

inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left."

Here is set forth, in the utmost plainness, why this great destruction, this utter cleaning out of wickedness should be, because mankind had "transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant; therefore hath the curse devoured the earth and they that dwell therein are desolate; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned and few men left." The storm of desolation and destruction has barely commenced; and all who would avoid it must come back to the original platform, beginning with faith, repentance and baptism for the remission of sins, and live according to the principles of that gospel that was revealed from heaven, with apostles and prophets, with powers and blessings, accompanied by the gifts of wisdom, of knowledge and understanding, to bless, and save and exalt mankind, and which will spread among the honest in heart of every nation, kindred, tongue and people, until the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ. May God bless us, and enable us to live worthy the high honor of being associated with such a work and participants in its blessings, in the name of Jesus: Amen.

SCIENCE AND SCRIPTURE.

A number of the leading scientific men of England, in view of the present biblical agitations there, have signed the following

DECLARATION:

"We, the undersigned, students of the natural sciences, desire to express our sincere regret that researches into scientific truth are perverted by some in our own times into occasion for casting doubt upon the truth and authenticity of the Holy Scriptures. We conceive that it is impossible for the Word of God as written in the book of nature, and God's Word written in Holy Scripture, to contradict one another, however much they may appear to differ. We are not forgetful that physical science is not complete, but is only in a condition of progress, and that at present our finite reason enables us only to see as through a glass darkly, and we confidently believe that a time will come when the two records will be seen to agree in every particular. We cannot but deplore that natural science should be looked upon with suspicion by many who do not make a study of it, merely on account of the unadvised manner in which some are placing it in opposition to Holy Writ. We believe that it is the duty of every scientific student to investigate nature simply for the purpose of elucidating truth, and that if he finds that some of his results appear to be in contradiction to the Written Word, or rather to his own interpretations of it, which may be erroneous, he should not presumptuously affirm that his own conclusions must be right, and the statements of Scriptures wrong; rather leave the two side by side till it shall please God to allow us to see the manner in which they may be reconciled; and instead of insisting upon the seeming differences between science and the Scriptures, it would be as well to rest in faith upon the points in which they agree.

Upwards of two hundred and ten names have already been received, including thirty F. R. S.'s, forty M. D.'s, etc. Among them are the following:—Thomas Anderson, M. D., J. H. Balfour, M. D., Thomas Bell, J. S. Bowerbank, LL. D., Sir David Brewster, James Glaisher, Thomas Remer Jones, James P. Joule, LL. D., Robert Main, Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry C. Rawlinson, Thomas Richardson, Ph. D., Henry Rogers, LL. D., Adam Sedgwick, M. D., Alfred Smee, and John Stenhouse, LL. D."

Two eminent men, an astronomer and an author, however, declined to sign the declaration, and write as follows:

LETTER FROM SIR JOHN HERSHEY.

COLLINGWOOD, Sept. 6.

SIR: I received some time ago a declaration for signature, identical with its wording, or at all events in its obvious purport, with that you have sent me. I considered that the better course was to put it aside without notice. But since it is pressed upon me, and to prevent the repetition of a similar appeal, it becomes necessary for me distinctly to decline signing it; and to declare that I consider the act of calling on me publicly to avow or disavow, or approve or disapprove, in writing any religious doctrine or statement, however carefully or cautiously drawn up [in other words, to append my name to a religious manifesto] to be an infringement of

that social forbearance which guards the freedom of religious opinion in this country with especial sanctity. At the same time, I protest against my refusal to sign your "Declaration" being construed into a profession of atheism or infidelity. My sentiments on the mutual relations of the Scripture and science have long been before the world, and I see no reasons to alter or to add to them. But I consider this movement simply mischievous, having direct tendency (by putting forward a new shibboleth, a new verbal test of religious partisanship) to add a fresh element of discord to the already too discordant relations of the Christian world. I do not deny that care and caution are apparent on the face of the document I am called on to subscribe. But no nicety of wording, no artifice of human language, will suffice to discriminate the hundredth part of the shades of meaning in which the world-wide utterances of thought on such subjects may be involved, or prevent the most gently worded and apparently justifiable expression of regret, so embodied, from grating on the feelings of thousands of estimable and well-intentioned men, with all the harshness of controversial hostility.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. F. W. HERSHEY.

Capei H. Berger, Esq.

LETTER FROM SIR JOHN BOWRING.

CLAREMONT, Exeter, Aug. 27.

DEAR SIR: In the general spirit of the document to which my adhesion is asked, I cordially concur. That all truths must ultimately harmonize—that one truth cannot be inconsistent with another truth, are propositions—axioms, rather—which cannot be contested; to proclaim an approval of them is as much a work of supererogation as it would be to publish an avowal of agreement with the demonstration of a mathematical problem. But it appears to me the period has arrived when we should endeavor to emancipate ourselves from the tyranny of all dogmatizing creeds—all enforced confessions, all foregone conclusions, all compromising declarations; persevere, ingly carrying out to their necessary consequences our own investigations and convictions, and encouraging others to exercise the same right and discharge the same duty. I do not know how the course of truth and the interests of religion can be better served than by allowing the utmost latitude to inquiry. It is not possible, desirable—to prevent comparison between the historical revelations of the past and the scientific discoveries of the present time.

The Bible must be brought into the broad day-light—out of the darkness to which ancient authority condemned it; it must be tested by inquiring knowledge, and taken from the custody of contending ignorance; it must be cleared from its cobwebs, and purged from its corruptions. Nothing less ought reasonably to satisfy those who believe, nothing more can fairly be demanded of those who doubt; but this much may be asked in the interests of all; There is no "presumption" in giving to the world conclusions soberly, seriously, and reverently formed, be those conclusions what they may. The best resting place for faith, or hope, or comfort, will, after all, be found in allowing to the intellectual faculties with which God has blessed us, their widest influence and action over the whole field of thought. By "proving all things," we shall be able to "hold fast that which is good," and we may be fully assured that the great verities which have stood the storms and shocks of agitated centuries will remain unmoved through coming ages.

I am, dear sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

JOHN BOWRING,

Professor Stenhouse, F. R. S., &c., London.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN-RUSSIAN OVERLAND TELEGRAPH.

Col. Charles S. Bulkley, Engineer in Chief of the Collins Overland Telegraph and Western Union Extension, arrived in this city on the Moses Taylor, in company with a surgeon and several operators or heads of the various departments of the organization for exploring the route of and erecting the telegraph which is to connect the United States and Russia.

The Company have made the most extensive preparations for the accomplishment of the great work before them. Three vessels, the barks Milton Badger, Carrie Bell and Matthew Luce, are on the way from New York to Victoria, laden with the materials to be used in the work. They will be employed to land the personnel and material of the

enterprise at intermediate ports on the coasts wherever practicable; On one of the vessels the Company have a light draught steamer, about 40 feet in length, to be employed in the rivers and shallow water.

It is the intention of the Company to commence operations at Westminster, British Columbia, whence they will proceed to Fort Babine through a country already explored. From Babine lake, in the centre of British Columbia, to the Yukon river, in the British Possessions, the country has never been explored; and through this wild region it is the intention of the Company to make their way a distance of about 3,000 miles. The fleet on the ocean will co-operate with them as far as practicable by means of the numerous rivers on the coast, many of which, however, must be explored.

It is the expectation of the Company to find the same character of country between the Coast Range and the Rocky Mountains in this new region, as is found between the Coast Range and the Sierra Nevada in the more southern latitudes, and to come out on the other side on the Yukon river, at its head, where they will find the first settlement after their departure from Babine Lake. This river is a very large one, having several outlets into Norton Sound, south of Behring's Straits, where it is known as, and called Kinchpak. The river is navigable for about 300 miles, so far as known, and has for some years been known by the Russians, in their trading operations. From the Yukon river the Company will proceed to Cape Prince of Wales, which is the point of land nearest the opposite coast of Asia. From this point a submarine cable will be laid across Behring's Straits which are here only 36 miles wide. Arrived on the Asiatic side of the Straits, they will go around Anadyr Bay through Techukchi (an unsettled country, though not altogether unexplored) until they strike Penjinsk Gulf, or the Okhotsk Sea, from whence they will follow the coast around to the Amoor river. This country is settled by the Russian Cossacks, and roads are built the entire distance.

The Company anticipate that by the time they arrive at the Amoor river, the telegraph which now extends from St. Petersburg to Irkutsk will have been completed to the Amoor river, the point of connection for the international lines. From the mouth of the Amoor river, across to the Japanese islands, the distance is short, and the work of uniting these islands by submarine telegraph with the main land is comparatively a small undertaking. From the mouth of the Amoor river across to Saghalien, the distance is about 20 miles. Saghalien, lying off the Amoor coast, is separated by only 30 miles from Yesso, in the southern portion of which island, and within the Straits of Sangar, is situated Hakodadi, the great commercial port of Japan. From Yesso to Nippon, across the Straits of Sangar, the distance is about the same as that last mentioned. On the western portion of Nippon is located another great commercial port—that of Nagasaki.

Col. Bulkley intends going to British Columbia in a short time, for the purpose of starting exploring parties, and making other preliminary arrangements which may be necessary ere the main expedition sets out, which will be some time in March. The expedition, with all its aids, employees and adjuncts, will consist of a small army and navy combined. Besides the vessels above mentioned, the Company will have the use of a Government steamer and, perhaps, another of their own. The brig Fauntleroy, which was at first intended for their use, has been found entirely unsuitable for the purpose, a steamer being absolutely indispensable, and it is possible that it may be necessary to send out one from the Eastern States, on account of the small size of most of the Government steamers on this coast. About 1,500 men will be employed on land in the proposed work, besides the co-operative force at sea, or on the coast. The line of the Western Union Company is to be extended from the Western States to New Westminster by the first or middle of March, from which point it will be taken up by Col. Bulkley's party and stretched to the Amoor River country, there to connect with the St. Petersburg line, and complete the girdling of two hemispheres.—[S. F. Bulletin, Jan. 21.]

THE LIFE OF THE NEWSPAPER REPORTER.—The life of the reporter for the daily newspaper is as varied and chequered as are the contents of the sheet to whose columns his brains (if he have any) and muscles pay tribute each day. His mind is ever haunted with visions of yawning columns which must be filled, and filled, too, with information

that he must gather, by fair means or foul, from all sorts of places, and weave into readable shape by the subtle (often stupid) magic of his pen. He must be on good terms with everybody, that he may avail himself of the news that everybody happens to get. He must often fraternize with prize-fighters, and roughs, and bullies, so as to keep posted in all the doings of the "fancy." Does a man meet death by some horrible means, the reporter must hunt out, and learn what killed him, how it was done, who did it, what the time was, and all the particulars. If any terrible murder be committed, the reporter must be, if possible, first on the spot where the victim fell. He must estimate the quantity of blood around the murdered individual, find out who he was, and what he was, and the full particulars of his past history. The reporter must attend balls, parties and funerals, and public meetings, and festivals, and parades, and processions, and fairs—not as a participant, but as a busy, impudent, questioning, cheeky chronicler of all that he sees, hears, or imagines. He must hunt among the courts, and be bored to death by stupid lawyers, for no important trial can take place without the reporter being punctually on hand, with his note-book and pencil ready for work. He must visit prisons, be tortured with the dreadful odors of these unpleasant institutions, listen to the howls of the drunken men and women in the cells, and bear it like a martyr for the sake of "items." He must be bored, and badgered, and bothered by ambitious men seeking "puffs" at his hands. He must answer that meaningless question, "What's the news?" untold times every day, and return it the same answer—"Nothing!"—every time. If any unfortunate man is to be hung, the reporter must surely be in at the death; and on those occasions he can always be found coolly watching the expression of the condemned individual's countenance, taking down his last remarks, and noting down with much interest how long the man is in dying. No fire must take place and find the reporter absent. As soon as the firemen have done their work, the reporter must make his way through the steam, and smoke, and dripping water, and hunt up the individual who has been burnt out. Though that individual be wet, begrimed, troubled and vexed, the reporter must boldly confront him, and learn the extent of his loss; if he be insured, for how much, and with what company; and how the fire originated. He must expect to be accosted every day by some individual who thinks he has been outraged by some paragraph, and will probably be threatened with a cowhiding, or something more serious, unless he take it all back. He must travel by night and by day in search of items, and must run them down, and hunt them out even at the risk of life and limb. With the reporter, all things on the earth below, or in the heaven above, on the sea, or under the sea, resolve themselves into items; he hears nothing but items; sees nothing but items; dreams only of items; talks items, and lives in a world of items, where all men, and all women, and all their different actions are only—items. And this is the life of the reporter.—[Democratic Press.]

HIDING THE INFANT MOSES.—A correspondent of the New York Herald, who was with Sherman's army in Georgia, relates the following:

Riding up to a house one day in Scriven county, I met an old woman and three grown-up daughters at the door, uttering frantic appeals for help. I inquired what was wrong, when the old woman pointed to a burning gin, and exclaimed:

"Put it out! You uns are burnin' me child!"

I asked where the child was, and succeeded in learning that it was in the burning gin-house.

Away I went, with some men, to rescue the boy, who, badly singed, issued forth from the fiery furnace. Returning to the house, I inquired how the boy came there.

Putting the old pipe between her lips, to compose her nerves, the old lady at last ventured an explanation:

"Well," said she, "we uns heard that you uns killed all the little boys, to keep them from growing up to fight ye, and we hid 'im."

Strange as this may seem, among the poor ignorant dupes of Davis, it is a common belief that the Yankees slay all the male children. We found many infant Moseses and Jeffs hid away in cellars and corner cribs, but none in bulrushes.

—Recently a suit was terminated in Hungary which had engaged the courts in that country for 180 years.