

May the Lord abundantly bless both you and your children, and may we all at length meet around the throne of God, where parting shall be no more. And may the Lord be pleased to speedily send to you another pastor, to break to you the bread of life, and be the means of converting the youth around you.

I thank you for your kind regards to my beloved partner, and be, to assure you all, both brethren and sisters that on account of your many excellencies you are very dear to us both, and wheresoever our lot may be cast you shall ever have our best wishes and sincere prayers for your spiritual and temporal welfare.

I remain, yours sincerely,  
JAMES REID.

Ohio, Yarmouth, June 21st, 1857.

[We sympathize with Brother Reid in the affliction which has made it necessary for him to remove further from the sea air, and trust that the Ohio Church will soon be supplied with an efficient pastor. The important charge at Great Village, Londonderry, on which he enters, presents a wide field of usefulness, where we hope his labours will be greatly blessed.—Ed. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger.

London Correspondence.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

London, June 19, 1857.

THE BRITISH BANK.

MR. EDITOR,

Next to the annoyance of having no money at all, is that of losing what you have through the villainy of those to whom you have entrusted it—especially if such investment has been kept by false statements, and swindled under pious assumptions.

The late Joint-Stock Company which was, as Commissioner Holroyd termed it, "a thing misalled a Bank," was carried on to its final smash under such hypocritical assurances. At its starting one of the Directors proposed that "the Bank should be opened with prayer;" and the dissenting name of Apsley Pellatt gave an unctious to its Direction, among those who entertain similar views, which aided confidence in the grand "delusion, mockery, and snare." Up to a few days before the stoppage, the Directors who must have been aware of the state of the concern, urged their friends to induce others to become depositors. Mr. Pellatt, however, at the examination which revealed the hidden secrets of direction, solemnly affirms that "he left the Bank with clean hands." The law officers of the Crown so far prove this true, as preferring no proceedings against him, because, "though he was party to some improper proceedings at the formation he afterward left it, and took no share of the plunder." But it may be asked, why did Mr. Pellatt leave it? was it because he knew things were going wrong? and if so, should he not have exposed them, instead of saving himself and keeping silence on others danger?

The Court of Queen's Bench has issued warrants, on information filed by the Attorney General, for apprehension of the Governor, Managers, and a number of the directors, several of whom have been arrested. A reward of £200 was offered for Mr. Humphrey Brown, who figured most largely in the transactions; he gave himself up, and was bailed out in an enormous sum. Other directors, at present in hiding on the continent, will soon be arrested, as their whereabouts is known and watched by the astute Detective Inspector Field and his staff.

The prosecution will be conducted by the Attorney General; and so great has been the despatch in getting up the case, that the whole of the briefs, occupying many hundred pages of printed matter, have for some time past been ready for delivery. The indictments will, it is understood, exceed in length those of the famous Irish State Banks of O'Connell and his coadjutors: but will not be preferred till November.

The Attorney General has also brought in a bill to facilitate the winding-up of this much litigated affair; and another having for its object greater facility in furnishing fraudulent breaches of trust. When we reflect how many risked their little all in that Bank—the only provision that stood between them and destitution: when we consider how many of the smaller class of trades-people committed the security of their business to those directors—and the untold, widespread ruin and loss which their dishonesty entailed—we can but feel that due justice has alighted on the causes of so much misery, and hope that the new bill will prevent a recurrence of such dishonesty.

The past few years have apparently been the age of high-class, quasi-religious, opulent swindling. Unfortunately, the British Bank is but one of many gigantic frauds which have exposed the hollow and immorality of extensive moral concerns, and proved how easily the public is duped, and with comparative impunity. The

evil, however, has at least brought its own legal remedy; and conviction of the British Bank directors will prove a caution alike to depositors and their victimisers.

DOUGLAS JERROLD

A great man in literature is no more; his pen, that scorched with burning satire, is laid aside, and his place knows him no more. He was acknowledged to be the most-caustic satirist of the day; and it is matter of regret, that often his shafts were levelled where reverence should have chastened their fire. In an utter abhorrence of cant and canters, he too often lost sight of that which is not cant; he separated not always the truth from its sham, but coupled both in one fierce invective. These may seem harsh words, and I may be reminded of the proverb, *De mortuis, nihil nisi bonum*; but I believe the first to be true, and the latter strikes at all the correctness of biography, preventing mankind from profiting by the faults as well as excellencies of the departed. Douglas Jerrold wrote against Dissenters as against maw-worms and bigots; against Church abuses, with an unmitigated hate; against both, as mainly hypocritical and money-grubbing, or charitable only as Pharisees and proselytizers. Still he did much good. *Cant* will suffer from such attacks; that of which cant is but a mockery, never. Of the same school, in this respect, as Dickens, his satires were more frequent and more intense. The animus of *Punch* against "Exeter Hall howlings," was exhibited by him; and while reasoning men could always discern between true piety and its loud-mouthed, disgusting assumption, too many forgot, in the keenness of the satire, the distinction between the two. Douglas has never hurt true religion (let us hope, in charity, he never meant to); but he may have blinded peoples eyes as to its distinction from the individual and separate faults of its professors.

It should encourage aspirants for literary success that this famous author was at first a compositor only. Previously, however, he served as midshipman, but soon forsook the navy for literature. In English comedy he was successful and popular; but perhaps he is most generally known as the author of "A Story of a Feather," and the inimitable racy, "Caudle Lectures," both of which appeared in *Punch*. His private character was unimpeached; and however severe as a public censor, in private life his amiability and tenderness won for him love and esteem. Of late, he was editor of a weekly paper. His age was 56; and he leaves behind a god-son, well known as a good writer (Mr. W. B. Jerrold); also a daughter, married to Henry Mayhew, author of "London Labour and London Poor," and a distinguished friend of the outcast and depraved.

He was buried in Norwood Cemetery. Among his pall-bearers were Dickens, Thackeray, Bradbury and Evans, Sir G. Paxton, Moncton Milnes, Horace Mahew, C. Knight, &c. &c.

A series of public representations are to be given for the benefit of his family—among others by Dickens, Thackeray, W. H. Russell, (the *Times* correspondent of the Crimean war), &c. Mr. Russell's letters, at the time of publication, caused intense excitement and great admiration.

They alone told how matters really stood in that dreadful winter; and their truth, picturesque, and vivid force, brought the distant warfare home to every one's breakfast table. Mr. Russell has recently come out as a lecturer on the subject he wrote of formerly; and aristocratic, literary, and highly select audiences have flocked at the West End to hear him. For the above charity, Mr. R. will lecture to a more general audience in St. Martin's Hall. Mr. Thackeray has also lectured with enormous success, on "The George's": "Our Humorist," and other subjects. For the present object, he will give "Week Day Preachers;" and what the poet-novelist will make of such a suggestive and perhaps allegoric title is to be seen. Mr. Dickens will read one of his tales, at the same place: and other arrangements are in progress.

Dr. Johnson and the poet Savage walked through London streets houseless, one night, Otway died of repletion from a penny roll, gorged while starving: "Grub Street," and back attics were, but recently, proverbial for authors, save some few favored and perhaps titled. But now we are better off in this respect. Some of the names above mentioned are rich; plenty below them have competence; and for every man of talent there is far more chance than in the times when there were no newspapers or magazines. Douglas Jerrold was one of the class who rose by his pen; and helped to create a market, while he reaped the proceeds. Such men as he feed the mind of England, nourish and mature it: they are the life of that mental life which journalism creates and maintains, and should be honored accordingly.

It is pleasing to see Douglas Jerrold's fellow-labourers honouring his memory and helping his family. We may recollect all he wrote, that was true, with affection, for it was written well; the false we deplore; and hope that, in his last hour, the one grand truth that "Christ died for sinners" was able to remove all the shams and hypocrisies which, by his writings, Jerrold seemed to think were religion itself. The man we may judge: the spirit,—that has Another, now, before whom we also shall stand. Selah.

HANDEL FESTIVAL AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

Music, like everything else, now-a-days, is done on a different scale from the old. Jullien, I think, first started *Concerts monstre*: the sacred Harmonic Society have now eclipsed him. Every one knows so much about Handel, and his "Messiah," "Judas Maccabeus," and the overwhelming "Israel in Egypt," that I need only mention, they were the Oratorios selected, to be understood. But the peculiarity here was, that the Crystal Palace itself had to be adapted to the festival: an organ built, immense orchestra erected, and instruments manufactured of a proportionate size. Beside these mere details of adaptation, the grand idea was, a centenary memorial of the great Musician, who died in 1757: and, gigantic as this was, it is to be only a prelude to an immense one in 1859—a sort of a prelude, for that.

Of course, great discipline had to be enforced, to make so large a body uniform, in time and tune. On the evening preceding, all Exeter Hall was filled, each seat being numbered, and none but performers admitted: that was the final London rehearsal: but yet another was held, at the Palace on the following day, when principals, band, chorus, every one who was to perform on the grand days, were at the palace at eleven: the public were charged 10s. 6d. admission; and as each member of the Society had two admission tickets for their friends, the Palace was thronged.

Some idea of the orchestra may be gained from the following summary:—

London, 1, 100 singers; Yorkshire, 200; Birmingham, 250; Liverpool, 50; Dublin, 50; the remainder, making altogether 2,000, from other towns, cathedrals, and chapels royal. The band contained 150 violins, 50 viols, 50 violincellos, 50 double basses, 8 flutes, 8 oboes, 8 clarionets, 8 bassoons, 12 horns, 6 trumpets, 6 cornets, 3 ophocleides, 8 serpents, 9 trambones, 2 pair of kettle-drums, 5 side drums, and one monster drum, specially manufactured for the occasion. It is between six and seven feet in diameter, the framework composed of more than 70 pieces, and the covering of an enormous buffalo hide. When struck only gently, its tone "resembles the booming of a deep pedal pipe." The organ, I have said, was also built for the occasion.

Such was the orchestra, and well it did its work. Never before was such a musical festival held. Three days it lasted—an oratorio on each. The grand day was Wednesday, on which the Queen, Royal Family, and foreign country and Royal visitors were present. It would be impossible here to criticise or explain the performance. Those who know the music can imagine how such an assembly would render it; to those who do not know it, no idea of its grandeur can be given. Our best English soprano, Madame Clara Novello, exceeded even her past triumphs. Miss Dolby stands alone in her contralto, and was worthy of the occasion and her fame: Sims Reeves sustained the tenor from his chest with astonishing force: Herr Formes was Herr Formes.

To hear the Festival, (beside those who heard it outside the Palace and in the neighborhood,) came 35 or 40,000, in round numbers, from all parts of the kingdom. The most eminent connoisseurs of music, English and foreign aristocrats, plebians, all who could buy or beg a ticket, went. And nearly all were more than satisfied—were in ecstasies. I must leave to others, the consideration of whether representations of such sacred themes be justifiable as a matter of art: some deem them irreverent and misplaced; others argue that the highest themes are most appropriately wedded to the most delicious harmony, I merely record the fact of the Festival, and leave the argument and morale.

MEETING AT LAMBETH PALACE, ON THE COMING BERLIN CONFERENCE.

Will it be believed, that the archiepiscopal Palace of Lambeth has had prayer uttered within its walls by a Methodist minister, in presence of and by invitation from the Primate himself? Yet such is the fact; and it nobly redounds to the piety and Christian liberality of the Primate. Truly the old days of exclusive Churchism are on the wane; and such a proceeding is enough to scare beyond self-possession the old episcopal spirit. But, to record the event—

An interesting meeting was held on the 13th inst., at Lambeth Palace, by permission of his

Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, to receive from the deputation recently sent to Berlin, consisting of the Rev. C. J. Glyn, the Rev. Dr. Steane, and the Rev. Hermann Schmeltz, a report of their proceedings in preparation for the proposed Conference in that capital, next September. The meeting took place in a spacious room of considerable antiquity and much historical interest, called the guard-room, the walls of which are surrounded by portraits of the successive Archbishops of Canterbury for several centuries. The chair was taken by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Among those present were six Bishops, and a godly array of ministers of various denominations, noblemen, and distinguished laymen.

The Most Rev. Chairman observed he recollected that in the fourteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles it was mentioned, that after Paul and Barnabas had visited many cities in Asia, they came back to the place from which they set out, they "gathered the Church together," and rehearsed all that God had done with them." The object of that meeting was of a similar nature. Their friends had been to foreign lands, and they would now tell them something about the prospects of religion in the places which they had visited.

Sir C. E. Eardley gave an interesting sketch of the history of the Evangelical Alliance down to the present period, embracing allusions to the Conferences of 1846, 1851, and 1855, and exhibiting the diffusion and application of the leading principle of the Alliance among British and Continental Christians.

The Rev. C. J. Glyn said, he was a member of the deputation who went to Berlin to take some preliminary steps in relation to the approaching Conference. The day after their arrival at Berlin it was intimated to them that they might have the honour of being admitted to a private audience of the King, and accordingly they were presented. His Majesty received two books, which were forwarded to him by the Alliance, most graciously. A memorial from the Alliance being presented to him by Dr. Steane, his Majesty said he should like to hear it read, and, though dinner was waiting, he listened to the reading of the document with the greatest attention. The impression left on the minds of the deputation after the audience was, that his Majesty thought the approaching Conference was likely to be most useful to his dominions, likely to assist him in his efforts to oppose views of Church government which were not marked by that universal Christian spirit which he desired to see pervading his dominions, and likely to promote what he was especially anxious about, Evangelical teaching in national schools of Prussia. Regret was expressed by the deputation that the inhabitants of Russia were not allowed to possess the Bible in modern Russ; and from what passed it appeared not improbable that if a memorial were prepared on that subject, his Majesty might be induced to forward it to his nephew, the Emperor Alexander.

The Rev. Dr. Steane said, his Majesty not only received them, but very kindly and hospitably invited them to dine with him, and both before and after dinner, opportunities were afforded to them of entering into free conversation with his Majesty. In speaking to the deputation respecting the Evangelical Alliance, his Majesty used words which he (Dr. Steane) would repeat as accurately as possible from recollection. As nearly as he could recollect, what he said was "I think the main idea of the Evangelical Alliance, that of an union of all true believers, is the sublimest and most Christian conception that ever entered into the human mind, and from the moment that I apprehended the fundamental principle of the Alliance—the combination, not of Churches or ecclesiastical bodies, but of individual Christians, on the basis of their common faith in Christ and of their common love to Him—I enthusiastically embraced it, and I regard it as the ideal at which all true Christians should aim." The deputation conversed with his Majesty on several interesting subjects, and he should not fulfil his duty if he did not express, on behalf of the deputation, their deep gratitude for the kind and gracious reception accorded to them, and bear testimony to the manifest sincerity—and he would add, courtesy—with which, in the face of much opposition, the King adhered to his intention to give his Royal sanction to the Conference at Berlin. The first subject for discussion at Berlin would be—The Recent Conferences of Christians convened by the Evangelical Alliance compared with assemblies of the Church at former periods, and their tendency to exhibit and promote Christian union. Dr. Merle d'Aubigné, the historian of the Reformation, has been requested to introduce it. The second subject would be the Unity and Diversity of the children of God; the third subject was—The universal priesthood of Believers; the fourth was one of almost exclusively German interest—Why there was so little spiritual life in the German Protestant congregations, and what are the obligations arising out of this fact; the fifth was—What attitude should be assumed by Evangelical Christians in reference to the aggressions of the Church Rome; the sixth was—Religious liberty; and the last was—The probable influence of a closer union of German and British Christians on the theology of the two countries, which the Rev. John Cairns, of Berwick, had been requested to treat. Interspersed with these topics would be the reports as to the state of religion in different countries, including Germany, Hungary, Russia, Lombardy, Sardinia, Italy France and Spain.

At the request of the Primate, the Rev. W. M. Bunting, Wesleyan minister, then offered prayer, and his Grace terminated the proceedings by pronouncing the Benediction.

All good and pious men must rejoice that such unity is at last established, for a good work,