

THE EARLY DAWN.

"TO THEM WHICH SAT IN THE REGION AND SHADOW OF DEATH LIGHT IS SPRUNG UP."

VOL. IV.]

GOOD HOPE, SHERBRO, WEST AFRICA, APRIL, 1864.

[No. 38.]

WRECKS BY SEA AND LAND.

It was a seaport town. Night had settled down over it, but not in quiet. The wind blew a fierce gale, and the waves, as they were dashed to foam along the rocky shore, added their hoarse voices to the uproar. Through the darkened streets a figure hurried rapidly by. He stayed for an instant, now at this door, now at that, uttering at each only a few words—"A ship on the rocks!" At the news men and women rushed to the shore. Eyes were strained eagerly into the darkness, but in vain—they heard the angry roar of the water, but all was swallowed up in the gloom. "There she is," at last rose from every tongue, as a rocket whizzed for an instant into the blackness. A group of people were gathered round the life-boat; the captain told off his crew—there were hurried farewells taken, and kisses snatched, and blessings spoken. Sturdy arms hurled the boat to the waters, and she was off on her errand of mercy.

Oh! weary hours of watching to those on shore! Weary hours of life or death struggle to those who manned the life-boat! Weary hours of sickening hope, of agony and pain, to those on board the doomed ship on the rocks! God speed the life-boat! She has reached the wreck; she returns with her precious cargo; she gains the shore in safety. They are all saved! All praise to the brave men who so willingly and fearlessly risk their own lives to save those of their fellowmen. But around our British shores 'tis sad to think how many are, year by year swallowed up by the angry sea. How many think you, dear readers, were so last year? No fewer than five hundred and thirty-six human beings! What a sad sacrifice of life you say. Sad indeed! but then you may be pleased to know that our brave lifeboat-men and others were the means, under God, of saving no fewer than two thousand one hundred and fifty-two. And then what a large amount of property is lost by ship-wrecks every year. The annual average loss for the last eleven years, was one million five hundred thousand pounds, on the British coasts alone! Is not that

sad too? But then, you know, that is what we must expect. All our skill cannot calm the storm, nor say to the waves, "Be still." For "the Lord did blow with His strong wind," and the mighty sea billows swallowed or dashed in pieces on the rocks the ill-fated vessels.

You will notice that we have said that *most* of these losses could not be prevented. *Some* might have been.

Not in stormy weather only have gallant ships gone down, but when the seas were sleeping and the winds at rest. When all was thoughtless merriment and drunken folly; when the man at the wheel, half stupid with spirits, dosed at his post, and when the eyes of the lookout were blinded with the same delusive poison, suddenly a shock would be felt which made the stout vessel shiver through all her frame, a wild cry of despair would pierce the skies, and ere there was time to launch a boat, or to make one effort to save themselves, ship and men were sinking down into one common grave. This surely was a preventable loss. Had there been no spirits on board the ship, or had there been no spirits in the brains of those who guided the ship, would such a calamity as this have happened? We think not. The chart told them of the danger, but the chart lay unheeded; a single turn of the wheel and the danger had been escaped, but the hand that should have guided the wheel was nerveless through drink, and thus the vessel hurried on to destruction.

It is ever the same on sea, or on land; drink is the slayer of men and the destroyer of property. What is the one million five hundred thousand pounds lost by ship-wreck at sea, to the many, many millions worse than lost by strong drink on land? or what, the five hundred and thirty-six deaths by drowning, to the many thousand deaths by drinking? Think on that, dear young readers. And *all* this preventable. God does not compel these miserable beings to be drunkards.

But this God does, He says, "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven." Souls may and do pass from the raging sea to that blessed place where there is no sea, but the sea of glass that is before God's

throne; but for the soul of the poor drunkard there is the lake whose waves of fire are ever raging and are never quenched.

We said "All honor to those brave lifeboat-men, who, so willingly and fearlessly, risk their own lives to save those of their fellowmen." We too have a lifeboat to save men from the waves of drunkenness. Do you belong to our crew? If not, why not? Our crew run no risk. They are safe while in the lifeboat of abstinence; and oh! what pleasure to try and drag others from death. You can all help, aye, the youngest. It is not strong arms we want, so much as loving hearts.—*Adviser.*

POETRY.

ONE BY ONE.

ONE by one the sands are flowing,
One by one the moments fall:
Some are coming, some are going;
Do not strive to keep them all.

One by one thy duties wait thee;
Let thy whole strength go to each,
Let no future dreams elate thee;
Learn thou first what these can teach.

One by one—bright gifts from heaven,
Joys are sent thee here below;
Take them readily when given,
Ready too to let them go.

One by one thy griefs shall meet thee;
Do not fear an armed band;
One will fade as others greet thee—
Shadows passing through the land.

Do not look at life's long sorrow;
See how small each moment's pain;
God will help thee for to-morrow;
Every day begin again.

Every hour that flits so slowly
Has its task to do or bear;
Luminous the crown, and holy,
If thou set each gem with care.

Do not linger with regretting,
Or for passing hours despond;
Nor the daily toil forgetting,
Look too eagerly beyond.

Hours are golden links, God's token,
Reaching heaven, but one by one.
Take them, lest the chain be broken
Ere thy pilgrimage be done.—
Selected.

For the Early Dawn.
MISSION-WORK FOR ALL.

By S. J. WHITON.

God calls on every christian to labor in His vineyard. The work can not be all done by those who are known as missionaries, teachers and ministers. Every one who loves the Lord, who feels in his soul that "peace that passeth understanding," ought to regard himself as really a missionary of the Cross.

No heathen land was ever christianized solely through the labors of foreign missionaries. The native convert has always had a great part to do in the work. And especially on an unhealthy coast like West Africa, where missionaries can usually remain but a few years at a time, the work must be carried forward through the instrumentality of native laborers. Many of these, as teachers and evangelists, are already toiling in the great cause, and many more, we hope are preparing to engage in it.

There is another and large class of native christians, who are neither teachers nor ministers, but God has a missionary work for *them* to do. He says to them: "You have heard about Jesus and the way to be saved; tell the poor heathen whom you meet from time to time about the Saviour." *Sons and daughters of Africa*, you who have felt in your own hearts the love of God, will you listen to this voice? Look not to the missionary to do all the work that is to be done for Christ in this great land. You may be mechanics, merchants, farmers, boatmen, day-laborers, but whatever your calling, if you love the Lord, He calls on you to do missionary work. You may do it by the purity and beauty of your daily example; by a word fitly spoken to those whom you meet as you come and go. Remember that every poor heathen man whom you see has a soul that must live forever in heaven or hell. Now and then as you pass through the towns and villages, you can gather a little group of country-people, and talk to them of God. Some may turn away, but others will listen and be benefited. In short, if your heart is full of love to God and the souls of men, you will find very many chances of doing missionary work. And this work, if done for Christ's sake, will *not* be in vain.

If every native convert was faithful in this respect, the christianization of Africa would go forward for more rapidly. Think of the multitudes of precious souls around you, and of God's great love and mercy. Will you not do *all* you can to lead them to trust in the Saviour?

PROGRESS OF MISSIONS IN
WEST AFRICA.

It is cheering to glance back over the past, and note the progress that has been made in the work of missions in West Africa. Notwithstanding the many obstacles that lie in the way, one of the greatest of which is the deadly climate, very much has been accomplished through the blessing of God.

We believe that greater things have been wrought by the Gospel of Christ on this coast than most persons are aware of. For many years the good work has gone forward slowly but *surely*. From day to day we can hardly see any progress, but if we look back a few years our hearts grow glad as we see the plain tokens of the onward march of christianity and civilization. Missionary stations and schools are scattered along this coast for some *two thousand miles*, sending forth their blessed influences upon the hearts of multitudes. Let us glance briefly at some of these gospel watch-fires, kindled in this dark land.

The northernmost mission station is at the Gambia, where both the English Church and the Wesleyans have labored extensively and with *much success*. ~~Stations have been established~~ Stations have been established in the interior, 160 miles up the Gambia river. Some 400 miles below Gambia, at the Rio Pongas, a mission was started in 1856. It has been quite prosperous.

Passing southward, we next come to Sierra Leone "the great missionary stroughold" of this part of Africa, as it is sometimes called. Very marked results have followed the efforts of missionaries here. Some idea of these may be gathered from the fact that, according to a recent census, there are now 91 churches and chapels in the colony, attended by 20,832 persons. There are also 69 schools, attended by 11,299 children. The Church Missionary Society, the Wesleyans, the Lady Huntington connection, and others partake in this great work. High schools and a collegiate institution have been established, and there are large numbers of well-educated native pastors and teachers. From Sierra Leone, too, have gone forth many native missionaries to other parts of Africa. They have carried the Gospel to Lagos, to Abeokuta, and even to Rabba, 400 miles up the Niger.

We next come to the Mendi Mission, which was established almost *twenty years ago* by the American Missionary Association. Its influence has been widely felt in the

Sherbro country, and converts have been gathered into the fold of Christ. Many children have been educated, and heathen customs in the vicinity are gradually dying away.

A few miles below the Sherbro country lies the young Republic of Liberia, which may well be called one vast missionary station. Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians from America have here labored together in the good work, and churches and schools are everywhere established both among the colonists and natives. The number within the influence of the Gospel is yearly increasing.

At Lagos and vicinity, missionary efforts have been put forth for many years with a good degree of success.

Directly under the Equator lies the Gaboon mission, planted by the American Board. It has several stations, and many native converts. Its influence among the tribes of that region has been extensive.

Besides this link of coast missions, there are many stations hundreds of miles interior. Truly, when we look at it honestly we see that a great, a stupendous work has already been accomplished;—and still the cause goes forward. The gospel watch-fires kindled along these shores are ~~beginning to light up~~ beginning to light up the mountains and valleys far inland. The veil of darkness is surely lifting. It is no time for the friends of West Africa to despond. Let their prayers ascend yet more importunately, their efforts be put forth more earnestly,—and, with God's blessing, another half century will show most wondrous changes.

—S. J. WHITON.

THE AMERICAN WAR AND
THE BLACKS.

By what little we learn from the other side of the ocean, it is perceived quite clearly that the signs of the times are replete with favourable indications respecting the oppressed race in the dominions of "Brother Jonathan." But few who know anything of the changes in public sentiment and action in America, that are not compelled to acknowledge the manifestation of God's controlling power in the affairs of that country since the inauguration of the great rebellion, the purpose of which was to perpetuate the ("Sum of all villainy") crime of slavery on one hand, and the Federal administration sought to put down the Rebellion without interfering with the great national Sin on the other hand. Every word expressed in favour of calling out black troops was regarded

with indignation. Every offer made by colored men to help put down the rebellion was treated with the utmost contempt, all kind of argument was used by the north to show that black men could not and would not make efficient soldiers. That white soldiers would not struggle for liberty on the same battle ground with negro soldiers, that they were never intended to share the glories of victorious armies. But the infinitely wise Controller of the affairs of the world would "make the wrath of man to praise him, and restrain the remainder of wrath."

It seemed that the great body of American white people meant "evil against" the blacks in nearly all their movements. "But God meant them unto good."

He meant that the blacks should not only be the cooks, waiters, body servants, hewers of wood and drawers of water for the army, but that they should act their part in the redemption of their race by the shedding of their own blood in the field of the great conflict. It was the prayer of the proscribed and the oppressed that the great Struggle should not terminate until such should come to pass, and come to pass it has.

The magnitude of the rebellion which continued to increase to such dreadful proportions forced the great change of sentiment and action upon the American Unionists.

While contending with an army of equal prowess in the field, it became necessary to look with jealousy upon the sympathy of foreign powers, which could be held securely only by means of an emancipation policy, which was instituted 1st of January 1863. And still no call was made by the government for black soldiers, and the rebellion continued to grow more aggravating, and the influential merchants and monied classes who to a very great extent control the political affairs of the country, felt its blasting influence to be growing stronger every day. They saw no alternative but to change sentiment and consent to the employment of every means by which the proud waves of rebellion could be stayed.

Providence indicated to the masters of the country very clearly that the rebellion was not to be crushed without the aid of black soldiers, hence they were called for, and no sooner were they called than they rushed to arms like the Carthaginians of old, who followed to the bloody battle field the renowned Hanibal whose father made him swear at the altar of the gods, eternal vengeance against the Romans, but we hope that our dusky army in Ameri-

ca will not meet with the same reverse as that of Hanibal while pushing his prowess to the very gates of Rome.

Another thing worthy of mention, which has aided to a great degree in revolutionizing the sentiment in America is the destruction of her commerce upon the high seas by privateers, in consequence of which "insurances upon American shipping and cargoes have been increased to an enormous rate, and for the same reason many American vessels have been sold to foreign owners, also a great amount of American commerce has been transferred to foreign bottoms." It is stated on good authority that the destruction or loss of vessels and commerce since the beginning of the rebellion up to June, 1863, has amounted to about two and a half million of pounds sterling.

In the face of such whole sale destruction on the sea, while a dreadful strife raged in the field, it was hard for the America people to hold out against the arming of the blacks, which could not be done without astounding and glorious results being achieved in favour of the blacks. According to the President's last message. "Of those who were slaves at the beginning of the rebellion, full 100,000 are now in the United States military service, about one half of which number actually bear arms." Saying nothing about free blackmen who have also been called to arms. It was expected that by 1st of January last not less than one hundred thousand black soldiers would be in the field, many of whom are line officers, and it was the intention of the government if not already carried out, to create from among them field officers also. Black clergymen are their chaplains and black surgeons have been found qualified and received appointments by the government. I am acquainted with one who receives a salary of about twenty-two hundred dollars per year. On the 19th, of May, 1861, the 6th Regiment of Massachusetts volunteers was brutally mobbed at Baltimore, Maryland. Since that time black troops have marched through the principal streets of that city unmolested.

Not long since, the famous Frederick Douglass has spoken to crowded audiences at the Capitol of the nation, where but a few years ago, ten thousand dollars would have been given for his head, and said Douglass (a negro) is a recruiting officer under the government, and an efficient one he is.

It has also been demonstrated in every conflict that the black soldiers have proved themselves well worthy

of their position, "But the end is not yet."

E. J. ADAMS.

MENDI MISSION, MARCH 16th 1864.

THE EARLY DAWN.

GOOD HOPE, APRIL, 1864.

AFRICAN EXPLORATIONS.

YEAR by year the interest of the civilized world in Africa increases, and greater efforts are put forth to explore its unknown regions. Much has already been accomplished by venturesome travelers, who, daunted not by the almost numberless dangers and difficulties, have penetrated far towards the mysterious centre of this vast continent. Livingstone, Gerard, Barth, and others, have labored and suffered much in the work.

Northern Africa has been quite thoroughly explored, and its mountains, rivers, and lakes correctly laid down on the new maps. M. Jules Gerard, the French traveler, has passed over nearly the whole region from the Great Desert of Sahara to the Mediterranean Sea; and his three volumes, which have been translated into English, give a particular account of his journeys and discoveries.

South Africa, too, is much better known than it was a few years ago. Livingstone's travels in that region have giving us interesting glimpses of the country and people.

In Eastern Africa travelers have journeyed many hundred miles from the coast, passing through countries rich and beautiful as Eden, and teeming with inhabitants. Capt. Speke, the discoverer of the sources of the Nile, urges the sending of missionaries at once to that great field. He says that the people are ready to receive the Gospel. Some of the kings wished him to take their sons to England to educate, and he could only get off by promising to send them teachers.

The coast of West Africa has been explored throughout its whole length. Here and there a traveler has penetrated interior, but there are still vast regions a little way back where the foot of civilized man never trod. We rejoice that Mons. Gerard, who is now in the Sherbro, is about to explore the countries to the eastward of us. He has spent the past year in traveling in Dahomey, and purposes to devote two or three years more to visiting the great unknown countries between Dahomey and Timbuctoo. This will embrace the sources of the Niger, and that country about which such fabulous gold stories have been told. He takes with him instruments for accurate scientific surveys.

We rejoice in all efforts to explore Africa,—for the way will thus be opened for the gospel of Christ to make rapid inroads. Thus far, missionaries have borne a good part in the perils and suffering incident to such explorations, and we believe they will ever be ready so to do.

S. J. W.

AMERICAN NEWS.

THE WAR.

OUR latest dates are to Feb. 5th. There had been a few small skirmishes, but no large battles, during the month of January. The Federal forces in East Tennessee retreated to Knoxville, Jan. 21st, but subsequently they gained a decided victory over the enemy. In Virginia there has been some skirmishing, generally favorable to the Union army.

The bombardment of Charleston continues, and many houses in the city have been destroyed.

Pres. Lincoln has called for 200,000 more troops, and large numbers are joining the army every day. There are 50,000 colored soldiers already in the Union army, and their numbers are rapidly increasing.

The state of Arkansas has adopted an anti-slavery Constitution, and the anti-slavery feeling is gaining ground everywhere. Notice has been given in Congress of the introduction of measures, which, if adopted, would result in the entire abolition of slavery,—in the loyal as well as disloyal states.

The good work of freedom goes nobly forward. We believe the time will soon come when not a slave will breathe on American soil.

RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

NOTWITHSTANDING the attention of the American people is so absorbed by the war, there have been revivals of religion in various places. The churches in the North, are generally quite flourishing.

The receipts of the various benevolent Societies are very large. Foreign missionaries are constantly being sent forth to the heathen world, and a great work is in progress among the freed slaves at home. This steady advance of a missionary spirit throughout the North, in the midst of such fearful commotions, is one of the brightest signs of the times.

In the South, things are very different. Many churches are closed, missionary efforts abandoned, and Zion mourns. In fact, the South is itself a great field for missionary labor, and many christian men and women from the North are engaged in the work.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE Mendi Mission was established in 1842, and since that time fifty American missionaries, at various periods, have labored in connection with it. Of these, twelve sleep their last sleep on the African coast, and others have died after returning to America. Only five are now in this field. Several, once in this mission, are now laboring in Liberia. Sometimes we are tempted to ask, "Where are the results of all this toil, suffering and death? "God only knoweth them in full. *The work is not in vain.*

REV. G. N. JOWETT is at present in charge of Avery Station. Many features of the work there are encouraging. A school house is in process of erection.

THE work in connection with Good Hope Station is interesting. Beside the Chapel services, there is preaching every Sabbath in the Barre at Bonthe, and at York Island and Keilah on alternate Sundays. There are four day schools, and two Sabbath-Schools, maintained at present. Occasional visits are made to the towns and villages in the vicinity.

DR. and Mrs. HANMAN, of this station, have been absent at Shengay for their health during most of the past month.

LOCAL ITEMS.

THE country is now in a quiet state, though it is impossible to say how long it will remain so. It is reported that the long-continued war between the Boom and Gallinas people is ended. There has been no fighting for some months.

WE are glad to see such indications of prosperity at Bendo. The town is rapidly increasing in size, and several fine new roads are being laid out by the Surveyor. A day-school is established there, and Mr. Mason conducts services in the Chapel every Sabbath.

WE learn that Mr. E. Geslinger has just returned from a visit to the chiefs in the vicinity of Boom Falls. He went to make arrangements for the safe transit of M. Gerard, the French traveler, through their country, and was successful in all his efforts. M. Gerard is still detained in the Sherbro by sickness. He proposes to spend the coming rainy season in the mountains, and there write his book of travels in Dahom-

ey, after which he will push forward in his explorations.

THE store of Mr. A. Smith, at Keilah, was broken open and robbed a few weeks since. The thief has been apprehended, and the goods recovered.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

THERE is war between Denmark and the German states. The armies of Austria and Prussia have invaded Denmark and several battles have been fought. At first with success to the Danes, but afterwards they were defeated.

It is feared that there will be a general European war. There are already signs that Italy will attack Austria, and it would seem that Great Britain is bound in honor to aid Denmark.

THREE WHATS.

WHAT from? Believers are redeemed from hell and destruction. What by? By the precious blood of Christ. What to? To an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Never forget the three whats.

GOOD REASONING.

"If you are not afraid of God, I am afraid of you," said a merchant, as he passed a counting-room on the Sabbath and saw it open. The next day he refused to sell his produce to the Sabbath breaker on any credit whatever. He acted wisely. In three months the Sabbath-breaker was a bankrupt.

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DIED.

MARCH 11th JOSEPH, formerly a boatman for the Mendi Mission.

AT Bonthe, March 12th, Jno. E. GOMEZ.

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