

## Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

## English Correspondence.

From our own Correspondent.

Manchester, June 30th, 1860.

MR. EDITOR,

To-day we finish half the year, and yet we scarcely feel that winter is past. Snow and frost have ceased certainly, and we have had for two months an unusually rapid growth of vegetation, but the almost constant rain, and frequent storms of wind and hail seem to place the season in March rather than in midsummer. So little sunshine have we had that my photographic friends have felt no inclination to commence outdoor practice even yet. I fear the corn crops will be late and deficient. Much land has been flooded so as to spoil the wheat. We usually at this season delight ourselves with the sight of the new ears of corn lifting themselves into view above the dark green grassy plants, but now the yellow stunted plants disappoint our search for pleasure. We greatly need some weeks of fine warm sunny days. During the past three years England has had only a small fall of rain especially in the eastern counties, the extraordinary rain of this spring seems to be something of a compensation. It puzzles the weather prognosticators to account for this. One declares it is the result of the large evaporation during the past hot summer in Australia, a kind of overflowing of the aqueous vapors of the upper regions from the southern to the northern hemisphere, I guess that philosopher got only a small share of geographical instruction at school. Another suggests the interference of the Comet, which our star gazers have just discovered near our northern horizon, with our meteorological arrangements. Such surmises as a large crop of icebergs approaching our side of the Atlantic, the inauguration of a permanent change of seasons for Europe, or of the magnetic currents of the earth are freely given. People are very ready to account for anything out of the common way, however, in our ignorance of the weather laws we will be content to take what comes and make the best of it. A visitor to the Kew Observatory states that the register of magnetic changes there has for three months indicated, extraordinary and constant changes in direction and intensity of the magnetic currents, here probably lies the primary cause of the unsettled weather. Previous dry seasons, the past long winter, and very unpropitious spring have combined to bring about very high prices of animal food. Beef, Mutton and Lamb sells at from 9d. to 11d. per lb. A great many public meetings have been called to discuss the question, Why is animal food so dear? In some places the butchers are blamed, they have a monopoly of the trade and are conspiring to obtain large profits; in others it is the cattle dealers who buy the stock and keep it from the markets. The farmers come in for a share of the blame, they are refusing to bring their cattle forward. Singularly enough few of these agitators have seen the real cause. The extra resources of the masses of the working population have enabled them to consume very largely of flesh meat for two or three years, at the same time that unfavourable seasons have lessened the production. This is sufficient cause for the enhanced price. Resolutions have been come to,—to sign a pledge of abstinence from all animal food till the price be reduced to 5d. or 7d.—to organize committees of supply to buy and slay and distribute so as to evade the alleged monopoly and extortion of the butchers—and to diminish the weekly consumption. This last is the most sensible determination and is one which will operate in natural conformity with the principles of political economy.

Last Saturday, London suspended business and arrayed itself in holiday attire to enjoy a review of the Volunteer Rifles in Hyde Park. Originally intended as an aggregate meeting of the London companies, it suddenly assumed a national phase. The Queen had promised to be present, this was enough to inflame the zeal of the volunteers all over the country. Very short notice was given that the provincial regiments might be represented. Then no time was lost in preparation for a good show. The national energy was signally displayed in the exhibition of 30,000 men, willing to sacrifice personal ease, time and money and many of them to travel 400 miles to show the Queen, the government and the world their readiness, their preparedness to defend their country from all enemies. This body of trained men only constituted 25 per cent of Volunteer force, for a recent official return gives 122,000 as the actual number enrolled. The press during the past

week has not spared its columns in glorifying ourselves on our military spirit. Much praise has deservedly been awarded the men who were present at the review. Military critics have spoken in most eulogistic terms of the excellent training the men have had to have become so ready to be amassed in brigades without any error in manœuvring. The French papers rather contemptuously talk of 30,000 and compare that number with the millions of trained warriors of Continental nations as only a drop in a bucket. Still when we consider that our body of volunteers are the result of a spontaneous patriotic feeling, and that they are equipped and trained at their own cost or nearly so, we may fairly place 122,000 of such men in the balance against 300,000 conscripts of any nation under the sun.

The Census Bill for 1861 has been the occasion of considerable acrimony between the Church Party and Dissenters. The former body lost considerable weight of influence after the last census of 1851, when it was discovered by the returns that there was such a large proportion of people attending dissenting places of worship. The dominant party has now secured for the returns that every body should be asked to state their religious profession. It was intended to attach a penalty for refusing to do so, but this has been abandoned after a very strong opposition. So we may please ourselves about stating our religious professions or not. What use such imperfect statistics can be put to I cannot imagine. This State Church is ever to be a source of contention. Year after year the Dissenters, aided by some enlightened Churchmen strive to do away with Church Rates; but the Bishops and Lords are too strong. The Commons pass the bill for their repeal, but the Lords quietly throw it aside.

At last it is settled that the Prince of Wales is to come to see you. I hope you will give him a good impression of your Province, and not kill him with kindness. He has been brought up well, not too much accustomed to flattery. Our Queen has been a wise mother as well as a capital Queen, she is not afraid to let her children rough it a little in the world. Whilst the Prince of Wales is making his acquaintance with the western world, Prince Alfred will be exploring the Cape of Good Hope. Desirous to be all things to all men he will continue to be Prince of Wales so long as he is on British Territory, but when he visits Cousin Jonathan of the States he will put off that title of royalty which our American Cousin has no great respect for, and will be plain Baron Renfrew. I trust such visits as these will be more frequent. As with individuals so with nations the more we know of each other the less probability of misunderstanding.

The Great Eastern has at last left our shores and it is hoped has safely reached New York three days ago. I hear it will remain there as long as profit can be made by exhibiting her gigantic proportions to the public.

Sicily and Naples still take the lead in foreign affairs. The Times correspondent writes from Palermo, dated 20th, a vivid description of the final evacuation of that city by the Neapolitan troops and consequent rejoicing of the people at their freedom. Garibaldi retains his office of Dictator, and expresses his intention to do so till he can transfer the government of Sicily to the hands of King Victor Emmanuel with more safety than could just now be done. So long as he holds it, none of the other nations of Europe will dare to interfere; each one being kept in check by all the others. He makes thorough changes as far as he can, to put aside every vestige of the old regime. One of the latest decrees abolishes the title of "Excellency" so freely used by the people to higher classes and likewise the custom of kissing hands as a sign of subserviency. The Italian tricolour has of course completely replaced the Neapolitan Flag of Sicily, except at Messina; there 3,000 troops still remain and 1,500 or so at the stronghold of Syracuse. This number may be increased by some of those carried from Palermo. Of Garibaldi's future movements nothing is known. It would be hardly prudent to leave Sicily with such a nest of hornets on its coasts; and yet one would imagine he would ever venture in Naples. Medici with his ships has safely reached Palermo. This timely reinforcement will perhaps enable the gallant chief to leave enough behind to keep Messina in check, and afford a good force for operations on the peninsula. The two ships of Medici's little fleet which fell into the hands of the Neapolitan fleet are still held in durance vile at Cagliari though investigations into the particulars of their capture are being made with a view to their release. The King of Naples has really proclaimed a new and nominally a more liberal constitution. Has formed a new

ministry and fixed on an early election of representatives of the people. This sudden reform comes with a bad grace from one who so recently despised the advice of England and France and treated his own uncle's advice with such contempt. If his people put no more confidence in his professions than we do in England he may go on packing up his traps and prepare for a lengthened excursion from Naples.

Russia and Spain it is said have threatened Sardinia with their disavow if the government of the latter country does not put a stop to the organized aid which Piedmont so readily gives to Garibaldi. Where the people are so deeply imbued with love of liberty as are those of northern Italy it will be very hard for the government to put into force any effective measures of repression.

The general feeling as regards ourselves and the other great powers is that peace will not be broken at present. France withdraws its troops from the Rhine frontier. Prussia and the smaller German States draw peaceful conclusions from the late Baden Conference. Prussia determines to fit out for the summer cruise only half its Baltic fleet, and we find the reports of great activity in the French naval establishments to have no foundation, so we may breathe freely yet, and go on with our industrial pursuits.

HASTINGS.

## Temperance Watchmen.

ANNUAL SESSION.

MR. EDITOR,—

The Provincial Club of Temperance Watchmen met in Annual Session at Roger's Hill, Pictou, on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 3rd inst. After the despatch of preliminary business, fourteen persons were duly initiated. The greater part of the first afternoon was spent in receiving reports and appointing committees.

In accordance with a resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting, the members of Victoria Club had made arrangements for a public meeting in the evening. At the hour appointed the spacious building usually employed for such purposes was filled to the doors, and many were unable to gain admittance. The meeting having been opened by prayer by the Provincial C., Messrs. Grant, Barclay, and Munro, appeared upon the platform as the speakers for the evening. From the style of their addresses and from the manner in which they delivered them, the audience would be justified in concluding that these gentlemen were the favorites of the Nine Sisters. Doubtless the muse of eloquence regarded them with special favor, and "bestowed upon them wisdom, and poured upon their lips the dew of soft persuasion."

The West River Band who were present, added not a little to the interest of the entertainment. Between the several addresses they sang in strains worthy of those who were under the patronage of the tuneful Orpheus, or of Apollo himself the god of Song.

Nine o'clock on Wednesday morning found the members of Prov. Club again in their places. The Committee on the State of the Order soon after submitted their report, the consideration of which occupied the greater part of the day. In the afternoon the Club elected the officers for the ensuing year. The following persons were chosen:

JAMES McCURDY, PROV. S. O.  
CHARLES JOHNSON, PROV. J. O.  
JOHN MILLAR, PROV. C.  
EDWARD A. McCURDY, PROV. SEC. & T.  
WILLIAM MCGILVERAY, PROV. M.  
SAMUEL ARCHIBALD, PROV. S.

After the installation it was determined to hold the next annual meeting at Fish Pools, Pictou, on the first Tuesday of July, 1861, at 2 o'clock, P.M.

Old Barns, July 12, 1860.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Tea meeting at Parrsboro.

The Baptist friends at Parrsboro Village having felt for a long time past the necessity of having a place which they could call their own in which to worship God, determined last year to build for themselves a house.

Accordingly the ladies, ever active in forming plans of usefulness, in order to give the thing a fair start, entered upon the preparation of a Tea Meeting, which took place last October, and the sum of £20 was realized.

Since that time the house has progressed and is now nearly finished, and as the idea of completion presents the want of trimming for pulpit and other small expenses, which are often met with more reluctance than those demands which count by hundreds, our ladies started once more the plan of a Tea Meeting for the purpose of raising the requisite funds.

The 12th inst., fixed upon as the time for the meeting, to the satisfaction of all parties, came to us fair weather. At an early hour carriages came hurrying in from all quarters. Soon after dinner the tent where the Refreshment table was opened, became the scene of activity, which continued during the whole afternoon.

At four o'clock the doors were thrown open when the profusion and richness of the spread tables showed that the ladies intended to do well their part toward making the Meeting a pleasant one. The crowd that had collected was so immense that all could not be accommodated at the tables at once, with very little confusion or delay, the tables were reloaded with food and refilled with guests until all had partaken.

After tea Mr. T. DeWolf, in the chair the Meeting was addressed briefly and interestingly by Rev. S. Thompson, Rev. R. Waddall, Mr. S. Spencer and Mr. S. B. Kemp, with music between the speeches.

The Tea-Meeting was certainly a credit to all connected with it; not only for the nice manner in which it was got up, but for the orderly and quiet way in which it was conducted throughout.

About £43 were realized which will be of considerable assistance. The building is 32 ft. by 40 ft., situated in a pleasant part of the village, and will be a comfortable and commodious place of worship. There were few to build it, as the Baptist interest here is small as yet, but our brethren have large hearts and willing hands.

It was intended at first to have no gallery, but a friend here who has money and knows how to use it, offered, if a gallery were built he would give \$20 towards it, and when finished to place in it a Melodeon; so it is now completed, with a neat gallery across the end, which adds much to the appearance and accommodation of the house.

The house will soon be done, and then our friends here will need a preacher. There is a new House also at Diligent River, and a good one at Advocate Harbour, all in a distance of about 40 miles, making this a most interesting field of labour. Oh that God may raise up and send to this people a man full of the Spirit of Jesus! One who shall lead these flocks, and may this house soon be dedicated to His name, be the birth-place of many souls.

ONE PRESENT.

Parrsboro, July 13, 1860.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Obituary Notices.

DEACON ZEBINA ROACH,

Of Lower Aylesford, was born in Granville, in the year 1792. The early part of his life, as he frequently acknowledged in his later years, was passed in great carelessness with reference to spiritual things. In the powerful and extensive revival with which God was graciously pleased to visit the inhabitants of Aylesford and adjacent places about thirty one years since, Mr. Roach was evidently made a partaker of regenerating grace. He was baptized by the Rev. Thomas Ansley. On the 31st day of March, 1833, he was appointed a Deacon; the duties of this office he discharged to the obvious benefit of the Church, for more than 27 years. The zeal and diligence evinced by him in attending meetings, especially conferences, in the different sections of the Church, are highly commendable, and truly worthy of imitation. During the nine years which the writer has held the pastorate, he has been greatly aided by his faithful services.

Deacon Roach took a very active part in efforts to promote the revival of religion with which the Church and community were blessed in the year 1859. He evidently retained a salutary influence received in that gracious work to the close of his life. Prayer meetings having been established in the locality in which he resided, in the absence of ministerial aid he regularly took the lead. His communications were brief; but he was ever ready to give a word of exhortation for the good of his fellow men.

After Deacon Roach's return from the Association at Hillsburg, he attended a conference in connexion with Rev. A. Stronach, at Greenwood Square, Aylesford, on the 23rd day of June. Though in the 69th year of his age, he enjoyed good health, and appeared to be well at this time. At the close of meeting he delivered an affectionate address to his brethren, in which he strongly recommended the cultivation of mutual love and union. Presently after leaving the Meeting House, he informed sister Roach that he felt faint, and sick at his stomach. She drove to the house of Mr. William Foster, a son in law, who lived near. Having given him one portion of an emetic, she asked him if he felt any better. He expressed himself as uncertain with reference to that, but added, "I am not afraid to die," and almost immediately expired. "The righteous hath hope in his death." It is thought that not more than twenty minutes elapsed from the commencement of his illness, on leaving the place of worship, till his exit. It may be truly said of him, "He died at his post."

The widow and her eight surviving children have indeed been called to part unexpectedly