

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

English Correspondence.

From our own Correspondent.

Manchester, May 5th, 1860.

MR. EDITOR,

VICTOR EMMANUEL'S ROYAL PROGRESS.

The South of Europe still continues to attract prior attention. Like a thundercloud in a summer's sky, the attention is awakened both by the blackness of its mass and the dazzling brilliancy of its enlightened edges. The stately march of Liberty on the Italian peninsula has commenced, impersonated by Victor Emmanuel. He has been received joyously by the northern states. The people of once rival cities, which for centuries have gloried in mutual hatred, have emerged from their mad gloom and have during the past ten days exhibited a noble rivalry in popular demonstrations of delight at the sight of their new king. The King of Sardinia has now made a royal tour of his new provinces. His universally kind reception in all the chief cities of his kingdom especially the magnificent ovation of Bologna, where he received addresses from the clergy, and a voluntary offering of 5,000,000 francs towards state expenses, may well make him proud of his position. The northern Italians are making progress in their new legislative duties and if some little mistakes or indiscreet moves be made it is excusable. Our own legislators with the experience of our fathers for some centuries, to guide them are not always faultless.

THE POPEDOM.

There seems no chance for the Papal Power to regain its lost provinces by military force. Lamoriciere does not find his position altogether secure at the head of the Pontifical army. Having raised an army of some 16,000, it is reported that no effort will be made to increase the number beyond 20,000 which is considered sufficient to maintain tranquility in the contracted Papedom. A rumour reaches us that the return to power of Cardinal Antonelli may suddenly terminate the career of the new military chief. Even in these days of rapid intelligence and facile travelling we are continually annoyed by contradictory stories. People somewhere exercise much skill in preventing the world from knowing the truth. Falsehoods are readily manufactured and published with great zeal. It comes out at last that the odium falls upon one or other of the existing despotisms, whilst we have satisfactory proof of the almost unanimous acceptance of the rule of the King of Sardinia over the revolted states of the Church, we have from Rome bold statements that the people of the Romagna are grievously disappointed with Sardinian rule and their sympathies are returning to Rome. If ever Rome regains its temporal rule it must be by moral suasion. Force will not do now.

Poor Sicily! goaded to frenzy by the revolting cruelties of the soldiery, the people are ready to risk a quick death to further torture. It seems very likely that the rebellion will succeed there. It is said that Garibaldi with 200 followers has left Genoa in a steamer to go—where? The clouds which have so long hung over Italy have burst. The storm is not yet over, but the sky gives promise of some early clearance.

FRANCE.

The annexation question of Savoy and Nice to France is already worn out. It is a settled thing and seems briefly to have sunk into insignificance. The votes of the peoples were reported as almost unanimous. One in a thousand grumbled but followed the common rule of submission to the strong. Switzerland has talked big but not being backed by its big brothers must be content to eat humble pie. France is not much moved by a loud outcry that it cannot be permitted to seize more territory, whilst it is already in peaceable possession. Still to keep up an appearance of fairness and friendship, M. Thouvenal has addressed a note to Switzerland explaining that as the neutrality of Faucigny and Chablais will remain intact and further that the neutrality was established in the first instance to protect Sardinia rather than Switzerland, therefore Switzerland has no fair ground of interference in the affair. With this new element to consider it is highly probable that after all the notes and despatches and replies there will be no Conference of the great Powers. The Powers of Europe have certainly enough to do to mind their own business.

PECULATION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

Some distressing revelations have loudly come out exposing the delinquency of men in responsible positions. Two, if not more, suicides in

VIENNA have resulted from detection in a misappropriation of the public money, and at home the chief Cashier of the UNION BANK, Mr. Pullinger has defrauded the company of nearly £300,000. We all know how weak human nature is, and it is the more astonishing that such unbounded confidence should be placed in men. For the sake of the honest it is necessary that efficient checks be made to prevent such enormous wrongs. Not only are hundreds of Shareholders robbed but thousands of honest persons holding situations of trust are exposed to suspicion. These peculations by those in high office in Austria are said to have seriously influenced the efficiency of the Austrian army during the campaign of 1859. It is hardly likely that prosperity can attend a nation whose chief men are tainted by such vice.

There is some show of giving relief to HUNGARY in the appointment of the new governor, but there seems to be no faith amongst the Hungarians. It would not surprise the world to hear of Gen. Klapka and the noble Kossuth taking a more public position than has lately fallen to their lot.

The cause of FREE TRADE is progressing. The French Chambers have passed the new Customs bill by a large majority, and activity amongst the Customs officials to prepare for the admission of English merchandize is evident. Commissioners are appointed to settle the rate of duty on English fabrics. Mr. Cobden is of course the English Commissioner. There are however, many, dissatisfied with the Emperor's speed in the Free Trade direction. Because he does not jump all at once to the position we have reached after an age of agitation and experiment, he is assailed with much vituperation.

Our own Parliament has lately presented a curious picture. With a liberal government commanding a majority, and pledged to carry a Reform bill,—with a Reform bill before the House purposely moderate to command the votes of both sides of the House so as to avoid a party struggle, we have seen a degree of obstinate resistance to its passing, by both sides till the country is inclined to look upon its House of Representatives with considerable contempt. The effect the bill would have if passed is so uncertain that all seem to dread it becoming law. Everybody out of the House, seem so content with things as they are, just now, in the high tide of prosperity, that they care not whether it be passed or not.

The delightful weather of the past week with some warm showers have given a spring appearance to the blighted fields, and have put a welcome stop to the extravagant rise in the prices of provisions. We want warm weather and more rain, then with peace in EUROPE and contentment in INDIA we shall go on swimmingly.

HASTINGS.

For the Christian Messenger.

To John G. Marshall, T. H. Porter and W. H. Humphrey, Committee of Convention of Ministers, &c.

Dear Friends and Brethren,—Your very able and feeling address to the Magistracy of Nova Scotia has I have no doubt, been received by many who like myself need no urging, but would gladly enforce the Law—and throw every possible restraint upon or destroy the vile Traffic.

With aching hearts we see our fellow creatures, Men, Women and Boys, scorched, scathed, and destroyed by the hot blast that is sweeping over the land—yet we feel powerless to interfere to any good purpose. While this horrible infatuation continues—this striving to rule this Province “by a party, for a party”—this “to the victors belong the spoils,” idea is rampant—we feel that just as well might every Law bearing upon the Traffic, be swept from our Statute Book as to tantalise us with those which cannot be enforced. When we find the corners placarded with threats, that some meddling Clerks of Licenses, and Magistrates, will have their buildings all burnt,—and that others who are greater offenders will be shot dead in the streets,—we know from what sources these emanate, we expect them and are prepared for them,—but, when we find those with whom we have laboured, who have been zealous friends of the cause, one after another becoming silent, whispering round we shall be forced to use Rum at the next Election—or courting the Rumsellers favour or interest, then we are disappointed. When we find professors of Religion, members of Churches—and praying Magistrates labouring to obtain License to sell for some political partisan. When we find a Clerk of License who has travelled through the country lecturing on Temperance—whose manly, powerful eloquence has caused the ears

of Rumseller and drinker, to tingle, the eyes of Philanthropists to fill with tears,—and the hearts of poor sufferers with hope that soon the fearful traffic would cease forever,—when he had by evidence clear as the sun obtained a conviction against a Licensed seller, for selling contrary to Law and to Minors—and knew that the appeal taken out by the guilty party was only to gain time to dispose of his stock on hand,—and that the paltry fine of five pounds would have been Ten, but for the far heavier penalty, total forfeiture of the License forever. How surprised were we to find, that as soon as the party had obtained leave to withdraw his appeal, which he well knew he could not sustain, and had withdrawn it, and paid the 50s. and costs, thereby leaving the forfeiture of the License, remaining in tact, acknowledged and confessed. When I say with a knowledge of all these facts in a few weeks this Rumseller's License was renewed for a whole year and the Clerk appealed to the Sessions and obtained a justification of the Act, then, we felt that indeed we were powerless.

In addition to all this, came out that wonderful little Act Chapter 30, Acts of 1859,—Section 1 and 2 are all right,—but the sting is in tail or 3rd Section, every informer must go and make himself known to the Clerk of License, may have to travel 20 or 30 miles to ask leave—when perhaps he knows the said Clerk to be a slave either to the Rumsellers, or to a Political party—whose right hand man the said rum seller is. In either case, he knows every obstruction will be thrown in his way, if the said Clerk does not choose to prosecute. Then he becomes exposed to the combined hatred of the three parties, Politicians, Sellers and Suckers—by no means an enviable position.

Again when we have friends, yes Temperance friends coming to us, time after time, entreating us not to interfere any further,—saying “it is utterly useless”—“you are labouring in vain”—“you are only furnishing the other party with political capital,”—even the Temperance men on the other side are throwing blame on you, to exalt themselves and sink you and us.” And lastly when we see a large Chapel in a populous village crowded with attentive listeners to an able and feeling lecture on Temperance, and find in the end that only some 3 or 4 out of 50 or 60 men of mark present, are willing to come out and identify themselves with the cause. While we know that most of them are not intemperate with respect to drinking—but so eaten up with party politics, that they dare not pledge themselves,—lest in a few weeks their political necessities, should force them again to flood the land with Rum, to carry an Election and sustain their Religion. When we consider all these obstructions, we can only say we have indeed fallen upon an evil time, “to will is present, but how to perform we find not.”

ONE WHO WOULD DO HIS DUTY.

Cornwallis, May 12th, 1860.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter of a Convert from the Roman Catholic Church.

My beloved friends in Christ,—I feel that it is my duty to inform you of my former and present position, not for my own sake but for those that may be in my former state. I was born in Germany and brought up a Roman Catholic, I left Germany, arrived in Milton in 1851, were I had the privilege to hear the Gospel. I took the Word of God for my guide, I searched it carefully and prayerfully till 1860, I went to the Baptist Sunday School were I received instruction which I thought agreed with the word of God, I listened carefully and was brought to see that Christ died for me. A revival took place in the Baptist church in Milton, where I trust I was brought by the Holy Spirit to turn from my former errors to serve the true and the living God, and I hope became a follower of Christ. My friends, I think it is necessary to inform you of some of my former errors which I believed ignorantly. You are all aware that the doctrine is in the church of Rome, that the Pope is the Holy Father on earth. By studying the Word of God I found that this was false, for Christ said to His disciples, “call no man your Father upon the earth for one is your Father which is in Heaven,” Matt xxiii. 9. Again they believe that the Pope and the priesthood have power to forgive sin, and to intercede between God and men here on earth. This is not true for Paul said, “There is one God and one Mediator between God and man the man Christ Jesus,” 1 Tim. ii. 5. Again they say that Peter was the first Pope of Rome, I cannot find by the Word of God that Peter was ever in Rome. Is it reasonable that Peter was King and Pope of the City of Rome

and his brother Paul a prisoner in Rome. My friends the language is very hard for me to give you a full explanation of all my former errors. I desire the prayers of my friends especially of my brother, Rev. Mr. Foshay who baptized me.

Yours in bonds of love,
JACOB VOTT.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notice.

MRS. MARY J. VAN BUSKIRK.

Relict of the late Mr. Lawrence Van Buskirk, died in Upper Wilmot, on the 7th day of May, 1860, aged 77 years. Her maiden name was Brymer. She was educated in the principles of the Presbyterian denomination; and was a well informed and intelligent woman, and one that “looked well to the ways of her household,” and was held in general esteem.

She was nearly the last survivor of the parents whose children were the pupils of the writer forty five years ago. On the morning of the 17th day of February, 1815, immediately after having first obtained hope in Christ, he took breakfast at her house. On coming to the table, Mrs. Van Buskirk, perceiving that his mind was strongly exercised, said, “Mr. Tupper, perhaps you would ask a blessing: do so.” He promptly complied with the request. Religious conversation naturally followed, in which she expressed an humble confidence that she was not unacquainted with experimental religion. Though they did not unite with the same denomination, yet a mutual Christian friendship was then formed which was never interrupted.

During the last years of her life, after she became infirm (and especially so by reason of a fall on the ice) the writer labored in the region in which she resided. At her request he preached twice in the house of the son with whom she lived. On one occasion she said to him, “While I live, visit me, and when I die, bury me.” This request, from the friend who first encouraged him to engage in social religious exercises—too frequently neglected, but highly useful—was fulfilled with alacrity.

When she became very ill, at her desire a message was sent to apprise him of it. He repaired to the scene of affliction, and was glad to find her sustained by a reliance on the Saviour. At her interment he addressed a large number of her relatives and friends from the consoling language of the Apostle. (Rom. viii. 18.) “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”—Communicated by Rev. C. Tupper.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Missionary tour in Prince Edward Island,

BY REV. JOHN SHAW.

MR. EDITOR,

In compliance with the request of the Board I left home on the 29th of August, 1859, and preached at Uigg, Belfast, Dog River, Long Creek, Canal Cove, St. Peter's Bay and Grand River. Preached and visited as often as I conveniently could. Congregations, all things considered large and attentive, and on the increase during my stay among them. What amount of good has resulted from my Mission, it is not for me to say. The final day will shew it. Whithersoever I went, I was gladly received and my mission liberally supported. Spent 8 weeks in the service of the Board, preached 31 sermons, visited 28 families, baptized one individual, and received in aid of the Mission as follows, viz:—Belfast, £1 19s. 0d, Uigg, £1 18s. 0d, Dog River, £1 5s. 0d, Long Creek, £1 8s. 4½d, Grand River, £2 0s. 0d, East Point Society, £4 7s. 6d, and Three Rivers, Ditto, £4 6s. 0d. Total, £17 3s. 11d, Island Currency, N. S. Currency, £14 6s. 7. A self-sustained Mission.

Yours in the best of bonds.
JOHN SHAW.

Three Rivers, May 11th, 1860.

CELEBRATION OF THE TRICENTENARY OF MELANCTHON.—The celebration of the 300th anniversary of the death of this illustrious man took place at Wittenberg, in Prussia, the scene of so many memorable events in connection with the Protestant Reformation, on the 19th inst. The Prince Regent and Prince Frederic William arrived early in the day from Berlin, and were received at the railway station by the civil and military authorities, and by the clergy, and with their suite were conducted to the Governor's house amidst the merry peals of all the church bells. Soon after they had partaken of a *dejeuner*, the Hereditary Prince of Anhalt-Dessau arrived and joined the Prince Regent and Prince Frederic William. A religious service was then held in the Royal church; at the conclusion of which the foundation-stone of a monument to perpetuate still more the memory of Melancthon was laid in the market-place with much ceremony, but which was sadly marred by a fall of rain. Speeches were delivered by the authorities of the town, and then a grand dinner took place at the Governor's house, at which the Prince Regent, Prince Frederic William, and more than sixty persons of distinction, were present. At the conclusion of the repast the Prince Regent and his son, with their suite, returned to Berlin, and the Hereditary Prince of Anhalt-Dessau left Wittenberg.