

For the Christian Messenger.

English Correspondence.

From our own Correspondent.

Manchester, March 24th, 1860.

RAPID CHANGES.

MR. EDITOR,

The few weeks which have elapsed since I forwarded my last letter have been unusually full of incident. In both home and foreign politics events of deep significance have succeeded each other, far too rapidly to allow one, without some effort, to make himself acquainted with them and their bearings. It has been, indeed quite a task each morning to take a retrospect of the world as it was overnight, so as to be prepared to a ready arrangement of the new facts one learns at the breakfast table from the daily papers. These daily papers! what an important part they play on the stage of life, here am I located near two hundred miles from headquarters and yet for a penny each day I can add to my toast and coffee before eight on the morning, the freshest news of all the world,—the speeches of our parliament,—the divisions on important subjects, and all the continental telegrams quite as readily as if residing in Westminster.

THE ITALIAN STATES UNITED TO SARDINIA.

ITALY, has been the great theme of conversation lately. It was supposed that the peace of Europe depended on that peninsula. The dogs of war France and Austria have been growling over the bone of contention, both afraid to seize the coveted morsel. The noble Italians have however quietly effected a great revolution, and by almost a unanimous voice declared their determination to submit no longer to their old oppressors. The States of Modena, Parma, the Romagna and lastly Tuscany have by universal suffrage elected to be incorporated with Sardinia. Their deputies have tendered their allegiance and been graciously received by Victor Emmanuel. The decree of annexation of the Emilian States was issued on Sunday 18th inst., and that for Tuscany on the 22nd. So we now have a really powerful kingdom of Italy established on Constitutional principles and wonderful to say, surrounded, as it is by despotism, it is established on the most democratic principles of universal suffrage.

HOW RECEIVED BY THE EUROPEAN NATIONS.

Austria sorely beaten by the campaign of 1859 stands quietly by, helpless to resist France exulting in its glory and might, agrees with large professions of satisfaction, taking advantage however of her position to claim as an equivalent for her favour, the cession of the Cis-alpine states of Savoy and Nice from Piedmont to France.

There seems to have been anticipated much diplomatic difficulty with the other powers in regard to this latter move. France has declared her intention to the other courts and we have to-day an outline of their replies. Prussia feels no interest in it all. Austria grumbles but is indifferent; Europe stood by when annexation robbed her of Lombardy and therefore she has no European zeal to interfere in a quiet arrangement between the king of Sardinia and the Emperor of the French. Prussia only complains that the extension of French boundaries to the Alps may in the future lead to a desire of further extension to the Rhine but as France declares the object to be simply one of precaution against any future unfriendly position of the now great power of Northern Italy, Prussia has no ground of protest. England will probably protest against the cession of these States, but it is very certain we shall go no further. We are in for peace, and it will be something extraordinary, if we allow ourselves to be drawn into a war. England's objection to the extension of France will likely enough be lost in a labyrinth of diplomatic notes.

LOUIS NAPOLEON is persevering in his Free Trade policy. Not much is now heard of the wailings of the monopolists. Perhaps they have wisely resolved to put more zeal and intelligence into their concerns and prepare themselves for a fair competition with our manufactures. The Emperor has given a fresh proof of his sincerity in the movement, by elevating M. Chevalier to the Senate.

FRANCE EVACUATES AND SARDINIA TAKES POSSESSION.

It appears too that the peoples of Savoy and Nice are not opposed to their transfer to the rule of France, a deputation from Savoy has already waited on Louis Napoleon to pay their respects, and though the municipal authorities of Nice have protested against being sold, yet the populace display little sympathy with that body. I see military occupation has closely followed these annexations. Piedmont with-

draws its troops from Savoy and sends an army of occupation to Bologna, while France evacuates Lombardy, trusting to the power of Sardinia to protect its own, and proceeds to occupy her new provinces.

SPAIN continues to push on its wicked war with the Moors. It will come out some day why such folly is perpetrated. No reason for it is at present seen in any of the relations of Spain with the other powers of Europe.

The young KING OF NAPLES most vigorously carries out his father's plans of tyranny. The Neapolitans are exasperated almost to rebellion. They only want a little encouragement and it will not be surprising if Naples and Rome join with their mercenary troops to oppose the southward march of liberty. But liberty must advance and soon too. The intelligence of the Italians cannot be satisfied with their present position. If they are capable of exercising their own judgment in things political, it is a natural sequence that they must do so in things religious, and then what becomes of the Pope? Late events show that the Italians are already, except in name, Protestants.

ENGLISH POLITICS. THE REFORM BILL.

Our own parliament has been busily, and on the whole usefully employed. The Palmerston government modified as it is by a strong infusion of liberalism has made some good strokes. The Opposition deserve rather the epithet of Obstructives, for without any show of principle or method they have continued to exhibit a silly obstructiveness. The Reform Bill, so small in its advance on that of 1832 and so few in its contemplated changes as to have appeared ridiculous to everybody when Lord John Russell first published it, has afforded a wide field for grumbling. The landed aristocracy, seemingly astonished at the very moderate propositions of the progress party, have been encouraged to condemn the bill altogether as quite uncalled for. The people have been remiss in keeping silence, but trade is so prosperous, and labour so abundant, and confidence so strong that the party in power would do the right thing, that it has not been thought necessary to make a great clamour for what will be obtained without. All parties look upon the bill as only a temporary measure. They know that the people will not be long satisfied with only one man in six having a vote, or with the present plan of distributing the election of members of parliament. The Liberals suppose they can see in the proposed £6 franchise a means of changing the character of the House of Commons so as to legislate further in the same direction. The greatest change, however, has been in the financial department. We have now a fair acknowledgment from all parties that the interests represented by the Manchester School, that is, Manufactures, Trade, Commerce, are of the first importance to England's greatness—a recognition of the right of a man who labours for his daily bread, to share in the political action,—a strongly expressed feeling that the doctrines of Free Trade should be thoroughly carried out in all our relations. We have also a general acceptance of direct taxation as preferable to the ruinous practice of taxing trade and food,—just a hint too from one of the nobility that direct taxation might be the basis for the suffrage, an acknowledgment is made that the Income Tax is not equal in its pressure on the various classes of society,—the Customs tariff too is reduced to fifteen articles, a reduction of duties on Wine and Brandy to enlarge our trade with France, and a total repeal of taxation on four hundred minor articles. The repeal of the Paper duty is determined on. Then the Church Rates are doomed, all this legislation in the right direction. I regret that Ballot was refused last night, but the popular indignation against bribery at elections has been so strong that I think with the constituencies, enlarged as they will be by the Reform Bill, there will not be so much of it practiced as there has been lately.

A slight decline has taken place in the Manchester MARKETS, arising from rather unfavourable advices from India, I do not anticipate any permanent decline from that cause.

It is at last decided that the PRINCE OF WALES shall make an acquaintance with our continent. In the Summer he will proceed with a noble escort of three or four ships to—I hope,—HALIFAX; on his way to be present at the inauguration of the Victoria Bridge at Montreal.

HASTINGS.

"NAPLES, March 17 (via Genoa).

"Letters from the frontier announce increased agitation.

"A popular manifestation has taken place at Atri. Banners were displayed bearing the words 'Victor Emmanuel for ever!' The police checked the revolt. Eighty individuals who were compromised fled over the frontier."

From the Watchman and Reflector.

Letter from Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

Curiosities—Infant Sprinkling—Special Services in London Theatres—Lord Duncannon—The Pope and the Emperor—A Commission Personal.

In my last letter you received an ancient curiosity; permit me now to hand you a modern one. A very excellent Episcopalian minister who labors in the neighborhood, has ventured to come forward in defence of infant sprinkling. Amidst an old-fashioned assortment of mouldy arguments, he has the honor of propounding a new one which has tickled my fancy amazingly. The good man believes that there were infants in the house of the jailer at Philippi. To prove this he makes an estimate of the constitution and general strength of the head of the family, and finding a good deal of jumping power in him, he proves to his own satisfaction that the children in the house were decidedly young. Let the logic appear in its own chaste simplicity, as it stands in the sermon:

"Now what strengthens my impression that there may have been such infants in this jailer's house is this: The writer informs us that whilst Paul was in the prison, the jailer sprang in to him. By this expression I understand that he jumped down several steps at a time. Now this must have been the action of a young and lithe man. But if he was a young man, it is most probable that his children, who were baptized, were young too."

Here is something decidedly worthy of the noble cause which our author defends, at least it is almost absurd enough to become an armor-bearer to that gigantic error. Would not even an old man spring if he saw the prison doors opened by a miraculous earthquake? And what was there so remarkable about the spring that it should be a sure proof of youthful lithe-ness?

One would imagine, from such a fuss and argument, that the man had actually leaped over the prison instead of into the dungeon. Let us just make this remark, and then turn to something better—there are no more efficient assistants to the Baptist cause than the brethren who are ambitious to uphold Pedobaptism, and who use all diligence in fighting against the immersion of believers.

The special services in the theatres of London have been attended by very numerous crowds, who, for the most part, have conducted themselves with order and propriety. The great bulk of the hearers are not our church-going people, but in the main the company is made up of the irreligious, dissolute and ignorant. This is satisfactory, and we hope that the result will be of the most delightful character. Sometimes the preacher is accosted by a hearer in the gallery with a little smart theatrical slang, and occasionally the pit will emit its opinion of the discourse, if the speaker happens to be a rather slow coach, but these little vagaries do not disturb an earnest man, and, as for a formal, cambric-crawled gentleman, he will very likely be deterred by such inconveniences from trying his hand a second time at work for which he has no ability. I observe at the foot of some of the bills that youths under sixteen are not admitted, unless in the charge of some grown up person. This arrangement is doubtless intended to diminish the force of the sweet music of catcalls, whistles and shouts with which street boys are wont to favor the theatre. Last Sunday evening all the theatres now occupied for preaching were crammed to the ceiling. I select the following account as a specimen:

"The Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, which is an immense building, was densely crowded. Probably three thousand persons found place within its walls, and hundreds more were excluded by the necessary closing of the doors a quarter of an hour before the time of commencing service. The vast majority of the audience were men, as an example of which we may state, that out of thirty-four persons in the front row of the pit, twenty-nine were males. Very few children were present, but there were many of the age when youth is passing into manhood. Mr. Charles Dickens and Mr. Blanchard Jerrold sat in one of the boxes, and listened attentively to the sermon. The preacher of the evening was Rev. Newman Hall, of Surrey Chapel."

Lord Duncannon, who, a little while ago, sought to prevent clergymen from preaching in Exeter Hall, on the plea that this introducing "a sort of Spurgeonism" into the church of England, has warned the House of Lords of his intention to bring this yet more dreadful matter of theatre-preaching before Parliament. The antiquated old gentleman evidently prefers orthodox and canonical death to any irregular display of spiritual life. My Lord Duncannon ought to be drawn in state to the door of the house in an ancient chariot dragged by four iguanodons, and he should take his seat as the representative of the respectable corporation of extinct animals.

Talking of venerable absurdities, that head and chief of the order, the Pope, must be in a peculiarly uncomfortable position at this season. His loving son the Emperor of the French, is progressing very fast towards a consummation devoutly to be wished. The poor old priest will hardly have a resting-place for his consecrated toe, if affairs continue to run in the present channel. But who can tell? No man knows the mind of kings, and it may prove to be convenient to monarchs to maintain the Pope in his petty despotism, lest in removing him they should shake themselves. If, however, the present quarrel is not soon made up, it may be hoped that the toothless malice which has been swearing prayers at the Emperor, and cursing him in benedictions, will receive its own sweet reward in abridgment of territory and contraction of power. Let the whole earth say Amen. I want you to execute a little commission for

me. I observe in one of your American newspapers, an advertisement of pills which have a tendency to promote morality!!! The world in general is informed that "one or two doses will cure, and the body and mind are better able thereafter to withstand temptation. These pills will yet be appreciated by the moralist." Please to see that the inventor himself takes a whole box of these pills, and should they make him discontinue his lying puff, be so good as to send a wagon load down South, and oblige.

Yours, &c.

C. H. SPURGEON.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Associations.

MR. EDITOR,

Dear Sir,—In a few weeks the first of our Associations will be held and if we are not perfect in our Financial arrangements permit me just to suggest that a system be organized by which we may all know by the minutes what each church contributes during the year for every object, including Minister's salary, Donation visits, and all other donations for religious purposes for building Meeting Houses, &c., &c., and not only, as at present, the amount of monies sent to the Association.

By such an arrangement as this we would know how our pastors are sustained, to a certain extent; where our feeble churches are; and where missionary aid is required.

Under the present system we are apt to judge of the capabilities of a church by the amount sent to the Association for Missionary purposes, &c., from which we may form a very incorrect opinion. One church may support a pastor and nothing for missions while another equally competent, contributes to the Missionary Society, but does not feel able or willing to keep a pastor. Many of our churches also make up sums for missions, and other objects connected with the denomination at various times in the year which are not noticed at all in the Minutes.

I hope Sir you may hear from some of our brethren on this subject before you have any further opinion from me.

DOWN EAST.

April 3rd, 1860.

For the Christian Messenger.

"He only is my rock and my salvation.—PSALM lxxii. 2.

Rocks and water, pure and bright, are not a very pretty sight; yet in them we surely see strength and purity. The rocks remind us of the Lord, the suffering Saviour, Son of God,—who brought salvation from above, and crown'd us with his dying love. The water 's an emblem of his grace, which flows to Adam's ruin'd race; though once they were condemn'd to die, His word invites them to draw nigh to God, their Father; upon high; and all their numerous sins confess, and bathe in his own righteousness.

LUCERNE TANJERUM.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

ASA ECCLES,

Son of Mr. John Eccles, a respectable inhabitant of this place, died at Upper Economy, Jan. 29th, aged 22 years.

He had a strong constitution, and an amiable disposition, and was much respected. His death was occasioned by the rupture of a blood-vessel, after which he lingered for 10 months, when he was carried off by Consumption. His death was a heavy trial to his aged parents and other relatives. It is only about a year and a half since they lost two daughters, in the prime of life. It has been a deeply afflicted family during the past two years. But their minds were comforted by the evidences the departed ones gave of going to a better world. This young man obtained strong faith in Jesus Christ, and often enjoyed the presence of God in his sickness. He died with great composure, trusting in the atoning blood of the Redeemer. May the Lord support the mourning relatives, and may his death be the means of causing young acquaintances to prepare to meet their God. Time is short.—Communicated by Rev. James Reid.

[Provincial Wesleyan please copy.]

Religious Intelligence.

HALIFAX, NORTH CHURCH.—We learn that the Rev. A. H. Munro will be absent from his charge for a week or two. Ample provision is made for supplying his pulpit until his return.

The results of Mr. Munro's labors since he came to the city have been very gratifying. As many as 17 have been added to the church. The meetings on the Lord's Day and on week evenings are well attended, in some instances crowded, and have been of a highly interesting character. The prospects of the church,—both pastor and people, are most encouraging.