

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation Visit at Hillsburgh.

My church and friends paid me a Donation Visit on Tuesday the 26th of February. Notwithstanding the drifting snow and the almost impassible state of the roads, there was one hundred and ten found their way to my humble dwelling, and after spending a pleasant evening in conversation and singing, and hearing good speeches from our much esteemed brother R. W. Cunningham and others, the pleasant social company separated, with the kindest of feelings to each other, and to their pastor and family, and the satisfaction of knowing that they had enjoyed a day of real happiness. The sum of £30 12s. was contributed in cash and good things, to replenish the stores for months to come.

With thanks to God and kind friends, I am yours, OBEY PARKER. Hillsburgh, April 9th, 1856.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary of Gilbert Reagh, Esquire.

The subject of this notice was a son of the late Mr. John Reagh, of Upper Wilmot, and was born in January, 1806. In the year 1822 he was married to Miss Jane Beach of New Brunswick. They resided on what is now called "Seaman Street" Margareville, to the close of his life. He, however, followed seafaring business for about ten years. In the year 1829, at which time there was a very extensive revival of religion in all that region, Mr. Reagh obtained a hope in Christ, and was baptized by Rev. J. E. Bill, and became a member of the Baptist Church of Newcastle.

Having been recommended for the Magistracy, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace about the year 1849.

During the last two years and a quarter of his life he was enfeebled by disease. He appears to have entertained hopes of recovery till a few months before his departure; when he became sensible that he was labouring under a seated consumption, which must soon terminate his death.

Brother Reagh was visited a number of times by the writer. He expressed submission to the allotments of Providence, and steadfast hope in the Saviour. The thought of leaving several children in an unconverted state was painful to him. It seemed to him that if he were permitted to witness a revival of the work of God, and to see those dear to him brought into the fold of Christ, he could, like Simeon, "depart in peace."

As there was no burying ground in that locality, some months before his decease he selected a suitable piece of ground on his own farm, and willed it for a public burial place, if approved, and gave instructions to have his remains interred there.

Being desirous to hear the gospel once more, he had meeting held in his house a few days before his exit, and a sermon preached by Brother Abraham Strouach. By this his spirits were greatly cheered.

When his dissolution evidently drew nigh, he took leave of his beloved wife and children, his dear mother and other relative and friends, with great serenity of mind. A few moments before his departure, being asked if he felt an assurance that he was going to rest, he answered distinctly, "Yes." He thus fell asleep on the 8th day of March, 1856, in the fifty-first year of his age, leaving a widow and eight children to mourn their loss, but not to "sorrow as those that have no hope." On the 11th he was buried in accordance with the directions previously given by him. An appropriate discourse was delivered on the occasion to a large assembly, in the Evergreen Baptist Meeting House, by Rev. W. G. Parker, the pastor of the church to which our deceased Brother belonged, from Phil. i. 21.—"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Only five days afterwards (Mar 16th) one of his grandchildren, Adaline Augusta, infant daughter of Mr. John Neiley Roach, aged six months, was interred in the same burial ground. —Communicated by Rev. C. Tupper.

WHAT IS THE WORLD?—A dream within a dream; as we grow older, each step is an inward awakening. The youth awakes, as he thinks, from childhood—the full-grown man despises the pursuits of youth as visionary,—the old man looks on manhood as a feverish dream. Is death the last sleep? No; it is the last awakening.—Walter Scott.

Religious Intelligence.

Converts in India.

Dr. Allen, who has been in India for twenty-five years, in connection with the American Board, has just issued a work on that country. It reveals some singular facts, in relation to polygamists. He states that the general practice of missionaries is to allow such individuals to retain their wives if they wish it, at the same time explaining to them the marriage relation as unfolded in the christian dispensation. Besides this, in his appendix he states, that the late conference in Calcutta, at which I believe the secretary of your own mission attended, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"If a convert, before becoming a christian, has married more wives than one, in accordance with the practice of the Jewish and christian churches, he shall be permitted to keep them all, but such a person is not eligible to any office in the church." I offer no opinion upon such a course.

EPISCOPAL.—The Society for the alteration of the Liturgy is preparing for its parliamentary annual conflict. A petition to the senate has been published, which asks for great alterations in this venerable document. They chiefly refer to baptism, the visitation of the sick, and the burial services. The Church Discipline Bill, upon the whole, is received with favour by The Record. "But it is one," remarks that journal "which will affect so largely the rights and liberties of the whole Church of England, as to demand the closest and most vigilant attention. A remedy to the evils which at present exist in our ecclesiastical discipline, great and serious as those evils are, may yet be purchased too dearly, if the price is to consist of the establishment of despotic power, dangerous to individual liberty, to the rights of conscience, and to the cause of truth."

The Rev. G. C. Gorham, rector of Bramford Speke, near Exeter, whose controversy with the Bishop of Exeter is so well known, has had a violent rupture with a large number of his parishoners, the result of which is, that they have commenced proceedings against the reverend gentleman for "brawling in church."

FREER CHURCH.—The Presbytery of Edinburgh has had a protracted sitting, and long and eloquent speeches were uttered during its deliberations. The Sustentation Fund was the theme of debate. Its working is by no means satisfactory. The whole body is agitated to the centre by it. The principles upon which it has been expended hitherto appear to be that of equal proportion to each minister. Nearly £150 have been given to each; but it is found to work badly in some cases. Benevolence is checked, and congregations instead of exerting themselves to sustain their pastor, depend upon the Sustentation Fund. It is always so. Ireland, with its Regium Donum, is a striking example of this. Many of the leading ministers wish a change.

WESLEYAN.—In an article on Wesleyan Education, The Watchman states, that the Training College alone derives from government sources in addition to its income of £900 per annum.

FRANCE.—It is remarked as rather significant that from the Romish clergy and religious bodies no address has been presented to the Emperor on the birth of the Prince.

AUSTRIA.—The Concordat is already producing fruit. The civil and ecclesiastical power are upon the very verge of a collision. Some time ago a Convocation of the Austrian Bishops was summoned by the Emperor. Since then his Holiness, in his own name, has convened them, thus ignoring at once the authority of the civil power. It is rumoured, that the advisers of his Majesty are prepared to withstand this encroachment of the spiritual, upon the authority of the temporal power.

SPAIN.—Religious freedom, though oppressed, is not annihilated. The efforts made by the ministry, instigated by the priesthood, to repress the truth, and extinguish what little light shines in the peninsula, are producing fruit. At a great banquet given lately at Santiago, some young people drank to the health of the first Protestant who came into Spain to celebrate the functions of his religion. The local authorities attached no importance to the fact, but the Minister of Justice has sent orders to the effect that a prosecution be instituted against the authors of so scandalous a toast!

REVIVALS.

LIVERPOOL, 24th April, '56.

DEAR BRO. SELDEN,

The work of conversion still progresses in this place. Brother Hobbs is obliged to leave us on a visit homeward. He is followed by the good wishes and prayers of older christians and of a host of youthful converts; and we do heartily desire his return, to labor with us as a County missionary. He baptized five at Milton last Lord's-day, when I also had the privilege of baptizing nine in connection with this church; six of these at Brooklyn, where the friends are resolved to have a Meeting-house of their own, within a few months. May the word of the Lord still prosper.

Most truly yours, S. N. BENTLEY.

DEAR BROTHER,

I have just returned from a visit to the "Female Academy" at Berwick. I have been highly gratified. A noble commencement has been made. And the best of all is that the Lord is blessing the School with the spirit of Revival. Several of the pupils have entertained hope in the Saviour, and the work is apparently extending. Brother Chase is laboring with Elder Chipman with great earnestness. Several meetings which I attended appeared I assure you quite like "old times." I think there will be a baptism next Lord's-day.

Yours truly, S. T. RAND.

April 24.

Rev. C. Tupper writes, Upper Wilmot, April 17th.

"Through Divine goodness the gracious Revival commenced in my field of labour is progressing favourably. Five persons have been recently received for baptism."

Yours in gospel bonds, C. TUPPER.

SMITH'S COVE.

"The Lord has been graciously pleased to visit us again here—he has revived and quickened his people. Yesterday five were immersed on profession of their faith in Jesus, and united to the second Hillsburgh Church."

Your brother in Christ Jesus, BENJAMIN HARDY.

"God is reviving his work in Canso, several backsliders have been restored. I baptized one last Sabbath, and more are expected next Sabbath. Pray for us."

Yours truly, J. C. HURD.

"At our protracted meetings we had great gatherings, not much, to say, revival, but some conversions, and seven baptized, perhaps more will come forward yet."

Bro. Henry Angel has accepted a call from the first Yarmouth church, and is now labouring with good acceptance, his friends will know where to direct to him."

I am, dear sir yours &c. WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

Yarmouth, 9th 1856.

European Intelligence.

[Abridged from the Freeman, April 2.]

PEACE!

THE WAR IS OVER. With what unutterable thankfulness do we repeat the tidings already so familiar by every fire-side in Great Britain! We have no heart for more than to dwell on the simple fact. Criticism, anticipation, retrospect, may be the appropriate work of an after day.

In Paris the choice of the Lord's-day was no doubt deliberate and predetermined. Knowing what a French Sunday is, we need not be surprised, either at the business in the morning, or at the illumination in the evening. We will give ourselves up to gratitude and gladness that the war which a twelvemonth since had assumed such awful proportions, and was threatening to overshadow all Europe with calamity and horror, has now, through timely victories and wise negotiations, been brought to an amicable close. Our confidence in the negotiators, as well as our knowledge of the terms proposed, forbid an instant's doubt that the conditions of the treaty are secure and honourable. Some former ones, by leaving main points unsettled, and points of irritation unremoved, by vagueness in the statement of conditions, and laxity in the enforcement of terms, should only presage the reopening of war, no reasonable man, whatever the present relief, could dare to rejoice. But we may be quite assured that the Peace of Paris is not of this kind. Its stipulations, indeed, we

cannot yet know. "Esknetto" requires that the monarchs interested should confirm by their own signatures the acts of their plenipotentiaries. Three weeks, it is calculated, must elapse before the signature of the Emperor Alexander can be obtained. So long, therefore, must impatient curiosity wait. There are the best grounds for the belief, that while the Allies have "demanded all that justice required," they have "obtained all that they demanded."

It is tolerably certain that Russia has been greatly influenced by her knowledge of the forces that were gathered against her; the labour, therefore, bestowed upon perfecting the organization of the British army, has been by no means thrown away.

The great aim is accomplished. Eastern Europe is for the present set free from the dread of Russian aggression; and if the foreign policy of the next five-and-twenty years be mainly, truthful, and determined, the deliverance will be complete. It may be that those who are already foreboding a second Russian war, take for granted that England and France, Austria and Prussia, are forthwith to resume their former style of dealing with the Czar, with Turkey, and with each other. If so there is indeed reason in the prediction. A better state of things will now be inaugurated. Russia and Western Europe now fairly understand each other.

We never knew the inestimable value to England of the forty years' peace which succeeded Waterloo, until we lost the blessing. May the nations be wise enough to preserve it now by unremitting care, and by an honest policy! At present the powers concerned appear full of mutual friendly admiration. Napoleon, as is natural, wins the highest meed of praise. Indeed, England and Russia seem to have entered into such a rivalry in admiration of the French Emperor, that he may sing, "How happy could I be with either, were I other dear charmer away!" Then, Austria has acted with marvellous discretion as a go-between, Russia has come in at the right moment and with due humility, Piedmont retires amid universal applause, and Turkey, half ruefully promising to mend her ways, is patronised by friends and foes.

CONCLUSION OF PEACE.

We are happy to have to record that the Treaty of Peace was signed on Sunday. The Empress Eugenie, desiring to possess the pen with which the Treaty would be signed, the Crown Jeweller was employed in the ornamentation of the quill of an eagle, and with it the Plenipotentiaries affixed their signatures. At two o'clock the cannon of the Invalides announced the signature of the Treaty of Peace by a salvo of 101 guns. At three o'clock, the following proclamation was posted on the walls of Paris:—

"Peace was signed to-day, at one o'clock, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The Plenipotentiaries of France, Austria, Great Britain, Prussia, Russia, Sardinia, and Turkey, have affixed their signatures to the Treaty, which puts an end to the existing war, and assures the repose of Europe on a solid and durable basis.

(Signed) "PIETRI, Prefect of Police."

Preparations for celebrating the event had commenced so early as Friday March 28th. Above the grand entrance of the Turkish Embassy preparations for a brilliant illumination had been completed on Saturday, a crescent, with a star below, having been duly disposed. In front of the grand entrance to the Palais Royal, the apparatus for an illumination with gas had been placed. Tall masts had been erected on the towers of Notre-Dame and on the four corner pavilions of the Hotel de Ville; in fact, everywhere such preparations had been made. On Sunday evening, therefore much was in readiness for the celebration, which was almost universal.

(From the London Gazette Extraordinary.)

FOREIGN OFFICE, March 31.—A despatch has been this morning received from the Earl of Clarendon, her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated Paris, March 30, announcing the signature of peace at two o'clock on that day, at the Foreign Office, Paris:—"The Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, of Austria, of France, of Prussia, of Russia, of Sardinia, and of Turkey, have affixed their signatures to the treaty which puts an end to the war, and which, while definitively settling the Eastern question, establishes the tranquillity of Europe on solid and durable bases. The exchange of the ratifications will take place at Paris in four weeks, or sooner, if possible; until then, the stipulations of the treaty cannot be made public."

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PEACE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The way in which this news was received by the House of Commons was characteristic enough. The House of Lords does not meet until to-night, so the interest was centred in the House of Commons. There was a pretty full attendance of members, and the galleries were crowded with strangers, all anxious to hear what the Government would have to say upon the subject. But they were strangely disappointed. There were very few members of Government in the House. Lord Palmerston, who generally enters about half-past four, was a few minutes later than usual; and the members stared at each other as they proceeded in the usual routine, in spite of