

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

English Correspondence.

From our own Correspondent.

[Our last English Steamer brought us the following letters. The first should have come by the previous mail. Both contain matters of interest; we therefore prefer giving both in our present issue to retaining either for another week.—Ed. C. M.]

Manchester, July 14th, 1860.

MR. EDITOR,

The *Great Eastern* has at last successfully crossed the broad Atlantic. The Crimean War, the Indian Revolt, and the new China War point out to us a great necessity. The tremendous cost of transporting a considerable body of troops by the overland route to India, being I think as high as £60 per man was incurred when the very existence of our Indian Possessions depended on our promptitude in sending a large force. On such an occasion a *Great Eastern* would earn its entire cost in one journey out and home. For peaceful purposes too, such a large vessel, so long as to rest on two or more of the largest waves of the ocean, gliding not only over but also through the waves, so powerful as to resist the shock of the waves, and so capacious, will open a new era. Emigration will be comparatively easy and comfortable, and not more costly. The interchange of productions and manufactures will be greatly facilitated. We shall probably soon hear of more enterprises of this kind; indeed for our government such large ships will now be a necessity.

THE CHINESE WAR.

Our quarrel with China has had some prominence in our parliament this week. The certainty of hostile activity for our large forces sent out from England and India has obliged the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask for £3,800,000. Of course the opposition find as much fault as possible with the entire ministry and especially with Mr. Gladstone in respect of this war, with the Government for the existence of the dispute, though the opposition when in power did their share in bringing it about, and with Mr. Gladstone for not asking for the money, when in the early days of the session he introduced his budget and explained our financial position. Had he done so there is very little doubt but the same party would have expressed their indignation with his extravagance, and unreasonable demand for money to meet a war which might after all never take place, for at that time we were in hopes our overtures of peace would be accepted by China. The money asked for was at last agreed to. Rare indeed do we find any objection in our House of Commons to any amount of expenditure in connection with the army or navy. A million or two in that direction meets no such opposition as a thousand or two to aid any social improvement.

NATIONAL DEFENCES.

There really seems to be no end to our folly in spending money for our protection. After all, our safety cannot be secured by forts and guns, or even by ships and soldiers so easily as by the extension and consolidation of our commercial relations. What a happy nation might we be if our whole adult male population were actually engaged in useful pursuits. While, however, other nations will continue their armaments, we must submit to the same burden. Though there is no doubt that if the whole population were drilled to the use of the rifle, we might dispense with the costly fortifications which stand here and there along our coast. It is absurd to suppose that forts a hundred miles apart could do much in the way of preventing an invasion. Were we to double our defences in that direction we could not daunt a determined enemy so well as by showing up a ready means of concentrating a well disciplined body of volunteers. Last week was a sort of gala-day for the riflemen of the nation, a grand contest for some really valuable prizes afforded an opportunity for our best marksmen to exhibit their skill side by side with that of the Swiss, who have heretofore figured as the crack shots of Europe. The result has been peculiarly gratifying to our national vanity. Englishmen are in no way behind our Alpine friends. While the Swiss have carried off a respectable number of prizes, the greater number and all the first prizes are in the hands of Britons. The Scotch, so practised in deer-stalking, have greatly excelled. Another gratifying result of this contest is the decided superiority of the Whitworth Rifle over the Government Enfield Rifle or any other. Manchester is again victorious, Whitworth is one of our first Engineers.

The series of Grand Concerts given a fortnight ago in the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, by three thousand selected choristers from France were attended by tens of thousands, and were eminently successful. These three thousand educated gentlemen coming from all parts of France and meeting here with a most enthusiastic reception because they were able to gratify us by their performances, but most of all because they were Frenchmen, must exert a powerful effect for good on their return home. The Swiss too who have stood side by side in generous rivalry with Englishmen will carry home kindly feelings towards us. A few such cordial meetings of hitherto jealous neighbours must create friendly feelings and settle for ever the question of invasion. We shall gladly welcome an invasion of such men.

THE HARVEST.

At last we are favored with summer weather. For eight months, with hardly an intervening day of sunshine, winter reigned, casting an ever deepening gloom over our prospects. We are now the more prepared to welcome some delightful weather. After the snows left us in May the extraordinary growth of vegetation quite made up in a month for the backwardness of the season, and at the present time a few dry days have given a healthy appearance to the fields of grain. With a continuance of fine weather for 5 or 6 weeks longer we shall have no cause for complaining. We have prospect of abundance of fruit of all kinds.

The manufacturing population are still in excellent circumstances. There has been a general advance of wages. The good position of manufactures in the market quite warranted the distribution of a share of profits amongst the workers. However this class is not well up in the science of political economy and know not when to stop in their demands. Having succeeded in getting an addition to their income many of them think they should have more. Some are now making an effort to do so. This is unwise. For there has been some decline in price and a large decline in demand for manufactured goods, which must lessen the masters' profits considerably. At present we have no complaining however.

SICILY

is becoming more settled under Garibaldi. He is not without his troubles. Having rid the people of their oppressors and driven away the Jesuits he finds the aristocratic portion of the people difficult to manage. They cannot readily sacrifice their social rank and influence to democratic principles. The caste feeling is still powerful and Garibaldi who has not much respect for titles and riches, has been obliged to succumb to their prejudices. Enforcing the conscription from all classes alike, he has conceded so much as to form a regiment exclusively of the nobility, a guard of 200, where the privates rank as lieutenants and officers correspondingly above them. This is only an incident, but it speaks well for the future of Sicily that it can produce a body of men of social influence. It is quite uncertain whether Messina will be attacked for some time to come. The heat of July and August in Sicily will be an obstacle to any very laborious military operations. Delay too will make work easier if Garibaldi can sustain the enthusiasm of the people on his side. The troops of Naples, 17,000 in Messina, are now fed by supplies from Naples but a telegram from Geneva states that "the Neapolitan steam corvette *Veloce*, six guns, had gone over to Garibaldi," this is a beginning, but possibly enough to frighten the authorities at Naples and Messina. They may dread a more extensive defection and lose confidence in their commander. In that case Messina must soon be evacuated. Francis II. of Naples is most active in enforcing the new constitution on his nation. He would have the people transfer their admiration from Garibaldi to himself. He earnestly desires an alliance with Sardinia and would gladly accept the smallest favors from France. He even proposes to send a deputation to Garibaldi to offer his clemency to the Sicilians. And His Holiness the Pope not to be behind in the general homage paid to Liberty proclaims similar intentions. The people however of Naples are far from tranquil. Little is wanted to stir them up to active hostility; they are not to be taken in so easily.

The Roman troops have been obliged to be in continued readiness, for the people on one hand and the pugnacious Irish recruits on the other have had considerable quarrelling.

July 28th, 1860.

SYRIA AND ITS MASSACRES.

The political complications of Europe have been more complicated by the recent disturbances in Syria between the Christian people, the

Maronites and the Mohamendan people the Druses. A long standing feud has at last broken out in terrible destruction of life. The Christians so long held in degrading subjection by the Turkish government, and scarcely getting any degree of protection from their rulers have been obliged to live in separate villages for mutual protection. The Christians feeling strong in the sympathy of Christian Europe on their behalf, and well aware of the national weakness of the Turkish Empire have unwisely treated the Druses with less deference than they might have done, and it is said, have openly declared their intention of attacking them on the first convenient opportunity. Whether the facts of the case were so, is not clear, however the Druses believed such to be the intention of their enemies, and at once planned an extensive rising and simultaneous action to exterminate the Christians. They boast of having destroyed 22,000 lives. The actual number may be less but will certainly reach 15,000, and fear has fallen on all the survivors. Their only hope is in European intervention, for in their extremity the Turkish troops and Commanders are either unwilling or unable to save them from the rage of the followers of the false

prophet. Indeed in some instances there is reliable testimony of the Turkish soldiers assisting the horrible massacres. It is high time some help was given, in the name of humanity, to these oppressed people. It is questionable whether anything less than the complete expulsion of the Turks from Europe will effect any lasting good. Nor is there much doubt that this would be done very soon were it not for the jealous fears of every European nation of the intentions of all the others. Each government fears it may not get enough of advantage in a fair division of the spoils. The outrages in Syria have afforded a fair pretext for France to declare its intention to send a strong force to the Levant to put a stop to these sanguinary quarrels. Certainly France has solicited the aid or countenance of the other great powers to the project, and has received favorable replies. No nation can well put a veto on such a laudable and humane object, and the "Eastern question" is not ripe enough yet to be settled. England is willing to find ships and will agree for France to find men for land operations, provided that the Porte agrees to this friendly aid, which it is not very likely to be the case except on compulsion. Great activity has been displayed at the French naval ports in the Mediterranean in the preparation of transports and the aggregation of troops for this Eastern expedition and so many as 20,000 men is spoken of as the French contingent; but the latest telegram states that "up to this moment (July 24) the Porte has not replied to the proposals relative to a European intervention in Syria." Awaiting this tardy reply and expecting a negative, the Great Powers are continuing negotiations for a reorganization of the administration of Syria, in order to give effective guarantees for the future protection of the Maronites. Whether agreeable or not to the powers at Constantinople, it is most probable that France will not be balked of this grand opportunity of employing a few thousands of her idle soldiers, it will certainly prevent them growing discontented from inaction and may turn up something immensely advantageous. England too is not averse to this mode of diverting the energies of the French nation in however small a way from the glorious work progressing so surely in the south of Italy.

GARIBALDI AND THE KING OF NAPLES.

The fame of the noble deliverer of Sicily is steadily spreading. His progress as the destroyer of Bourbon tyranny has not been so rapid as his first success led us to predicate. He has found a great work to do in building up as he had thrown down, and he has proved himself equal to the task. His administrative abilities equal his military genius. To have conquered as he did, and have been made a Dictator as he was, what would not many men have done? The pride of position seems not to exist in his mind. He can use the power of his dictatorship with promptitude when necessary, even to the sudden expulsion of the special envoy of the King of Sardinia, M. La Farina, and can as readily depute his authority to his friend Sirtori and accompany his army from Palermo to attack Millazzo, a small town 20 miles west of Messina. England continues to show very active sympathy for this man for his work's sake. In our streets we have bills in shop windows telling the passer-by that "Subscriptions for Garibaldi are received here." Our warehouses, Merchants offices are provided with boxes to receive the contributions of the wealthy for the same destination. It is pretty clear that he will get aid from us in the form of ships,

guns, and money, all done as private testimonials to a worthy man. Several steamers from Liverpool reached Palermo, and though he cannot possibly obtain any of the celebrated Armstrong guns, they being all made by our government, he can have the Superior Whitworth rifled cannon. I see in our local papers a statement that a battery of these is likely to be provided for him soon. The extremity of the King of Naples is deplorable, looking from his point of view. Three or four of his ships gone over to the enemy, a general refusal of his commanders to fight against Garibaldi. The straits of Messina so closely watched by Garibaldi steamers, that the troops beleaguered in the city or rather confined to the citadels of Messina cannot be supplied with stores—necessitated to recall his troops from Sicily because they will not face the standard of Liberty—at home a population hating him most sincerely,—an army not to be trusted—ministers scarcely more trustworthy, and exceedingly little sympathy amongst the crowned heads of Europe. To defer his downfall he now professes a complete conversion to reform. His splendid offer of an independent government under a Viceroy to the Sicilians was treated with contempt, and his recent proclamation granting to the Neapolitans the liberal constitution of 1812, and a complete amnesty is treated with disdain. Nobody will believe the king who has so badly treated his subjects. The last phase of this picture is the urgent appeal made to England to induce Garibaldi to agree to a truce for 6 months. England was gladdened on Thursday evening by a statement from Lord John Russell that we shall not interfere. We wish Garibaldi God speed, and an early downfall to the Bourbon dynasty in Italy.

HASTINGS.

P. S.—I regret to close so abruptly, and would gladly have mentioned several questions of importance and great interest, such as the party struggles in our Parliament in relation to the continuance or stoppage of Free Trade principles.—Cabinet dissensions.—National Defences.—Popular contentment and Commercial prosperity.—Firm conviction of peace for awhile, &c. I have now but a few minutes to post time (10 p. m.); and prefer sending this brief and unfinished communication than miss the packet.

H.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Rev. E. Clay, M. D.

DEAR BROTHER,

In the *Christian Messenger* of July 21st I read two extracts headed "Editor's differ" which I felt at once to demand some remarks by way of explanation and defence, on my own part.

Having attended all Professor Fowler's lectures, except the last, I think I am prepared to speak upon the subject from my own knowledge and not from hearsay. I do not remember seeing either of the Editors of the *Religious Intelligencer* present at any of the lectures but having known them both for some years, as men of real Christian kindness to their brethren in the ministry of other denominations, I do not think the statements were made either for the purpose of lowering the character of the ministers who attended or the paper who recommended Professor Fowler's lectures, the article either as it stands in the *Intelligencer* or as in the comparison instituted in the *Messenger* does both, to a fearful extent, for every thinking sober minded Christian would be justified in saying that the minister who would attend, or the religious paper who would recommend a course of lectures in which the "Unchaste, corrupt, and licentious" predominated over the "good things, wise maxims, and discreet counsels," deserved to have their name and place blotted out at least from all Christian society. And here let me say I am not alone, for the Rev. Mr. Cady, Pastor of the Portland, St. John, Baptist Church not only attended the lectures in company with some of the leading members of his church, but also recommended all that could avail themselves of the benefits of the Professor's instructions by a letter in the *Visitor*. Thus showing that he did not differ with the Editors of the *Visitor*.

Just after reading the article referred to above, I put the question to the Rev. Mr. Ferris, Presbyterian, who is a minister and a man of sound good sense, occupies as high a position as my good friends of the *Intelligencer*, and attended most, if not all the lectures.—Was there anything *licentious* in those lectures we attended, "not that I heard," he replied.

Of the lectures themselves let me say, that if it is wrong for a man to say that "God has fixed a certain Code of laws, for the government of both mind and body and that in proportion as these were obeyed man becomes more