

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from New Zealand.

MR. EDITOR,—

This is the first time I have ever taken up my pen to write for a newspaper, and would not attempt it now were it not for many friends that I have left behind me in Nova Scotia, who I have no doubt would like to hear from me, and those who sailed from Pugwash in the "George Henderson" in December, 1859. Particularly will this be the case, after the letter of Mr. Christopher, published in your paper of October 3rd, 1860, which I must say is the greatest misconstruction of truth I ever saw written by any man. First, he says "there was much dissatisfaction among the passengers about the way in which they were used and the accommodation on board," this is not correct; as the passengers on arrival in Sydney presented the Captain with an address in which they expressed their entire satisfaction. For my own part, I do not think that there was ever a vessel with passengers that crossed the Atlantic of 2500 miles, not to say 16,000 miles, as we came, ever so contented, united and happy, on the whole, as we were, I never knew of any disturbance in the ship except that this same Mr. Christopher and his comrade used to pull each others hair occasionally, so said their companions. Next he says, "it was amusing to see some of the passengers give way to their tenderest emotions, and curse the day they left their native land when they heard of the war in New Zealand." Such a thing I never heard of. The passengers who landed in Sydney, nearly all shipped for that place, except Mr. Hobbs and wife, John Bigelow and family, with a few others. It is only a short time ago that Capt. James received a letter from Mr. Bigelow, thanking him for bringing him to such a country, saying that he had got 12s. sterling per day ever since he landed, and that he had not lost a day. Last week I received a letter from one of the passengers that stopped in Sydney, he says, "times are dull in Australia, still he and his partner were getting 10s. sterling per day." It is true, when we heard of the war in New Zealand some of the passengers felt alarmed; but we heard more about the war in Sydney than we have since we came here. Next is the Population, the last statistics show 69,000 whites and 55,000 natives. The natives are decreasing daily, the whites increasing. As to the greater part of the shipping being owned by the natives, this is also incorrect. They have a fair share of the smallest size coasting vessels, and no more. They bring their own produce to market and do but very little beyond that, as they are not over fond of work, unless they are extravagantly paid. I have been 140 miles along the coast, twice, in a native vessel with a native Captain and crew, and boarded six weeks in a family where the landlady was a native woman. They are a very kind people where they take, but very bold and daring when aroused to war. They never go "at night" as Mr. C. says, to murder women and children. They are afraid of evil spirits and never go out in the night if they can avoid it, many of them are well off and have good farms, so far as they know how to cultivate them. The greater part of them, as far as I can learn, are quite satisfied to get a daily living like most other natives. Only a part of the gold mines belong to the natives, the others to the government and are working. The natives, at present, refuse to sell or lease theirs, as they say, if they do, the whites will come among them in great numbers, and corrupt the morals of their people. There is plenty of coal within 30 miles of Auckland and the mines are working; also a Copper Mine working. Mr. C.'s next complaint is that every man from 16 to 66 years of age is compelled to join the Militia—this is another mistake—18 to 50 being the age. He also says, 'fortunately for him he was out of town the day that almost every one was sworn in, once sworn in you must stay till the war is over.' It would have been much more fortunate for Mr. C. had he sought correct information I have been here eight months and have never been called upon as much as to enrol myself in the Militia, neither have any of our passengers that came with me, and as to being obliged to stay till the war is over: it is no such thing. People go and come as they please, as to martial law, such a thing I have never heard of since I came here, except at the seat of war, which is in the Province of Taraniki, on the West coast, 180 miles from Auckland. Mr. C. told me on his first landing that he liked the place well, that he had got a job at which he could make 20s. per day. The next complaint is the Land Orders, he says

"you must pay a surveyor £5 to shew you the Land and that they take you over rivers, creeks and mud, that the land is overflowed, that he has known persons to spend £30 in search of land, and then give it up." Now Mr. C. was here only a few days, and how he got all his knowledge I know not, except from a lot of idlers, (such as you can find in any town) who stand about the corners of streets or wharves to give their version of things to any one that will listen to them, especially to new comers.

When a person presents his land order at the land office, they will, if he wishes, show him a plan of every block of land open for sale, and will give him all the information he requires about the land, also a map of any particular block you may wish to select out of. The plan is so plain when you get to the block, you can by the numbers trace out all the lots in said block and judge of the quality of the land for yourself and as to paying a surveyor £5 to shew you the land, it is not so unless you want to throw away your money. As to the land being overflowed, such a thing is unknown here. I went last week in company with five others to see a block of land open for sale 16 miles from town. We went within one mile of the block with a horse and carriage. We then each gave a man 1s. 4d. or 8s. for the day, and he showed us to the block and found that by the lines and roads marked out I could find out by the number at the corners every lot in the whole block of 11,000 acres without any guide. When you pick out your lot, you get it at the upset price, 10s. per acre, (your Land Order is worth £20) unless some other party or parties put in for the same lot; and then the competition is between you and them, no one else is allowed to bid, and if you are outbidden you must try your chance again. As to the roads, government lay them out and will make one half of them as soon as two thirds of the inhabitants wish it made, by their making the other half.

The climate is good. I have passed a winter here, what the old inhabitants call the worst winter they have seen for seven years, and I assure you it is not a Nova Scotia winter. Vegetables grow in the gardens all winter and wherever you cast your eye you can see the flowers in bloom, such as you keep housed in Nova Scotia in Summer. Cattle and Horses are not housed, except horses you keep to work, sheds are provided for the milch cows to lie under in the rainy nights. Young cattle are not housed at all they get their own living. Hay is only provided for working horses and milch cows, and we sometimes use green feed instead; that is, oats and barley, sown in the fall after the potatoes are dug, thus getting two crops a year off the same ground. Cutting as they require it to feed out.

The soil close to Auckland town in many places is not very good, but just go a few miles out and then you will see land that is worth looking at, much better than I ever saw in Nova Scotia. It is now the same time in the season here as the first of July with you. The country looks beautiful. Crops of all kinds look well, and if this country had the industrious farmer of Nova Scotia to work it, as he works his Nova Scotia farm, this country would shine, and I do not think it would be second to any country in the world.

No natural grain grows here, as he (Mr. C.) says it does in Australia. I think it is about the first time any one ever heard of natural grain growing in either place. "Nothing thrives as well here as in Nova Scotia, except wheat," says Mr. C. This is also untrue: for a better potato-raising country is not under the sun. No potato rot. Vegetables of every description grow here in abundance. Oats are the only thing that will not do as well here as in Nova Scotia, that I know of, except apples, which are very subject to blight. Cherries, plums, pears, peaches, figs, grapes, quinces and gooseberries grow well here, and the farmer who could not live here, would starve anywhere.

Next, "cows £16 to £20, horses £80 to £120." Not true. The average price of cows is from £8 to £14, horses £15 to 50,—some as low as £8, some as high as £100. I have not heard of any such cases as 'labourers working for their board, and in stormy weather their board refused,' and I believe it to be incorrect. "Mechanics," he says, "get from 3s. to 5s. per day." I know that they got 8s. per day last winter at steady employment, and you cannot get a ship carpenter to do you a day's work at anything you might want about a vessel, less than 14s. per day. Labourers on the wharves get 7s. per day. This I know to be a fact, and recently men in the bush and on the farms, get from £3 10s. to £4 per month and found.

Next,—"There is a person by the name of Henderson who has got a large quantity of land,

and is going out to Nova Scotia to persuade his relatives to come out and settle on it." This is also another blunder. The man that is going to Nova Scotia is a Mr. McLeod, a native of Pictou, who came here seven years ago, and by his persevering industry has made some thousands of pounds, and is going to return, as he told me himself, for his family and as many of his friends as would like to come. He can tell them a nice story and a true one too, so far as his own prosperity is concerned, and that of many others.

Next, "The advantages of the place are all told, while there is nothing said about the disadvantages." As far as I can see since I have been here, I see nothing to prevent any industrious man getting a good living, and something ahead, if he is sober and steady, and will attend to whatever business he may take up. At the present time there are not the opportunities of making money as rapidly as there have been, yet I think any man coming here will not meet with any more disadvantages than he could expect in any new country. A man wants something in this place as well as in any other, to start with, otherwise he must be content to work himself up, as he would have to do in any other place. I think this country far preferable to Nova Scotia for a poor man to get along in. He is clear of the cold winter which is a great boon to a poor man with a family. If he immigrates here he gets his land free and can keep a cow for himself at once, if he goes in the bush to settle, and the country is improving very fast, and his land soon becomes valuable. Stock raising is a good business here. Sheep raising also, as they will give you from 50 to 75 per cent profit yearly, and to start any of these branches you want some capital to do them with profit. Mr. C. would make you think the people were all running away from this place. It is not so, we have an arrival from England about every three weeks and every vessel brings us more or less passengers, and instead of a decrease we have had an increase in the last month of about 700, over and above all that have left. There are now several vessels on their way from England with passengers. Many that left here about the time Mr. C. did would be glad to get back if they could. The land in this country in general is much more broken than in Nova Scotia, yet there is much fine level land. Last week I heard a farmer offering his wheat for sale to a miller. He said his wheat would turn out 40 bushels to the acre, he had about thirty acres. I think that rather better than Nova Scotia can do. They get from 200 to 320 bushels of potatoes to the acre. The war at Taraniki has made trade somewhat dull, and it is still going on. There have been a large number of troops arrived of late, so that it is thought the war will soon be over. It is only a small part of the natives that have rebelled, and while the people around Taraniki, where the war is, have suffered much, and will continue to suffer till it is brought to a close, yet upon the whole it will be a good thing for New Zealand, as the natives will be taught, before it is over, a lesson that they will not be apt to forget. They will be taught to respect law and order, and that will be a lasting benefit to them as well as others.

This season the crops will be abundant here and the markets are good for farm produce; wheat 7s. to 8s., oats 4s. to 6s., barley 5s. to 7s., corn 4s. to 6s. per bushel, potatoes from 6s. to 8s. per cwt., beef at the butcher's market 6d. to 7d., mutton 6d. to 7d., pork 5d. to 6d., hams dried 7d. to 1s., butter 1s. 3d. to 2s. 3d., eggs 1s. 3d. to 2s. There are some good saw-mills here,—one mill here last year cut three million feet of board and scantling: price from £5 to £7 per M: Kauri pine is the principal wood sawn for lumber. It is large. The trees grow from 2 feet to 10 feet through, 30 to 80 feet long, without a limb. I have stood in one place in the bush, and counted 25 trees of the above description. Plenty of good wood for ship building. The rivers and coasts abound with plenty of good fish, which you can catch any day in the year, and I think it will be a fine country when it gets age. It is now only 20 years old, and most of the improvements has been made within the last 7 years. The times are said to be dull here compared with former years. If you were to see the inhabitants turn out to spend the Christmas and New Years holidays, you would not think there was any want here. The dress of the inhabitants excels in expense anything that I ever saw either in England or America. I have not seen a beggar in the town, of any description, since I came here; although I dare say there are some poor people.

The town of Auckland is situated on the east side of the northern Island of New Zealand, on the river Waitemata, in latitude south 36 50° longitude east 174 49°. Contains at the present time 18,000 inhabitants; has one long wharf,

called Queen's wharf. Queen street is the principal street. There is a fine Government house, a large Government domain, a large Barrack yard all walled in with stone, a fort called Britomart, at present garrisoned with about 500 regular troops, and two men-of-war in the harbour. Three steam and one wind flour mills, the fourth steam flour mill is building,—length 127 feet, breadth 39 feet, five stories high above the ground and one below; two rope walks; six iron foundries and several small steam mills for mechanical purposes. The town is chiefly built of wood. By an order of Council, bricks have to take place of wood in certain parts of the town. The town is building up very fast, and almost every day you see the foundation of some new building laid. There is one large Roman Catholic Chapel, of stone; four belonging to the Church of England, and the fifth one just commencing to build; the Wesleyan Methodists have five places of worship and a college; the Primitive Methodists one chapel; the Independants have two; the Presbyterians two; the Jews have a synagogue; the Baptists have one place of worship, with stated preaching, a large congregation, a church of 130 members. There is also a Total Abstinence Society of 362 members, and as to the number of Schools in town, I have not been able to ascertain, but to-day the Wesleyans had a pic-nic for their Day and Sunday-school scholars. I was told over 400 children were at it.

So you see, my friend, New-Zealand is not exactly out of the world, and that there are something more than cannibal natives here. The greatest difference between us is, that we are on one side of the globe and you the other. You are on the cold side and we on the warm. And if this letter does not tire you out reading it, perhaps I may from time to time give you a further history of this far-off land. With my prayers and best wishes for all my old acquaintances and christian friends,

I remain yours in the best of bonds,

LEVI W. EATON.

Auckland, New Zealand, }
January 1, 1861. }

For the Christian Messenger.

"Paradise Female Seminary."

[The writer of the following paper gives us some impressions he received on listening to the contents of the "Bird's Nest" at the Paradise Seminary. We ourselves, on one occasion, were favored with a perusal of one of these collections of original productions of the "Birds of Paradise," and can easily imagine, that to be present and hear them vocalized by the writers themselves, would be indeed a treat.—ED. C. M.]

MR. EDITOR,—

Dear Sir,—The subject of Education is at present occupying a large share of public attention, so that perhaps a few remarks thereon, through the columns of your valuable paper might not be amiss, or altogether uninteresting.

An intelligent and educated people is a glory to any nation—in it are the elements of greatness and prosperity, and in this go-ahead age those who neglect it sink into insignificance and contempt. The same facts apply with equal propriety to communities and individuals. We see them advancing in the social scale in proportion to the attention bestowed upon, and the progress attained in education. Therefore any efforts to bring this inestimable boon within reach of the masses, should be considered a national as well as an individual blessing.

Since intellectual capabilities have been bestowed by the Creator upon the poor as well as the rich, every means should be used to cultivate and develop those powers of mind in all classes, thereby refining the crude material, and polishing the native gem, fitting them to become a blessing to, and the pride and glory of our country.

No doubt at present exists upon any reflecting mind as to the advantages to be derived from female education. Woman is sustaining a very important part in the moral, social and intellectual progress of the present age—her influence cannot be over-estimated, nor any means whereby her mind may be disciplined, stored with useful knowledge and those higher attainments, which elevate, purify, and enhance social enjoyment, and guide it into correct habits and channels of thought, thereby fitting her the more successfully to accomplish the end of existence in promoting human happiness—too highly appreciated.

That those advantages are now within reach of a very large class in this country must be evident to all who have had the pleasure of listening to the productions of the pupils at Paradise Seminary, through the columns of the quarterly sheet the "Bird's nest" containing