

the grammar and literature of this ancient language, a good many of our people who ought to be able to speak it well are forgetting it as fast as they can.

The committee on the Sustentation fund of the Free Church report that owing to the hard times there is a deficit of upwards of three thousand pounds.

In the North of Scotland where the great majority of the people joined the Free Church, at the disruption there is now a considerable number returning to the Established Church. We are justified in saying a considerable number if we may judge by the angry words hurled after them by their friends who remain behind. They are called by such names as Ignorance, Faint heart and such like, taken from the repertory of good old Bunyan who used them for a better purpose. It is said that the hard times is the great cause of this somewhat sudden popularity of Established Church principles, and that those who go over or lose the modern euphuism those who *vert* leave their purses behind them. It is not for us at this distance to express an opinion; the dispassionate overlooker may however be pardoned for noticing the somewhat pagan energy and *abandon* of the aggrieved champions.

Later details from South Africa make clear that the defeat of Her Majesty's forces was more calamitous than at first represented. The accounts received read more like the description of a sickening butchery than of actual warfare. Overwhelmed by the well armed horde of Julius the English troops having exhausted their ammunition fled pell mell from the ill-starred field. A few escaped by their fleetness of foot. The number of English troops black and white killed in this dreadful affair was more than twice the total Franco-English loss in killed at the battle of Alma, and three times the English loss in killed at the hard fought field of Inkerman. The colors of the Regiment have not been lost as at first reported.

The following extracts are from letters written by Scotch Missionaries in Blancmure, East Africa.

My time is so taken up with the Chiao language that I cannot write you much at present. Our interpreters will likely

leave us immediately, and as I have known this for the last six weeks, I have been working as if I had a view to a first prize at some examination. We are trying to form vocabularies and to translate passages of Scripture. As might be expected, there are many English words that we can find no Chiao to correspond with.

DIFFICULTIES OF TRANSLATION.

One evening we were translating the Prodigal Son. We had come to the words, "he fell on his neck and kissed him," when we were told that *kiss* could not be translated. . . . Another day we were translating the tenth commandment. We had just written down the word for wife, and by-and-by we required a word for *maid-servant*. The word for *wife* was again given, and this was exactly what we had expected, knowing that all their wives were maid servants.

We have at present one great advantage, in the circumstance that our interpreters have lived a long time at Capetown, and are well acquainted with English customs and modes of thought. . . .

Sam, who was formerly at Livingstonia, does know a little of English grammar. He and Tom (who is the Blantyre interpreter) were among a gang of slaves rescued by Bishop McKenzie. They told me their story the other night, as I had not heard it before.

Tom remembers how he was playing beside the house with his little sister, when they were seized and carried off. He knew at once why the man was taking him. He wanted to have him to the coast and sell him for calico. "Did you scream when you were taken up?" "Can't scream—they put flour on your mouth." Thus the poor boy was separated from his parents and his home, and the little stream that he played beside, at once and for ever.

Of course he could never tell where was the home of his infancy; only he believed that it "was far away in the Chiao country." Sam's story was just the same; and they both remember how glad they were when they were met by the white men who set them free. Then they were taken care of at Morambald, and when the Mission left Africa they were removed to Capetown. . . .