

Notes of a Tourist from Halifax, on the Continent of Europe.

[No. 8.] LONDON, 21st May, 1857.

Here I am back again in Old England, where I arrived on the 18th inst., having, since I last wrote,—from Rome I think—gone through the continent of Europe. From Rome we went to Florence, which is the most delightful city in Europe. Its treasures of art are the finest in the world. How often I used to wish you could have gone with me through the celebrated Picture Galleries—the Pitti, etc. They are open every day, are enormous in extent, and comprise the great works of the celebrated masters of painting and statuary.

We have visited so many places, that it would be impossible for me to give you a detailed account of all; in fact, having the whole of two months' letters, which have accumulated here, for me in my absence,—to answer; I can now only give you a very hurried account of our tour. In Florence we staid a few days: thence we went to Pisa, at which place is the leaning tower, which we ascended, and the burying ground (Campo Santo) of earth brought from Jerusalem, where many hundreds of the Knights of the Crusades are buried. The Crusades for the most part started from Pisa, then a sea-port town; now it is 15 or 20 miles from the sea. From Pisa we went to Leghorn: Florence, Pisa and Leghorn are in the Duchy of Tuscany, the latter is the sea-port town. From Leghorn, we took the steamer to Genoa—celebrated you know, in former years, as the seat of the greatest commerce, then existing; carried on by the Republic of Genoa. There Columbus was born. It is now beginning again to be a flourishing city, is a free port, and the chief sea-port of the kingdom of Sardinia of which Turin is the capital, and whither we went from Genoa. Turin is a very elegant city; something like Paris on a small scale, but its historical associations do not compare with other Italian cities. Its situation and environs are beautiful. It lies just under the Alps, in a valley, where with an almost tropical sun you see around you the snow clad summits and ranges of the mountains. From here, when the weather is fine, by ascending a hill, you can see the top of Mount Blanc, &c.

From Turin we went up to Lake Maggiore; celebrated for its beautiful and picturesque scenery. It is bordered by three nations, all of course clearly in sight: on one side of you is Sardinia; opposite are the Lombards, Venetian Provinces, now forming a part of Austria; and in the distance Switzerland, poking up a few hoary landmarks merely to show herself. From here we went to Lake Como, one of the most beautiful places in the world, around whose shores many persons from every European country have Villas—some of which are very splendid, and all fine. From Como to Milan is but a couple of hours by rail, and a great city is Milan. Its Cathedral is something awfully beautiful: there is nothing of its kind in the world; being all marble and seems like a heap of statues, flowers, carvings, etc. From Milan to Venice, where we were perfectly fascinated with every thing; no streets, no horses; every thing goes along by water; your front door opens on to the water, and gondolas drive up like cabs. On the Grand Canal all the buildings are magnificent palaces, now sadly decaying—for every thing here is going down hill. The Austrians do every thing to favor Trieste as their shipping port, thus all the commerce of Venice is slipping away. Venice you know in its palmy days was a Republic governed by Doges who were elected for life. The Doge's Palace and the Cathedral, near it on St. Mark's Square, are still magnificent in their collections of painting, statuary, etc. The Venetian Painters were among the most celebrated, and the churches, museums, etc., are full of their grandest productions. Titian, Paul Veronese, Tintorello, Palma, etc., were all Venetians. From Venice we crossed the Adriatic to Trieste; thence staged it back to Laibach, we took the rail to Vienna. On the way between Trieste and Laibach, we stopped to visit the wonderful cave or grotto of Adelsberg. As far as yet discovered, it is about 4 miles, and filled with immense halls, chambers and subterranean passages. A large river rushes through it and goes down into the earth, coming out eight miles below. We had six guides, and what they call a grand illumination; about 350 candles lit-up in the various chambers we passed through. At Vienna we stopped two days—it is a fine city—we went to see the Picture Gallery, the Museum, and the King's Stables with his 600 horses. Next we went to Prague, and stopped a day; this was the old capital of Bohemia, now it is a part of Austria. Here the people begin to

be Protestants and improve in appearance—this will do for a sentiment for some of our Nova Scotia politicians. Next to Dresden, the capital of the Kingdom of Saxony, where you know they make the fine china. What Florence is to Italy so Dresden is to Germany. Its Picture Gallery is perhaps after the Pitti at Florence, the finest in the world, in some things it even surpasses it. Its collection of works of art, carvings on ivory, jewelry, etc., are among the wonders of the world. In one room we saw a large case of crown jewels:—necklaces, swords, buttons, epauletts, sets of each in rubies, diamonds, emeralds. Of one necklace in diamonds for instance, every stone was nearly as large as a pigeon's egg, its value is enormous, it shows the great wealth of the Saxon Kings at one time, now the country and government are comparatively poor. From Dresden to Berlin, where we only staid a day, thence by Frankfort down the Rhine to Cologne. From Cologne I came to London, stopping a day at Brussels, and going over the field of Waterloo (about twelve miles from that city) with an old English Sergeant who was in the battle.

I must now say good bye. I hope that some day we may be able to go together over the country of which I have been writing you. I am sure that for me a second visit to all the places I have mentioned would afford me more pleasure and profit than the first, and you I am sure will be more anxious to see them now than if you had not heard about them from me.

Religious Intelligence.

BELGIUM.—For some time the various orders of monks, in connection with the priests in this all but Romish country, have been gradually drawing within their grasp the honor and wealth of the nation. For some time they have struggled for the education of the people, and by their influence a majority favourable to their claims has been secured in the Legislative Assembly. The Ministry has sympathized with the priesthood, and they have willingly sustained the Ministry. The law of Belgium allows ecclesiastics no control over charity. At the dying bed their influence has been paralysed, and property has not been wrested from its rightful heir. The salaries of the priests have been paid by the State. Signs of uneasiness with this state of things have manifested themselves for some time, and a short time ago the Ministry, prompted, it is said, by the Jesuits, proposed in the Chambers to alter the law, and thus allow bequests to the Church. The measure was opposed by the more liberal section—but in vain. The final triumph of the monks was at hand, when a popular outbreak arrested its career. It was intelligence rising against spiritual despotism. The debates in the Chamber were stopped by the popular indignation. The people refused to entrust such power to their teachers. The feeling extended to the other cities. Everywhere the feeling against the convents and the monks so long repressed went forth. In some instances violence was used. To the King and Constitution the most unreserved attachment was avowed, but nothing but the suspension, and, finally, the abandonment of the bill, stilled the rage of the people. Some of the bishops fled to places of security, and only the presence of troops saved some of the convents from destruction.

EPISCOPAL.—In many parts of England, the clergy, influenced to some extent by the successes of the Exeter Hall experiment, have begun open-air-services—Birmingham, Chatham, Rochester, and Bristol, amongst others, and in the latter the Dissenting ministers are taking their part.

Under the eye of the Bishop of Exeter the most Popish practices are performed and taught. One of the rectors uses a hymn-book, from which we select a stanza or two as indicating its tendency:—

"Faithful cross! above all other One and only noble tree! None in foliage, none in blossom, None in fruit thy peers may be! Sweetest wood and sweetest iron! Sweetest weight is hung on thee.

"Bend thy boughs, O tree of Glory, Thy relaxing sinews bend; For a while the ancient vigour That thy birth bestowed suspend; And the King of Heavenly Beauty On thy bosom gently tend"

Complaints were made to his lordship, but he dismissed them upon the plea that the hymnology of the Church was unsettled. Still the complaints increased in such multitude and power that the iron will of heresy gave way, and the rector has received a kind episcopal admonition to lay the book aside.

THE "MORNING STAR" versus REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

MR. SPURGEON DONE BY A PICKLE-SELLING TARTUFFE.—The Morning Star of this morning says:—"Most persons have observed in the newspapers, and on the walls of the Metropolis, announcements of a reward for the apprehension of Mr. John Gregory, an oil and pickle merchant in the Borough, who has not surrendered to his bankruptcy, but has left the country in company with, it is said, his governess. It may not be known that in Mr. Gregory we have to add another to the unhappily long list of persons who have traded on religion, or, rather, a hypocritical assumption of true religion, for the purpose of deluding the world in general. Mr. Gregory, who was accustomed to wear a white neckcloth among his other personal adornments, was treasurer of the funds in process of collection for the new chapel about to be erected for Mr. Spurgeon, by whose teaching, it would seem, he has profited but little, and has absconded, it is said, with over 2,000l. of the popular young Baptist's money.

In contradiction of the above statement, Mr. Spurgeon has written the following letter to the editor of that paper:—"Sir,—I beg to call your immediate attention to several errors in an article in this morning's Star, headed, 'Mr. Spurgeon done by a pickle selling Tartuffe.' I cannot imagine the origin of so extraordinary a statement, for it might as well have been said that Adam robbed my orchard as that Mr. Gregory had appropriated our funds. I am happy to say that the moneys for the new tabernacle are 'preserved' in the London and Westminster Bank, in two good names, and have never been placed in any jeopardy up to the present. It is very probable that Mr. Gregory was a bearer of mine; for in a congregation of such magnitude he may have been sometimes included, but he was not a member of my church, he did not hold a seat, nor did he regularly attend. He may have worn a white neck-cloth, but he did not purchase it out of our funds, for he was in no way whatever connected with us beyond that of an occasional attendant. If ever your informant has been under the sound of my ministry, I can only regret that I must put him down, with Gregory, as one who did not hear to profit. Men should be cautious in their repetition of unfounded tales, and especially so in cases where the sacred name of religion is concerned. Desiring earnestly that the cause of peace may triumph, I am, yours faithfully, C. H. SPURGEON."

MR. SPURGEON AT THE SURREY GARDENS.

—On Sunday morning, notwithstanding the very unpropitious state of the weather, between eight and nine thousand persons assembled to hear the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, as usual, at the Music Hall. Before the sermon, the rev. gentleman announced that, rather than leave such a large congregation unprovided for, he intended to forego his usual July tour for the benefit of his health, and that, therefore, the hall would not be closed, as was generally supposed. He afterwards took his text from the 19th Psalm and the 13th verse, "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins."

SUNDAY SERVICES AT EXETER HALL.—On Sunday evening Exeter Hall was again thronged with an immense congregation. The sermon was preached by the Rev. J. C. Miller, D.D., Cannon of Worcester. His text was taken from St. John iii. 9, "How can these things be."

The British and Foreign Bible Society, at the meeting of its committee, held on Monday, June 11th, adopted the following resolution:—"That this committee do open their meetings with prayer." There was a very full attendance of the committee, including Earl Shaftesbury in the chair, the Marquis of Blandford, the Bishop of Ripon, Lord Henry-Cholmondeley, &c.

The Christian Instructor, the monthly organ of the Presbyterian church of Nova Scotia, says in reference to their effort to obtain a congregation in Charlottetown, P. E. I.:—

Our Church is, we believe, the largest Presbyterian body in Prince Edward Island. Yet from some cause it has happened that hitherto we have had no congregation in Charlottetown. To expect that we would submit to this obvious disadvantage any longer than was unavoidable was to expect too much. When our young men came up to the capital they either joined other bodies or drifted away from all Church connection whatever. That some of our members and adherents should occasionally join the Established or the Free Church might not in itself be regarded as any great evil, seeing that we profess readiness to unite with these bodies. But it is to be considered that if we are ready they are not. Pending a union then we must be allowed to prosecute our denominational interests wherever the well-being of the Church appears to demand it, respecting always, with the most scrupulous regard, the rights and feelings of others; "the same which we also have been forward to do."

But it would be a great mistake to suppose that all the members of our Church who are attracted to Charlottetown connect themselves either with the Kirk or the Free Church. Not

a few seek communion with other bodies with whose doctrinal views we have less in common. Nor is it difficult to account for this. We are dissenters. Kirkmen of course are not, and the name is not fragrant in the nostrils of Free Churchmen. "The Establishment" is a little disposed yet to look down gently on "Seceders." The feeling we have been told runs somewhat higher in Charlottetown than in most places. It is not surprising therefore that men are sometimes found preferring the communion of those, with whose ecclesiastical position they do not sympathize, to that of others with whom in doctrinal views they more nearly agree. We do not justify their preference; but we do not wonder at it. It is only by bringing within their reach the Church of their early connexion and attachment that we can prevent them from wandering—no one knows whither.

The Evangelical clergy and the Dissenting ministers of Bristol, to the number of between thirty and forty, have resolved to hold a series of outdoor services during the summer months. The plan was commenced last Lord's day, when five sermons were preached at various parts of the city to large and attentive audiences, principally of the working classes.

European & Foreign News.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF DEATH.—In a second edition of Mr. Phillips's "Essay on Capital Punishment," the following is given as the punishment for murder prescribed by Mr. Livingston's code for the State of Louisiana. It has been now in force for nearly thirty years, and has been found quite efficient:—"Murderers shall be strictly confined to their respective cells and adjoining courts; in which last they may be permitted to labour, except for two months consecutively in every year, commencing on the anniversary of their crime, during which period they shall only come into the court during the time necessary to cleanse the cell; and on the anniversary of the commission of his crime the convict shall have no allowance of food for twenty-four hours, during which fast he shall receive the visit of the chaplain, who shall endeavour by exhortation and prayer to bring him to repentance. Murderers shall receive no visits, except from the inspectors, the wardens, officers and attendants of the prison, and from those who are constituted visitors of the prison. They shall have no books but selections from the Bible, and such other books of religion and morality as the chaplain shall deem proper to produce repentance and fix reliance on a future state. The fast shall not be suffered when the physician shall certify that it will be dangerous to the health of the convict. The convicts who have not learned to read may be instructed by the teachers. No murderers shall have any communication with other persons out of the prison than the inspectors and visitors: they are considered dead to the rest of the world. The cells of murderers shall be painted black within and without, and on the outside there shall be inscribed, in large letters, the following sentence:—"In this cell is confined, to pass his life in solitude and sorrow, A.B., convicted of the murder of C.D. His bread is of the coarsest; his drink is water, mingled with his tears; he is dead to the world; this cell is his grave; his existence is prolonged that he may remember his crime and repent it, and that the continuance of his punishment may deter others from the indulgence of avarice, hatred, sensuality, and the passions which led to the crime he had committed. When the Almighty, in his due time, shall exercise towards him that dispensation which he himself arrogantly and wickedly usurped towards another, his body is to be dissected, and his soul will abide that judgement which Divine justice shall decree."

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUPPRESSION OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.—A large number of ministers of various denominations assembled on Tuesday, at the Town Hall, Manchester, to confer as to the best means of accomplishing the suppression of the liquor traffic. At the opening of the conference, the Rev. Dr. M'Kerrow presided; and, in his address, he impressed upon his audience that the principle of the Maine law was that upon which all their arguments and appeals must be founded. Letters were read from various clergymen unable to be present; and it was announced that several hundred others, containing apologies for the writers' absence, had been received. On Thursday morning the Rev. Dr. Wood, of Dumfries, occupied the chair, and depositions from the Working Men's Committee, from the Salford Temperance Societies, and from a committee of the British Temperance League, were received during the morning. The proceedings were closed with a public meeting on Thursday evening. The Rev. Dr. Wood, of Dumfries, occupied the chair, and the meeting was addressed by the Revs. H. Tarrent, J. A. Crown, of Bradford, Canon Jenkins, of Downais, J. Bardsley, of Liverpool, W. Reid, of Edinburgh, and by the Hon. Neal Dow, and J. Pope, Esq.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE.—The completion of 1,250 miles (one-half) of the cable for the Submarine Atlantic Telegraph, by Messrs Newall and Co., was celebrated at their works, Birkinhead, on Wednesday, by a dinner given to about 600 of their Workmen, with their wives and families. Messrs Newall commenced spinning the cable on the 18th of February, and proceeded without interruption until Monday last, the 8th of June. The cable consists of a strand of copper wire covered three times with gutta percha. The gutta percha is sewed from end to end with spun yarn, and covered with eighteen strands of

sevent wires of strand, consisting of wire, wire. The eighty days, per day, and upon yarn upon the same purpose being floors of the in four huge diameter and being shipped averages by the proceed adopted in through a bo ing. The fe sided over by works, and v of gentlemen. The exten days may l the sporting ing day," a Davis, enter pocket, and Robert Peel very serious. The Princ our "up th the foot of thence to the to," the Cou of Lord Re Our PL Elgin, acco mission. H day, and pro The repo contradicted states that L tory." Twenty-f already been The Americ to fulfil its ships still re Kheron, o as she used war.—Illust The Cou grand impo cross" in a Queen. box-contain the nail has DESTROY TRAIN.—T dent of the of June 1 horrible m land emig intelligence train whic when abo Kearney, Chyenne in it—me waggons, of persons about: two CORRECT, Bread, Nav "Pilo Beef, Prim Batter, Car "N. Coffee, Lay Tea, Cong Flour, Am Cana "Rye, Cornmeal, Indian Co Molasses, Pork, Brin "Mes Sugar, Bri Bar Iron, Hoop "Sheet "Codfish, L "Salmon, N Mackerel "Herrings, Alewives, Haddock, Coal, Syd Fire Wo PRIORS Fresh Be Outmeal, Fort, Fre Veal, Lamb Bacon, Butter, "Cheese, Eggs, pe Poultry— Calf-skin Van, Potatoes Apples, Plums, Homeop Do. (col