

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

London, June 11, 1858.

HIGH ART: THE EUROPEAN GREAT MASTERS REPRODUCED FOR EVERY ONE.

Mr. Editor,—Allow me to suppose that yourself, and perhaps some of your readers, have missed letters which, until recently, I sent pretty regularly.

A change in occupation, and more engrossing duties, explain that omission; and may perhaps prevent my resumption of letters for the present.

Unwilling, however, to entirely close our connection, I meanwhile offer to your readers far higher gratification than my own pen could give, in placing within their reach, through your agency, "Studies from the Great Masters,"—a work alike unparalleled in idea, execution, and price, and produced by an Artist high in his profession, known to many of your readers through his works, and with whom I have the honour to be connected.—Mr. Dickes.

Baxter first originated and patented the beautiful process of oil-colour painting. Mr. Dickes was licensed of the art, and has greatly improved it. With equal talent, energy and enterprise, he has started this new Work—having for its object the reproduction of those grand works of the painter's art which through successive ages have delighted the world, and for possession of whose originals, crowned heads, nobles, and connoisseurs have contended with thousands of pounds. These are reproduced in all the beauties of colour and shading—conveying to the eye a far greater realization of the original than a mere plain copy could do.

Each Part will be composed of 2 pictures, with illustrative descriptions, in an elegantly designed wrapper, 14 inches by 15, or imperial quarto. The subjects will be mainly of a sacred character, but not exclusively so; and Painters of all schools will be taken, their established fame being, however carefully considered. In the course of success, these Masters and subjects will be found—A CARRACCI'S THREE MARIES, (by special permission of the Earl of Carlisle) CHRIST BLESSING CHILDREN. After HESS.

THE HOLY FAMILY. After CORREGGIO. THE IDLE SERVANT. After NICHOLAS MAAS.

THE SPANISH FLOWER GIRL. After MURILLO.

CHRIST ENTOMBED. After GUERCINO. THE PRODIGAL SON.

ROBINET. After SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS. Titian, Carracci, Rubens, Rembrandt, Da Vinci, Raffaele, Michael Angelo, Perugino, Massaccio, and Giotto, will, as the Work progresses, be reproduced; and as each Part is complete in itself, no fear of diminished interest need be entertained from its serial appearance once a month.

But as to price?—Here cometh another novelty. Hitherto, the price of a single Picture of that size would have been 2s. or 3s. now, the two plates, descriptions, and wrapper, is but two shillings: a charge hitherto unknown in the artistic world, for such exquisite productions.

They are suited either to ornament a drawing room table, or framed, to constitute a gallery of High Art, upon the house-walls of even a labourer—who will thus possess his own National Gallery.

Art is refining in its tendency, and also educative. The ignorant are often taught, by a Picture, what books would fail to inculcate: while, to those of more æsthetic sympathies, the pictured semblance of life past, present, or future, appeals with tenfold power. How much more so is this the case, when Christianity has exalted a mind, and Art uses her magic power in illustration of those mighty and least-cherished themes which form the soul's best sheet-anchor!

As I have said, the Book of Books will be the chief fountain of Mr. Dickes' labours, through those whose genius he embellishes and popularizes: and the moral and unobjectionable subjects of familiar life will also be added.

Such, then, is "Studies from the Great Masters." It will rest with you, Mr. Editor, to make them known far and near through British America; and, in necessarily restricting my chit-chat with your readers, I am happy to place within their reach the genius of the first Artists in various ages. That many of Nova Scotia's houses may be ornamented with those "Grand old Masters" is the trust and expectation of

NIGHT LAMP.

We have received a Specimen Copy of the work referred to by our London Correspondent. The pictures are really beautiful. We are per-

sonally acquainted with the Artist, Mr. Dickes, and can place full reliance in the work as one worthy of the highest confidence.

The price named by our Correspondent, however, is that charged in England, in sterling money, to which it will be necessary to add 50 per cent. to allow for Halifax currency, postage, and other charges. The price will therefore be 3s. currency for each part containing two of these fine pictures with descriptions. Or four copies will be given for 10s.

We have sent for a limited number of copies. Those who send on orders first will be supplied as soon as these arrive. We shall send for more as further orders are received.

CHRISTIAN MESSENGER Office, Halifax.

For the Christian Messenger.

Encœnia of King's College, Windsor.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I was present at the Encœnia of King's College last Thursday. A brief account of the proceedings of the day may not be uninteresting to your readers.

The day was very propitious. At ten o'clock a procession, composed of Governors, Professors, Alumni and Students, led by the Bishop of Nova Scotia, walked from the College to the old Church, where, after some preliminaries of reading prayers and chanting, an eloquent sermon was pronounced by Rev. George W. Hill, A. M., Professor of Pastoral Theology. He took for his text the 13th verse of the 77th Psalm, "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?" He endeavored, and successfully, to illustrate the sentiment of the text, from a review of the progress of the Church of England in the Province, since it was formed into an Episcopal see. In this review, he adverted particularly to the labors of some of their first preachers in Nova Scotia. Our own fathers, in the ministry, it would seem, were not the only ones, nor the first, who, more than half a century ago, traversed our shores and forests, and endured many hardships, in order to promote the spiritual good of the people. The learned Professor made it appear that any defect which might have existed in the preaching of the first ministers in his own denomination was atoned for in the reading of the Old Testament once and the New Testament three times a year in their Church service, which could not be otherwise than highly beneficial in the way of promoting an acquaintance with the scriptures. It is certainly pleasing to know that the text is evāngelic if the sermon is not.

The Educational movement, started in connection with King's College, was named by Prof. Hill, as among the great benefits flowing from Episcopalianism in Nova Scotia. At this College 107 cler. ymen have been educated, the greater number of whom have settled and labored in our own Province. There are now 72 clergymen of the Church of England in Nova Scotia, 5 of whom are on the retired list. The Church has 102 consecrated churches, besides 12 unfinished (unconsecrated), in the Province. The preacher closed his discourse with an exhortation to his ministering brethren to earnestness and zeal in their efforts to advance the kingdom of Christ. The sermon throughout was such as the learning and eloquence of Prof. Hill furnished ample reason to expect.

Having proceeded from the Church to the College Hall, we were first very agreeably entertained in listening to an oration from Dr. McCawley, the President of the Institution. He spoke in terms of highest respect of those who, during the past year, have become the liberal benefactors of the College. Among the number was Miss Binney, who has founded a Scholarship. The learned orator hoped that of these "honorable women" there would be "not a few."

Reference was made in the oration to a resolution passed last year, to the effect that special effort should be made to increase the number of students at the College.

As the late disciplinary acts of the Institution had given rise to some discussion, and a difference of opinion had prevailed among its friends in regard to the matter, the President entered into an elaborate and satisfactory consideration of the whole subject, ably vindicating himself and the Institution against all censure.

Next in order, Bishop Binney moved that Sir John Inglis, who had distinguished himself in India, receive the degree of Doctor of Civil Law. He observed that sometimes a man receives honor from the University that confers his degree, but that in this case the University would receive honor from the man. The motion was seconded by Judge Stewart, C. B., and carried by acclamation.

Then followed an Essay by Prof. Stiefelbogen on Language, in which the great principles of language, the versatility and utility of the modern languages, their importance to the student, and

the best method of acquiring them, were ably considered.

Various degrees were then conferred.

Among the candidates for degrees were the Rev. Jacob Mountain, of Canada, and J. Hea, Esq., of Horton, each of whom received the degree of Doctor of Civil Law.

The assembly was broken up by "Dissolvimus hanc Convocationem" pronounced by the President, which was also the signal to retire to his apartments for refreshment.

On the whole, the Encœnia compared well, in interest and pleasure, with those which have preceded it.

I was glad to see among those present five of the Alumni of Acadia College.

The number of students in attendance at King's College, during the term just closed, was twelve.

King's College is finely located. Nature and art seem to have vied with each other in their embellishments. If Acadia College does not present so fine an appearance as King's, it is not because Nature has done less for her, but because art has not done more. Would that the students of Acadia College were as careful to ornament the College grounds with trees, walks, &c., as are the American students in this respect. If every student should plant one tree, before leaving College, he would leave behind him some evidence of not having gone to College in vain. Perhaps there are some students who will live and die unknown, just through their not having left behind them a tree.

June 29th, 1858.

KAL.

For the Christian Messenger.

Visit to Great Britain.

June 22nd, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR,

In my former "letter from London" I stated that if my time would allow of my seeing the sights here I would give you some account of them. The fatigue of business and my want of time have prevented my writing before; but learning that you did me the honor of inserting my letter in the Messenger has induced me to write again, and now begin just where I left off.

LONDON.

Curiosity leads the visitor to see that which he has heard the most of. One of the most conspicuous is Saint Paul's Cathedral, towering high in the air, and looking majestically down on the highest of the high buildings which surround it. Buildings bearing the same name had stood on the same site, of great size and beauty, but having been destroyed the present one was erected. After removing 27,000 loads of the materials of the former, it was commenced in 1674, was 35 years in building, and cost three quarters of a million sterling. It covers two acres of ground. The height of the top of the cross is 360 feet. The clock is of immense size, with two faces, suiting the streets, each face being twenty feet in diameter. The minute hand in each is ten feet long, and weighs 75 lbs. It is said the Architect, Sir Christopher Wren, made it a rule that every man guilty of profane language should be instantly dismissed by the clerk of the works. What a pity that his religious scruples had not stopped their grog. The interior is very beautiful. The paintings in the eight compartments of the dome represent the conversion of Saint Paul, to whom the Church is dedicated, the striking of Elymas the Sorcerer blind, the proffered sacrifice at Lystra, the conversion of the jailor at Philippi, his preaching on Mars' Hill, the burning of the Magical Books at Ephesus, his defence before Agrippa, and his shipwreck off Melita.

Painters generally have a traditionary story about a celebrated artist, whose platform was very high, when just at the completion of a masterpiece picture, stepped back to mark the effect. His friend, knowing that his mind was absorbed in his work, and seeing that before he could call he would step backwards over the precipice, snatched a brush full of paint and dashed it at the picture; the painter in anger rushed forward to save his work, and in doing so saved his own life. If there be any truth in this, the artist was Sir James Thornhill who painted those pictures. History tells us that this scene took place just as he was giving the finishing touches to the head of one of the apostles, and that a bystander, observing that there was no time to explain that he would at the next step be over the scaffolding, performed the kind office of spoiling the picture, and saved Sir James' life.

The floor consists of alternate squares of black and white marble. The centre forms a complete mariner's compass, exhibiting the thirty-two points. A large brass plate forms the central point, beneath which lie the remains of Lord Nelson.

Contiguous to the circuit of the walls are the monuments erected to the memory of some forty

public men, Nelson, Duncan, Moor, and others. Also, 2 bishops, 1 philosopher, 1 judge, 1 surgeon, 1 physician, 1 painter, and 1 philanthropist,—the latter being the first admitted. This statue represents Howard trampling on some fetters, a key in the right hand, and a scroll in the left, on which are the words, "Plan for the improvement of Prisons and Hospitals." The inscription is long, and is, I think, recited by his biographer.

This would have appeared to him trifling, as, according to his biographer, his aim was not to be popular, but to do good. At the age of twenty his health was so delicate, that he could get to Italy only by easy journeys. Improving, and likely while serving as sheriff in his native town, he became sensible of the bad treatment of the prisoners, and formed his plans to better their condition. In seventeen years he travelled sixty thousand miles, over roads all but impassable, and in all kinds of weather, visiting the foulest dungeons, going where none of his conductors dared to follow him, living entirely on vegetable diet, and using no alcoholic drinks. Had he lived at a later period, and practiced the principles of vegetarians, it is probable that his monument would not have been here.

I am rather digressing, but must recommend the life of this great and good man to our young friends. Read it carefully over and over again.

BRITISH MUSEUM.

To get a tolerable idea of what is to be seen in the British Museum, instead of devoting four hours would require as many years. That which is old or ancient is to be seen in this building of such vast space, together with its two wings, beasts, birds, reptiles, and fishes, minerals, fossils, sculptures, mummies, coffins, dishes, war and domestic implements, coins, printing of all kinds, and of different nations, from the earliest dates, autographs of Emperors, Kings, and Queens, Statesmen, Poets, Philosophers, or to comprise the whole, say of all whose names have appeared in history. Luther's is to be seen with his ninety odd Theses against the doctrine of Indulgences, which he in 1517 posted in public, challenging the world to dispute with him in the University at Wittenberg.

It does not require much brains or time to examine and get a pretty good impression of the beasts, birds, reptiles, and fishes. After looking at them as they are here, nearly as natural as life, a half hour's ride will take one to

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS,

Regent's Park, where they can be seen full of life and animation. I cannot say the sloth has animation, for you cannot get the brute to stir.

Many of the birds and beasts which we read of in the scriptures are also here.

The Pelican I think will weigh about 1 cwt., the length of its bill will allow it to eat from a deep bucket and have its eyes above. The Flamingo is a little smaller, and has a similar neck to that of a swan. Its legs, about three feet long, are as thick as a man's thumb, giving it the appearance of walking on stilts. When the ladies consider what a rare bird the Ostrich is, they will not complain of the price of its feathers. When standing, its head is about seven feet high. The Urea, a bird from South America, and the Emu, from Australia, are very like the Ostrich. The Ourang Outang died some four years since. The largest reptile now to be seen, called the Guinea Rock Snake, is eighteen feet long. It is fed only twice during the winter, and every two weeks during summer. The one which swallowed its blanket in 1852 was twenty-three feet long. It vomited the blanket up but died shortly after. The brindled gnu from South America has a tail like a horse and a head like an ox. The Alpaca sheep is very beautiful, standing about three feet high, with its long fleecy black wool gracefully sweeping the short grass on which it feeds.

A passing notice of the animals here would exceed my limits, seeing many species of the same animals, I counted 2 Hippotamuses, 3 Giraffes, 1 Rhinoceros, 8 Antelopes, 3 Tapers, 4 Lions, 5 Tigers, 10 Bears, 4 Pelicans, 56 Parrots, 2 Ostriches, 15 Eagles, 9 Vultures, 30 Monkeys, and 3 Baboons.

I noticed that most of the gormivorous animals are kept in open space and houses, and are so docile that you can pat their faces with impunity, while the carnivorous ones are kept in cages with iron bars. Were you to treat them in the same manner, you would soon be minus a hand.

The gardens are well laid out, with here and there among the shrubbery, houses for the different kind of animals. On entering when they are noisy, the growl of the bear, the howl of the wolf, the screech of the hyena, and the roar of the lion are somewhat likely to frighten those with weak nerves.

About four miles east brings me to

THE TOWER,

covering some twelve acres. Its antiquity, th-