

husband has a good farm, and the crops look well; but what is all this to him, now that his wife and children are all gone? He appears desolate and broken-hearted."

Having listened to this touching story, I could well understand why the aspect of gloom sat upon her countenance, and while I endeavored in a few words to direct her thoughts to Him who was "appointed to bind up the broken-hearted, and to comfort all that mourn." I was led to think of the unnumbered blessings and privileges that we who live on the Atlantic border enjoy, for which we feel little or no emotions of gratitude. How unspeakable are our religious privileges! And yet how little are they appreciated by the great mass of the people! Will not God one day visit for these things?

MACKINAW.

On the morning of the 20th of July we found ourselves bounding over the green waters of the Michigan with the Wisconsin Territory on our left. About 9 o'clock A. M. we landed at Millwaukee. A bar in the river prevented the steamboat from going up to the town, but we found ourselves amply compensated for our long walk by a view of this interesting place from several of its streets and more elevated parts. The whole site of the town, in connexion with the adjacent country, is richly entitled to its Indian name, "The lovely Land." Less than two years ago there was scarcely a frame house on the spot, and now there is a population of nearly 3000, with buildings that will compare in stability and elegance with those found in our large eastern towns. There are several religious denominations already established here. An Episcopal Church has also been organized, and those connected with it seem exceedingly anxious for its success. From the statements that were made to me, I should think there was hardly a doubt but that with the right sort of a clergyman there might be gathered there a very large congregation. Since reaching this place, (Mackinaw,) I have learned that the Rev. Mr. Bury passed me in the steamboat *Jefferson*, on his way to Millwaukee as a missionary.

It was towards evening when we approached this picturesque spot, where the wide expanse of water, and the dark evergreens of the islands, and the thronging multitudes of wild men, gave to this point in my journey a novel appearance. Mackinaw is an island of about nine miles in circumference. There is a fort occupying the elevated parts of the town, which is now vacated, the troops having been withdrawn to be present at the treaty at St. Peter's. This circumstance, in connexion with the great number of Indians now present, has created some uneasiness in the minds of the inhabitants of this place, especially as the Indians are very much dissatisfied with the attempt to palm off on them goods in part for their annuities, when money had been promised. Already a council had been held among them, and the hint had been dropped that they can bring a thousand warriors into the field. The first object that met my eye on the low pebbly shore, as we approached the island, was the beautiful lodges, and well made bark canoes of the Ottawa and Chippewa tribes. Were not my letter already so unreasonably long I would give you some account of the appearance and construction of these lodges, and of the manner in which they are conveyed with all the effects of the Indian family, in that frail birchen canoe from island to island. But I must hasten to a close. Almost the first countenance of a white man upon which I looked after reaching the shore, was the bright sunny face of our beloved brother, the Bishop of Michigan. I never had a more unexpected or joyful meeting with a Christian brother. We spent two or three hours in the most delightful Christian intercourse. Bishop McCoskry is on his way to visit Green Bay, Millwaukee, and other parts of Wisconsin. I was delighted to find that he had accompanying him two of his laymen. In all his visitations some one or two of his prominent laymen go with him. This is as it should be. It tends to strengthen the hands of the bishop, and to bind together the lay influence throughout the diocese I will tell you more of Michigan and its bishop in my next.

Your affectionate brother,

J. A. C.

EARTHQUAKE IN PALESTINE.

[Our readers will probably remember recent accounts of a destructive Earthquake in that consecrated part of the world; and will, no doubt, read with painful interest, some details respecting it, contained in a letter from E. A. Calman, a converted Jew, as noticed in the British Magazine.]—Ed. C. C.

"The localities," it is observed, "are full of interest. Tabereah was the ancient Tiberias, and Safat is supposed to occupy the site of the ancient Betulia; it has itself been distinguished for its school of rabbis. The letter is dated the 7th of February, Beyrout (near Tyre); and Mr. Calman and the Rev. Mr. Tompson went with the British agent of Sidon to distribute some funds which had been subscribed at Beyrout for the relief of the sufferers. The earthquake took place on the first of January. The following extracts will speak for themselves:—

"Gish was once a well built place, but now completely destroyed and overthrown; not a house—yea not a single stone was permitted to keep its place. Its inhabitants, who were 250, have all, except 15, been buried under its ruins. Of 50 Christians who were assembled in the church for evening prayer, none escaped alive, except the priest, who was protected by the small arch, or vault of the altar where he was officiating. This place is now completely deserted.

"The aspect of this village and its vicinity is most lamentable. Every appearance of and about this place is desolation and gloominess. The domestic animals are running wild, having none to take care of them. The faithful dogs, with indefatigable perseverance, tried to remove the heaps of stones which hid their owners from their sight, and broke out, every now and then, into the most mournful howlings, when they found that the efforts of their weak paws were spent in vain. Even inanimate nature wears the garb of mourning. All things seem to participate in the calamity which has befallen their proper owners, except wild human nature, unrenewed by the spirit of the Saviour. For such, it is a season of joy, and of reaping a harvest on which they bestowed no labour, and gathering treasures which they never deposited. Here we found several roving Arabs, with their swift dromedaries tied near their sides, and themselves actively engaged in digging the ruins in search of perishable riches. We met many people on our way hither, loaded with boxes and many other portable articles from this place, and from other ruined villages, and who carried them off to their respective dens with an air of triumph and of joy."

"We directed our steps (at Safat) at first in search of the wounded, whose sufferings claimed immediate relief. We went from tent to tent inquiring after them and inspecting their wounds. To describe their nature, and specify them particularly, would require surgical skill: suffice it to say, that some were fearful to the utmost degree. There were legs and arms crushed to pieces, and mostly black from mortification: for some of them amputation would have been too late. In some cases fragments of flesh were hanging from the bones; and in others the flesh was taken clean away, and the bones left bare. The legs of some were broken close to the knee joint, and of others as high as the upper part of the thigh. Some were already expiring from the effects of their wounds; and others not far from it. This, however, was not the worst; some of these had at least comfortable tents, and attendance from their friends and relatives. But we were brought to some ruins, the upper part of which was entirely destroyed, and the lower part, though still standing, shattered in many places, and threatening to give way before any length of time. Into these we were obliged to enter by laying ourselves flat on our backs, and sliding through a small aperture. These miserable and dangerous cells formed the abode of many wounded; and though many of them did not exceed eight feet square, we found there about ten sufferers, some with broken legs and arms, and some with other serious injuries, which rendered the apartments like open graves, in which we could scarcely remain a couple of minutes, without a feeling of sickness.—The bad and confined air, joined to the alarming ap-

prehensions of the building giving away altogether, from some of the earthquakes which daily harassed the place, were sufficient aggravations of their suffering to hurry many of the wounded prematurely into eternity."

"Before quitting this place, I shall say a few words on the moral condition of the society here, and in every place to which this awful judgment of the Almighty has extended. Exaction, avarice and anarchy, have taken the place of mercy, honesty and good order. The feeling of the people towards each other are, with few exceptions, similar to those in a field of battle: relentless and regardless. A laboring man or mechanic refuses to put a single finger to a piece of work till he has received six times the usual amount of wages. If denied, he waits till twilight, and digs the ruins which he has marked for himself during the day, in search of money, or other articles of value. The Arabs who flock from every direction, like so many vultures, and who gain admittance into Safat and Tabereah, under the pretence of seeking employment, are addicted to plunder, and in all respects behave themselves so ill, that the governors are obliged to station soldiers in different quarters to prevent their coming in.—The Jews told me that nobody has hitherto been removed to the burial ground, without the sum of twenty-four dollars for extracting them from under the ruins. The demand for the latter is exacted, especially from young widows, advantage being taken of the execrable injunction of the Talmud, of course, by those who were acquainted with this precept, which forbids any woman whose husband may be known to have been killed under ruins, or drowned, or to have lost his life by any similar misfortune, to marry again, till the body of her husband shall have been found, and recognised by the widow. The chief rabbi of Tabereah told me that he had already expended the enormous sum of 70,000 piastres, or about £700, for the disinterment of seventy men, that their widows might be legally free."

"In Safat, a wholly family were disinterred alive, after being nine days beneath the ruins, and a single individual, after eleven days. These only opened their eyes to have a glance of their ruinous city, and their few remaining relatives, and then closed them again in death. Rabbi Chaim, a Jewish physician in Tabereah, and who is now almost crippled, having both his feet very much injured, told me of the awful situation in which he was during the first days. His wife and children, he said, were lying killed under the ruins, and he himself was buried up to the arms in stones and rubbish. In this position he remained for forty-eight hours; and though he offered a reward of two hundred Spanish dollars for being set free, such was the confusion and tumult that there was none to undertake it. At last, being overcome by the pain from the pressure of the stones, and exhausted with hunger and with his efforts to extricate himself, he took a pole, and detached with it some stones from the remains of a vault which hung right over him, with the full expectation that they would put an end to his misery at once, by falling on his head. He was fortunately disappointed in his purpose."

"A very wealthy family lived in one of the lower streets, of whom all were killed except a young female, who was at the time of the earthquake in a lower apartment, used as a store room, which remained entire. After twenty-four days work the rubbish was removed, and this apartment entered, where she was found just breathing her last. It seems from the arrangements which she had made, that she had imagined that none had survived the destruction, and had of course no hope of ever escaping from her cell; and had accordingly occupied herself in preparing her own burial, in which she had surprisingly succeeded. She was found shrouded in her grave clothes, which she had sewed during her imprisonment. The grave in which she lay was well excavated, and the inside lined with pages of Cabalistic and Talmudical writ, which she had supposed would save her, by giving sanctity to her grave, from being carried to Gehenna (purgatory.) All the members of her body were decorously adjusted, and a large vessel of oil, trimmed and lighted, was found still burning near her head. It is supposed that hundreds have lost their lives who might have been saved by seasonable disinterment. 'Thy slain men (we may say to Safat and Tabereah) are not slain with the sword, nor dead in battle.'"

"The Jews of Safat and Tabereah intend to lay the foundation of a new city near Joppa. Thither many have already repaired; they say they are possessed of a prophecy, that Upper Galilee must be desolated shortly before the appearing of the Messiah, so to remain until He come. I learn from Jerusalem that the minarets on the Mount of Olives were shaken down by the earthquake. Nearly 8000 persons are said to have perished."