

THE BIBLICAL RECORDER.

"RIGHTEOUSNESS, TEMPERANCE, AND JUDGEMENT TO COME."

NEWBERN, N. C. WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1835.

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EDITED BY T. MEREDITH,

TERMS.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD.

CONTINUED.

MISSION TO CHINA.

The Board have devoted much attention to the establishment of a mission to the Chinese empire. The signs of the times, and the strong desires which God has created in many hearts, respecting this vast and benighted portion of the human family, have convinced the Board that it is our duty to make the attempt to introduce the Gospel. They do not consider the question as yet settled, whether missionaries will be permitted to reside and labor in China; but appearances are encouraging; and as experience only can decide the question, an experiment ought immediately to be made. In their instructions to the missionaries in Burmah, the Board say—"A report has reached us, particularly from Moung Shway Mung, that at a point on the Irrawaddy, several hundred miles above Ava, there exists a great national road, leading directly through the Shan country, into the heart of China. This suggestion, with accompanying remarks, induced us to suppose, that this medium might present a channel for pouring the light of truth into that dark region. Our brethren, in various places, are extremely urgent that a mission to China should be commenced by us; and if it be done, perhaps the way proposed offers as much promise of success as any other. Besides, should it finally appear that nothing could be accomplished for China, it may be the means of making us better acquainted with the Shans, and of carrying to them the light of life. The first object, however, of the tour, would be to ascertain what we can do for the Chinese. To execute the duties of such a commission, the man ought to be considerably acquainted with Burman customs and habits, and tolerably familiar with their language; but a deficiency in respect to either could be better supplied by attendant native Christians, than a want of fortitude and patient endurance of fatigue. It is our wish, that the missionaries should consider the object to be attained, and appoint such one of their number to execute it, as their judgment shall approve." The Board have also held correspondence with two individuals in this country, on the subject of becoming missionaries in China. One of them has declined the proposition. The Board hope to be able to secure the services of some suitable person, without delay. The conversion of three Chinese at Bankok, the formation of a Chinese church there, and the residence of multitudes of Chinese in that city, render that station a point where efforts for the benefit of China may be made with much hope of success. It may be expedient to station a missionary there, for the exclusive purpose of laboring among the Chinese population. Mr. Jones was requested by the Board to communicate his views on the subject. He says—"There is no practicable way of getting directly into China from this country. On the east of this, between here and China, lie Cambodia and Cochin China—both of which, at present, are in an extremely unsettled state. The Siamese are making large preparations for carrying on the war there, and when affairs will be permanently settled is uncertain. Cambodia is important, as having a language in many respects intimately related to the Peguan, and as having given Buddhism, together with the Pali language, in the peculiar Cambodian character, to the Siamese and Laos; and having originally been the great country of which Siam was only a province, it has given to Siam much of its court language. The Cochin Chinese have recently expelled the Catholic priests; and all their adherents, who were not imprisoned or killed, have fled hither. These two countries must first be penetrated, and subjugated to the power of Christianity, before any assault can be made on China from the east of this country. On the northeast, ere you reach the Chinese borders, lie Laos, and immense tribes of Kabs, and Youngsoos, or (agreeably to Burman orthography) Younghoos. The Laos have written books and Buddhism. The others occasionally learn some of the neighboring languages, and practise the rites of Buddhism, but have no written language of their own; and so far as I can learn, are much in the same state as the Karens five years ago. We must pass thro' them, to reach China in that direction. From this place, our principal means of direct intercourse with China must be by the numerous boats which annually visit Bankok."

MISSIONARY VISIT TO THE SOUTH.

The visit of the Secretary to the southern States, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Wade, together with Moung Shway-Moung, the Burman, and Ko Chet-thing, the Karen, was attended with high gratification to their own feelings; and it is hoped with benefit to the cause of missions. The generous hospitality with which they were everywhere received, the strong religious sensibilities which were excited, the crowded attendance on numerous public meetings, and the intense interest with which the addresses from the missionaries and the natives were heard, combined to make the visit memorable in the history of the Board, and to kindle, it is believed, a durable missionary zeal in many hearts. "The missionary company left the city of New York, on the 2d of April, 1834, in a packet ship, for

Charleston, (S. C.) Preserved by divine favor, through a tempestuous passage, they arrived, April 14th, at Charleston, where they spent several days, and where, by public exercises and private opportunities, information respecting the Burman Mission was communicated to thousands of different denominations. They then proceeded to Augusta, (Geo.) Columbia, Camden, the High Hills of Santee, (the seat of the Furman Theological Institution,) Darlington, Society Hill, Cheraw, Fayetteville, (N. C.) and through Tarborough, (N. C.) to Richmond, (Va.) At Augusta, they had the pleasure of meeting the Rev. Mr. Jones, from the Valley Towns Mission; with two converted Cherokee Indians. There were present, eleven preachers, including the Burman, Karen, and Cherokees. Individuals, from not less than six different nations of people were to be found in the little collection of persons in a private room at that occasion. One who was present observes, "This was one of the seasons, too seldom in my short pilgrimage, to be remembered with a soul refreshing interest, while memory shall last." They returned from Richmond, through Fredericksburg, Washington City, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New-York, and Hartford, exciting the same interest, and receiving the same kind attentions.

SAILING OF THE MISSIONARIES.

On Sabbath evening, June 29th, a crowded public meeting was held at Baldwin Place Meeting-House, Boston. After an address, by the Rev. Dr. Wayland, (which has since been published, and of which, therefore, the Board need not speak,) and a brief statement by the Corresponding Secretary, the missionaries were commended to the protection and blessing of God.—Rev. Mr. Wade and the native teachers addressed the audience in a few touching words. On Wednesday morning, July 2d, the missionaries, after appropriate religious services, sailed in the ship Cashmere, for Amherst, in Burmah. The following are the names of the 15 persons who composed this company:

Rev. Jonathan Wade and Mrs. D. B. L. Wade, destined to Tavoy.

Moung Shway-Moung and Ko Chet-thing, the native teachers.

Rev. Hosea Howard and Mrs. Theresa P. Howard, destined to labor among the Karens.

Rev. Justus H. Vinton and Mrs. Calista H. Vinton, also destined to labour among the Karens.

Rev. Wm. Dean and Mrs. Matilda C. Dean, instructed to join the Siam Mission.

Rev. Grover S. Constock and Mrs. Sarah D. Constock, who are instructed to form a station in Arracan.

Mr. Sewell M. Osgood, printer, and Mrs. E. B. Osgood, who will probably remain at Maulmein.

Miss Ann P. Gardner, who will reside in the family of Mr. Wade, at Tavoy, and be employed as a school teacher.

[Since the Report was read to the Convention, the gratifying intelligence has been received, that the Cashmere, with her interesting company, arrived safely at Amherst, Dec. 8, 1834.]

DUTIES OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The duties of the Corresponding Secretary have hitherto been performed by a single individual. They have, for several years, been numerous and pressing, to an extent, of which few persons can form an adequate conception. Yet it is evident, on the least reflection, that to seek out, by personal visits, or by numerous letters, suitable individuals for missionaries and agents, to aid in examining and fitting out these missionaries; to maintain a correspondence with all the stations; to inquire into the wants of all the missionaries, and to give them such counsel and encouragement as they may need; to attend frequent meetings of the Board, to hold an extensive intercourse with individuals and societies in this country; to devise new plans of action, and to select new posts for labor—added to the numberless demands on the time of an individual at the Missionary Rooms, where a multitude of persons from all parts of the country are frequently calling to consult, not only on missions, but on the general interests of Zion, must constitute a mass of toil too great for an individual to sustain. The present Secretary, with much important aid, from members of the Board, and especially from the Treasurer, has for several years sustained it, to the best of his ability. But the increase of our missionary operations, and the demands for enlarged efforts, make it necessary that there be some new modification of the Secretary's department. The Board believe, that there should be at least two associate Secretaries, between whom the duties of the present Secretary might be divided.

DUTIES OF THE TREASURER.

The duties of the Treasurer become, every year, more numerous and responsible, as the pecuniary transactions of the Convention increase. They already require the constant attention of the Treasurer, and much valuable aid from the Assistant Treasurer. Such services cannot be recompensed nor purchased by money, but it is wrong in principle and in policy, to expect from any individual undue pecuniary sacrifices, even in connection with religious societies. In a voluntary association, the labors and other burthens should be equalized, and if one individual is required to expend more time, or endure more toil, than his associates, he has a right to claim for them a corresponding pecuniary recompense. He ought not to be required to devote to one form of benevolent action all his influence; but he should be furnished with the means to aid, if he pleases, other benevolent enterprises. The Board, therefore, recommend to the Convention, the inquiry, whether its true interests, as well as justice, do not require, that a proper compensation be paid to the Treasurer.

STATE OF THE TREASURY.

It will be seen by the Treasurer's account, that the receipts from the churches, during the year, fall far short of the expenditures. The deficiency has been supplied, partly by funds previously received, and partly by considerable sums received from the Government, and from benevolent societies. These sums, however, are merely committed to the Board in trust, for certain specified ob-

jects, and they form no part of their disposable income. The number of missionaries has become so large, and the consequent expenses of the Board so much increased, that there must be a great augmentation of the contributions from the churches, if our missionaries are to be sustained, on their present scale. By a reference to the Treasurer's Report, it will be seen, that large sums have been received from the American Bible Society, and from the American and Baptist General Tract Societies; and while their generous and Christian co-operation is most gratefully acknowledged and its continuance ardently desired and expected, still, it is certain, we ought not to be made to depend on these sources of revenue. Besides, the operations of the Board ought to be widely extended, and for the means, both men and money, the Board must rely on the piety and liberality of the churches, and they trust that their brethren will not withhold these means.

AGENCY.

The Rev. Alfred Bennett has continued in the service of the Board during the year. He has visited some portions of Ohio and Indiana; but he has spent the greater part of the year in Kentucky. He was, at the date of his last letter, in Tennessee, near Nashville, and he designed to proceed to the eastern portion of the state, on his way to attend the meeting of the Convention at Richmond. His health has been mercifully preserved, and he has been very actively engaged in conversing with families and individuals, giving information, correcting errors, removing prejudices, and arousing a missionary spirit. He has usually preached once and often twice a day. He has thus greatly promoted the interests of Zion, while his success in obtaining funds has been encouraging. The Board are grateful, that they have been permitted to enjoy the services of a brother, in whom they and the churches feel an entire confidence, and whose piety, prudence, conciliatory deportment, unwearied perseverance, and ardent attachment to the cause of the Redeemer, qualify him so happily for his duties.

[To be Continued.]

From Newton on the Prophecies.

NUMBER OF THE BEAST.

Revelations vi. 18.

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast. It is not therefore a vain and ridiculous attempt to search into the mystery, but on the contrary is recommended to us upon the authority of an apostle. For it is the number of a man! it is a method of numbering practised among men; as the measure of a man (xxi. 17.) is such a measure as men commonly make use of in measuring. It was a method practised among the ancients, to denote names by numbers; as the [9] name of Thoth or the Egyptian Mercury was signified by the number 1218, the name Jupiter, as *E. Arche* or the beginning of things, by the number of 737, and the name of the sun, as *eus good*, was the author of rain, by the number 608. St. Barnabas, the companion of St. Paul, in his epistle discovers in like manner the name of Jesus crucified in the number of 218; and other instances might be procured, if there was occasion. It hath been the usual method in all God's dispensations for the Holy Spirit to accommodate his expressions to the customs, fashions, and manners of the several ages. Since then this art and mystery of numbers was so much used among the ancients, it is less wonderful that the beast also should have this number, and his number is six hundred and sixty-six. Here only the number is specified; and from the number we must, as well as we can, collect the name. Several names possibly might be cited, which contain this number; but it is evident, that it must be some Greek or Hebrew name; and with the name also the other qualities and properties of the beast must all agree. The name alone will not constitute an agreement; all the other particulars must be perfectly applicable, and the name also must comprehend the precise number of 666. No name appears more proper and suitable than that famous one mentioned by Ireneus, who lived long after St. John's time, and was the disciple of Polycarp, the disciple of John. He saith, that the name *Lateinos* contains the number of 666; and it is very likely, because the last kingdom is so called, for they are Latins who now reign; but in this we will not glory; that is, as it becomes a modest and pious man in a point of such difficulty, he will not be too confident of his explication. *Lateinos* with *ei* is the true orthography, as the Greeks wrote the *long i* of the Latins, as the Latins themselves wrote in former times.—No objection therefore can be drawn from the spelling of the name, and the thing agrees to admiration. For after the division of the empire, the Greeks and other orientals called the people of the western church or church of Rome *Latinus*; and as Dr. Henry Moore expresseth it, *latine* in every thing. Mass, prayers, hymns, litanies, canons, decretals, bulls, are conceived in Latin.—The papal councils speak in Latin. Nor is the scripture read in any other language under popery, than Latin. Wherefore the Council of Trent commanded the vulgar Latin to be the only authentic version. Nor do their doctors doubt to prefer it to the Hebrew and Greek text itself, which was written by the prophets and apostles. In short, all things are Latin; the pope having communicated his language to the people under his dominion, as the mark and character of his empire. They themselves indeed chose rather to be called Romans, and more absurdly still Roman Catholics; and probably the apostle, as he hath made use of some Hebrew names in this book, as *Abaddon* [IX. ii.] and *Arnaeddon* [XVI. 16.] so might in this place likewise allude to the name in the Hebrew language. Now *Romith* is the Hebrew name for the Roman beast or Roman kingdom; and this work, as well as the former word *Lateinos* contains the just and exact number of 666. It is really surprising that there should be such a fatal coincidence in both names in both languages, Mr. Pyle asserts, and I believe he may assert very truly, that "no other word in any language whatever can be found to express both the same number, and the same thing."

From the Salem (Massachusetts) Landmark.

GEOLOGY.

Mr. Silliman commenced his fourth Lecture on Friday evening of last week, with some additional remarks on Trap Rocks. He said the difficulty in regard to their formation might be explained by the supposition that they had been protruded from the bottom of the ocean. In the first chapter of Genesis, it is stated that the earth was once a liquid mass; The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters; and at a subsequent period the dry land is said to have appeared. Aside from the authority of Scripture, the geolo-

gist, from a simple examination of the appearances of the earth, would infer that it had been submerged; or in other words, that there had been a deluge. Had not the Trap Rocks been melted under an enormous superincumbent pressure like that of the ocean, they would exhibit a very different appearance from their present one; their surface would have been inflated, intumescent and scoriated.

Marked changes are produced by the Trap on the rocks through which it passes. It turns coal into coke or charcoal; it crystallizes sulphur; and turns clay sandstone into brick or Jasper. The lecturer described columns of this rock, which are about two miles from the city of Hartford, Connecticut. These columns rest on sandstone; at the junction they are inflated just as their whole surface would have been, had they not been melted under water. Mr. Silliman said it was impossible to explain the facts connected with the Trap-rock, but on the principle of fire that had once rendered it liquid.

He then proceeded to the history of the Granite, the fundamental rock of the globe. With Broignart's map he exhibited the different layers of rock as they exist in the crust of the earth. He illustrated the difference between stratified and unstratified rocks by reference to two loaves of bread, the one being cut into slices representing the stratified, and the other not cut representing the unstratified rocks. The origin of this is from fire and water. It was water that made the layers. There were mechanical and chemical influences in these formations. There was crystallization, which is the result of cohesion from chemical solution. Some of the rocks were entirely subject to the chemical process; others to the mechanical; and others still to the two powers combined.

Granite is made up of three substances, viz. quartz, consisting of siliceous, one of the most imperishable things in our world; felspar, not quite so hard as quartz, and composed of two thirds siliceous, and the remainder alumine and alkali.—Felspar is found in great abundance in Chester, Pennsylvania, and is manufactured into porcelain. The third substance entering into the formation of Granite, is mica, or ising-glass, unlike all other minerals, in being perfectly elastic. Of the three substances constituting granite, quartz is gray, felspar white, and mica black.

The ancients were well acquainted with granite. Pompey's Pillar and Cleopatra's Needle were made of red granite. To determine whether a bed of granite will be durable for use, it is only necessary to see whether it has endured the effort of time. If it has not been decomposed where it has been exposed to the action of the weather, then it may be concluded it will prove good for building. The Quincy quarry is Sienite granite. When mica is wanting in granite it is called Sienite.

The position of granite is below all other rocks, though it occasionally rises above them all. Mount Blanc, Mount Washington, and the Rocky Mountains, are granite. This rock is entirely crystallized. It is sometimes the surface rock, as any rock may be.

No animal or vegetable remains are found in granite, trap, serpentine, porphyry, or soap-stone rocks. Hence they are called primitive, as they are believed to have been formed before there were any animals or vegetables. To the granite family belong gneiss and mica slate. Gneiss is an admirable rock for architecture, various in its appearance, lying next to granite, and the first that is stratified. Mica slate is of the form of the leaves of a book, is easily split, and is destitute of felspar. In this rock are found gems known by the names of beryl and garnet. Granite, gneiss, and mica-slate are the foundation of the world. Most of the rocks in New England belong to the granite family.

Upon these are piled the common slate, of which the best for use should be distinguished by thinness, firmness, smoothness, and the absence of foreign minerals. The best common slate is from Wales. There is also the chloride slate, the hornblend slate, the hone slate, and the talcose slate, which is soft and easily broken; and there is also the magnesia slate which some famishing inhabitants of savage countries are said to eat. Iron is found in the slate at Williamsburgh in this State.

On closing his description of the slate, Mr. Silliman said, he had gone through with the history of the primitive rocks, so called, because they are presumed to have been formed anterior to the other rocks. As to the theory of their formation, he said that fire had had the principal agency, that geologists considered them as the undoubted product of fire; though the slaty and crystallized rocks should be regarded as the joint production of fire and water.

A part of the primary series is the statuary marble, or primary limestone, which is most beautifully deposited in New England, especially in Lanesborough and Sheffield, though it is very rare in Old England. Beds of it are elegantly situated between the strata of gneiss and mica slate. Being in company with the primary rocks it is called primary, though composed of different materials from granite, having calcareous lime, and carbonic acid.

Serpentine rock is so called from having the appearance of the back of a serpent. This rock is applied to cutlery by Mr. Ames of Springfield, in a most beautiful and durable way. It is very different from limestone, though frequently associated with it; it consists of siliceous and magnesia. In union with this asbestos, a fibrous, incombustible substance, is often found. Asbestos was used by the ancients for the preservation of the ashes of the burned bodies of their departed relatives; and it is likewise used by moderns. It would make excellent dresses for firemen. Verd Antique marble is made up of limestone and serpentine. There is a quarry of this near New Haven. Soap-stone forms beds in mica-slate; it is magnesia, consisting chiefly of talc, and is most valuable for enduring fire. There is a large bed of it in Groton.

In his fifth Lecture on Monday evening of this week, Mr. Silliman mentioned that quartz was often crystallized, and was of all sizes; and

had doubtless once been soluble; and indeed had been found actually melted. He said there was abundance of prophyratic granite and trap on Cape Ann, as he had ascertained by a ride thither the Saturday before. He advised there should be added to the splendid East India Museum at Salem, geological specimens. Porcelain clay was described as made of decomposed felspar.

The Beverly rock the lecturer represented as remarkably interesting. It is near the bridge; it has a basis of sienite, and dikes of trap five feet wide, with veins of felspar and quartz crossing each other; not blended but distinct. It is manifestly the effect of fire.

The professor considered geology the grandest science next after astronomy; the former having one advantage over the latter, in presenting objects that can be handled, and seen with perfect distinctness.

He was aware, he said, that he made a great demand on the confidence of his audience; but he wished them to remember that he who made the world had no limits of time or space; and therefore there need be no trouble about time in the first formation of the globe. He was addressing those who believed in God. If this belief were set aside, he would relinquish all further examination into the structure of the world, and be forever silent on every subject of science. The man who disbelieved in God, he regarded not as a rational being, but as a mad man.

He said that quartz frequently formed a rock by itself; there was the granular quartz, which is in grains, and will not crack by heat. Granite is sometimes cracked, but never stratified.—There are masses of decomposed granite and sienite on Cape Ann.

Rocks lying upon granite are stratified. In these are found fossils, which are the remains of plants and animals. The inference is, that there were no animals nor plants in existence when the rocks, having no such remains, were formed, which rocks have already been described, and are all more or less crystallized. Fire as well as water effects crystallization; and the process has been seen to go on in volcanoes. It has been objected that lime could not have been ignited, because in that case it would have been turned into quick lime. Sir James Hall the father of the famous Captain Basil Hall, set aside this objection by actual experiment. He found that marble could be heated in a gun-barrel without losing its carbonic acid. A similar experiment, with a similar result, has been performed on trap rock.

Professor Silliman said he had now come to a period in our world where marks of violence were visible. By movement in the water, rough, angular masses of rock, are made smooth and round; and these smooth, round substances are found in the interior of continents. The shores of New Holland are strown with the topaz, a mineral next to the diamond in hardness. The original materials were broken off and deposited by gravity.—Thus Jasper is discovered cemented by a paste of quartz. Such deposits must have come in after the primary rocks. They are remarkable for their elevations; are found on the Catskill Mountains. After being formed, they must have been raised by internal fire. The pudding stone, or the conglomerate, is traced high up the Alps.

The first evidence that the formation of the globe was progressive, is the fact, that down in very deep rocks are fossils, the remains of strange animals, embedded in solid masses. The trilobite, an animal that once swam in the water, may be seen in abundance at Trenton Falls. Almost all animals found in rocks have become extinct. It was the will of our Creator that the earth should be gradually prepared for the animals that were to live upon it. There are traces of fossils even in the pudding stone.

The transition rocks are those which appear to be passing from one state into another. In these are vast numbers of animals now extinct.

The early corals are remarkable. There are the living corals in the seas of all warm climates. In the production of the coral, the animal collects the lime from the ocean. These productions are of every variety of form. The chain coral is found in the interior of our own country. It is found in fields, in mountains, and in rocks; some corals are siliceous, and some lime. These works of animals are sometimes built up into high mountains. In the southern seas, there are reefs of coral a thousand miles long. They are first erected as walls against the wind. The animal never works above the water; he brings up his establishment to the surface and there leaves it; but birds and plants may add to its elevation; still it must have been fire beneath that has raised them to the height which in many instances they have attained.

The Professor said there was good reason to believe the bottom of the ocean to be similar to the surface of the earth; and as corals form parts of our mountains, the inference is that this continent was once under the ocean.

In limestone are vast caverns. The Mammoth Cave, in Kentucky, has been explored to the extent of ten miles without coming to any limits.—Subterranean rivers are also known to exist; and the explosion of gunpowder in a cavern of Derbyshire, England, caused the rushing of a mass of waters through the interior region.

APSELY HOUSE.

The following curious particulars relating to Apsley house, the residence of the Duke of Wellington, at Hyde Park corner, are not, we believe, generally known; they may, however, be relied on as facts. As George II. was riding on horseback one day in Hyde Park, he met an old soldier whom he recognised as having fought under him at Dettingen; and with great condescension fell into discourse with him. In the course of conversation, the King asked what he could do for him? "Why, please your Majesty," returned the soldier, "my wife keeps an apple stall on the bit of wasteground as you enter the park, if your Majesty would be pleased to make us a grant of it, we might build a little shed and improve our trade." The King complied with the request, and the grant was accordingly given him: The shed was erected, the situation was excellent, and the business of the old woman became brisk and prosperous. After some years the old soldier died, and the grant of the late King was forgotten. The then Lord Chancellor, attracted by the eligibility of the situation, removed the old woman's shed, and laid out the ground as the site of the mansion