

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger

Letters to a Young Preacher.

LETTER XVI. MOTTO: "SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE."

My Dear Brother,—

As has been shown in preceding Letters, it is necessary that a preacher should cautiously avoid all improprieties of conduct, both in private and in public. This, however, is not all that is required of him. He must constantly pursue a course of active exertion for the advancement of his Master's cause, and the benefit of his fellow men. That he may the more effectually accomplish this, it is expedient for him to have a *Motto* prefixed to the Book of his ministerial life. There is probably none more appropriate, or more suitable for a polar star, than the one above suggested, namely, "Speaking the truth in love."

Every particle of truth revealed in the Bible is valuable. When rightly understood, and properly applied, its influence must be beneficial. All scriptural truths should, therefore, be presented by a preacher, in due proportion. A continued dwelling on certain points of doctrine, to the exclusion or neglect of others equally important, is injudicious and injurious. If any sentiment which a minister is supposed to believe, be constantly passed over by him in silence, some of his hearers will be likely to infer, that he is reluctant to avow it; and their prejudices will probably be strengthened, from an apprehension that it must be indefensible and pernicious.

Take, for illustration, the doctrine of election. Persons who do not hear it plainly and correctly stated, in many instances regard it in a most forbidding aspect, as if it presented a barrier in the way of the Salvation of sinners, discouraged effort, and encouraged licentiousness. Such, however, is not the tendency of this doctrine.—According to the plain tenor of Scripture, those who persist in a rejection of the Saviour, perish justly on account of their own wilful sin, impenitence, and unbelief. (Prov. xxi. 12. Luke xix. 14, 27. John iii. 16—19; 36.) The gracious purpose of God in election or predestination, far from preventing the salvation of any, secures that of an immense multitude, through faith, obedience, and holiness. Thus the apostle Paul distinctly states this doctrine, (Rom. viii. 28—30.) "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." Their being "called according to His purpose," is here assigned as the cause of their "loving God." (See Jer. xxxi. 3. 2 Tim. i. 9. 1 John iv. 19.) The apostle proceeds to say, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son"—not that the number saved might be small, but—"that he might be the first-born among many brethren." So the same inspired writer, in 1 Thes. ii. 10—12, expressly ascribes the destruction of the impenitent to their own unbelief and love of sin, affirming that they "perish because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." He adds, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." When, however, he refers to believers, he attributes their salvation wholly to the electing love of God, saying, (ver. 13, 14.) "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth; whereunto he also called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." So when our Lord pronounces sentence on the righteous and the wicked, He will say to the latter, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared—not for you, but—for the devil and his angels;" but to the former, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matth. xxv. 41, 34.) Elsewhere Christ states this doctrine in a way which plainly shews, that the divine purpose secures the salvation of many, but prevents that of none: All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." (John vi. 37; xvii. 24.)

The doctrine of election, when thus viewed in its true scriptural light, is adapted to promote humility, excite thankfulness, impart consolation, and prompt to holiness and good works, (1 Cor. iv. 7; 2 Thes. ii. 13, 16; Eph. i. 4, 5. ii. 10.) As it sustained the Mediator under His

toils and sufferings, by the assurance of success, (Isa. xlix. 4, 6, 9; lili. 10, 12. Heb. xii. 2.) so His ministers and people may be thereby encouraged to perseverance in efforts for the conversion of sinners, assured that their labor will not be in vain in the Lord. (John. x. 1; Acts xviii. 9, 10; 2 Tim. ii. 9, 10; Isa. lv. 11, 12.) As every part of doctrine and of duty should be exhibited with correctness and plainness, in order that misapprehension may be avoided or removed, truth be cordially received, and every divine requirement be scripturally observed, so this should invariably be done "in love." All bitterness, unkindness, and censoriousness in the utterance of truth, like noxious ingredients mingled with wholesome food, tend to prevent its reception. Unquestionably the interests of truth and piety have suffered greatly from the manifestation of a harsh and unlovely spirit by professed preachers of the gospel. Animosity has been thereby excited between different denominations of Christians; and they have mutually suffered injury, while infidels and other wicked men have been more strongly prejudiced against the truth, and strengthened in infidelity and ungodliness.

Every minister should, therefore, not only study the scriptures diligently and prayerfully, in order that he may ascertain their true import, but also be specially careful always to "speak the truth in love."

May you, my dear young Brother, ever pursue this prudent course, and successfully present truth in all its loveliness!

Yours, in gospel bonds,
CHARLES TUPPER.

Aylesford, Aug. 9, 1861.

For the Christian Messenger.

English Correspondence.

From our own Correspondent.

THOUGHTS ON THE GREAT BATTLE AT BULL'S RUN.—EFFECTS ON TRADE IN BRITAIN.—PROSPECTS OF COTTON FOR THE ENGLISH MARKET.—CLOSE OF PARLIAMENT.—THE VOLUNTEER FORCE IN ENGLAND.—EUROPEAN POLITICS.

MR. EDITOR,—

The startling news from the United States, by the last mail six days ago, fairly took Europe by surprise; a few hours sufficed to spread the intelligence of the disastrous defeat of the "grand army of the North" throughout the length and breadth of the Continent. Such an unexpected reverse was immediately the common topic of conversation; unexpected, I say, because we have for such a long time been served up with American news so highly charged with boasting about what the stars and stripes could do when fairly aroused, that we had come to believe there was after all some truth in it. We have not had any good idea of the military strength of the south, and should not have been greatly astonished if the result of the Battle of Bull's Run had favored the other side. Mr. Russell, the *Times* Correspondent, has given us a most graphic description of the disorderly retreat of the panic-stricken army. As an eyewitness, and as a well tried military chronicler his racy writing will be accepted generally; I only fear that he tells the truth too plainly to suit the sensitive Americans. His comparison of the armies by no means flatters that of the Union. He rather gives the palm of superiority to the Confederate army.

Should this unfortunate occurrence be rightly viewed by the north, more modesty practised, a patient reserve of intentions, while effective measures are taken to exert the really great power of the northern States in a discreet manner, there is no question but they will be more highly respected by foreign nations, and, most likely, will be able to subdue their refractory brothers. Public opinion here does not seem to sympathize with the idea of a complete subjugation of the seceded states even if it were possible. It is quite possible for two distinct governments to exist side by side, and if they are so inclined, in perfect amity. There are, however, so many points on which a quarrel may turn, that it is to be feared a long and exhausting war must be allowed to tame down the rancorous feelings before the sanguine belligerents can be induced to listen to terms of compromise and peace.

The effects of the civil war in America upon our trade are beginning to be felt here. The far-seeing merchants have much moderated the actual evils by their precautionary measures.—As soon as we had this condition of things in prospect, speculation was checked. Hesitation, caution, doubt, helped to steady the current of opinions as to the future course of trade. Hopes and fears have been so nicely balanced for nine months past, that we have come down to a con-

dition of profitless trade, and manufacturing losses, without suffering any of the dire evils of a panic. The labourer still finds a good share of employment at not much reduced wages. Then we have happily shared in the bountiful harvests of the far West, so that at no time have we had a dear loaf of bread, and the prospect of a good harvest of our own, now that trade is at its worst has made bread cheaper. Few look at "the position" as likely to last long. The difficulty is the continuance of a supply of cotton, could we but be safe on that point, things here would at once run on smoothly. So long as there is a chance for the American Governments to stop the seasonable exportation of cotton, there will be speculators to operate in the stock of cotton at Liverpool. Hundreds of thousands of bales rapidly change hands at higher and higher prices till there is now absolutely nothing left of profit for the manufacturer. Indeed, on some descriptions of goods, I hear of sales at 10 per cent under cost of manufacturing them. This cannot last long, nor be very general. Hitherto there has been only a very partial resort to working short time. One would think such a plan would most effectually check the speculation in the cotton market, but assuming that each individual manufacturer knows his own interest best, we must be content to own our incompetence to form an opinion on it.

There is a deep impression, that, the American difficulty over, with an open China Market, a reforming Turkey, a peaceful India, and a resumption of our American trade, we shall have a time of great and perhaps long continued prosperity. This feeling supports many a one who would otherwise be ready to give up. We are not without a prospect of at least a good share of our usual requirements, in increased importations from India, Jamaica, and many other cotton producing countries. Even half a crop from America, would keep us going till supplies elsewhere came in freely. Our hope is, after all, that some providential opening of the ports of the Southern States before Christmas will set us up again.

The Houses of Parliament concluded the sessions on Tuesday. The Queen's Speech delivered by deputy, merely referred to the more important measures which have engaged the attention of the legislators, and noticed, with deep regret, the existence of civil commotion in America. The members of Parliament are now scattered over the world. How varied will be their employments and pastimes; some will be busily engaged in attending public meetings, agricultural exhibitions, assemblages of scientific savans, while others will dose away their hours in dreamy reverie, at our many pretty watering places, whose season will now be at its height.—Some again will avail themselves of the utmost speed of express trains, and fast screws, to reach new landscapes as far as possible from home in the least time, while others will take their enjoyment in quiet rural retreats, where they may overlook the position and prospects of their favorite hobbies—the village school, the labourer's friendly society, laying out new ground, estate improvements, or a new wing to the mansion: A very few indeed are glad to escape from uncongenial London life, to return to business which has grievously suffered from the absence of the principal.

Her Majesty's Ministers have now a new lease of power, secure from the harrassing questions which they are for six months of the year perpetually bored with. They can pursue their own course and carry into effect their own plans. With abundance of money at command, they can freely adopt tender for building half a dozen armour-plated frigates of the Warrior class, and have some time to cogitate on new schemes for next Session's operations. It seems generally agreed that "Reform" shall be shelved for a good while to come. Even the ultra radicals are quiet, in the belief that public feeling is turned from the discussion in disgust. The advocates of retrenchment in our national expenditure stand little chance of seeing the realization of their hopes. Still it is becoming fashionable to consider the race of rivalry in naval architecture between England and France as unnecessary. We may some day get indoctrinated into the belief that peace and safety can be secured by a mutual reduction of military and naval outlay. The Volunteer army of England will have done good service if it only should come to be the safety valve of a high pressure military zeal, instead of the regular army. The present feeling seems to be this, that the Volunteer force is simply to prevent war, to keep the peace, while the itinerant army of regulars is more of a police force to look after foreign depredators in our outlying possessions. A few years of this kind of life will make havoc of a soldier's glory. Our nobility must surely in time learn to estimate

military life at a low rate, and find more pleasure in higher pursuits. The field is so wide for the employment of our most noble minds, in the social advancement of the millions of our fellow men, there is glory enough to be won in the battles of life, in the warfare against ignorance, suffering and wrong to satisfy the most ambitious. How happy could mankind be in this beautiful world of ours, if the energies were all alike directed to the common weal. Much is already accomplished to smooth life's journey and increase our means of enjoyment, much is being done, but more remains for our successors to do.

We have no exciting topic of news from the European Continent. Certainly the French occupation of Rome continues most mysteriously. From time to time our hopes of its termination seem about to be realized, then a strong assurance comes that such is not the will of the potentate of Paris. The state of society in Italy, especially in Naples is rather terrible, brigandism run mad is no very agreeable condition.—Still we have hope of the gradual improvement of society even there. Time and patience will bring about a state of solidity in the new nation, which will overcome these lawless outbursts. England was not made in a day.

HASTINGS.

Manchester, August 10th, 1861.

Chronicle of Missions.

FRANCE.—The religious movement originated in Paris through the instrumentality of English evangelists, is extending its influence. Three general meetings have been held, at different chapels, during the month, with the most satisfactory results; and as many as forty-five meetings have been instituted for prayer every week. Methods of procedure new to the continent have in some instances been adopted; and an interest excited which has greatly stimulated the Christian activity of the several churches. The theological controversies of the day are also producing their fruit in a spirit of inquiry which, if hallowed, must prove among the strongest defences of the truth. The programme of the "Liberal Protestant Union" has attracted much attention; and committees or associations are being organised to oppose the principles it enunciates. Among other questions under public discussion, the education of the humbler classes has occupied a prominent place. Statistical inquiries show that a third of the male population of France can neither read nor write; and as to the women, more than half are strangers to the first rudiments of knowledge. Meanwhile the "Brethren of the Christian Doctrine," who teach gratuitously, but who are vulgar, illiterate, sometimes very immoral men, mindful chiefly of litanies and genuflexions, have gained thousands of scholars in all directions. If ignorance be the mother of devotion in the hearts of the votaries of the Romish church, this kind of education can only make them readier instruments of superstition. There is happily, therefore, a demand for the extension and improvement of primary schools, and for more complete independence in the relations of the schoolmaster with the clergy. The plentiful harvest of priestly scandals makes it clear what growths are most appropriate to the soil ecclesiastic.—The controversy with the Government is still angrily carried on, by craft where open warfare is not possible. The Pope, apparently intimidated by the firm language of the French Ambassador at Rome, has at length consented to fill up the vacant sees. By the agitation consequent upon delay, Cardinal Antonelli and his subordinates hoped to increase their influence, but their purpose has been frustrated. One exception remains: the Abbé Maret, nominated by the Emperor to the diocese of Vannes, is suspected of holding too liberal and Gallican sentiments, and the Pope has accordingly refused to confirm his appointment. From the meetings of the Wesleyan Conference lately held in Paris, it appears that Methodism is making progress in France. Twenty new chapels and four new Sunday-schools are reported to have been opened; and there have been revivals in several churches of the south. Authorisation has been obtained from the Government to open public worship in three new places, one of which is in Cervione, in Corsica, where for some years past the work has been successfully carried on among a most benighted population.

SPAIN.—Notwithstanding the severity of recent persecutions in Spain, there is reason to hope that the growth of public opinion may modify the rigour of existing laws. Queen Isabella has acknowledged in a diplomatic letter to the Emperor Napoleon, that the change of times requires a change of policy in matters relating to religion. The prisoners Matamoros, and Alhama, with one of their companions, are expecting condemnation, for their faithful testimony to the truth, to nine years at the galleys, and nine more under the constant vigilance of the civil authorities; but the sentence has not yet been formally pronounced, and by their friends it is said to be "not improbable" that they will soon be set at liberty.

ITALY.—The work of evangelization is proceeding in Italy under circumstances of great encouragement. While clerical extravagancies and follies are weakening the hold of the priesthood over the people, a reaction is experienced within the fold of the Romish Church itself, which is favourable to the dissemination of the truth. There are those who desire a reformation of manners as the only security against