard to several tribes to the north and north-west of this place: that the Omahews are situated upon the Missouri, about one hundred and fifty miles above this place, and number about two thousand. They have been well disposed towards the whites, but, owing to their intercourse with traders and trappers, and abuses which they have received from them, they are becoming more vicious in their habits, and less friendly. Yet, kind treatment would conciliate their favour, so that there would be no reason to fear but that a mission might be established among them with fair prospects of success.

"The Yanktons are an interesting band of the Sioux, of about two thousand people. Their village is to be located on the Vermillion river, where it unites with the Missouri from the north. Maj. P. thinks this will be a very eligible place for a missionary station, and says he will do all in his power to aid such an enterprise."

Passage over a Prairie—A Storm.

"Monday, June 22.—After so long delay, we re-commenced our journey for the 'far west.' The Black Hills are to be our next stopping place. The caravan started yesterday. We passed over a rich extensive prairie, but so poorly watered, that we did not find a stream through the whole day. In the afternoon we had to ride in a heavy, cold rain, in consequence of which I became much chilled. Overtook the caravan, and encamped before night on a high prairie, where we could find but little wood, and it was difficult to make a fire. We had some coarse bread made of corn, and some bacon for supper. The change from the comforts to the bare necessities of life was trying; but when I had wrapped myself in my blankets and laid down upon the ground to repose for the night, I felt thankful to God for his goodness.

"Being now beyond all white inhabitants, in an Indian country, and not knowing what the eventful future may unfold, I thought I could give up all my private interests for the good of the perishing heathen, if I could be instrumental of their temporal and eternal welfare. Come life or death, I thought I could say, 'thy will be done.' Felt strong confidence, that God would protect and provide for us, and derived great consolation from the promise, 'Lo, I am with you always.' The very pelling of the storm upon our tent had something in it soothing, and calculated to awaken the feeling that God was near.

"On the 23d, the storm still continued, and we did not remove our encampment.

"Towards noon on the 24th, went forward on our way, and crossed the Papillon river, which occasioned much delay to get the baggage, wagons, and animals over. We did not find a suitable place for encamping where we could be accommodated with wood and water until about sunset; and before we could pitch our tent, a thunder-storm, which had been gathering for a long time, came down upon us with great violence, accompanied with wind and hail. The animals of the caravan fled in different directions, some packed and some unpacked. I had only time to unpack my mule and let him go, and it was with much difficulty I could hold my horse, which had become almost frantic under the beating hail, nor did I escape without some contusions. The lightning was very frequent,

and the thunder was almost one continual roar. After a while the fury of the storm abated, and in the dark we pitched our tent and got our baggage into it, but were not able to make a fire. We took such supper as we could provide with our coarse bread and bacon, without light and without fire, and laid ourselves down to rest. During the night there were several showers which created rivulets, some of which found their way under our tent. Towards morning we slept, and arose somewhat refreshed."

Pawnee Feasts.

"Many of the Pawnee Loups came to us, and received us with great civility and kindness. Big Ax, their second chief, had charge of this party. He is a man of dignified appearance, and his countenance is expressive of intelligence and benevolence. He is very friendly to white men. These Indians were going out upon their summer hunt, by the same route we were pursuing, and were not willing we should go on before them, lest we should frighten away the buffalo.

"They manifested their friendship by inviting us to feasts; and as we may attend half a dozen in a day without being surfeited, an explanation may not be out of place. Big Ax gave the first invitation; and as it is not customary for those who provide the feast to sit down with their guests, he and his associates sat in dignified silence on one side of the lodge, while those of us who partook of the feast, occupied the centre. The daughters of Big Ax served us on the occasion, and bountifully helped us to boiled corn and beans. Such are their customs, that to avoid giving offence, we must eat all that is set before us, or take it away, and Mr. Fontenelle took what remained. In the evening we were invited to two others. The first consisted of boiled corn and dried pumpkins, and the other of boiled buffalo meat. We also gave the principal chiefs a feast, setting before them all the variety which our bacon and coarse bread could furnish, having it in our power to add a dish of coffee, of which luxury we partook for this once on our whole journey.

Natural Curiosities;—An Alarm.

We encamped to-day in the neighbourhood of a great natural curiosity, which, for the sake of a name, I shall call the old castle. It is situated upon the south side of the Platte, on a plain, some miles distant from any elevated land, and covers more than an acre of ground, and is more than fifty feet high. It has, at the distance of the width of the river, all the appearance of an old enormous building, somewhat dilapidated; but still you see the standing walls, the roof, the turrets, embrasures, the dome, and almost the very windows; and large guard-houses, standing some rods in front of the main building. You unconsciously look around for the enclosures, but they are all swept away by the lapse of time—for the inhabitants, but they have disappeared; all is silent and solitary. Although you correct your imagination, and call to remembrance, that you are beholding the works of nature, yet, before you are aware, the illusion takes you again, takes you again, and your curiosity is excited to know who built this fabric, and what have become of the by-gone generations. I found it impossible to divest myself of such impressions. The longer and the more minutely I examined it, the more I see to admire; and it reminded me of those descriptions of power and grandeur in ruins, of which we read of ancient times and nations.

Encamped at noon of the 22d, near another of nature's wonders. It has been called the chimney; but I should say, it ought to be called beacon hill, from its resemblance to what was beacon hill in Boston. Being anxious to have a near view, although in a land of dangers, I concluded to take an assistant and pass over the river to it. The river where we crossed was about a mile wide, shallow and full of quicksand, but we passed it without any difficulties. We rode about three miles over a level plain, and came to the base. This distance from the other side of the river did not appear more than a mile, so deceptive are distances over plains without any landmarks. This beacon hill has a conical formed base of about half a mile in circumference, and one hundred and fifty feet in height; and above this a perpendicular column, twelve feet square, and eighty feet high; making the whole height about two hundred and thirty feet.

We left our horses at the base, and ascended to the perpendicular. It is formed of indurated clay or marl, and in some parts is petrified. It is of a light chocolate, or rufous colour, in some parts white. Near the top were some handsome stalactites, at which my assistant shot, and broke off some pieces, of which I have taken a small specimen. We descended, and having finished my survey, had just mounted our horses, when we saw two bands of buffalo, six or eight hundred in number, coming full speed towards us, taking their course down the river. We knew somebody must be pursuing them, and as, from indications for two days past, we had suspected Indians near, we thought it would be the safest for us to make and secure a speedy retreat to the caravan, and set off in haste for the river, which, at the nearest point, was two miles distant. Very soon we saw a man on horseback coming full speed towards us—he stopped and gave a signal for others behind him to hasten on, and at once we saw a band of men coming full rush. We put our horses to their utmost speed, and when we thought our retreat to the river fully secured, we stopped and took an observation with a large spy-glass, which we had taken the precaution to have with us, and found they were white men, who had come from a fort of the American Fur Company at the Black Hills, to meet the caravan. Mr. Fontenelle, the commander of the caravan, saw the movement, was alarmed for our safety, and came out in all haste, with a number of armed men to our assistance. But all resulted in friends meeting friends. There were some Ogallallah Indians near us, who came to our camp in the evening. Thermometer 90°."

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

The last two numbers of Hunt's Merchants' Magazine contain a valuable article on the History, Commerce, Agriculture, Prospects, and Religious state of the Sandwich or Hawaiian Islands, by James Jackson Jarves, from which we take the following brief extract:—

"The labours of the missionary have been directly employed in Christianizing the natives, and indirectly in civilizing. That they have done this, and that the results are gratifying in the extreme, none can deny. They have also introduced the same system of free schools which has raised New England to her high station of intellectual power.

"They have laid a broad foundation for national happiness and greatness; and their influence, whether upon natives or whites, will cease only with the end of all things. Their character, like that of the Puritans, will leave its impress upon a later age; and there are few of the present who do not award that just praise of sowing those seeds of individual and national freedom, which have operated so powerfully in rendering America what she is."

It is an oft repeated fact, that the two largest Christian churches on the globe, are those under the pastoral care of Rev. Mr. Coan, on the eastern side of Hawaii, and of Rev. Mr. Lyons, on the northern side of the same island. More than 8000 persons have been added to Mr. Coan's church within seven and a half years, 160 of whom have been received within the last six months. Rev. Mr. Lyons' church has embraced between 5000 and 6000 members. In consequence of the premature admission of members a few years ago, 2790 persons have been at different times excommunicated from the church, of whom 1200 have been restored to church privileges, upon confession and hopeful repentance. More than 300 persons were received into that church the past year. The history of the Sandwich Islands for the last quarter of a century, presents one of the brightest exhibitions of the sovereign grace of God which can be found in the annals of Christendom.—N. E. Puritan.

MISSIONARY EFFORTS IN CHINA.—The New York Evangelist says that the London Missionary Society have eight persons already well instructed in the Chinese language, and they passed a resolution last winter to raise their number to eighteen or twenty in the course of two years. The American Board have about six persons of the same description. The Presbyterian Board have one or two. The American Baptist Board have two