

## Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Letter from Burmah.

River Irrawaddy, Feb. 14th, 1860.

My dear Messenger,

I am on my way to a distant part of my district, and while the steamer is laboriously stemming the rapid current, I cannot better improve my time than by giving you some account of the first Session of the Association of the Burmese churches of the Rangoon, Henthada, and Bassien Districts. Early in the year all the native Christians were duly notified of the meeting—and the event was anticipated by them with the deepest interest. On the 2nd inst., accompanied by twelve delegates from the Henthada church, we crossed the Irrawaddy, and, some on foot, some in ox carts, started for Thongzai, the place of meeting. Our road led us through a forest, reported to be full of wild elephants and tigers. To beguile the way the Christians sang hymns—and the old woods echoed to strains of Ballerina, Grenville, Mear, and Golden Hill. After a weary walk, we reached San-u-ay, our resting place for the night, and not very far from the place of meeting. On the morning of the 4th inst. we reached Thongzai, and were delighted to find the Rangoon missionaries, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Ingalls, and Mr. Knapp waiting to welcome us. The pleasure of meeting fellow labourers is one of the rarest of a foreign mission field. We found comfortable quarters in the house of one of the resident Christians of the village. At night we all met together in the Chapel. As the great subject of the meeting was to unite in prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Burmah, the speaker of the evening endeavoured to enforce the duty from the words, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint." On Sunday, the 5th, the meeting formally commenced. After an early prayer meeting at 7 A. M., the preacher of the previous evening, choosing for his text the figure of our Saviour, where He likens Himself to a vine, and His disciples to the branches, pointed out the intimate and vital connexion existing between Christ and all true believers. This meeting commenced at 11 A. M., and was continued until 2 P. M.,—being thus protracted by the examination of four candidates for Baptism, three Karens and one Burmese. Searching questions were asked, as well by the native preachers, as by the missionaries. And as there were many hearers in the Assembly, the examination gave a good opportunity for making observations upon the spiritual nature of Christianity, and its demand for a change of heart,—and hence its great contrast to the religions of heathenism. The candidates were all received, and were baptized by Mr. Stevens, in presence of a dense crowd of curious spectators. A prayer and exhortation meeting in the evening closed the proceedings of the first day. When our missionary company met together at the tea-table, we felt we could congratulate each other upon the good effects, so far, produced by our meeting—and anticipate the meetings yet to come with cheerful hope, and some assurance that we were being regarded with interest from Heaven. As some of the Christians, residing at a place about a mile distant, were anxious that we should spend a day there, on Monday morning we repaired thither. We found a temporary chapel erected, and a large crowd of heathen assembled, waiting to hear about the "white-book religion." "Come unto me all ye that weary and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest," seemed to be the words best adapted to such a congregation, and starting with that gracious invitation, the power and the willingness of Jesus Christ to save, with the fullness of the Gospel method of salvation were set forth, while the audience paid most respectful and gratifying attention. Mr. Stevens followed with a clear and telling exposition of the utter inefficiency of every system whose basis is law and law only. He shewed that the disciples of Buddha stand self-condemned, and miserably hopeless by their own law,—and then enforced once more the Saviour's precious invitation. After regular preaching was concluded, the native preachers and others dispersed themselves among the people, and, each engaging his little group of hearers, continued to urge the need of a Savior, and the importance of accepting at once his merciful invitation. The meeting thus came to resemble, more than anything else, what, in times of revival at home, are called "enquiry meetings." It was cheering, in remembrance of the promises of God, to see His word thus made known to a multitude of heathen. The temporary chapel, without walls, being too much exposed for evening meet-

ings, in this, the cold season of the year, we assembled, after dark, in the house of one of the Christians, where, after a sermon by Mr. Stevens, the remainder of the evening was devoted to general prayer and exhortation. This meeting was deeply solemn and interesting. The house was large, and yet the congregation, composed almost entirely of Christians, was obliged to sit compactly together. To look upon those serious yet happy faces, and feel there was the living substantial evidence of the work of God, and his power to subdue to Himself even the proud, hardened, and bigoted Burmese—was a luxury indeed. Tuesday, Feb. 7th, was the third, last, and most interesting day of our Association. The early morning meeting, at 7 o'clock, was, as usual, devoted to prayer. Mr. Stevens related a number of instances of direct and manifest answers to prayer,—as recorded in "The power of prayer," a volume recently published in America. But one impression seemed to be left upon each mind, mainly, that faith only was required to ensure to us a rich blessing from the Hearer of prayer. We met again at 12 o'clock, and from that hour until 4 P. M., without the slightest indication, on the part of any, of weariness or flagging interest—was our meeting continued. These hours were devoted to the consideration of difficult passages of Scripture, and to the discussion of a variety of questions which, as might be expected, are continually arising among people so recently turned from idols to serve the living God. The nature of the questions asked, showed a habit of reflection, and the passages upon which a clearer interpretation was required, indicated a familiarity with the Bible on the part of the Assistants and Christians generally, which afforded us great satisfaction.

In the evening we all united in observing our Lord's Supper. After a brief explanation of the object of the Sacrament, and the feelings appropriate to its observance, the bread and wine were partaken of in the profoundest silence. Deep thoughtfulness and solemnity pervaded the whole company—and it seemed indeed like a season of soul-communion with the Father of Spirits. And at the close, when all rose up together and stood singing the Doxology, to "the old hundredth,"—the scene was one to make a missionary lose all remembrance of every sacrifice, in the joy of participation in producing such effects.

Thus closed the first session of our Association. The next meeting will take place a year hence—and the native Christians are already anticipating it with great pleasure.

Since returning to Henthada I have read a letter from Mr. Stevens, in which he tells me that three more Burmese, in the place where the meeting was held, have applied for baptism, and been received.

I feel that I have given you a very inadequate account of what I may call the first session of the Southern Pegu Association. But such as it is, it must go for I have no time to revise it.

Ever faithfully yours,  
ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY.

For the Christian Messenger.

## English Correspondence.

From our own Correspondent.

Manchester, April 26th, 1860.

The dearth of stirring news for the last two or three weeks has put the papers to some trouble to fill their columns. Few actual events have been recorded beyond the ordinary run of every day life.

SPAIN

has made peace with Morocco, who engages to pay £4,000,000 *some time*, to reimburse the Spanish Treasury a part of what it has cost to inflict a vast wrong on the Moors. It is doubtful if Spain will gain more than she has already achieved by this war. To expect a liquidation of the bond from Morocco, is absurd. By this campaign the Spanish nation has raised itself to some degree of European fame. Amongst the undisciplined hordes of the desert is about the only field in which Spain had the least chance of gaining laurels. Possibly the war was undertaken for that purpose, and not because there was any just ground for a quarrel.

A recent telegram states that general Ortega was shot on Wednesday 18th inst. The materials for an extensive insurrection seem to have been widely spread in Spain, and amongst many of those in power; but the first outbreak by Ortega was premature.

To one who looks on at a distance these southern governments seem to be a set of blunderers. Starting from Sweden, where politics seems to be very even, and Russia which is quite equal to the complete rule of its own people, we

come to lower latitudes and find the further we go south more and more turbulence reigns. Surely geographical position has something to do with this. The human passions seem to be more and more excitable as the warm regions are approached.

ITALY.

The fermentation in Italy is progressing. Naples has its hands full in quelling an insurrection in Sicily. From Messina on the east to Palermo in the west, the fever of rebellion runs high. The troops have had some work to do there. An eight hours' engagement with the insurgents and the destruction of 500 lives in the battle, is one item in the proceedings. Rumours and counter rumours are daily paraded before us so that it is hard to arrive at the truth. Artillery, warlike stores and all the troops that can be spared have been hastily despatched from Naples to the disaffected island.

The Roman Pontiff seems to have exhausted himself in the celebration and publication of his ridiculous Excommunication of nobody in particular but everybody who chooses to accept it. In bygone ages the world was frightened into obedience to that arch-Pretender, but the mind has since taken vast strides in the domains of Liberty of Thought and the old ghost has lost its terrors. Forsaken by Sardinia and France, the Pope has found a new friend in the old warrior General Lamoriciere, who having asked and received permission from Louis Napoleon, has accepted the charge of the Papal troops. With much experience gained in Algeria and with deep devotion to the cause of Rome he may infuse new life into that army. It is said that his reputation has induced as many as 600 officers of the French army to ask permission to join him. No doubt such a request would be refused and very likely some trouble may be dreaded by the Emperor, but I am suspicious that there is design in this. How easy for the Emperor of the so wills it to be the prompter of this movement so as to secure a large force in Rome favorable to himself yet supported by the Papal government against the time he has to withdraw his own troops. What a complete overthrow such a scheme would be to the political power of the Pope! He would not only lose his States but the Holy City itself, and might then quietly resign himself to his religious duties.

In Turin the new Sardinian Parliament has thoroughly vindicated its right to freedom of discussion. The cession of Savoy and Nice to France has evoked some eloquence, of course they regret the necessity to sacrifice two of their own limbs, but acknowledge they have no alternative. The result of the votes taken in Nice on the question of cession to France or not has been settled in favor of France. The elections were managed in such a way that 6810 were for France and only 11 against. So of course it is now decided in agreement with the popular will; and little more will be heard of that affair. We have a little murmuring from Switzerland still, but it is doubtful if any nation is so anxious for strife as to interfere between that republic and France.

ANTICIPATIONS.

We are decidedly waiting for events to come off. Like a troop of messengers at the newspaper office we amuse ourselves in retailing gossip, uttering ambiguous statements, bandying possibilities and probabilities but all waiting for the news. We have a lot of topics on hand. *The Reform Bill*, what will be its fate? The longer it is allowed to lag on the road the more enemies it has to encounter. *The Repeal of the Paper Duty*, important far more as a matter of principle than for the amount of money it involves. Shall we pass it? The question of *Indirect Taxation*, how shall we settle that to be accepted by the nobility who claim for themselves the greatest stake in the country, yet contrive to shirk a large share of their fair burden of taxation. *India*, what of its future? There is little hope of improvement in finances the except from increase of taxation of this vast dependency and to make this possible a liberal policy must be pursued in the internal management of the country. Our fleet of destruction is ploughing its way towards CHINA. What will be the result? Large preparations have been made for attack and also for defence. It is reported that the Russian Agency will retire from Peking during the hostilities and we have heard that the French portion of the force will hastened homeward as early as they can leave with propriety.

The *Great Eastern* is fast approaching completion. It has hitherto been an unfortunate speculation. A report is in this morning's papers that the Prince of Wales will start for Canada next week. This surely is too early, for while I write we have a fall of snow. The

Spring which seemed to burst out so suddenly a fortnight since, has been again delayed by wintry winds and snow-storms.

The great event of the week for newspaper scribblers has been the loathsome fight between the pugilists Sayers and the American Heenan. It was carried out on Tuesday morning in Surrey. It appears that the combatants each exhibited a large share of the qualities which are so eminently possessed by the bull dog, the wolf and the tiger. Alas for human nature that such a high estimate should be put on such beastly propensities. When will men learn to estimate rightly those qualities of their nature which truly enoble them?

HASTINGS.

## An Address to the Magistracy of the Province of Nova Scotia.

[Published by request.]

To their Worship, Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, respectively in and for the several Counties of the Province of Nova Scotia.

We, the undersigned, respectfully represent to your Worships, that by a Convention of Ministers of the gospel, held in Halifax, in the month of October last, for the purpose of conducting and adopting measures for the promotion of the Temperance Cause throughout the Province, we were appointed as a committee of the said Convention to prepare an address to your Worships, regarding your enforcement of the provisions of the law against the unlicensed and illegal sale of intoxicating liquors. On behalf of that Convention, therefore, and in the express terms of its resolution on the subject, we now respectfully, and most urgently, call the attention of your Worships to the importance and necessity of such a vigorous, impartial, and unremitting administration of that law, as is alike required by your solemn oath of office, and a due regard to the public welfare. Your Worships, in the discharge of your official duties, must have become fully convinced that by far the larger portion of the crimes, pauperism, and other injuries to society, arise from the sale and use of those pernicious liquors; and that in very many instances, the sale producing those social evils is directly contrary to legal enactments. Your Worships are invested with extensive and most responsible powers, for the trial and punishment of persons guilty of such violation of the law, and therefore we earnestly hope and trust that, feeling the solemn weight of that responsibility, and having a high regard to the various particulars of the social welfare, your worships will, to the utmost of your power (as we learn with much satisfaction many of you are doing already), endeavour to carry into full effect provisions and penalties of that law against those who shall offend against any of its regulations. Such a perseveringly vigorous and faithful procedure, while it will secure to yourselves the gratification always afforded by a conscientious discharge of duty, will certainly contribute to lessen the evils from the public sale and use of those destructive liquors; and thus have a favorable bearing on all the best interests of our common country.

Sincerely desiring that all needed wisdom, and every other blessing, may attend your Worships in the discharge of all your official duties, we have the honor, on behalf of the before named Convention, to subscribe ourselves, with all due respect.

Your Worships' obedt. servants,

JOHN G. MARSHALL,

T. H. PORTER,

W. H. HUMPHREY,

Committee of Convention of Ministers, &c.  
April, 1860.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Sabbath School Instruction.

MR. EDITOR,

Having been connected with Sabbath Schools more or less for the last twenty years, and having had ample opportunity during that time of seeing their workings both in Nova Scotia and in other places, I have some time since arrived at the conclusion that we (in Nova Scotia) are behind the age with regard to the workings of this great and good institution.

The success of an enterprise depends largely upon the amount of labour means and expended upon it. If an individual writes a book it is indispensably necessary in order to popularity and success that he have a thorough knowledge of the subject upon which he writes. He must enter into the work with earnestness and spirit, and in order to make others feel the force of what he writes, he must himself feel the force of his arguments. If the mechanic would be successful in his business, he must not only study tastes and styles and keep pace with the times in improvements; but he must labour to make