

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letters to a Young Preacher.

LETTER XIV. AFFECTATION.

Mg Dear Brother,

A preacher's manner should be natural. It must therefore be his own. If he ascertain that there is any thing awkward or offensive in it, he should endeavor to correct what is amiss. He may also profit by the example of those whose manner is agreeable and attractive. But affectation is readily detected by persons of refined and discerning minds; and it is, when discovered, repulsive to mankind in general. It subjects the individual who employs it to contempt; and causes his communications to be viewed with suspicion and indifference. A preacher, therefore, from whom the utmost frankness and sincerity are expected, should cautiously avoid affectation in its various forms.

As a minister's work is of a very serious nature, he may deem it proper and requisite to use a peculiarly solemn tone of voice in preaching.—If on suitable occasions this proceed from deep solemnity pervading his own spirit, it will be unexceptionable and appropriate: but if it become habitual, it will be contemptible and disgusting. The utterance of commonplace observations in such a tone as might be expected in a funeral service, betrays stereotyped affectation, and is intolerable. A man should preach with his natural voice, and vary it only according to his subject, and the actual state of his own feelings. In some instances men so change their voices that their intimate acquaintances, if they did not see them, would be ready to regard them as strangers. This is preposterous.

A preacher, aware that he ought to be much engaged and very earnest in reference to matters that relate to eternity, may be tempted to assume the appearance of great earnestness, when it is not felt. An aged disciple, who had preached for a time in his youth, made a very frank statement to me on this subject. He said that when he began to preach he did feel a deep sense of the importance of eternal things, and naturally spoke loud and fast. After a time this impression became more feeble, and consequently he was not so earnest. He thought, however, that he must still keep up the noise. But, he added—with great truthfulness, no doubt—"it was a hollow sound." I recollect another individual whose ordinary conversation was moderate and intelligent, but when he began to speak in public he uniformly broke forth into a turbulent rhapsody. Among discerning hearers it was matter of regret that he did not retain his usual moderation; as in that case he might have spoken to some profit.

Every minister of Christ ought to be constantly filled with a lively sense of divine things.—For this he should earnestly pray, and diligently strive, in the use of suitable means. If, however, he be not in this desirable state of mind, all pretences to it will be injurious. They will tend to prejudice the minds of his hearers against his ministrations, by leading them to question his sincerity in general.

A young preacher may perceive that some one of his seniors is acceptable and popular; and may hence judge it advisable to make him his model. Very probably, however, what is natural and becoming in the one, may be quite unnatural and unbecoming in the other. Moreover, the attempt to imitate will be very sure to be detected, and consequently to expose the imitator to contempt.

The affectation of knowledge or learning which a man does not possess, is peculiarly reprehensible. One may unconsciously become addicted to the use of an unnatural tone. He may speak as if he were very earnest when he is not, from a consciousness that he ought to be so, and with the hope that this will aid him in attaining to a right state of feeling. He may, moreover, endeavor to imitate some favorite minister, with the expectation that his own usefulness will be thereby increased; but when a preacher makes pretences to learning which he knows that he has not, the hypocrisy is utterly inexcusable. Detection of the fraud, which will be almost certain to follow, must be necessarily injurious to his moral character. It is allowable for a man who understands neither Hebrew nor Greek to refer to the original, if he give his authority, or state that the learned say thus or so. In general, however, it is not advisable for any one to make frequent references of this kind. Every thing that may savor of pedantry should be constantly avoided. If a preacher affect an elegant style, and betray ignorance by using words improperly, he will render himself ridicu-

lous; and necessarily diminish the usefulness of his labors. In all respects his manner should be natural, modest, frank, and sincere. This will tend to secure the esteem of his fellow men, and the approbation and blessing of Heaven.

May you, my beloved young Brother, ever shun all approaches to affectation, and your sincerity and candor be manifest to all with whom you may labor!

Yours in gospel bonds,
CHARLES TUPPER.

Aylesford, July 15, 1861.

For the Christian Messenger.

English Correspondence.

From our own Correspondent.

THE EARTH ENVELOPED BY THE COMET'S TAIL.—CHANGES IN THE TURKISH EMPIRE.—M. MIRE'S.—THE KINGDOM OF ITALY, ROME AND ROMANISM.—LOUIS NAPOLEON AND FREE TRADE.—THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA AND HIS EFFORTS TO FREE THE SERFS.—HOME—POLITICS.—RIFLE CONTESTS.—THE FIRE IN LONDON.—TRADE IN GENERAL AND COTTON IN PARTICULAR.

MR. EDITOR,—

Several packets have left Liverpool and borne our news across the waters since it was my opportunity to give you a few lines. It would be a pleasing task to take a retrospective survey of the various events which have flitted past our point of observation on the stream of life during the past three months, but you would hardly thank me for filling up your columns with items of news which have probably already appears in your "Latest from Europe." I have often felt gratified to read your brief but comprehensive column, detailing in a few lines the real contents of a whole fortnight's mail. Still passing events are often fraught with growing results, and it is only when time has somewhat matured them that we can get a useful idea from them. For instance our indefatigable watchman of the heavens, Mr. Hind, noticed, on the evening of Sunday, June 30th, a curious atmospheric phenomenon, a yellow phosphorescent appearance pervading the whole sky; at the same time was seen in the northern heavens a nebulous brilliancy, at once known to be a new comet. This object, first observed early in the morning of the same day, was apparently enveloped in a bright mist. As soon as the phosphorescent fog passed away the comet gradually but steadily became more distinct, and soon showed that it had a tail.—Ever since this comet has been a brilliant object, with a more decided nucleus and tail; and the observations of scientific observers have resulted in a settled conviction that on the 30th of June we were actually enveloped with the comet's tail. Having passed such an ordeal and escaped unhurt we are less likely to be frightened out of our propriety by such celestial visitants than some of our ancestors were read of.

Again, Abdul Medjid, the late Sultan of Turkey, a weak and effeminate sovereign was looked upon as the embodiment of the constitution of the Empire. With him, the Turkish Empire must fall to pieces, and conjecture was busy in rearranging the map of that part of the world, giving Asia Minor to some Mahomedan prince, the Danubian provinces to the protection of Russia, Egypt and Syria to the gentle guardianship of France and incorporating the European provinces south of the Balkan with Greece. Abdul Medjid has gone the way of all flesh, a martyr in early life to the sensual indulgence. His successor is a brother, according to the fashion of the country, not a son. Abdul Aziz, a man of noble simplicity of manners, of abstemious habits and energy of character accomplished and of liberal mind. Under his will Turkey may regain her lost character, and take a new lease of life. The new Sultan has begun at the right end in introducing reforms. Some idea of the enormous waste of the produce of the labor of the poor may be gleaned from a contemplation of the cost of royalty during a past year. The seraglio expenses cut down from 4 or 5 millions to less than half a million,—400 horses turned out of the royal stables to earn an honest living in the artillery. 900 salaried boatmen discharged to work for their subsistence. No wonder Constantinople was always in want of money, and her population always poor. At the same rate of expenditure our beloved country would soon go to the dogs. Things look brighter for Turkey. Abdul Aziz does not let the grass grow under his feet. He is examining into the financial affairs of the different departments. Has ordered the dismissal of the seraglio and sale of diamonds, jewels, gold and silver ornaments to pay his brother's debts. The Sultanas who have children will be allowed maintenance in the palace, but the Sultan will be satisfied with one wife. What a wonderful effect such a bright

example will have on the Turkish population, putting a check on Circassian slavery, bringing polygamy into disrepute, and must tend to restore woman to her legitimate position in society. The lower orders, too, will have a growing confidence in their own country. With religious freedom, a temperate rule, and the respect of foreign countries the Turks must rapidly improve. The natural advantages of the country have for ages been neglected. Enterprize may now spring up. The haughty Riza Pasha, who has held the office of Seraskier for 18 years is dismissed and placed under arrest until his accounts are examined. Much of the financial extravagance, and obstinate adherence to the old policy is attributed to him.

The notorious banker and financier M. Mirès, who worked so zealously to negotiate the last Turkish loan has at last met his deserts. After a lengthy trial he is found guilty of "swindling" and "abuse of confidence" having disposed of securities for his own advantage which were entrusted to him for safe keeping. He has been sentenced to "five years imprisonment!" His accomplice Solar shares his fate, and Count Simeon, a senator of France, is declared to have had a guilty knowledge of Mirès' frauds and is accordingly held civilly responsible for a large proportion of the losses. This will probably ruin Count Simeon and remove him from the Senate. It is well, now and then, to find out some of these high class scoundrels, of whom the world has too many. Who can say how many of the political and social evils we suffer are caused by the unfaithfulness of men in high position?

Count Cavour, once the first man of Italy, politically, as Garibaldi, was as a liberator, has left the stage of life. His sudden sickness and steady sinking into the grave created a very general sympathy in this country. We were inclined to lament his death as the overthrow of all the hopes we had indulged, of Italy's regeneration. Our contracted view could not foresee the calm, steady progress of that nation towards freedom which should follow the decease of that man of ten thousand. His mantle has fallen on the nation, the leaders of the people seem to feel their responsibilities more than ever and to rise up equal to their position. Baron Ricasoli, the successor of Cavour is a man for the place and the time; full of patriotism, devotion to the cause of constitutional liberty and freedom from papal and priestly tyranny; he may be permitted to direct the energies of the Italians in their new warfare against priestcraft. Signs are not wanting to indicate the early downfall of Romanism as it is. France and Italy have decreed this long since. But, perhaps out of a consideration for the present Pope, or for diplomatic reasons the time for action is delayed. Rome has one by one lost almost all its friends. Very lately Russia and Prussia, through their representatives at the Court of Rome, have insulted the power of the Vatican. The people of Rome are ripe for revolt. The presence of the French troops alone restrains them. The Pope is seriously ill, not likely to last much longer and when the day of his release comes, it is more than probable that that there will be an end of Roman dominancy in matters of religion. As things are, the toleration of Rome is a costly affair for both France and Italy. Francis II late of Naples still hangs about Rome and affords shelter to his faithful followers who make good use of the opportunity to raise companies of brigands to disturb the south of Italy. It is said that Victor Emanuel will soon proceed to Naples to stay a few months.—His presence will gratify and strengthen his subjects in that part of his dominions. There is no present indication of the French forces quitting Rome. The death of Cavour, seems to have precipitated the acknowledgment of the Kingdom of Italy by France. That measure was necessary to prevent the boiling over of the deep feeling of hatred to France which fills so many Italians. The loss of Savoy and Nice is neither forgotten nor forgiven by the Mazzinians and Garibaldians. They may be pacified and quieted by an appearance of friendliness, and if France would evacuate Rome and enable Italy to make her the Capital, the bitterness of feeling would be softened. It is gratifying to find the Italian Parliament express such warm thanks to England for her adherence to the principles of non-intervention. Italy is well able to work out her own salvation and simply wants to be let alone.

The movements of Louis Napoleon are reassuring. He has honestly carried out his free-trade measures and done as much for France in two years as it took our own legislature twenty years to accomplish. It does not however follow that the result to France will prove so satisfactory as it has done to England. In gradual reforms and improvements there is an educative process going on which fits us to take advantage of events as they transpire. A treaty bearing

on the Slavery question has just been concluded with France. This treaty permits France to import coolies into its Colonies from India; and in consequence no more negroes will be imported after a given date. The substitution of free immigrants for slaves may in time demonstrate that slavery is too expensive. Not till then can we hope to see that inhuman system put down.

It will grieve all friends of freedom to see the unfortunate position of the Emperor Alexander of Russia. His efforts to emancipate the serfs have not given very general satisfaction to his people. He is ill spoken of by the nobles, and has had to use military force in many places to put down insurrection amongst the peasants. They knew not how to use their newly acquired privileges, and so became rampant. Poland is in a most unquiet state, taking advantage of the liberal tendencies of their Russian Master, and stimulated by the political activity of the neighbouring Hungarians. The Poles cannot resist making an effort, a struggle, a plunge for a national existence. We can hardly expect the time to be the right one for a successful movement in Poland. It is different in Hungary.

I have left myself little space for home news either political or domestic. Political parties are so well balanced that nothing of great moment can go on, and nothing is attempted. The opposing parties are obliged to make very little questions the trials of party power. The only great question on which all parties agree is that of keeping up our national expenditure. It is wonderful with what unanimity the millions are voted away. Surely we shall have a charge in this some day. Much time is spent in our legislative assembly in asking and answering questions. The public certainly get some useful information, but it sadly detracts from the time in which our expenditure might be criticized.—Lately there has been some talk on Education. The Report of the Education Commissioners is being analysed by the public, and the changes in the manner of appropriating the Grants of public money are so sweeping, that everybody is anxious to know what is intended to be put into practice.

The military zeal of our amateur soldiers is kept alive by Rifle contests and grand reviews. This week at Wimbledon the annual contest for some prizes has come off. Report says the shooting has been very excellent, and that our riflemen take rank second to none in the art of shooting.

You will know all about the terrible fire of London which has now been burning for three weeks. The whole range of noble warehouses and wharfs extending on the south bank of the Thames, from the London Bridge down to the Custom House. Such a tremendous loss to London has struck terror into those who witnessed it. The Insurance offices lose £1,500,000 and of course private individuals will suffer in like proportion.

Trade is very dull still. The Liverpool Cotton Market enjoys a singular briskness. Large speculations are made in Cotton in anticipation of a continuance of the American quarrelling, and consequent cessation of supplies of cotton thence, but very strenuous efforts are being made to obtain supplies elsewhere. The Viceroy of Egypt is memorialized to stimulate its cultivation in Egypt. The Government do what can be done for us in India, and private enterprise is opening up parts of Africa. We do not expect a long continuance of short supply even though the Cotton States discontinue its growth altogether.

HASTINGS.

Manchester, July 13th, 1861.

For the Christian Messenger.

"Modesty," "Messenger" and "Sprinkling."

DEAR BROTHER,—

I think I can state in few words, as suggested by your correspondent "Modesty," what my object is in the "momentous discussion going on between myself and Rev. Mr. Somerville."—Here it is.

I have been, with others better than I, deeply grieved at the manner in which the *Presbyterian Witness* and the *Christian Messenger* and their Correspondents treat each other. There too often runs, a bitterness and rancor thro' the Editorials, and through the communications which appear in the two papers, when the points of difference, often small, between the two denominations, are discussed, which is injurious to the cause of both parties, and what is far more, deeply injurious to the cause of our Blessed Redeemer. 'Twould be difficult to say which side exhibits the most unchristian spirit. Such effusions, in my opinion, tend greatly to widen the