

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

The late Rev. R. W. Cunningham.

Digby, January 20th, 1858.

DEAR BROTHER,

You will be pained to hear that the Rev. R. W. Cunningham has "gone the way of all the earth." He died last Friday morning at half-past 10 o'clock. Although for many years he had undergone much physical weakness and suffering, his demise was somewhat sudden, although not wholly unexpected. He had been much confined to his house by debility since the commencement of the Autumn. The last time that he appeared in public was on the 10th of December, when Brother Munroe was ordained. On that occasion he delivered a most impressive charge to the Candidate, which in fact, was a charge to all his junior brethren in the Ministry who were present and received it as such. From that time, it was painfully manifest that his public work was done, for it was unmistakably plain that the process of bodily decay was rapidly progressing.

On the day before Christmas, he expectorated blood. On the 4th instant, he received a donation visit from the three surrounding churches, and appeared comparatively cheerful, and delivered a most pious address on the occasion, fervently exhorting all, especially the young, to make religion the chief object of their hopes and activities. On the morning of his decease, he arose, and as usual took breakfast with the family. Brother Munro, who was present took the lead in the morning devotions; and the departed indicated by subsequent remarks to sister Cunningham that he felt it a most inestimable privilege at the time to mingle his prayers with those of his youthful brother. Only a few minutes before he ceased to breathe, a blood-vessel gave way, and the vital current flowed freely, and in a very short time, suffocation took place. Thus closed a long and successful career of usefulness in the church militant. For thirty years, though most of the time oppressed with distressing physical infirmities, he has been a successful labourer in the gospel field; and has been a prominent actor in many of those Revivals in the Counties of Annapolis, Digby, and Yarmouth, which have resulted in large accessions to our Churches. He was emphatically "a Revivalist," and instrumental in leading hundreds to Christ, who still live to deplore his death.

Yesterday his funeral took place, and notwithstanding the badness of the roads, his remains were followed to the grave by a great concourse of mourners. He was loved and venerated in life, and many travelled many miles to be present in the solemn ceremonies at his interment. It was a day of tears.

The sermon was preached by Brother Munro, (whom the deceased had selected for that purpose, prior to his demise,) in the spacious Meeting-house at the Joggin, which was literally crowded by the congregation, and which had been hung in black for the mournful occasion. The text was:—"Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father! the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof."—2 Kings, xiii, 14. It was a most pathetic and masterly discourse delivered by a weeping Minister to a weeping congregation. Brethren Randall, O. Parker, Morse and Cogswell, as well as the Rev. Mr. Tuttle, (Wesleyan Missionary) were present, taking part in the impressively solemn services. They all spoke of the deceased in the most affectionate language, as they descended, with deep feeling, upon the piety of his life, the splendour of his intellect, and the magnitude of his usefulness. One of these brethren in the fervour of his utterance, exclaimed:—"How fir tree, for the cedar has fallen."

His remains lie in a burial-ground, not far from the Meeting-house. It is in the midst of a beautiful half-sylvan scene, where summer birds were wont to sing, and where flowers in sweet summer-time, bloom in profusion. The scene is in harmony with the poetical taste and mental tendency of our departed brother.

Before the coffin was removed from the Meeting-house, it was proposed by Brother Randall, that a collection should be taken for defraying the expense of erecting an appropriate monument over the grave of the "sainted dead." The proposition was cordially approved and promptly responded to.

Sister Cunningham bears her heavy bereavement with all that fortitude and resignation which sustaining grace alone can inspire. She

has the sympathy of the surrounding churches. They must not forget her. For thirty years she has been the patient and faithful help-mate of one of Zion's most useful servants; and now, in the loneliness of her widowhood, she should be remembered by the friends of her departed husband.

This is not the time and place to go into a lengthy detail of Mr. Cunningham's labours, success, and sufferings. For the present it is sufficient to say that he is one of a class of young men who entered the ministry about thirty years ago, and who, already crowned with hoary hairs are the successors of the early Fathers that have gone to their reward.

Yours respectfully and truly,
ANGUS M. GIDNEY.

P. S.—Perhaps it would be a privilege to Mr. Cunningham's friends on Wilmot mountain and elsewhere, to contribute towards the erection of his contemplated monument.

A. M. G.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ordination of Rev. Eliphalet O. Reid, at Gaspereaux, Horton.

DEAR BROTHER,

A Council was convened at Gaspereaux, Horton, on the 8th day of January last,—by letters from the third Horton Church,—to consider the propriety of ordaining, to the work of the Gospel Ministry, Bro. Eliphalet O. Reid, Licentiate.

The Council was composed of ministers and delegates, as follows:—

1st Horton Church—Rev. J. M. Cramp, D.D., Deacons Simon Fitch, Martin Cleaveland, William Peak, and Rev. S. W. de Blois.

3rd Cornwallis Church—Rev. James Parker.

Nictaux Church—Rev. Willard Parker.

Saint Andrews, N.B.—Rev. A. D. Thomson.

Kempt, Queens County—Bro. Kempton, Lic.

Lower Aylesford—Brother Goucher, Lic.

2nd Horton Church—Deacons James Peak, Jeremiah Eagles, Payzant, M. Allan, Westcott, and Rev. James Stevens.

On motion, Dr. Cramp was called to the chair, and Rev. S. W. de Blois was appointed Secretary.

The Council then heard the Candidate relate his Christian experience, the evidences of his call to the ministry, views of doctrine, and of ministerial duty, which being deemed eminently satisfactory, the Council unanimously voted:—That we proceed to the ordination of Bro. Reid; which accordingly took place in the following manner:—

Ordination Sermon, Rev. A. D. Thomson; asking the questions, Rev. Dr. Cramp; ordaining prayer, Rev. J. Stevens; right hand of fellowship, Rev. S. W. de Blois; charge to the candidate, Rev. Willard G. Parker; charge to the Church, Rev. Jas. Parker.

The exercises were deeply solemn, and interesting; the sermon, from 2 Cor. ii, 16, exceedingly appropriate. Bro. Reid has been much blessed since he commenced his labors—sixteen having been received by baptism.

S. W. DE BLOIS, Secretary.

For the Christian Messenger.

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

London, Jan. 15, 1858.

ENGLAND'S WEDDING.

MR. EDITOR,

It seems but yesterday that Victoria I., only three years old in sovereignty, resigned her maidenhood to become a wife. The quickness with which time seems to have flown evinces a prosperous and happy reign! and now, Her Majesty's eldest daughter—the daughter of all England—follows her Royal parent's example, and becomes a bride.

Even among "the dregs of the people," we know what a wedding associates with itself; and, the higher we go, the more important do preliminaries become, the more eventful those influences and results which follow. Brown, Jones, and Robinson, have only to settle—first, who is the most suitable girl among the Smiths, Jenkins, and Simpsons; next, the dowry, chapel and minister, breakfast, bridesmaids, house and furniture. Then all is over, so far as the general circle is concerned.

But princes cannot love as Brown or enjoy the same freedom as Jones. Princesses, too, may have Robinsons by the score at their feet; but, unless in those suitors' veins run royal blood, woe to the ladies' anticipations of wedlock at all; and, secondarily, some politics for predilections, state interests for private affections, and the incongruities which too often attach to the union of crowned heads, but cold or indifferent hearts.

It is not long ago, since "the first gentleman in Europe," and the wearer of a crown which he disgraced, illustrated this principle—first, by being foully drunk on the nuptial night; and afterward, by a continued course of cruelty and licentiousness which served to break his consort's heart.

But the Georges are gone: the race of Hanover, with all its associations, has succumbed to Brunswick; though, just to remind us of old grasping covetousness—of ingratitude to England, and undying selfishness,—we have just had raked up a claim to some crown jewels which belonged to George the Second and to Queen Charlotte, and which are alleged to have been bequeathed to the Crown of Hanover. The jewels are sent; and, with them, the aspiration of the Times—"Much good may they do their possessor!"

The Princess Royal (born Nov. 21, 1840, and consequently in her 18th year) is understood to have been educated under the liberal and extensive, but carefully select, system so admirably adopted by Her Majesty towards all the Royal children; and to have been carefully indoctrinated in all those sentiments and principles which have made her Royal mother so beloved, and so worthy of the high station she occupies. As a representative of England, in the land of her adoption—as the probable future Queen of one of the great Continental and Protestant Powers—as the head of a new line of Princes, if blessed with progeny,—it is most important that high principles and excellent virtues should mark the character of Victoria Adelaide Mary Louisa, Princess Royal of England, on her union with Frederick William Charles Nicholas, Prince of Prussia and nephew to the reigning king.

There is every reason to believe, as I stated in a letter some time since, that these expectations will be realized. Though said to be somewhat impetuous and imperious, Her Royal Highness has also credit for considerable amiability, attainments, and other qualifications which highly adorn her. Certain it is, that, in absence of more decided information, the nation imputes to her all the excellencies of her family, and views her marriage with unfeigned joy.

To marry a daughter of Queen Victoria is surely honour enough for any king known of as yet. It is not mere national vanity to say, that the burthen of proof, as to "expectations" and income, lies chiefly with the bridegroom. Is he fit for us—not, is our daughter good enough for him?

The Princess must marry some one, and who was there to be had? Apart from the Royal lady's private affection (which happens in this case, as in her Majesty's, to be settled on the accepted suitor), I think it is generally acknowledged that Prince Frederick is as good a match as we could have. He is but two removes from the throne of "the only great Protestant and partially constitutional throne on the Continent." Whenever he assumes the crown it will not be as the slave of a Jesuit hierarchy plotting a Concordat; nor will he reduce the Princess Royal of England to a par with the wives of those miserable German Dukes whose revenue merely enables them to keep a carriage, or polish the bayonets of a corporal's guard. France and Austria are shut out of view. The Heir-presumptive to the Belgian crown has already taken a wife; Sardinia is not a Protestant Kingdom, and the eldest son of its sovereign has scarcely reached fifteen years of age: in the other territories of Italy we find only the Tuscan Grand Duke, who is no more than a sycophant of the popedom, to marry whom would be a degradation to the daughter of an English Earl. The King of Naples is hateful to mankind. Spain and Portugal are excluded from the list. Upon the Baltic the heir-apparent to the Lutheran throne of the Swedes has been married for some years, and has a considerable family. The uncle of the king of Denmark is to succeed to his mutilated dominions, if not to an European difficulty and a war.

The Heir-apparent of Holland is only a youth of seventeen, and is also said to be destined for a younger Princess of our court. Germany with the exception of Austria and Prussia contains no first-class throne; the minor Courts are generally Catholic; and who, without shame, would see a British Princess betrothed to a Prince of one of those Pantomime dynasties—Hesse, Coburg, Gotha, or Brunswick? But Prussia is Protestant, and not unconstitutional. The king, aged, and in declining health, must speedily vacate the throne, and his brother cannot be expected to reign for many years; then the husband of our Princess will unless set aside by casualty or death, ascend the throne, and raise the Princess to the rank of Queen.

On the other hand, "Great Britain, under any circumstances, can never be jealous of Prussia. Her commerce has no large maritime range; and at all times, her influence on the Continent is inimical to that of the Roman ecclesiastical party; so that, to some extent, she supports the political combination formed by Belgium, Switzerland, and Sardinia. The British people prefer that the daughter of our Queen should be destined to mount a first-class throne, than that she should wear the tinsel coronet of Schwerin, Hechlingen, or Nassau, or reside amid the tattered frippery of a half starved German Dukedom."

The Court will arrive in town about the 14th instant, and grand preparations are being made for the illustrious event.

"Great taste has been displayed in the internal decorations of the State apartments and Chapel Royal, some portions having undergone a complete transformation. It was originally proposed that the State banquet should take place in the old banquetting hall in St. James's Palace, on account of its being a larger and loftier room than any in Buckingham Palace; but, as this would be fraught with considerable inconvenience, her Majesty's own personal residence has been chosen."

"The reason given for not having the all-important ceremony performed in Westminster Abbey is the large additional outlay of public money that would have been required. Various estimates were made, and they ranged from £50,000 to £100,000. Great efforts have been made to accommodate as many persons as possible in the palace and Chapel Royal; every nook where the slightest possible chance of a glimpse of even the flounce of a royal dress could be obtained has been fitted with seats, and it is understood that after the ceremony the Palace will be thrown open to the inspection of the public for some days.

"It has not yet been quite determined whether the bridal train will leave this country from Gravesend or not, as was prematurely announced. The local authorities of that port have not yet received any official information on the subject. It is understood that there will be a general illumination on the night of the nuptials, and the subject will be brought formally before the Corporation of the City of London in the course of next week. The principal guests will arrive in this country on the 15th inst., and from that date until the end of the month there will be a series of Court state entertainments and rejoicings."

"The state reception of Saturday, the 30th instant, will doubtless be of the most brilliant character. In anticipation of the crowd of visitors being very great, it has been determined that no presentations shall take place, as it would prolong the drawing-room to a length of time that would be tedious in the last degree to the royal party. The bridal couple will be present to receive the congratulations of those who have the privilege of the entree."

"The public will be admitted to the Chapel Royal, St. James's, by tickets, on Wednesday, the 27th inst., and the two following days; and to the Chapel and State Apartments in the following week."

Prince Frederick will leave Berlin on the 21st instant. He had purposed crossing the Channel in a new yacht, that has just been completed for the King at Havre; but rumour says, that his affianced, fearing anything that might endanger his safety, put in a protest against his venturing here in an untried vessel; so its crew, which had been told off and had proceeded from Dantzic for Havre, were returned for their winter quarters. Who would not, among unmarried men, be a Prince Frederick, to be so watched over by a Royal lady? If he objected, however, to such extreme caution, he most gallantly complied with a request containing so much of compliment to himself. Happy Prince!

The Princess's Christmas present, from her lover, was a pearl necklace, valued at £4,000.

Copies of the marriage contract are being made in Berlin by the most perfect calligraphers. They are to be in German, French, and English,—on vellum, beautifully ornamented, and in gold letters.

Berlin is of course all alive in arrangements for the entry of the newly wedded pair. The trades of the town will form procession; and the 200 young ladies selected to receive Her Royal Highness will be sure not to forget attendance. They will not be required, on account of their health and the inclement season, to officiate on the entry, but be received at the Palace next day. The programme calls them a selection of "youth and beauty;" but some of the rejected have earnestly impressed on "The Times" correspondent that a fair sample of Berlin youth and beauty must not be expected. Students of the Universities will also figure conspicuously, in uniform, and in a torch dance; but some customs, hitherto usual, will be omitted, from consideration to English tastes and prejudices.

The Queen has, kindly and significantly, expressed a desire that those occupying prominent places in the Chapel Royal shall be young ladies, who, from age, sex, and those anticipations which Her Majesty knows young ladies cherish