

FOREIGN MISSIONARY CHRONICLE.

FEBRUARY, 1843.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DISCOURAGEMENTS AND VEXATIONS OF MISSIONARY LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

We take the following entertaining extract from the interesting work lately published by the Rev. R. Moffat. The often trying vexations here described, and the apparently hopeless prospect of usefulness, were succeeded amongst the same people in later years by great propriety of conduct, correctness of morals, and religious principle of no ordinary excellence. We shall probably give further extracts in the Chronicle, showing the transforming power of the gospel on a very debased people.

A review of Mr. Moffat's book is in the course of publication in *The Foreign Missionary*, embracing large extracts, which will be regarded as worth far more themselves than the cost of that Newspaper for a year's subscription and postage.

Our time was incessantly occupied in building, and labouring frequently for the meat that perisheth; but our exertions were often in vain, for while we sowed the natives reaped. The site of the station was a light sandy soil, where no kind of vegetables would grow without constant irrigation. Our water ditch, which was some miles in length, had been led out of the Kuruman River, and passed in its course through the gardens of the natives. As irrigation was to them entirely unknown, fountains and streams had been suffered to run to waste, where crops even of native grain, (holcus sorghum) which supports amazing drought, are seldom very abundant from the general scarcity of rain. The native women, seeing the fertilizing effect of the water in our gardens, thought very naturally that they had an equal right to their own, and took the liberty of cutting open our water ditch, and allowing it on some occasions to flood theirs. This mode of proceeding left us at times without a drop of water, even for culinary purposes. It was in vain that we pleaded and remonstrated with the chiefs, the women were the masters in this matter. Mr. Hamilton and I were daily compelled to go alter-

nately three miles with a spade, about three o'clock, P. M., the hottest part of the day, and turn in the many outlets into native gardens, that we might have a little moisture to refresh our burnt up vegetables during the night, which we were obliged to irrigate when we ought to have rested from the labours of the day. Many night watches were spent in this way; and after we had raised with great labour vegetables, so necessary to our constitutions, the natives would steal them by day as well as by night, and after a year's toil and care we scarcely reaped any thing to reward us for our labour. The women would watch our return from turning the streams into the water course, and would immediately go and open the outlets again, thus leaving us on a thirsty plain many days without a drop of water, excepting that which was carried from a distant fountain, under a cloudless sky, where the thermometer at noon would frequently rise to 120° in the shade. When we complained of this, the women, who one would have thought would have been the first to appreciate the principles by which we were actuated, became exasperated, and going to the higher dam, where the

MISSION HOUSE, NEW-YORK.

Letters from Missionaries.

Dec. 15th to Jan. 15th.

LODIANA MISSION.—Rev. J. Porter, Oct. 15, 1842.—Rev. J. Newton, Oct. 15.—Rev. J. Caldwell, Oct. 15.

CREEK MISSION.—Rev. R. M. Loughridge, at Mobile, Jan. 2, 1843.

TEXAS MISSION.—Rev. W. C. Blair, Oct. 15.

NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS.

But few letters from the missionaries have come to hand during the last month.

INDIA.—Mr. Porter writes as follows:—“Since the [English] school has been under my care, business has gone on so much in the same strain that I have had nothing particular to write about it. Its average attendance has been just the same as last year. A full account will be given in the Annual Report of our Mission.—The foundation of a new house is laid, and in three months we may hope to see it nearly, if not quite completed.—Brother Rogers left us yesterday. It was hard to part with a brother endeared to us by an intimate acquaintance of nearly twelve years standing. But since God bids, we would bow in cheerful submission to him, who sees best to take away a brother, a sister, or even a beloved wife.”

CREEKS.—We have given extracts from Mr. Loughridge's letter on another page, which we hope will lead to his being supported by the prayers of the people of God, and also to his being joined before long by those who shall be fellow-labourers with him in his important mission. There are few openings amongst our Indian tribes, for missionaries from our branch of the church, that possess claims of equal weight.

TEXAS.—The Rev. W. C. Blair writes:—“During the last six weeks we have been in a state of considerable alarm on account of Mexican invasion, but have been permitted to remain at home and attend regularly our meetings for public worship and Sabbath school—even the Monthly Concert was attended on the Sabbath evening of this month. . . . The Mexican settlements on the St. Antonio River are broken up, the inhabitants being required to remove either east or west. Most of them have gone to

the Rio Grande. Some have come in; consequently we have a larger number in Victoria than usual, but they are in a distracted and pitiable state, not knowing what to do or whither to go. At present there is a prospect of our being permitted to remain undisturbed for two or three months; but if in that time no adjustment of the difficulties between Mexico and Texas take place, then we shall be compelled to remove east of the Colorado.

“ . . . In reviewing the past year, I see abundant cause for special thanksgiving. In the midst of alarm and danger our lives have been preserved, and we have been favoured with unusual health, nor have we suffered want of either food or raiment. The little church organized in the commencement of the year has, it is true, been dispersed; the Elder and several of the members having remained east of the Colorado since the invasion of last spring. Yet they are only waiting the restoration of peace, that they may return.

“I have made some progress in my knowledge of the Spanish language, and have had the opportunity to distribute a number of books, to Mexicans who promised to take care of them and peruse them diligently.”

“CHINA OPENED.”

The late news from China is deeply interesting. The war between the British and the Chinese is ended. The Chinese have yielded to all the demands of their powerful foes—agreeing to pay twenty-one millions of dollars, partly for the destruction of British property, and chiefly for the expenses of the war; and consenting to open several cities to the British for commercial purposes, and to cede the island of Hong Kong to the British government. This island is situated in latitude 22°, about thirty-five miles from Macao, and not far from the main land. It is a hilly and sterile spot, small in size, and of a sparse population; but possesses a fine harbour, is conveniently situated for ships engaged in the Canton trade, and will doubtless become an important place.

Before this war Canton only was accessible to foreigners for commercial transactions,