

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

More about Endowing Acadia College.

Again and again have those who are no doubt interested in the object in view of which this is written, and who are interested deeply too—more deeply perhaps, were it possible, than the present writer,—again and again have these friends of our College wrought out plans for its endowment, for placing its beyond dependence on the charity of the noble few, who are never weary in well-doing. When the fortunes of the various schemes are contemplated, that they have created a stir for a day and then have vanished and been forgotten—thus remembering the fate of those which have gone before, no one would attempt to sketch a plan without a trembling hand, and hardly dare to hope for the success of any plan however well concocted.

However much the modest planner would wish to put aside the idea, he cannot help admitting that this duty falls on the master spirit. One thing is very clear, that, whether a man take it upon himself or it is placed upon him by others, he should not go thoughtlessly, or rashly or in a vain spirit to his work. After satisfying himself that he has the ability to frame a plan, in the first place he should ponder upon his subject until he mature one worth advocating—the best under the circumstances—or, rather, the one most needed, and in the second place he should be satisfied that he has the ability and firmness to adhere to his plan, and advocate it until the end. Otherwise it is most assuredly the case that it were better when he had framed it to have hanged a millstone about it and cast it into the sea; for, to propagate it, would do more harm than good—would tend to create a desire for plans, and destroy the spirit of action. Deeply impressed with this belief, we go to our responsible task.

For a long time a plan has been developing itself in our brain, and, in the fear that our modesty might be doubted, we beg to have it distinctly understood that the peculiar circumstances attending its growth—that it has had the serious attention of years—that it has been nurtured under the advice and suggestions of master spirits—that, in somewhat different form, the principle involved here, under similar circumstances, even in the endowment of Colleges, has been highly successful—that these facts have come under our notice without any very great effort or exhibition or necessity of exhibition of genius on our part—in a word, that we are not altogether original in this—that these things, besides encouraging us to believe that our plan carried out would be effectual, we deem sufficient to constitute us an exception to our definition of a planner.

The candid and thoughtful will not fail to perceive—have not failed to feel long ago the necessity of some such plan as we here humbly submit, although, among the superficial, fault may be found that it is too general—that it does not deal as the others have done with particulars; but herein let it be known consists its chief merit, herein, too, may be explained the failure of those which have preceded. Is the object now to prune and trim the branches—is it even to cleave the trunk? Is it not, rather, to get down at the root and deal with that? Let us deal with the root now. Let us seek to get health and strength in that way up through the whole system. For plans to guide us afterwards, files of this paper perhaps may furnish several very good ones, which, heretofore, have been of but little service and which are fast being forgotten.

Here, then, is our very simple plan. May it, by the help of Providence, do much good. That the 20,000 Baptists of these Provinces each be supplied with, and give solemn heed to, a little story written centuries ago, by a heathen shall we say, and which runs somewhat in this style:—Once upon a time the shadows of death were beginning to gather around an old farmer, out of which he looked with anxiety on some sons of his, who were not living together in that state of harmony which allowed him to go in peace to his last rest. That he might teach them a final lesson which would not fade easily from their memories, calling them around him, he procured a bundle of twigs, which he requested them to break entire. After attempting in vain, he advised them to try each one single. In this way, they easily severed the bundle; and thus he taught them, that in union there is strength, but, in disunion, weakness.

S.V.V.V.V.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Aurora Borealis or "Northern Lights."

In a late volume of the "Smithsonian Contributions to Human Knowledge" is a very interesting paper on the Aurora, by the late Professor Olmsted, of Yale College. As but few of the readers of the *Christian Messenger* can have access to it, we have given below the substance of the paper, thinking that it might not be uninteresting, to some at least, to know what is thought of this meteor by scientific men.

The Aurora Borealis appears in six different forms, as arches, streamers, waves, &c., and is arranged in four classes. There are several general laws which are found to govern it. It has been observed that "an Aurora of the first or highest class usually commences near the end of evening twilight in the form of a northern light resembling the dawn," that "it commonly arrives at its maximum at all places," longitude making no difference, "from 10 to 11 o'clock, and more frequently a little before 11 o'clock," and that "ordinary Auroras commonly end before midnight, but those of the first class frequently continue all night."

"Auroral exhibitions of the higher order are generally of great extent." "A great Aurora is preceded by a large bank or cloud of a peculiar vapor, resting on the northern horizon, commonly of a milky or smoky appearance. This is the food for the Aurora, and the exhibition is finer in proportion to its greater or smaller quantity. This vapor is very low in density, less than the lightest fog."

Sometimes, in a fine Aurora, after the streamers and arches have made their appearance, waves of light begin to flow from the horizon to a point near the zenith, with a rapid but progressive motion,—were the light electricity, the motion would be instantaneous. These waves, when present, form one of the grand features of a great Aurora. "The Aurora Borealis is accompanied by remarkable magnetic disturbances." The needle of the compass is much agitated during a fine display.

As to "geographical relations, the Aurora occurs most frequently in the polar regions. It is only in the great periods that it descends much below the lat. of 40°, but it descends lower in the western than in the eastern continent, and prevails more in the northern than in the southern hemisphere." The Aurora Australis, or Aurora of the southern hemisphere, has not been so well observed as the Aurora Borealis, but it is "more rare and less magnificent than the latter."

"As to sound, there is no decisive evidence that the Aurora is ever accompanied by sound." Those frequently attributed to it are probably faint terrestrial sounds, which would strike only the listening ear, and are heard as well on a still evening when there is no Aurora as when there is one.

"The exhibitions of the Aurora take place at a great but variable height above the earth." Mairan computed the height of one to be 700 miles, Cavendish that of another to be 52-71 miles, and Prof. Twining, of another, 144½ miles. The Aurora is most frequent in the month of October, and very rarely visible in the month of June.

There are what Prof. Olmsted calls "Secular periods," during which the exhibitions of the Aurora are finest and most numerous, occurring at intervals of from sixty to sixty-five years, and lasting from twenty to twenty-five years.

"The origin of the Aurora is Cosmical,"—the matter composing it is not derived from the earth. It is a very light vapor believed to be metallic, and, most probably, of iron. It is supposed that this vapor composes nebulae, that they revolve around the sun in an orbit of their own, and that the earth, in its annual revolution, passes through them. The compression of the vapor in coming into forcible contact with the air, would cause light to be evolved, by the generation of electricity, or, if the vapor be metallic, by its own combustion.

It is thought that the meteoric stones, which are so frequently dropping on the earth, owe their origin to the Aurora, and there is a connection between the latter and the zodiacal light.

FRITZ.

A locksmith in Frankfort-on-the-Main has hit upon the ingenious idea of constructing a strong box without any keyhole at all, and which even the owner himself cannot open. Inside is a clockwork, the hand of which the owner places at the hour and minute when he again wants to have access to the box. The clockwork begins to move as soon as the lid is shut, and opens the lock from the inside at the moment when the hand indicates.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Germany.

MR. EDITOR,

Our young German brother, John Osmer, whose farewell to Upper Steviacke, or, to use his own language, "the dear little village where he first found the Lord," you published in the pages of the *Christian Messenger* in the spring of 1858, has, since his arrival in his native city, Bremen, corresponded with several of his friends here. Knowing that many, who heard his exhortations when in our Province, would like to hear from him, and that all the redeemed love to hear of the progress of true religion in other lands, I send, for insertion in your pages, a copy of the last one received.

Particulars in reference to the Church in Germany were requested by friends here. Our brother asks for aid in building their chapel! Can we not do something for our Baptist brother in Germany?

J. S. LAYTON.

Upper Steviacke, Oct. 17th, 1859.

BREMEN, August 17th, 1859.

A man's heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps.—Prov. xvi. 9.

My Beloved Friends in Christ.—Instead of answering letters received from dear sisters in the Lord, I shall address in the following lines the whole little branch of Zion at Steviacke. All the regenerated will know by experience the truth of the above mentioned Scripture, especially those who have been travelling for years the narrow path that leadeth to life. My heart! my heart! my wicked heart! So I have to lament every day and truly "a man's heart deviseth his way," but true and cheering also that "the Lord directeth his steps." Yes He, the Lord of hosts, directeth my steps, otherwise, I would be astray long ago. Did he direct my steps so wonderfully in order to leave me now alone? No, he did not, but to lead me all the way through the wilderness into everlasting glory,—therefore, then will I not fear, though the earth be removed and the mountains be cast into the sea." He, the author of my faith, is also the finisher thereof. Let not the heart then make us so much trouble as it likes to do; we will not despair, but go boldly on, in spite of all our foes.

"Something about our little church I suppose to be important for you. Truly the Baptist churches of Germany are the churches of Christ—he, the Lord himself, has established them and taken care of them also; he has kept the many branches small, but clean; and they all stand as one in sweet connection. The troubles and joys of one church are the troubles and joys of the other. Where the brethren meet together there they greet each other with an holy kiss. All are so filled with the love of their gracious Master, that their holy joys can scarcely be expressed. But I will now write only about the church here. I might say heavenly brotherly love seems to tie the hearts of her members closely together. It is difficult for me to describe, in your language, the harmonious life which they lead in hope of their Master's coming. They do not act upon feelings merely, but according to duty. Their actions are the same whether they feel or not. Excitement does not arouse them to uncommon speeches or doings; but, steadfast, they go forward, and the Lord blesses them continually. They meet almost every evening. For instance, we have prayer-meeting Sabbath morning, then two sermons through the day; Monday evening meet to consider God's Word, (Bible hour); Tuesday practice singing; Wednesday preaching, and Thursday the Young Men's meeting. They visit one another, if they have any time to spare. All exhort each other, and together carry their burdens as well as impart their joys. If I consider the state of your church at Steviacke with that of the church here, I am obliged to say there is a vast difference.

Dear Brethren and Sisters, I wish you were able to see the people of God meet together here. How they shake hands, how they look for each other to heaven; but I am too poor an Englishman to give you a full description. Next month a conference meeting of the Missionaries of North Germany will be held at Bremen. I shall then, if it be the will of God; see Mr. Oncken, tell him of you and of your love for him. My heart sometimes begins to break when beholding the dreadful situation of a world lying in wickedness, and the miserable creatures groaning under the lamentable consequences of sin. O yes, my brethren, then my heart begins to break, and I cry unto the Lord that he may have compassion on this adulterous generation, especially when I see the acts of the great wise men that call themselves ministers of Christ's flock, but caring only for the wool of the sheep. Yet the work is the Lord's, and I can but pray to him. He is the Lord that teaches his servants in a wonderful, but, to man, unknown manner, and he, I am sure, will teach me rightly before I go to teach others. Pray that I may never look backward, having once put my hands to the plough.

Now, a few more lines about your brethren here. For thirteen years are they collecting cents, in order to get money for a chapel; but as they are only common people, they have only raised the sum of £25. Now, I think it would be something like a pleasure to you to send £100, for a chapel at Bremen, to Mr. Oncken. If you think this sum too high and me a little — (I don't know what you call that,) then a little less will be gladly received. Still I beg

*He probably meant to say extravagant.

you to consider this, for we need, at least, from £1500 to £2000, and if you look at the £25 we now have, you will find that the time is yet not near to see a Baptist chapel at Bremen. However, we must have one, as our room is getting too small. I think other friends in Nova Scotia will also do something for us if you inform them. If you do, I will pray the Lord to lead half-a-dozen more German boys into your midst, in order to convert them there. And that will be reward enough! Will it not?

Papers, I suppose, will have informed you of the Baptist Jubilee at Hamburg, so that I need not write about it.

What an important time was it for me when staying at Steviacke! My soul, didst thou ever think enough of it, and was it not worth while to think of it? O my forgetful soul, it was worth while to think about it all the time since, and all the time yet to come. How marvelous did the Almighty teach thee his goodness! How wonderfully has he displayed his wisdom in the ways of thy salvation, and how gracious has he kept thee since!

Forget me not in your prayers. The grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

JOHN OSMERS.

[In compliance with the request of our friend Jacob S. Layton, we have consented to receive and transmit to Germany a small contribution from himself and other friends, for the above object.—Ed. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Progress of the Cause of Christ in Yarmouth County.

DEAR EDITOR,

We are greatly cheered with the autumnal fruit of your instructive sheet, though it is mostly trans-Atlantic. What great things the Lord is doing for Ireland and Scotland, and for other parts of the world. Thanks be to God, we are no longer confined to the new world for exhibitions of grace, on a most magnificent scale. The fallow ground of the mother Country is broken up, and the golden harvest is fast being gathered into the garner of our Lord. But, let us not despise the day of small things, in these lower Provinces; for the day of judgment may reveal as abundant a harvest of souls redeemed from them as from any other country, according to the population.

The Lord having favored us with times of refreshing, should encourage us to compass his altar, and in humility and faith unfeigned, "give him no rest till he establish and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." The church at Chebogue has passed through deep waters, but we hope that the very acceptable and interesting labours of the Rev. Wm. Burton among them for the past month, will be fraught with saving and happy results.

The Church at Beaver River, where Brother Delong laboured successfully for several years, is now wanting a good minister of Jesus Christ. The consecration of their new House to Almighty God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, should not be passed over in silence. It was opened on the 7th inst. The following was the order of exercises, (omitting the hymns and the reading of Scripture).

Introductory prayer by Rev. J. A. Stubbart; Sermon by the subscriber: text, Haggai i. 8,— "Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord."

Dedication prayer, by Rev. Henry Angell. In the afternoon and evening interesting sermons were delivered by Rev. S. H. Sanders, and Rev. Wm. Burton. The next morning Rev. A. Cogswell of Clements, I am told, preached very acceptably; a blessed conference followed, and the meetings were continued from day to day for several days. Three or four were baptized by Bro. C.

We congratulate our dear brethren at the ready sale of pews, which has at once freed the house, the cost of which was a *One Thousand Pounds*. The principal agent in this noble work was the indefatigable, Deacon Wm. Raymond; aided it is true by his good brother Ira, and others. They all concede, however, that this spacious and tastefully finished house would not have been erected, but for the indomitable energy of this working, sacrificing and begging Deacon. May he long live with his brethren to worship within its sacred walls, and aid in directing hundreds of willing converts to the fellowship and communion of the church.

The question now is, where can a suitable pastor be found for this thriving interest? Bear River, has become a very important field of labor. Many of its inhabitants are business men of more than ordinary intelligence and enterprise, and they must have, not only a pious and devoted, but an instructive pastor. Let our prayers mingle at the mercy seat, with theirs, that the Lord of the harvest will graciously send them one "after his own heart."

E. N. HARRIS.