

JASSY.

LETTER from the Rev. Alfred Edersheim to  
William Cook, Esq., London

Jassy, Dec 18, 1847.

MY VERY DEAR SIR,—I hope and trust that you will not have altogether forgotten the person who now intrudes upon your time, and that you remember him even sometimes at a throne of grace. I, for my part, though I passed through many countries, saw much, was tried much—would I could say, was taught much—have never lost out of memory the kindness and the interest so many respected Christian brethren manifested during my last stay in London. In fact, when in the field, one, oftener than you at home can fancy, needs a cheering and an encouragement, and how useful and comfortable are these remembrances of the sympathy and prayers of Christ's true children! I would not be acting faithfully or speaking the truth, were I to say that a missionary is anything like an unhappy man—much the contrary; but this, I believe, arises mainly from God making his grace *always* sufficient for us. How blessed, when shut out from all intercourse with brethren, when alone in the midst of open and secret enemies, false disciples, made a scorn and a laughing-stock of by Jew and Greek, no man near to help or advise no man to sympathize or help us to bear the trial, little or no apparent success, how blessed at such seasons to lock one's-self into one's closet, and meditate and pray over such passages as Ps. xci. or Ps. xlii., or lxxii., lxxiii., lxxiv! How sweet to be taught by the Lord: when there is a hungering and thirsting after the Lord, a real panting after grace, how certainly will all our desires be satisfied! The first few months of my missionary activity I was quite alone in the most difficult of our stations, having besides my duties as missionary, for six weeks those of Pastor of the German Protestant congregation here. You may fancy that this was no light time for me. I do not mention secondary difficulties; such as the relaxing influence the heat has at first upon foreigners, that I had to preach three times every Sabbath, and at least twice in the week, that I was quite lonely, &c.; but such as these: my inexperience and incompetency for the work, the utter badness and often open enmity of the Protestants here, the number of Jews (40,000,) and many, many more, the mention of which would be, perhaps, tiresome and disagreeable to you; but the Lord has delivered me out of all of them. At the moment I write you, the more able and experienced brethren, who have for the last six years published the Gospel here, have joined me again. Our brother, the German Pastor, is also a comfort to us. Signs of real good are appearing, and though there be much in us and about us to make us very sad, yet there are also some things to make us glad. There is, perhaps, at least to my knowledge, no station where a missionary has to contend with more difficulties, but none also where one has more opportunities of declaring Jesus. The number of Jews is daily swelling; none hinder us: we visit every week from house to house: of a hundred Jews, perhaps one refuse to accept of a tract, often have I seen them running behind us begging for tracts or a New Testament: our meetings are well attended, and there is no misgiving (among the Jews at least) as to our real object in coming here, viz., to win souls unto Jesus. I have been preaching in market-places, streets, public-houses, shops, and not unrequently do I hear Jews confess their belief that Jesus is the Messiah. But to come forward and take his cross is a more difficult thing than our brethren at home can imagine. Our first principle in dealing with the Jews is: "Gold and silver have I none," &c. Not the least temporal aid and assistance or prospect is held out; on the contrary. It is true that we find it necessary, as there are numbers here who have either no trade at all or an unlawful one, to bind our inquirers and converts as apprentices to some workmen; but if they are not sincere and steadfast the hard working soon drives them away. They have next not only to leave their families, &c., to contend against the strongest natural ties, parents, wives, and children, who all without exception hate them: but they are in bodily danger also. How loudly does this strong and

difficult trial of tried faith call upon true believers to be more to be incessant in prayer for them, and upon professors to try their ways and the foundation they are built upon! Would you like thoroughly to know the state of the Jews, and what difficulties and encouragements missionary exertions to them have, I would advise you to come and see us here. I am sure an excursion here would be well worth your while. Our mission here chiefly consists of the following parts: direct missionary labours—preaching twice on the Sabbath, and once in the week and other meetings,—visiting from house to house, seeing visitors, instructing catechumens, (eight at present,) two of whom we hope (D.V.) shortly to baptize: and co-operation with the German Pastor,—then the schools, the working institution with four Jewish apprentices, and the medical dispensary, Sabbath schools, &c., &c. There are daily several Jews visiting us: often the whole day long we have discussions; sometimes a defender of the faith is brought forward! Of all the Jews baptized here but a comparatively small number has stood, but these are, thanks to heavenly grace, real men of God, tried believers. Though their number is small, yet how precious even one soul won to Christ, and how great the force of their example and admonitions both upon Jew and Gentile! Thus a catechumen (under instruction with me) was the means of awakening his master, who now, though a Protestant, comes regularly to take instruction and speak about the things belonging to his peace, and of reforming at least the moral conduct of one of his fellow-journeymen. Allow me to entreat your prayers especially for him: his name is Benjamin, a bookbinder by trade. Disgusted with the looseness of principle and immorality, to which Judaism offers no barrier, he came some weeks ago to me for instruction. The progress the young man has made during this time is almost incredible, but as yet no signs of real grace are appearing, though his mind seems convinced of the different truths set forth in the Gospel, and he can defend every one most logically. He says he has begun to pray, and has, I believe, some little anxiety after grace. The Lord perfect his work and glorify Himself! But I really must stop, for I feel it is impossible to enter into full details of all things here, and a slight glance at them would scarcely afford any interest. I can only repeat our earnest desire here that the brethren at home would continue in earnest supplication for Jassy. Would you know how important we feel your prayers, we would have a greater blessing from on high on our weak exertions.

Yours, in the Master's service,  
ALFRED EDERSHEIM.

CHRISTIANITY IN JERUSALEM.—A letter from Jerusalem says—"The Jews in this city are generally alarmed at the progress of Christianity, which is secretly spreading amongst them, almost from house to house; they therefore use all the means in their power to stop it. Secret tribunals are formed, whose business it is to search after those who read Christian books, or who visit our houses. Not satisfied with that they have recently issued two commandments against the missionaries, against the hospital, and against all who are in connection with us."

CONVERSION OF THE JEWS.—We rejoice with Mr. Edward on the return of another of the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The circumstantial account which he gives of the way whereby God led the wanderer, is in the highest degree instructive; and may be regarded as an answer to prayer, and an inducement to continue in its exercise. Jassy, long the subject of many prayers, and the scene of peculiar trial to the men of God stationed there, has been visited of the Lord. Not a few have been born again within it. Past success fosters the hope of future triumph. May the Lord the Spirit come down in his power, that the dispersed of Israel may be gathered into one!

CHEERING NEWS FROM MADAGASCAR.—Were happy to learn that, within a few days, the Secretaries of the London Missionary Society have received intelligence from Madagascar of a very cheering character—the more cheering, as, from the fierce persecution directed by the Queen

against all who dared to profess Christianity, in addition to the other difficulties which hindered the reception of the gospel, many had almost abandoned all hope of immediate good for that island. About a hundred of the natives have been converted; and, more striking still, Rakotondradama, the Queen's only son, and heir apparent to the throne, has embraced the truth, and (although only seventeen years of age) has already manifested admirable prudence, courage and steadfastness in his adherence to Christianity. Through his influence the lives of twenty-one believers, who were doomed to martyrdom, have been preserved; and his religious progress is represented by the latest accounts as most satisfactory.—London Watchman.

#### PERSECUTION AT MADEIRA.

(From an American Journal, the "Presbyterian," of the 29th November.)

The following letter from a missionary affords new and recent information regarding Madeira, and the labours of Dr. Kalley:

"Port of Spain, Trinidad,  
September 19, 1846."

"MY DEAR PASTOR,—I write to you at present, in relation to the Madeira people, who arrived here the other day. You have, no doubt, heard of Dr. Kalley's having to flee for his life, as also his followers, being so persecuted as to take refuge in the mountains. By the providence of God, 190 of those people got on board the ship *William*, bound for this island. The *Dalhousie*, it is stated, will bring a greater number shortly. They seem an intelligent and an industrious people. They all have the Holy Scriptures in their possession, which they seem to value above all price. It is a great wonder that they were not all sent off immediately on their arrival here to the sugar plantations. The first notice taken of them here as Protestants, was by my fellow-missionary, Mr. G. Cowen: he brought between thirty and forty of them to our chapel. They had no interpreter. We could, however, learn that they were Kalley's people; that they sought liberty to worship Jesus Christ according to God's word. We gave them a little feast of tea, coffee, &c. I could not help weeping with pure joy. We engaged to take a few of them for a time. Towards evening I went to the Presbyterian missionary, Mr. Kennedy, and got him to engage three of them. We had information that the *William* was to sail next morning with all the people who had not found engagements, for the purpose of employing them in field labour, for which they are totally unfitted. In consequence, early next morning Mr. Kennedy and I went to the ship and then to Lord Harris, the Governor, to have the people detained for a time. We succeeded in this. Now the most of the people are located in Port of Spain and neighbourhood. They have special claims upon the Christian public. One of the men that I have, was imprisoned twenty months for being a Protestant; also one of the females with us was a servant to Dr. Kalley. Though the people's condition as to this world is distressing, the reading of the Bible and communion with heaven makes them manifest a happy spirit. The people at home must do something for them; we shall do the utmost in our power. We intend to draw up a Petition to the Governor, to grant them a large piece of land, on which to form a settlement. Please if you know Dr. Kalley or any of his friends, let the particulars of this communication be made known to him or them. I am unable to write more. I shall write to you again by next mail. Mrs. Law joins me in kindest regard to yourself and family. We are both well and happy in the work of the Lord.

I am, yours in Jesus,

JOHN LAW.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—The Sultan has ordered the abolition of slave markets. This is the first step in that change which, in its results, will be the most important that has ever taken place in the administration of the Ottoman empire.