

American Baptist Board of Foreign Missions.

Karens.

JOURNAL OF MR. MASON.

Excursion to Toung Byouk and other villages—Baptisms.

Toung Byouk gala. Jan. 26, 1836. It is heart-cheering to look on the Christian faces around me, remembering as I do, that on first visiting this region south of Tavoy, not a single individual throughout the whole length and breadth of the country unto Mergui loved the gospel, or obeyed its precepts. The little flock around me increases, though slowly, every year, and on Monday last I baptized four from a list of twenty-one that have applied for the ordinance, and although among the remaining seventeen some have fallen from the promising state in which they once were, yet there are none concerning whom I have not hopes, and several will doubtless be baptized by br. Wade when he makes his promised visit, the next or the following month. To the above who have asked for baptism, must be added some six or eight that have promised to renounce their evil practices, and endeavor to obtain new hearts; with many others that listen and speak favorably of Christianity. A head man in the neighborhood, that had heretofore been decidedly opposed to the gospel, has, since I have been here, publicly declared his intention to become a Christian; and a man that on previous visits hung around as a mere listener, in fear of his ungodly father-in-law, obtained strength enough on Sunday to declare his intention to give up all for Christ, and request baptism.

Miss Gardner, who accompanied me to this place, returned in the boat to-day. Her visit has been, I trust, accompanied with a blessing. No white woman had ever been seen in the region before, and the Christian women highly valued her instructions. She held an interesting prayer-meeting with them on Saturday, and seized every opportunity to impart to them religious instruction, and to teach them their appropriate duties. While I write, "Oh, how I feel," cries one of the Christian women, crouching around the fire, "for the maiden teacheress, and long to see her again. Perhaps she is at this moment at the mouth of the

river, in danger of being driven out to sea."

27. Saw-kwa-lo. I am comfortably seated under the wide canopy of heaven by a Karen fire, and have become so perfectly naturalized to a wandering life, that I have thoughts of sleeping by the fire in preference to sleeping in the house, where it is so much colder. The house is inhabited by one of the men that I baptized on Sunday; but his wife remains much opposed to the gospel. Still, I trust, she will ultimately be brought over to the faith of the gospel. One of her daughters seems very anxious to become a Christian, as does also the daughter of another man that I baptized among the last. The head man of the district came to visit me in the afternoon, and listened with great interest while I read and talked to him, for an hour or two before dark. At worship he and another family from a neighboring house, gave good attention, and told me before they returned, that it was very pleasant to hear the word of God, and they would endeavor to observe it. I have a strong confidence in God, that many of these precious souls around me, will yet be gathered into the fold of Christ.

I have repeatedly been reminded to-day of the going forth of the seventy disciples. Here are eleven persons in company, going forth they know not whither, with all their goods and chattels on their backs, to preach the gospel and teach school, wherever we can find people to receive them. It is a great, very great privilege, to labor among such a people. A people that literally and cheerfully give up home and friends for Christ; and having put their hands to the plough *never* look back, but pressing forward, are ever emulous of doing something, "to usher in the millennial year."

Bamboö Falls—Boiling Springs of Pai—Mountain Villages.

28. Bamboo Falls. "The silent moon is gazing on the virgin waters of as pure a stream as ever leaped from cliff to glen since the flood. Its bed is a chasm, its course torrents and cascades, and its banks precipices capped with mountains. We have heard the praises of God echoed from base to base, and from summit to summit; and our

spirits are refreshed from the fatigue of walking on the slippery rocks half the day, over our knees in water. In one part of our course our path was crossed by a chasm of water, at the foot of a cascade, to which we could find no bottom, while the banks on each side rose from the water's edge in precipices of rocks several hundred feet high. After some delay, we succeeded in bridging the abyss with three bamboos, on which, one at a time, we all reached a jutting rock, whence we clambered on our way up the stream again. My couch is under a tree, with a dozen Karens around me, and a fire on each side, where I am likely to sleep as soundly and as sweetly as in the midst of civilization, though the fresh-trodden tracks of the rhinoceros are around us. Fatigue smiles at a hard bed, and religion says to every apprehension, "Peace, be still." The man with whom I staid last night, saw me perform what he considered two surprising cures on persons with fever at Toung Byouk, and was therefore anxious this morning to have some of the medicine left with him, to use in the event of being attacked with fever. I pity this people exceedingly in their sicknesses.

30. We found a man in the woods to-day, that listened attentively and confessed readily, as all do, that his sufferings were the consequences of transgressing the commands of God. He seemed pleased with the idea of a school, and promised to send his children, should one be established in the settlement. A further walk of a few hours brought us to the first house with which we have met the last two or three days. The owner has followed us to hear the gospel, to *this* place, where there are three or four houses, but the people are so riotously intoxicated, that in preference to taking my place in a circle of drunkards, I came down to the bank of the stream, and selected a friendly bunch of bamboos that have kindly lent me their shade for a habitation, and where I expect to spend the Sabbath, and the two succeeding evenings before me. In one of the houses I found a woman tolerably sober, but the only sentence she would utter, was, "If the bird goes black, we go black; if the bird goes white, we go white;" meaning she would follow the leading man whether he went right or wrong. We had two promising young men at worship this evening.—One of our company observed in conversation to-day, that the Karens had nothing to

eat but the seeds of the bamboo in "Alompra's famine." Thus it is with "the mighty men of renown." The poor associate them with their sufferings alone. The Karens know nothing of Alompra in their annals, but that he was a chieftain, carrying devastation, sword, and famine, wherever he went.

Feb. 2. Boiling Springs of Pai. We are now at the house of San-kaw-tu's brother, and where he is coming to teach school at the commencement of the rains. The brother is not particularly promising, except as being desirous of learning to read; but of all in the settlement, I should choose him for patron to my school, being a man of great influence, with five or six brothers and sisters about him, and their families. Under the Burman government he was the chief of all the Karens in the Pai valley, and he still retains the command of a district. Moreover, he is a man of superior natural talents, and is well versed in the Burman books for a Karen. His brother, whom I baptized a little more than a year ago, is also a man of good mind, and promises to become a very useful assistant.

The house in which I am seated is not a hundred yards from one of the greatest natural curiosities in the province—a hot spring, where the water actually comes boiling out of the earth. The springs are probably a thousand feet above the plain below, and show themselves in two places in the midst of a cold water stream. The upper spring is a small hole, not more than two or three inches in diameter, in the crevice of a rock, where the water comes bubbling out, and steaming up, as hot as any water can be boiled. The second place is a short distance below, where the stream is pouring over the granite rocks in a succession of cascades, and between the crevices of these rocks the boiling water bursts forth, throwing up a volume of smoke some twenty feet high.

3. We are in a village of four or five houses, on the top of the mountains that divide the Pai valley from that in which runs the Palouk. Although a couple of thousand feet above the plain, here is plenty of good land available for cultivation, and an abundance of water. The prospect from some of the knolls is splendid, displaying the whole range of high mountains in the distant perspective, and the Pai valley at the foot of the spectator, with its thick forests of a hundred hues, dwindled in the distance to the likeness of

moss or many colored lichen. These hills are famous among the Karens, as affording a retreat from the persecution of the Burmans. More than a hundred families lived secreted in the dells and glens of this neighborhood, unknown to their Burman rulers; and I have every reason to believe that there are many families living here now, unknown to government or their agents, which makes the people exceeding shy of me, as they are afraid I shall report them, and bring taxation down upon them, of which a Karen has a great dread. Still, we had a goodly number at worship this evening, and I scattered the Christians around in the houses; so that every one has heard the gospel.

(To be continued.)

Chinese.

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER OF MR. REED.

Messrs. Reed, Shuck, and Davenport, with their families, arrived at Singapore, it will be recollected, on the 31st of March, 1836. On the 20th of June, Mr. and Mrs. Reed with Mr. Davenport took passage for Bankok, leaving Mrs. Davenport, who was threatened with a liver complaint, till the return of Mr. and Mrs. Jones from Pinang, when, if her health permitted, she would proceed to Bankok in their company. Letters since received from Mr. Jones, inform us that he and his family reached Singapore July 11, and were to sail for Siam, with Mrs. D., on the 19th. Mr. and Mrs. Shuck were to continue at Singapore.

Our first extract from Mr. Reed's letter is dated "British Bark, Sarah, off the Eastern Malay Coast, June 23, 1836."

On Tuesday, the 21st, at 7 o'clock, A. M., we were under weigh, and a fresh breeze soon carried us past Point Romania into the China Sea, on our way to the city of Bankok; where we hope to arrive in the course of the ensuing week. Our situation on board is pleasant, and our captain is kind and obliging, cheerfully allowing us the privilege of giving thanks at table, and of attending morning and evening devotions in the cabin. Himself and officers are generally present, and without solicitation kneel with us, as does another passenger, (a Roman Catholic,) who expects to engage in commercial business in Siam. For the tokens of our Heavenly Father's kindness, in the privi-

leges here enjoyed, our hearts are truly grateful, and we cannot but hope that, through grace in Christ Jesus, we may exert a healthful influence, on our passage.

After detailing a few incidents connected with their embarkation, illustrative of strong maternal and filial love in the case of a Tio Chew youth, whom he wished to take with him to Bankok, in conflict with the lively interest which had been excited even in a heathen bosom by Christian kindness, Mr. R. proceeds:—

27. Gulf of Siam. Yesterday was to us a day of some interest, and the religious exercises on board were listened to with apparent solemnity by the officers and crew. At 11, A. M. we had a sermon from Psalms iii. 8, and at 5 1-2 P. M. br. D. and myself went forward and read the 3d chapter of John, and made some remarks on the great love of God in the gift of his Son, and the obligation of all, at once to embrace the offer of mercy through him.

I had previously distributed a few tracts among them; and now the offer of bibles to those who were destitute, and would read them, was joyfully and thankfully received. One of them has just now given me the names of five who wish for bibles, and when I proposed to have worship in the fore-castle each evening, he expressed much joy, and even said that they had spoken of it themselves this morning. I trust it cannot but give joy to those that love the souls of men, to know that, while going from place to place, and unable to do much in the immediate work for which we are sent, we yet have opportunities to do good in preaching "Christ crucified" to a neglected class of men, and of distributing the publications of those noble Institutions, the Bible and Tract Societies. O may every missionary and every Christian feel more fully the spirit of the Apostle, and "be not weary in well doing."

The following extract respects their

Arrival at Bankok.

July 1. Day before yesterday we early anchored in shoal water, as we supposed, near the mouth of the Meinam; but, on sending off our boat to some fishermen near by, we ascertained that we had mistaken our position, and were obliged to sail some three or four leagues east, where we dropped anchor in 2 1-2 fathoms at low water. Our boat went immediately to Pak-Nam, a few miles up the river, for a pilot; and owing to