

For the Christian Messenger.

GAELIC MISSION.

LETTER FROM REV. HUGH ROSS.

Mr. EDITOR, Your numerous readers will be glad to hear of the prospects of the Gaelic Mission. I am writing and preaching as much as I can, and trust that my poor labours are not in vain in the Lord.

This winter several have professed a hope in the mercy of God, through the blood of Christ. On Lord's-day I preached to about one thousand people.

There never was a time when the Mission was more appreciated than now. Many are weeping for their sins and praying for deliverance. These are pointed to the Lamb of God.

Strange to say—the Mission has more enemies than ever. Let me tell you of one case. An old man of seventy years of age found peace in believing, and was very happy. One day he was found weeping like a child. A dozen of his friends got round him and said, "Old man what is the matter?" He replied, "I feel so happy. The Lord, I hope, has forgiven my sins." At this they became very angry, and said he was crazy. How did he know? And then they reviled him. He answered, "One thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see."

The gospel certainly tends to promote peace with God and man; but through the carnal enmity of the natural man it becomes an occasion of great discord. Wherever the gospel was first preached by the apostles it excited disturbance and persecution, and to this day, where the gospel is newly preached it makes no small stir, and people are ready to say, as of old, "The men who have turned the world upside down are come hither also." Satan will not quietly part with his prey, and ungodly men who know not the nature and need of the gospel will oppose it.

Yours in hope, H. Ross.

North Sydney, April 20th, 1857.

For the Christian Messenger.

Revival in Upper Aylesford Church.

DEAR BROTHER, Last Saturday and the following Sabbath were days to be remembered at Morristown, at which place a series of religious meetings have of late been held, conducted chiefly by the Rev. Mr. Anguin, Methodist Minister, and myself. Bro. R. Morton was with us a few days, preaching to good acceptance. On Saturday last, a large number assembled for conference. It was a deeply interesting meeting—and at the close ten young persons were received for baptism—seven males and three females, who on the following day were baptized into Jesus Christ.

Three others were received by letter, making thirteen added to this branch of the church. The Sabbath services were pleasant and profitable throughout. My Bro. Ebenezer Stronach was with me in the labours of the day, preaching the good word, both on the mountain and in the valley.

May the Lord carry on his good work here, and throughout His Church. In haste, yours in Christian love. ABRAHAM STRONACH.

Upper Aylesford, April 30th '57.

For the Christian Messenger.

"Removed" Members of Baptist Churches.

DEAR BROTHER, On referring to the Minutes of the Association it appears that about the year 1840 there was added a column for Members "Removed." At that time the three Associations were all comprised in one, and, at first, but few were returned as removed, but the number has gone on increasing from year to year, until, we find, in this Western Association alone, more than one hundred returned as removed, in one year,—considerably more than the number baptized the same year.

Thus with a dash of the pen, these members (in good and honourable standing of course, else they should have been disciplined) are cut off and consigned over to the watch-care of the world, and their usefulness and influence for good, to all intents and purposes, lost.

This, Mr. Editor, is certainly an expeditious method of removing members from the Church, but whether it is "watching over one another in love," as we are covenanted to do, "watching for souls, as they that must give account," I will not take upon myself to decide, but it

does appear to me, that for the Church to make diligent inquiry after such "removed" members—find out their whereabouts—and to correspond with them, and induce them, either to renew fellowship by letter, or to take letters of dismission and unite with a church of like faith and order, worshipping near where they reside, and thus manifesting a desire to preserve them as church-members, would be a more charitable method of dealing with "removed" members, in a voluntary organization, such as our Baptist churches. This course, if carried out, it appears to me, would supersede the necessity for such a column for members "removed," and a person once uniting with a church of the Baptist denomination, would remain a member of that body, unless their deportment should merit an exclusion.

Hoping, Mr. Editor, that you or some of your numerous correspondents will give us their views on this subject, I remain, Dear Brother, Yours, for truth and right, WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

Yarmouth, April 27th, '57.

European & Foreign News.

For the Christian Messenger.

London Correspondence.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

April 24th, 1857.

ANOTHER ROYAL BABY.

Of course, Mr. Editor, loyalty can do no otherwise than commence this letter with the news which, on Tuesday the 14th, was announced to the people by boom of cannon in the Park. Her Majesty then presented Prince Albert with another "pledge of mutual affection" (I believe those are the words with common people); and her lords of the Privy Council, and the nation generally, with another Princess. Your lady readers will be interested to know that chloroform was administered to the Queen for some hours, successfully; every loyal colonist will also be gladly interested to know that now her Majesty is convalescent, and that Royal babe and mother alike thrive. The usual ceremonial attendance (in an anti-room) of the great officers of State took place; and at a Privy Council, held at 5, a form of thanksgiving was ordered to be drawn up by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was offered up in all churches of the Kingdom last Sunday; and though Dissenting subjects did not follow that ritual, they were not the less devotional or sincere in expressing thanks to God for preserving the life of their Sovereign, and giving her another daughter;—to inherit, let us hope all the virtues of her Royal mother, and prove, like her, an ornament to the high sphere of her existence. May she also possess, that spiritual and second birth, which will bestow a heavenly throne; in comparison to which earthly royalty is but as a glow-worm to the sun! God save the Queen! God save her new-born Princess!

The early months of late years are full of Royal mementoes as regards birth. In February, Her Majesty was married; in March, Princess Louisa was born; in April, Prince Leopold, Princess Alice, and the as yet unnamed babe; in May, Her Majesty, Princess Helena, and Prince Arther. The next month, June, continues the interesting record, as then Her Majesty began to reign; July is blank; in August, Prince Albert and Alfred were born; September and October blank again; in November the Prince of Wales and Princess Royal born,—December has no record. Thus, March has one birth, April and May three each, August and November, two each. In olden time, astrologers would have prognosticated certain results from this coincidence; but astrology is now set aside; and its prophets are watched as rogues, by Police Commissioner Mayne.

I may mention, in connection with this subject, that the popular mind is already nervous as to the Princess Royal's dowry. It is said, on one hand that at her marriage which is to take place soon, a large donation will be asked for—(and, as certainly, opposed, in the Commons); on the other, that Prince Albert, being economical and very rich, will out of his own private purse endow his daughter with a princely gift, and not be under the obligation of asking for it. The question was often asked of candidates at the late election, whether they would support such an appeal to the nation; many said, "no"; and one witty candidate though some suggested £17,000 a great deal too much; politely offered to settle the difficulty by "taking her *himsel* at half the money!" How the Royal ears would tingle, on reading such a speech! and, in the good old Tudor days, how the candidate's ears would tingle, after he had uttered it! or, rather would tingle no more, being put into his hands instead of the Princess!

But, while time thus increases our present Royal race, it brings nearer to the tomb the relics of a previous one. Of George III, we have but one immediate descendant left: Mary Duchess of Gloucester, born in 1776, and now 81 years of age. Her Grace, weighed down by the infirmities of age, is in such a condition of illness as leaves little hope of recovery. And thus, while we hail the advent of a new Princess, we may soon have to record the death of the last relic of the Georges. Their times as well as years have gone by, and, without any indecent or personal reflections on the aged lady who yet survives, we may point with delight to the change between present courtly life

and that which saw the Duchess of Gloucester in her early prime. What will times be when the last offspring of our present Queen shall be on an aged death-bed! Far distant be it; but, when it shall come, may similar progress have to be recorded.

I close this subject of births and marriages with the incidental remark, that Madame Otto Goldschmidt (the renowned Jenny Lind) became a mother on the 31st March, at Dresden. O that "the Nightingale" may have a tuneful child!

EASTER AND ITS AMUSEMENTS.

Of course, Mr. Editor, you never went to Greenwich Fair! and, now, you certainly never will, because the Fair no longer exists. To realize its drunkenness, dissipation, debauchery, and concrete assemblage of blackguardism, it had to be seen. Mere description availed not. So long as daylight lasted, buffoonery and coarse jocularity were its main features. Mothers, who ought to have provided better amusements for their children—silly girls, and empty-headed boys—pursued revels which, if not absolutely vicious, were at least stupid, ungainly and rude. But when night set in, and the cover of darkness, aided by the disguises of masks, concealed alike the identity of bacchanals and the deeds of their shame—when the more scrupulous had left, and abandoned women with *blase* rakes poured in—then such scenes arose as "made night hideous," and transformed the fair into a complete saturnalia.

A like fair, held at Camberwell, had become such a crying nuisance—such a mere aggregation of thievery, drunkenness, and licentiousness—that at last it was put a stop to. And, this year for the first time, the same prohibition has been extended to Greenwich, with the hearty sanction of all who had a particle of decency left.

But the Crystal Palace was open; and on Good Friday, 27,000 well and profitably enjoyed there a respite from toil: while on the Easter Monday still greater numbers flocked to see its wonders of nature, science, and art. Cheap excursions also had their full share of holiday makers. It only needs multiplication of these means of elevating and rational amusement and instruction combined, to purify the popular taste, which will be so instructed, despite the croakers on natural degeneracy and the low tastes of mobs.

THE MANCHESTER ART TREASURES EXHIBITION.

In a former letter, I gave some particulars of this giant scheme. Now it is complete, and will be open early in May. Her Majesty, the nobility, and rich connoisseurs in and possessors of works of art have come nobly forward, lending treasures which no money would buy, that the nation may have a treat. The value of the property shown is four millions, double that of the whole contents of the first Crystal Palace. Towards their protection, and against risk of injury, a guarantee fund of £75,000 has been raised. But when we know that, though all classes without reserve went to the Exhibition of 1851, and no damage was done, little fear need be entertained that injustice will be done by the masses to so generous a display for their advantage.

The Queen's condition will prevent her opening the Exhibition. But Prince Albert will take her place. As in 1851, there will be an address presented to him, then a promenade round the building (which in itself is a Palace), with military, and, amid the strains of famous minstrelsy, the Exhibition will be declared opened.

A kitchen is provided, capable of cooking 20,000 dinners a day; special cheap excursion trains will run into the building from all parts; lodgings for thousands are provided, and all the minor accommodations of omnibuses, &c. The expenses have been so enormous, to complete the whole in fit style, that two million visitors will be required to cover expenses. And it is one of the most pleasing features, that its object is not to make profit, but simply to advance a knowledge of and love for art, by the display of treasures hitherto jealously secluded in royal or noble mansions. There will be revealed the ancient treasures of famous artists: the highest flights of man's genius, through long ages, will be grouped together; the people will see, and come away with grander ideas of the beautiful than were before even dreamt of. It will become one of the features of the age, and be a fit finale to the wars and bloodshed that have engaged our attention during the last few years.

THE FRANCHISE.

Our Scotch brethren are early in the field for the coming session. In England, the qualification for a county vote is £2; in Scotland, £10. To make both equal is the aim of a wide-spread movement. Ducal influence is strong enough in England; but in Scotland, five nobles possess on the average one million acres of land each—equal to one fourth of the whole country's surface. It is high time such monstrosity should cease. Many districts in the Highlands are now almost depopulated, to form preserves for deer, that lordly owners may enjoy feudal sport, on the parent land that should sustain a peasantry.

"Woe to that land, to hastening hills a prey, Where wealth accumulates, and men decay." So it has been in Scotland. The brawny race of Highlanders who fought for us at Waterloo, crowned Alva's steep ridges, and contested inch by inch at Inkerman—bid fair to be swept off their native soil. To stop—or at least to check, this, is a grand movement; and though the present may not achieve all, it is a first step in that direction. This brings us to our own.

NEW PARLIAMENT.

The excitement of the Elections has died away. As I predicted, Lord Palmerston has come off with a complete victory. His foes

have lost much ground that they before possessed; and now the main question is, how he will conduct the forces placed at his disposal. Reform is the national demand. The people did not return *him* alone, as a man, but on the faith that he would recognize and fulfil their wishes. If he fail in doing so, plenty are ready to take his place, and he would be overturned with an ignominy as great as his present triumph. But the Premier is too astute a politician, whatever his innate predilections may be, thus to give up his name and place. He will lead the popular mind, or rather be led by it; hold his place and we shall have reform. The popular feeling on Mr. Cobden's motion, apart from individual opinion, seen by this—that out of 226 English members who voted for him, 39 retired and 45 were rejected, in addition: on 2 Scotch members, 4 retired, and 2 were rejected; making a total of 90 seats transferred on this one question.

There are some interesting particulars as to the course pursued at first by a new Parliament. I condense them here.

By the Reform Act, of 1832, it was settled that the House of Commons should consist of 658 members; but now there are only 654, as the borough of Sudbury in Suffolk, and St. Alban's in Hertfordshire, which each returned two members, were disfranchised, a punishment for the incorrigible bribery which had long prevailed in these places. There has never been an occasion on which the whole of the 658 members have been present: four hundred is considered a tolerably large gathering, and if the numbers were taken every hour during the sitting of Parliament, they would not perhaps average more than 100.

The first business of the new House, when it assembles, will be to go to the bar of the Lords, to get themselves "constituted." When they arrive at the Lords, the Lord Chancellor, as Chief of the three Commissioners appointed under the great seal for the purpose of opening Parliament, will address the assembled Commons in the following words:—"Her Majesty will, as soon as the members of both Houses shall be sworn, declare the causes of her calling this Parliament; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Commons should be first chosen; you Gentlemen of the House of Commons will repair to the place where you are to sit, and then proceed to the appointment of some proper person to be your Speaker; and you will present such person whom you shall choose, here to-morrow, for her Majesty's Royal approbation."

The Commons will then retire as they went, and at once proceed to choose a Speaker. The president for the occasion will be Sir Denis Le Marchant, "the Clerk of the House of Commons," (or, as he signs himself, the "Cler. Dom. Com.") who will not, however, take the chair, but stand in his usual place at the table; and if any debate arise, he will not call the Member by name who first catches his eye, but point to him with his finger. Sir Denis LeMarchant having informed the House that "the Commons have been commanded to choose a Speaker," the candidates will be nominated by a mover and seconder. At the close of the election, the successful candidate will be conducted to the chair by his proposer and seconder, and, standing on the upper step, he will thank the House for the honour conferred on him, and then take the chair, when some eminent Members of his party will congratulate him on the attainment of his high position. But at present he is only the Speaker elect. On the following day he will present himself at the Bar of the House of Lords, and inform the Lords Commissioners that the choice of the House has fallen upon him. After the Speaker shall have received the Royal approbation, he will formally lay claim, on behalf of the Commons, "by humble petition to Her Majesty, to use their ancient, undoubted rights and privileges;" and these having been confirmed, the Commons will return to the House, the constitution of which being now complete, Mr. Serjeant-at-Arms will shoulder his mace, and no longer carry it on his arm. Immediately on the return of the Members to their House, the Speaker will take the oaths; and then the members will be sworn, in batches, until all shall be sworn. This business will take three or four days, the House meeting for the purpose at two o'clock and adjourning at four. After the completion of the swearing, the House will go again to the Lords to hear the Royal Speech; and, on its return, a bill will be read, "for form's sake," before the Royal Speech shall be taken into consideration. This is done to assert the right of the House not to be obliged to give precedence to the matters recommended in the Speech. The Royal Speech will then be considered, and an Address will be moved in the usual manner. In short, the new House will then be in full sail.

MADAGASCAR MISSIONS.

There are some good news from these blood-stained shores. Mr. Ellis has returned in health and safety, although his stay at the capital was but for five weeks, he received every attention and kindness from the Queen, the Prince her son, and the native authorities and christians. Mr. Ellis states that though the laws against christianity are not repealed, their enforcement is greatly relaxed, and since 1849 there have been no dates of violent persecution. Has the Queen at last discovered that "godliness is profitable for the life that now is," even though she would still "leap the life to come" amid the shrouding darkness of her own cruel heathenism?

FRANCE AND HER LATE FOES.

The Grand Duke Constantine, of Russia, is now on a visit to Napoleon, and received by the French with considerable enthusiasm. He was asked whether, if Lord Raglan's advice had been taken, and the Allies had marched on to Sebastopol immediately after gaining Alma,