



The Sabbath Recorder.

New York, February 22, 1849.

THE SABBATH IN CHINA.

The facts which have recently come to light relative to the mode of presenting the sabbatic institution to the Chinese, cannot fail to arrest attention, and suggest serious reflections. It seems that a custom prevails among the missionaries, of designating the first day of the week as "the rest-day," or "the ceremony-worship day."

The facts in the case suggest to us one painful thought, which we cannot forbear to mention. The missionaries who have gone to China from England and America, have been taught to regard the change of the Sabbath as an important doctrine.

Another thought is naturally suggested by these facts, which confirms an opinion often expressed by the advocates of the Sabbath. In China, it seems, the Scriptures are so translated, that the idea of a change of the Sabbath would not be likely to occur to the common reader.

NEW CALIFORNIA EXPEDITION.—It is said that a lady, of New York State, well known for her philanthropic labors, is about starting a benevolent expedition to California. Aided by several wealthy men, she proposes to buy a vessel, and freight it with every article necessary for the sick, including a frame for a hospital. She is now engaged in raising a company of intelligent and respectable females to accompany her in this mission of charity; each shall contribute something towards the purchase of the vessel and cargo, and assist in the benevolent objects of the enterprise.

nials of character. A portion of the freight taken will consist of articles to furnish a store, in which some of the women may be employed, and in material for clothing, to be made up according to orders on the spot. This is the most rational California expedition we have heard of.

OUR CHINA MISSION.

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, nay; but rather division." These are the words of Him who "needed not that any should testify of man." The reflective reader of the communications we are now giving to the public, will be solemnly reminded of these words; and he who has been an attentive observer of the history of the world, needs not to be informed that truth never found a home amongst men without first fighting for it. Such is the determined enmity of the human heart, such its obstinate preference of darkness to light, that every inch of ground is disputed.

Extracts from Bro. Carpenter's Journal. SHANGHAI, July 16, 1848.

God is still gracious to us, infinitely beyond our deservings. While other missionaries are falling in quick succession, we are mercifully preserved. We have just passed through one trying season of the year, and have entered upon another. For the last two months, immense quantities of rain have fallen. It has required care to prevent books, and many other things, from moulding badly.

May 31.—The two Episcopalian missionaries who have recently located themselves at Ningpo, while in this city, called on the other missionaries, and passed us by. The reason of this partiality we thought but little of at the time, but afterwards it came to us without our seeking it.

June 5.—The Monthly Concert has been held at our house. The usual number, about thirty, were present. We shall doubtless have it our share of the time hereafter.

June 9.—My new teacher commenced to-day. He promises well. He has a much better tact at conversation than our former teacher, and this is a matter of great importance to us while our main object is to learn to talk.

14th.—This evening, as usual, the poor beggars are singing out as they pass through the streets, with a shrill voice. From the cheerful tones of their voices, so unlike their begging tone in the day time, and from their passing directly on, instead of calling at each shop for money, I judge that their song is a sort of thanksgiving for the benefactions of the day.

18th.—My teacher to-day confirmed my previous impression that the Chinese, at present at least, know nothing of "the computation of time by weeks, except so far as it is introduced by foreigners. Some of the missionaries teach that Sunday is the seventh day of the week. I see no possibility of avoiding a collision sooner or later. From the little collision we have al-

ready witnessed, I see not the least signs of repentance on the part of those who so flagrantly abuse the majesty of the divine law.

24th.—This evening, after showing Foo Quay some of the proofs of divine skill and benevolence, which every man carries about with him, I asked him why it was that the Chinese were so ignorant of the true God. His reply affords a pretty fair index of his theoretical knowledge of the fundamental truths of the Gospel. He said it was because their hearts were blind. This reply serves also to illustrate one item of Chinese philosophy. They think the heart is the organ of thought, as well as of feeling.

July 7th.—The thermometer stood for several hours at 90 degrees. To-day I have completed a piece of work that has occupied me and my teacher several days. We have copied 4,000 Chinese characters, such as are in common use, and constitute, it is said, nineteen-twentieths, except proper names, of all the student will find in common books.

July 16.—To-day, with the aid of my teacher, I have made a translation of Mr. Shuck's version of the ten commandments. The fourth is as follows:—"The fourth command says, You must keep the ceremony-worship-day. On this day, neither yourself, nor your son, nor daughter, nor man servant, nor stranger, nor any workman, may do any work.

I hope our people will make this mission strong, by invoking the aid of the strong arm of the Lord; and farther, as his stewards, by furnishing us the means of making the most of our time and strength while in the field, and by sending, in due time, others whom the Holy Ghost may designate to this work. We think we should neglect one very important means of instruction, if we should confine ourselves to preaching, although we look upon this prospectively as our main employment.

"The fourth command says, You must keep the ceremony-worship-day. On this day, neither yourself, nor your son, nor daughter, nor man servant, nor stranger, nor any workman, may do any work. Because in six days the true God made heaven and earth, the hills and the sea, and all things; on the seventh day, his work being finished, he rested. This day is reckoned a holy day.

I hope our people will make this mission strong, by invoking the aid of the strong arm of the Lord; and farther, as his stewards, by furnishing us the means of making the most of our time and strength while in the field, and by sending, in due time, others whom the Holy Ghost may designate to this work. We think we should neglect one very important means of instruction, if we should confine ourselves to preaching, although we look upon this prospectively as our main employment.

And they are so numerous and zealous, that it will require, on the part of those who would lift up the standard of the Almighty in defense of his violated law, not only zeal, but zeal that shall be according to knowledge. In such a field, and at such a post, as the one which God has called us to occupy, a great deal must depend upon the wisdom of the measures adopted. In such a work as defending the Lord's Sabbath, and freeing it from the obloquy which indiscreet men heap upon it, it seems to me the press would be indispensable. And not only so, but if we could have small portions of Scripture, as a single paragraph or parabole, which should be made the subject of discourse on the Sabbath, printed, so as to present a copy to each one, it might be the means of much good. At the London Mission Chapel they present a printed chapter to each one. We could get anything printed at the Mission press here, or at Ningpo, or by the natives. Mr. McClatchin has had a tract printed by the natives.

BIBLES FOR CHINA.

SHUNGH, N. J., Feb. 3, 1849.

To the Editor of the Sabbath Recorder:— Can you give me any information concerning the Shanghai translation of the Bible? Our people here have been in the habit of giving something to the American and Foreign Bible Society, under the impression that they were thereby forwarding the China Mission. But understanding, that the proposed translation, which would be used at Shanghai, is partial in relation to the Sabbath, (favoring the Sunday), some of them have withheld their contribution this year on that account.

In reply to the foregoing, we can only say, that the existing translations of the Scriptures into the Chinese language are defective in many respects, and will not probably be circulated much longer. Some five years ago, measures were adopted to secure a new version, in the publication of which all denominations might unite. But after proceeding for a while with the work, the Baptists, or a part of them, withdrew, under an impression that it would be necessary for them to get up a version of their own. The Pedobaptists are still engaged in translating, and will undoubtedly bring out a version far superior to any now in existence.

MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION—ITS TREASURY.

The members of our denomination are hereby informed, that the funds of the Treasury are nearly exhausted, and that there is not enough on hand to meet urgent demands. It will be recollected, that at our last Annual Meeting, a Mission to the West was resolved upon, and that the Board immediately adopted measures to carry the Mission into effect. It is now necessary to make a remittance to our brother whom we have sent into the field; but we are not able to do so, to the amount called for, owing to the low state of the funds.

EVANGELICAL BOOKS IN MEXICO.

One of the Colporteurs of the American Tract Society, in Mexico, has been threatened with fine and imprisonment, for bringing prohibited books to Matamoras. Upon his investigation, it was found that the law applied only to works of a licentious character, and he escaped the penalty. One of the priests recently denounced the books of the colporteur, and threatened excommunication to all who bought them, or allowed their children to read these books. The ensuing day, a gentleman called upon him with the "Miracles of Christ," and a Testament, saying that he wished another copy of each. The priest, said he, thinks they are bad books, but we think they are good. The Testament had evidently been much used. "Yesterday," the colporteur writes, "a man, to whom I have frequently sold a dozen books, wanted more, to sell to the country people, adding, 'The city people do not want them, because the priests say they are bad books!'"

No LIQUOR ON SUNDAY.—The Maryland Court of Appeals has decided a case involving the constitutionality of the law prohibiting the sale of liquor on Sunday. It was an appeal from a decision of one of the County Courts, in which the judgment of the Court below was reversed on the ground of an informality in the bill of exceptions, there being no proof that the defendant was a retailer of liquor. The Court, however, decided that the State had the right, under the Constitution, to pass the law in question.

THE STUDENT'S MIRROR is the title of a sixteen-page paper just started by an association of students of DeRuyter Institute. It is designed as a medium of communication between the present members of the school and those who have left it, to whom it will no doubt be a source of amusement and profit. To be published semi-monthly, during term time, (if subscriptions will warrant,) at \$1 a year.

SUNDAY DOINGS IN PHILADELPHIA.—The authorities of Philadelphia have taken in hand the barbers and newsboys, and determined to make them keep the Sunday right. But the firemen have things their own way, as heretofore. Witness the following account of what took place on Sunday evening, the 11th inst. Similar scenes have been common there on Sundays for the last five years:—

"Northern Liberties was disgraced on Sunday last by a fireman's riot. The Lafayette and United States hose companies came into collision, and a regular pitched battle ensued. The police at last succeeded in separating the combatants. But while the United States was returning home, the company was attacked at the corner of Fourth and Coates streets, and the carriage taken from them. They run off her horse, demolished her front-piece, smashed the wheels, and would have totally destroyed it, if some members of the Independence had not prevented them. This is one of the many disgraceful scenes which are enacted in the upper part of this city."

MASSACHUSETTS ON SLAVERY.—The present position of deliberations in Congress on the subject of Slavery, has induced Massachusetts to express her sentiments. The following resolutions were recently introduced in the House of Representatives of that State, and referred to the proper Committee:—

Resolved, That Congress has full power to legislate on the subject of Slavery, in the Territories of the Union; that it has freely exercised such power from the adoption of the Constitution to the present time; and that it is its duty to exercise the power for the perpetual exclusion of the institution of Slavery from those Territories that are free, and for its extinction in Territories where it exists.

Resolved, That when Congress furnishes Governments for the Territories of California and New Mexico, it will be its duty to establish therein the fundamental principle of the Ordinance of 1787 upon the subject of Slavery, to the end that the institution may be perpetually excluded therefrom, beyond any chance and uncertainty.

Resolved, That neither Slavery nor the Slave Trade ought to exist in the District of Columbia, and that it is the duty of Congress to provide the most just, practicable, and expeditious plan for abolishing the same.

CONGRESSIONAL LAZINESS.—Hon. Horace Greeley, of the House of Representatives, is lecturing that body for its notorious wastefulness of time. The text of his last lecture is furnished by the adjournment of the House on Wednesday, February 14, after a session of two hours, he says:—

"This adjournment was hardly less than a crime. With but fifteen days of the session remaining, and one of these probably to be thrown out as Washington's Birth-day, to say nothing of the arrival and reception of General Taylor—with not even one important Appropriation bill finally disposed of, and little besides Appropriation bills considered at all—with the Postage Reforms in abeyance, Land Reform not looked at, Retrenchment of any sort under the table, and the new territories imploring legitimate government, and likely to plead in vain, though their wants are imperative and urgent, it is downright dereliction and wrong to throw away a day after this fashion. There was not a Northern man in the House who would not discharge his hireling, nor a Southern man who would not larrup his nigger, did he quit work in the middle of a day on similar pretexts, and in like emergencies."

PRICES IN CALIFORNIA.—The Home Journal publishes a letter dated at San Francisco, Dec. 25, which gives the following account of prices obtained for various articles in California:—

"Brandy, \$12 to \$14 per gallon; champagne, \$75 per dozen; other wines in proportion; flour, at the fort, \$25 per barrel; salt pork, \$50 per barrel; blankets, \$45 to \$75 a pair; common boots, \$16 to \$25 a pair; shoes, \$9 to \$12 a pair; woolen socks, \$3 to \$4 a pair; butter, \$2 a pound; overcoats, \$45 to \$80 a piece; common summer sacks, such as I paid \$5 for in New York, sold here for \$26 each, at auction, by the case, but at Sutter's they are worth much more. Everything, except prints and domestic, are high in proportion. Leggings sell at any price. The prices I have quoted above are the true prices at Sutter's; but at the mill, or what is called the Mormon Diggings, only forty miles from the fort, the prices are 1,200 per cent higher. The price for hauling anything from the fort to the mill, is \$25 per 100 pounds."

Rev. F. C. Woodworth, editor of the Youth's Cabinet, has in press a duodecimo volume of some three hundred pages, entitled "Stories about Animals." It is a collection of short anecdotes respecting the habits and dispositions of quadrupeds, illustrated with appropriate engravings.

GEN. TAYLOR, the President Elect, was at Cincinnati, February 17th, on his way to Washington. His health is said to be feeble in consequence of an accident which befel him at Madison, Indiana, where the crowd of persons who were anxious to see him, pressed upon him with such force, that they threw him with much violence over some salt barrels.

HON. JOHN M. CLAYTON, the distinguished Delaware Senator, has been offered the office of Secretary of State, under the new Administration.

Fifteen newsboys, arrested in Philadelphia for selling newspapers on Sunday, were kept in prison until Tuesday, and then discharged on a pledge not to repeat the offence.

The New Haven Civil Authorities have voted it "expedient to license any persons as taverners, for the ensuing year."



