

It is well known that the horrid outrages recently perpetrated on the Halifax and Windsor Railroad—which it seems is to be constructed by means of the liquor traffic—in which great numbers have been dreadfully wounded and quite disabled, and for which eleven culprits (out of about a hundred) are now in jail, derived their origin from alcoholic influence.

I have not the statistics of the Penitentiaries of these Provinces; but an abstract of the Report prepared by the Inspectors of the Penitentiary of the Canadas for 1855, is before me. They state that the number of prisoners was 577; and, on investigation of these cases, remark, that "intemperance is the way that leads to ruin;" and mention first "the use of intoxicating liquors" as one of the principal causes that have brought so many persons into the Penitentiary. Rev. N. Cyr, Editor of "Seneur Canadian," (June 6, 1856) says, This Report, like the reports of all establishments of the same kind, states the fact, that intemperance is the source of almost all the crimes which are committed, and that the traffic in intoxicating liquors is the great promoter of iniquity.

Compared with the expenses which the public have to bear through the Sale of Spirits, the payment of officers to carry a prohibitory law into effect would be as nothing. The penalties recovered, &c. would be devoted to this object.

Mr. Bent seems to regard it, (p. 28, 29), as ruinous to the inhabitants of New Brunswick "to raise £30,000 a year" by an increase or extension of the traffic, or in any other way but by encouraging the free use of intoxicating drinks. He estimates the population at 200,000, and the number of families at 32,000. According to this computation the sum required would average about 18s. 7½d to each family. If it be raised by the tariff in inebriating liquor, as I trust there are not over 15,000 families in which it is used as a beverage, it must take, on an average, £2 for revenue from each of these, and probably not less than £8— together £10—for that on which the duty is levied, and which is in reality worth much less than nothing. As a natural consequence, in many of these families undoubtedly poor children will cry for bread, and numberless other sufferings and calamities be endured. Moreover, to secure these £30,000 probably £120,000 must be sent abroad, and not only lost to the Province, but employed for demoralizing of the inhabitants, and the plunging of many into crime and wretchedness, the increase of taxes, and the filling of numberless hearts with bitter anguish.

It seems that Mr. B. "sees through such a distorted medium" that he cannot "distinguish (p. 29.) between the money sent out of the Province for the purpose of drink," and that sent for 'necessary and useful articles,' such as "tea, sugar, molasses, and flour, all of which," he affirms, "may be said to be absolutely lost when consumed." Let it be supposed then, for illustration, that of two men, each sends abroad ten pounds, the one for "flour" and other articles of food, the other rum and brandy, wholly for home consumption. While the former and his family are living on the food thus purchased, without any strong drink, they earn twenty pounds. How much will the latter and his family earn while they are living on their rum and brandy without food? The ten pounds gained by the former will increase the wealth of the family, and also that of the Province. A child can readily see the difference.

Mr. Bent's arguments with regard to revenue distinctly implies, that the more of the drunkard's drink is used in these Provinces, the better it is for their interests. It is as directly opposed to the promotion of temperance by moral suasion as by prohibition; for if all come persuaded to practice total abstinence, this branch of the revenue would be as completely cut off, and the same ruinous consequences must undoubtedly follow.

It is notorious that through the expense and losses accruing from the use of spirituous liquors, many families are obliged to endure the privation of many articles really necessary and useful, on which duties would be paid. In Ireland, where it was supposed the revenue would be greatly diminished by the reaction in the use of inebriating drinks, it is now said to have been materially increased. My "po-

litical economy," (p. 29,) accords with that of the American Temperance Society, containing many eminent men. At their Annual Meeting in New York, May 7, 1833, thus resolved, "That the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits are a violation of political economy, and impose an enormous burden on the industry and wealth of the country."

Mr. B. may divert himself and his "colleagues" by his jest, (p. 29, 38,) about "great babies" and "dry nurses;" but the subject appears to me too serious for jesting. A wealthy man, who has been repeatedly brought to the verge of the grave through intoxicating drink, recently said to me, "When it is near me I can not refrain: but I would give all I am worth to have it banished from the Province." This is one of many similar cases that call for commiseration and relief.

Mr. B. maintains, (p. 30,) that it is not right for men to attempt to remove "temptation" from their "fellow creatures," since "God has placed us in a state of probation . . . and it is not for man to alter his decrees." With much more consistency may people, on the same ground, refuse, as some have done, to employ any means to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases: for these may be truly regarded as coming from the hand of God; but He neither makes intoxicating drinks, nor sends them into any place. They are some of the "many inventions" which men "have sought out;" and men circulate them for "filthy lucre."

In fine Mr. B. suggests, (p. 31,) that to carry out my principle, "the gun-powder traffic" ought to be prohibited, lest men should "commit murder." Some rare cases do indeed occur in which murder is committed with gun-powder: but in these the use of alcoholic drink is ordinarily the source whence the crime proceeds. It could easily be effected by other means, if we had no powder. In these Provinces this article, which is indispensable for various purposes, indubitably does immensely more good than harm. Can this be said of the common use of strong drink?

The employment of such flimsy arguments clearly evinces the absence of any substantial proofs in defence of the cause which requires the use of them.

Yours in Gospel bonds,
C. TUPPER.

Windsor, July 2, '56.

ERRATA.—C. M., July 2. "Prohibition," &c., No. 1, Sect. 6, for "my constitution," read *my construction*. Sect. 7, for "commanded," read *commended*. July 9th, No. 2, p. 221, paragraph 2, for "This objection," read *His objection*: 9, for "abuse of that," read *abuse of them*: 12, for "man ought," read *men ought*: 13, for "want to push," read *want to push*.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

ENGLISH MEMORANDA.

LONDON, JULY 4.

PALMER'S CONFESSION.

Dear Sir:—My last letter concluded with a sketch of the Rugeley poisoner and better, Palmer; I therefore, before proceeding to more weighty matters, add a few lines concerning the horrible affair. Public curiosity yet morbidly lingers on the associations connected with the case, and numbers still flock to the scene of so many crimes. From the chaplain's notes, it appears that Palmer, in a fit of mental anguish, half confessed to murdering his wife and brother as well as Cooke; but, recovering his stoicism, asserted that he had neither admitted nor denied the crimes imputed to him. There is little doubt, however, that conscience, unable altogether to conceal its fearful workings in the still hours of reflection, when all hope had departed, afforded sufficient glimpses of the truth that lay so heavily on the criminal's soul. Though not sufficiently definite to publish, still such expressions must be taken as proving the justice of the verdict, and satisfy all those in whose breast a lingering doubt remained. God's vicegerent is rarely completely silenced, even in the most hardened breast; but that it only produced remorse and anguish, without repentance, is the conclusion borne out by all the convict's demeanour while tottering on the verge of eternity.

This case has proved the inefficacy of even refined subtlety to conceal deeds of death: science now can tear from even the grave its secrets, and the tissues of a decaying body become the plain map on which to trace a murderer's tortuous course. Though strychnine was not found, anti-

mony was; and strychnine, even when not remaining after death, betrays itself in the death-throes of outraged nature.

THE HERO OF KARS.

"Hyperion to a Satyr!" Such is not a too bold comparison between the defender of Kars and the monster who, with him, has shared public attention. Burke might lament in his day that "the age of chivalry had gone;" but chivalry lives anew in Sir William Fenwick Williams of Kars, Baronet, and the honoured of all. Royalty creates him a Peer, and commands his appearance in her private portrait gallery of distinguished ones; Parliament applaudingly votes him £1000 a year; London City, Clubs, and Corporate bodies, rejoice to do him honour; and Lord Vaughan, Principal of Harrow School, proudly claims the chieftain as a former scholar—Palmerston also claiming a similar position. Orders now crowd upon the breast that swelled undauntedly in defiance of death, disease, despair and desertion, only succumbing to nature's common foe, famine. That Turk spoke truly who, seeing and knowing his wondrous deeds, said, "Williams Pasha is no end of a man!"

Ay! but is there no other motive for thus smoothing over the subject of Kars and its defender? no official blundering, striving to hide its own deeds in the halo of glory that surrounds those who became illustrious in spite of all that could be done to prevent them? We could have saved Kars, but did not do it; therefore, to make amends, we praise its defender! We could have saved, by simple common sense, the "army of martyrs" who perished of disease and want in the Crimea: failing that, the representatives of the very system that caused it all—the Horse Guards officials—are going in person to welcome back the remains of their victimised forces! "My son," said an astute monarch, "behold with how little wisdom a people can be governed!"

THE PRINCESS ROYAL

Has had a narrow escape. Lighting a wax candle in her boudoir, the flame caught a light gauze sleeve of her dress, and ran up her arm. With the presence of mind which distinguishes her family, the Princess extinguished the flame, although not before it had severely burnt her arm. It is gratifying however to know, that Her Royal Highness is recovering, and that the injury will be only temporary. Your readers, Mr. Editor, are perhaps aware that the Princess has "come out" at court; and that it is now generally understood the visits of Prince Frederick William of Prussia are accepted as those of a suitor. The Princess is taller than the Queen, and, if we plebeians may believe reports, and trust to the accuracy of portraits, is an elegant, well-developed lady, resembling in feature both of her illustrious parents. The Queen's well known excellence as a mother affords an assurance that the youthful years of England's Princess Royal have been disciplined in that path whose pursuit has rendered her Royal mother a pattern to every English wife. The court of the Georges remains only in history; and let us hope that the next generation will see a continuance of the results already manifest in the purity of Royal domestic and court life.

The Princess's future husband is said to be an elegant and accomplished Prince, a good soldier, and to possess traits of character that will endear him to the English people and render him worthy his high alliance. Such a marriage, when first suggested, was unpopular; the part Prussia took in the late war extending its odium to its Prince; but little is now heard except in acquiescence, save and except from the party which mourns over and decries "German" influence near the Throne. A portion of the press hints broadly from whom this arises; and, losing sight of the "golden opinions from all sorts of men" which the Prince consort has gained—forgetting his encouragement of art, science, and whatever tends to improve the lower classes—with his unimpeachable private character—frets, fumes, and professes to discover everywhere secret interference with the army and politics, and sympathy with continental intrigues. Well may even the most popular deity as hollow and shifting even the loudest hallelujahs that greet his name! Meanwhile, the Royal lovers are supposed to be engaged in those peculiarly interesting preliminaries which all readers of this letter will understand without further mention, and which increase in difficulty, intricacy, and delicacy, the higher their students rank in society.

Prussia was our ally at Waterloo; though she served us ably in the Russian war, let us hope that, receiving an English Princess, she will become a more steadfast friend to the country whose daughter she espouses.

[To be concluded next week.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Sketches of a Western Tour.

MR. EDITOR,

Leaving Guysboro', Monday, June 9th, we proceeded to Antigonishe, a distance of 34 miles. Nearly the whole of the way is numerously inhabited. The large and well cultivated fields which meet the eye on either side betoken industry on the part of the people; but their own miserable appearance, together with the general inferiority of their Houses, &c., too plainly show that the wealth they might possess is drawn in quite another direction; and where, it is not difficult to decide, if we notice the large and splendid edifices conspicuously situated on the highest eminences, and magnificently embellished with crosses, spires and gilded Latin Inscriptions glittering in the rays of the sun,—demonstrating the unchecked predominance of the "catholic church."

The county of Sydney is, in many respects one of the pleasantest in the Province. Nature has bestowed upon it many rich and exuberant adornments. Its soil is fertile and prolific. Extensive fields, blooming with luxuriant vegetation meet the eye on every side; these are delightfully intersected with purling streams and rivulets gurgling along in their gravelly courses, and offering a soothing beverage to the variegated, sleek animals, grazing at leisure on the sloping hills, or reposing beneath the wide-spreading branches of the ever-green groves.

In a moral point of view, it presents quite a different aspect. Sabbath desecration, drunkenness and immorality are too prevalent in every part of it. The Catholic Institution of learning at Antigonishe is rather a creditable specimen of Architecture, and being prominently situated in a conspicuous place, adds much to the life and beauty of the neat little village.

At Tracadie, is the Convent! a nucleus, around which the worst influences of Popery gather, and accumulate strength. Those of your readers who have perused the works of Hogan, Maria Monk and others will require no description of a Roman Convent. The pernicious influence it exerts over the minds of its deluded votaries are known and read of all men.

There are comparatively few Baptists in the whole county; and the greater part of these reside in the vicinity of Antigonishe; among whom is our esteemed brother, Rev. John Whidden, at whose hospitable dwelling we were comfortably entertained—as our ministers always are—after a godly sort.

The next day, June 10th, we set out for New Glasgow, a distance of 40 miles. On the way we passed through a large extent of country densely populated. The Presbyterians—as is well known—compose an overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of Pictou County. There are a few Baptists scattered over it in every direction from Merigomish to River John. These are much neglected, and consequently are in a depressed and languishing state.

The pressing claims for missionary labour in these extensive destitute regions have been sufficiently urged of late to supercede the necessity of further remarks at present. The above facts are stated for the purpose of stringing up the pure minds of our people by way of remembrance; and we sincerely hope that they with others will incite the friends of Missions to prompt and speedy action in their behalf. More anon.

J. C. HURD.

For the Christian Messenger.

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR SIR,

In my letter about a fortnight since, I promised your readers some account of the meetings of the Society for the Liberation of Religion from the state patronage and control. This is one of those societies which have claims on every friend of truth throughout the British empire. For unhappily the colonies have felt the influence of the state establishment. Every missionary and every missionary society knows its adverse influences and every political institution is enfeebled by its shadow. Your readers will know that this society originated about eleven years ago, under the name of the Anti-state Church Association. From prudential considerations the name was altered, as above, three years since. In its constitution provision was made for the assembling of a conference of delegates, once in three years. The design of this arrangement was to secure