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# LETTER FROM

OROOMIAH, GEOG TAPA, }  
NISAN [April] of the English, 9, 1861. }

DEAR PARENTS IN CHRIST, MR. AND MRS. PERKINS, DR. AND MRS. WRIGHT,  
AND MISS FISK:

I have a great matter of joy to write to you, but excuse me for writing one letter to you all five. I wished to write each one of you separately, but on account of the weakness of my eyes, and on account of the work of God in my village, and visiting the families from house to house, to converse and pray with them (and I also seek out all who do not come to church on the Sabbath, and take down their names); thus I am so busy, through God's grace, that it was impossible that I should be able to write to you individually. I am also copying a lexicon for Mr. Labaree, and, therefore, I hope you will be pleased to excuse me, all five of you.

On Sabbath day, the last Sabbath of the English March, in the afternoon, priest Yohannan (John) was preaching, in his turn, about the monthly collection, (which was becoming very small,) that it was a shame; and how much better it would be to take up more than they had been accustomed to do; that, if it were possible, there should be a double collection, that a preacher might be sent to the mountains to preach the blessed gospel to that part of our poor people. Suddenly, there were whisperings, a little on this side, and a little on that side. Priest Yohannan desired them to keep still, that there should not be whispering. But God was working in the hearts of the great and the small assembled in the church. Suddenly, one exclaimed, "I will give one tomon" [\$2.25]; another, "I will give a tomon and a half;" another, "I will give half a tomon;" another, "Twenty-five cents;" another, "Three tomons;" another, "Four tomons;" one, "A load of wheat," or, "Half a load of wheat," or, "One measure," or "Three measures." Others promised four half bushels of raisins, or eight, or one, or three. The women also. One of them gave a monet (a Russian dollar); another three quarters of a dollar; another, one quarter; another, two quarters, or one quarter. And others their embroidered headdresses. And others, their jewels, and their rings and trappings. And others, one tenth of the products of their vineyards, or of the products of their clover fields; and others, one fourth of their harvest, or one fifth, or one sixth; or, one half of the raisins they now had in their houses.

Another woman gave four pounds of butter, from a poor cow she had. And one poor man, who with difficulty finds millet for the necessity of his family, who was there on that Sabbath, said, "I have a new mat which I have worked myself; I will give it." On Monday he took it on his shoulder, and brought it, and committed it to me. Another, who had come to meeting on the same Sabbath, gave the fruit of fifteen ridges of his vineyard; and another, one tope [12½ English yards] of cotton cloth. And so they went on giving in these various ways, that in the coming autumn, when their fruits are turned out, they may fulfil their vows. And some of them (those who have the means on hand) now give what they pledged. A lay brother who is very poor, who even in these days was asking something from the brethren for the necessities of his family, or a certificate of his need, to have on hand, that he might go to brethren of other villages and beg something, was so much affected that he pledged two shillings with good-will and joy of heart.

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Many of the brethren spoke, stirring up and inciting those who were in the church. Mr. Elias a bishop 80 years old, spoke; also priest Yohannan, the elder, priest Yohannan, the younger, Yonan, and others. Between the speeches there were prayers. There were still men and women making pledges; and others that made pledges a second time.

I will here write for you some of the words that were spoken by a few of them; for I cannot write all; a great deal of time would be required. But I will write these, which will suffice as a specimen. One brother of the Sabbath school arose on his feet, and pledged a monet (Russian dollar) added to the two (he had given) on his own account, in behalf of his two little sons, whom he had asked of the Lord, which made three dollars. And, again, after his mother had pledged an embroidered garment for the face, he rose and said, "My mother, don't be afraid; pledge more, it is for the Lord. Remember Mary, who poured out the very precious ointment upon the head of our Saviour," &c.

Another brother rose and said, "Two men were discussing together about the expense of some undertaking, the building of a church in Jerusalem, or something, I do not quite remember about what. One of them said, 'I will give two hundred tomons.' The other said, 'I also, will give two hundred tomons.' Then the first one increased, and the other in like manner. The first one went up to five hundred tomons, and altogether it became a thousand tomons." So he talked to incite the Christians, saying that their givings are not for a worldly object, like that of those men, but it is for the Lord, and the setting up of his kingdom and his gospel in our village, and among our poor people, &c.

Another brother (one who had not been able to speak in church from his bashfulness) rose and said: "My brethren, I have a word. Our father Abraham and his wife Sarah were aged. In their old age God gave to them one only son; but again, God demanded of Abraham that he should slay him for a sacrifice; and he listened, and did as God willed. But the same Abraham was mindful of the covenant of God, that his seed should be as the stars in the heavens and as the sand on the seashore. So he believed, and so he received. We also, my brethren, though we are very poor, and are under the burden of the oppression and extortion of the Mohammedaus, yet let us give bravely of our poverty, and we shall receive of the Lord according to our faith, &c."

My brother George got up and said: "Ye women! When Moses was building the tabernacle, he asked of the Israelites the expenditures, and they brought them. The women also engaged zealously in the matter, and brought the brass on the backs of their mirrors, etc. If you will make your garments a little narrower, or diminish the tinsel bottoms, it will be very easy for you to give for the Lord," &c. After a little time he spoke again: "Wake up! Behold the musicians are giving for the Lord! On their wealth (their drums and their pipes) is written, 'Holiness to the Lord!' Here was brought to remembrance a sermon of Mr. Perkins, which he preached in our village to the Sabbath schools." (In that day holiness to the Lord shall be written on the bells of their horses," &c. (because those volunteers, the owners of the camels, who were going to carry raisins which I had bought to Erivan, were detained on the Sabbath day, and not allowed to start when they were all ready to put on their loads). Perhaps you will remember it, my dear Mr. Perkins.

To sum up, there were many addresses; they remained long in the church, perhaps more than three hours, when we went out, and saw all the faces of the men and women changed to joy and gladness, and their color and countenance like roses and open blossoms; the depth of their poverty and low estate seemed like a pleasant valley of flowers, and full of fatness and spiritual enjoyment, and in the midst thereof all precious hid treasures laid open, more precious than gold and silver and all the per-

ishable pearls of this empty world. And all their heavy burdens of debt were lighter than a quill or the feather of a flying bird; and all their circumstances of trial and annoyance were turned to rest and ease; and oppressions and extortions were cast aside, before the blessed feet of Jehovah, in the name of his Son Emanuel. Why not? Shall it not be said, "Come ye people! come ye nations! together let us praise the Lord; for the Lord God is to be exalted and honored and magnified from everlasting to everlasting."

In the evening, at meeting-time, the men and the women assembled. Some of them brought in their hands embroidered head-garments and ornaments. One of them brought a silvered border (the kind which is sewed on the garments of the females for the bosom), its price being a tomon, or perhaps more. Others, who were not at meeting in the church, came in the evening with pledges in their mouths, one saying, "I will give a tomon," etc.; and another, while in his house, had said, "I will give a load of wheat (five bushels) from my own threshing-floor, as soon as the harvest is out." And when I met him I wrote him down for the load of wheat. Said I, "It is obligatory" [on your neck.] "Yes," he cheerfully answered, "yes, of course." On that evening Yonan conducted the meeting. It was a very delightful time. Sleep departed from our eyes that night, from joy and thanksgiving to the Lord, for the great work he has done in the midst of us, when we were not looking for all these things that have come to pass.

On the first Monday of the month of Nisan (April), in the morning, we went to the city to meeting. Many of the teachers and brethren and friends were assembled as usual (at monthly concert), and many of them inquired about the work which God had done in Geog Tapa, and they marvelled and also rejoiced. The bell rung in the afternoon, and we went to the large chapel. Mr. Coan conducted the meeting, and afterward invited us to speak. Priest Yohannan, my uncle, spoke; afterwards I spoke; and after me Yonan; also other brethren from our village, and those who preach in other villages. Here also the glorious finger of the Creator wrought very great and wonderful works. (Embroidered garments of the women and their ornaments, etc. [those given at Geog Tapa] were exhibited to the whole assembly by John.) Pledgers began to pledge money and things. The same brethren from our village, who labor in other villages, increased and increased; also other brethren from the villages of the country; also of the laymen who were there. Here also, amid their pledges to give, there were addresses and prayers. And the amount of giving was after the manner I have described in our village; but many others pledged more. One who at first pledged fifteen tomons, again promised all the fruit of one of his vineyards. And after a few minutes he rose and said: "The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the three are one God. The fifteen tomons to the Father; the fruit of the vineyard to the Son; and a load of flour to the Holy Spirit." And others, from four tomons to five, and even up to eight, each one. And others one tenth of all their produce, one fourth, one fifth, one sixth, and so on. And one of the Nestorians first pledged a watch, and afterwards thirty tomons, so that it should be as the price of a robe for the bride (the church of Christ).

I cannot describe or write the pleasant and joyful speeches, or about the joy of the dear missionaries who were there. Both the gentlemen and the ladies participated in this giving, with great joy. Here, also, we remained in the chapel perhaps four hours. Oh, what a delightful time it was! The girls of the Female Seminary also gave.

Again, in the evening, there was a meeting. Mr. Ambrose conducted it. There were many prayers and addresses. On Tuesday, the 2d of April, our Father in heaven caused to fall rain and snow; we could not scatter; many of the brethren remained in the city, and those other teachers, from the district of Barandooz, came down from Seir, and heard these tidings. They marvelled and rejoiced. In the evening, again, there was a meeting. Mr. Ambrose again conducted it. There were many prayers and addresses, and those brethren from Barandooz now made pledges in great love and promptness; and many others, for a second and third time, made pledges. There is one, who is a joiner, who promised to give one month of joiner work. On Wednesday, the 3d of Nisan, the missionaries from Seir came down, very joyful. Mr. Cochran met some of them, and said, "Your faces are very bappy," &c. So was his.

On the Sabbath, the 7th of April, our Sabbath-school assemblage was very large, and in the afternoon of the same, I preached, in my turn, from these words: "Set your affections on things above." Col. iii. 2. Again, men and women pledged to give something for the Lord. Malek Aga Bey pledged, as a second offering, half the raisins he now has in his house. In the evening many came to meeting. This, also, was a very delightful day.

On the 8th of April, I heard, in the seminary in the city, that there were collections there again on Sunday, the 7th of April. Mar Yohannan pledged thirty tomons. In the village of Vazerova, also, about twenty tomons were collected, as I understood, and the people of Degala have made pledges of a collection; also, the people of Charbash, on the 4th of April, were very eager to make pledges; but I have not heard since whether collections were made there on the 7th of Nisan or not.

Yesterday, priest Abraham came from Ardishai. He says there had been a collection there of thirteen tomons, from the readers there, and he says there are many others still, who will give. Also the people of Takky will make collections on the coming Sabbaths.

My dear friends, the Lord does not permit that your toils and pains here shall be in vain; and the toils and pains of the missionaries now here. He has heard the prayers of your missionaries, and of all the Christians there in America, and of us also, poor, weak Nestorians. The Lord magnifies his work, and advances it here more and more, and in all the eastern countries, and throughout the world.

My dear fathers,—Mr. Perkins and Dr. Wright,—excuse me that I have not written to you till now. I cannot forget you, nor your good that you have done for me from the days of my childhood till the last. Peace to you, dear friends.

I trust you will greatly rejoice, in view of these wonders which God is doing among our people, and that you will not weary. Perhaps other brethren will also write to you these pleasant tidings. I had never rejoiced so much as I rejoice in these delightful days, the like of which I have never seen. All is from the Lord. Let millions praise him. I pray that this matter of giving may still increase and advance.

My family, and all the people of my house join me in much love to you and your children. We are much pleased with the new missionaries. They are very pleasant. We thank them and those who sent them.

The amount of collections in our village is about seventy tomons,—perhaps more, besides the tithes of the produce, and the ornaments, and the garments, &c. But the amount of the collections in the city I do not well know. I think it may be 300 tomons or more, besides the seminaries, &c.

Your loving friend,

MOSES.

\* Dr. Perkins has sent to the Missionary House this letter of Deacon Moses (which he has had the kindness to translate), to the end that others may share with him the joy afforded by its simple story. It may possibly occur to Christians in the United States, after hearing what the Lord has been pleased to do in Persia, that the same "grace of God" bestowed upon our churches, would keep the Board from the possibility of closing the present financial year with a heavy debt.