

at the Brussels Palace, and a subsequent visit of Prince Albert Edward and Princess Alexandra to the Zoological Gardens. Great stress is laid by all the Belgian journals on the latter fact, as implying an event of more than ordinary interest, and constituting, so to say, a sort of betrothal. The metaphysical aspect of the royal zoological promenade is, however, not clearly explained by the *Independence Belge* and contemporaries, and its importance is but dimly shadowed forth in the announcement that some ten thousand people, "mostly ladies dressed in the height of fashion," watched every scene in the zoological drama with the intensest eagerness from beyond the grass-grown moat which separates the Jardin from the public walk on the Boulevards. What will probably be still more interesting than this scene to English readers is that the able editor of the *Independence* not only saw with his own eyes the youthful royal lady who hung on the arm of the Prince of Wales, but describes her personal appearance as that of "une jolie et très-gracieuse personne." This bit of information, we are certain, will be one of unalloyed gratification to millions of loyal British hearts. *The Times*, and other papers which entertain their readers about the presumed future Queen of these realms, commit a singular mistake by calling her a Danish princess. This is a strange error, for Princess Alexandria is as pure a German as ever was born within the limits of the Confederation, and belongs not only by birth, but by blood relationship and descent, through many centuries, to the main branch of the great Teutonic race. It cannot be denied that there is a manifest paucity of high family-relations for the future Queen of England; but this will scarcely be deemed a misfortune here with us, and there may even be not a few sincerely loyal subjects of her Majesty who will hold it a notable advantage.—A greater, however, lies in the fact that Princess Alexandra is known to be not only a very amiable and accomplished young lady, but, what is more, a most dutiful and affectionate child, beloved by her parents, brothers, and sisters, and admired by all her friends.—There is scarcely more to be wished for in the proposed bride of Prince Albert Edward, except the one additional point, happily guaranteed by the able editor of the *Independence*, of the future Queen of England being "une jolie et très-gracieuse personne." It seems good luck enough, even for a Prince of Wales.—*Spectator*.

For the Christian Messenger.

United States Correspondence.

WORCESTER MASS., Oct. 7, 1862.

Dear Brother,—

I arrived here a few days ago to spend a short vacation with the First Baptist Church, during the absence of their pastor to recruit his health.

This city is about forty miles from Boston in the route to New York. In 1830 it had 3,000 inhabitants. It now contains 30,000. Its growth may be attributed to a concentration of railroads. It is built on gently rising ground and occupies a large space. Its central and business locality is densely peopled. But towards the suburbs the houses are separated by gardens and highly cultivated fields. You can imagine the beauties of such a place on the bright days of September and October.

There is a Catholic College, two female Seminaries under Baptist patronage, a large military school, and many other schools of the highest order.

Here are churches too of nearly all the denominations known in America. The First Baptist Church here was founded about half a century ago. Two others have been set off and are flourishing. Rev. Mr. Banvard, well known by his works, is pastor of the Third Church, Mr. Wesson is over the Second, and Bro. Moss is pastor of the First. I arrived here on Friday evening just in time for the Covenant meeting, and was cordially welcomed by a letter from the pastor, also by some old friends. The communications of the church were of a practical and experimental character rather than exciting. Some of the brethren alluded to the national as well as personal experience, and seemed willing to confess both individual and national sins, and to acknowledge the hand of God in all their trials.—Much sympathy was awakened for one of the sisters, who said, "at our last Covenant meeting I requested your prayers for a son in the army. Since that time he has been called away, and now I come again to ask your prayers for the rest of my sons, that the death of their brother may be blessed to their conversion." It reminded me of similar scenes that I have lately witnessed in Conference meetings, where afflictions have called forth the warm christian sympathies of brethren and sisters. How suitable is it in such cir-

cumstances to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice, and to be kindly affectioned one to another.

On Sunday it was pleasing to see that the whole church joined in the singing. The leader of the music stood in front of the pulpit, the organ sustained, and nearly the whole congregation rose and sung. I am more convinced than ever that this is the proper mode of conducting divine worship. At the close of the afternoon service we administered the Lord's Supper to about 250 or 300 persons. The whole church seemed to be in their places, so that no seat was empty. With a more devout assembly of worshippers I never met. The Saviour was present. In the evening the church observed the concert of prayer for missions. Items of information were furnished from the last Magazine and *Macedonian*, interspersed by singing, remarks, and prayer. The exercises were conducted without formality, each brother joining in the exercise as he was prompted by his zeal for missions. On the duty of contributing to spread the gospel one brother quaintly remarked, "We sometimes hear people say that they must move to some other place where they can be happier. But, if we could all move away from self, it would be a shorter and more effectual way to secure the end sought." How true, thought I, is the sentiment. We may move to the ends of the earth, if we carry our selfishness and avarice with us, we should still be wretched. But let us be divested of self; and we can enjoy the favor of God any where. Our brethren in the free States are certainly setting a noble example, by sustaining their missions so thoroughly in these troublous times.

With reference to the war now raging, the papers are filled, political caucusses and other public meetings are held, enlistments are going on, and regiments are hastening to the field of battle. But little is said on the subject except what is necessary to carry out the end in view. The people seem more inclined to act than to talk, and manifest a calm determination to prosecute the war to the utmost extremity. Much activity is manifested, and much prayer is offered. We attended a large public meeting one evening, which was convened to hear the report of Mayor Aldrich and H. S. Washburn, Esqr., both of whom had been sent to the seat of war to carry supplies for the sick and wounded from the inhabitants of Worcester. Mr. Washburn gave an account of the distribution of the supplies among the wounded and sick. He gave a graphic description of the hospitals which now contain about 20,000 patients. He said that General McDowell was exalted, that Pope is despised, and that the name of McLellan was the only one which would elicit any enthusiasm among the soldiers visited by him. If McLellan could not lead the army to victory we have no general that can. Mr. Aldrich described the battle of Antietam of which he was an eye witness, and at which the Federals gained the day. The battle began at 5 in the morning and did not cease till after dark, when 30,000 men were lying killed and wounded on the field. It was stated that the second battle of Bull Run was lost for want of Generals' ip. There was no concentration of forces; but every brigade and regiment had to act for itself. I would add that the papers of to day claim another important victory for the Federals near Corinth, where General Price, with 40,000 rebels, attacked General Grant and was routed with great slaughter. The Proclamation of the President, touching emancipation, is taken very hard by the South. It seems likely to touch a tender spot. The Democrats of the North are complaining too, as if it were already law. But the republicans or government party meet them by urging that it is a mere foreshadowing of what will not be done till Congress shall assemble to deliberate upon it. They urge that when it becomes law it will break the triple cord of slavery, and restore the Union on the basis of liberty. The slavery of the negroes is not the only evil that will be removed. The slavery of the poor whites, who are now in bondage under the reproach of honest labor will be done away. The slavery of the slave holders who have been prohibited by law from freeing their negroes, and from doing what they wish with their own property, will also disappear.

While speaking of slavery I might add, that hitherto the North itself has suffered from a bondage, in some respects, more calling than the South. Contrary to their own conscience the people have been forced to connive at that "sum of all villainies" as if it were right. And a chain upon the soul is worse than a chain upon the body. The nation too has presented the spectacle of the majority being bullied and ruled by the minority. This has gone on till the last resort is brute force. But troublesome as slavery has been to the North it now promises to be still more so to the South. By a stroke of the pen honest Abe has converted the source of their greatest strength, to weakness.

This is clear from the way in which the Proclamation is regarded in the South. The rebel congress talk of "raising the black flag" and exterminating every Federalist without mercy. Whether they will dare to do this remains to be seen. While the prospects just now are brightening for the North no one can predict with certainty what the final result will be. The people here, however, seem confident of success. But to the thinking mind we can see only one ground of comfort just now, and that is that "God reigns," and He will do right.

Yesterday we rode with a friend about twenty miles into the country and back.—The scenery was delightful. We passed through the Cherry Valley where numerous woolen factories are going night and day, to make cloth for the army; through Leicester a manufacturing town on a high hill where cards are made, an old, wealthy, and aristocratic place; through Spenser, and North and South Brookfield which flourish from their shoe factories. In the last mentioned place more than a dozen houses are in course of erection. We saw everywhere the most encouraging signs of prosperity. Fruit is very abundant. We saw many apple trees literally smashed to the ground from the weight of their fruit. The finest apples are bought for the army in any quantities at one dollar a barrel.

Yours, &c.
D. FREEMAN.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 15, 1862.

"To the poor the gospel is preached."

This was given by our Lord, to the enquiring disciples of John the Baptist, as one of the characteristics of his ministry; and it must ever be a prominent feature in the endeavours of those who would be his followers.

We may not have the squalid poverty in our province seen in ancient Palestine, yet, objects of benevolent solicitude present themselves in abundance on every hand, and especially of those whose souls are famishing for the bread that cometh down from heaven, of which if a man eat he shall never die; and probably there are not a few persons surrounding every christian church who are thirsting for the waters of life. In many scattered districts are small churches able to do but little towards sustaining a minister, but desirous of doing what they can to supply themselves and their neighbours with the word of life.

Appeals are, from time to time, received by the Home Missionary Board, from these districts. It is sometimes difficult to know how to respond to them, in consequence of the very limited amount of funds placed at their disposal.

When it is considered what an amount of labor is performed, with the small means entrusted to the Board for this purpose, there is great reason to be thankful and take courage. We fear the missionary work is not enough appreciated by the churches, or by Christians generally, or they would devote a larger proportion of their means to this cause.

A case or two in illustration will shew how the small funds are employed, and how they become as seed which produces a large return of funds, besides accomplishing the great work of carrying the gospel to those who would otherwise be thirsting in vain for the truth proclaimed by the servants of Christ. A request comes to the Board from a distant church for a missionary to be sent to some specified locality, for,—say six weeks. The Board appoints a good brother, who has a few weeks which may be so employed, to fulfil this mission. At the end of the time he reports that the people have paid two-thirds of his salary, and left the Board but one-third to pay.

Another case in which the payment would be \$30. All has been given by those to whom he was sent but a balance of \$3. In another case the Board employ a brother 9 weeks and would have to pay him \$45, but instead of this a balance of only \$5 is left for the Board to meet. These are actual cases that have occurred not long since. True these are instances in which the people to whom such missionaries have been sent have done more than usual, but it shows the principle by which the strong may help the weak, and be greatly blessed in so doing, and call forth their efforts with their gratitude.

Some have strongly urged the Missionary Board to abandon the plan of sending transient itinerating missionaries, and to devote their means towards sustaining ministers permanently, in stations where the people are not able otherwise to secure a preacher, but

who with a little help would be able to do so. By this means, it is argued, we should really secure preaching there for the whole year. In such cases it is believed that eventually such churches might become self-sustaining and even contributing towards the funds for supplying others. The Board have felt the weight of this reasoning, and it might, under some circumstances, be proper to adopt that course, but the situation of their field of operations has been such that they could not neglect the parts entirely destitute, but have been compelled to act partially on both principles. The case of Charlottetown may serve as an illustration, and we might mention others. Several years ago, without a minister, the cause was so feeble that (except some aid was given) it was felt that they could not hope to obtain the regular ministry of the gospel in that important position. An approximation was made, on condition of a certain portion of the time of the missionary being spent in destitute parts of the island. What was the result? Not only was the laborer secured, but nearly half the sum was actually returned in the shape of funds collected for the Society. Valuable contributions have also been made, as the result of this appropriation, towards our Foreign Missions, &c., &c.

What is the lesson, then, that we may learn from this experience in missionary labor? Is it not that every dollar contributed is actually bringing into the service of Christ two dollars, and sometimes ten? This, however, is but the commercial view of the subject. Over and above this and every other consideration, is the one that the preaching of the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. When the value of the souls of men is considered, and the greatness of the price paid by our Lord for their redemption, is borne in mind, will not all who love him desire to show their appreciation of his blessings, by devoting some part of their means towards bringing men to an acquaintance with him, and to a participation of the blessings of his salvation. May this spirit pervade the Churches, so that it may everywhere be said, "to the poor the gospel is preached."

Early Marriages.

The subject of marriage is not likely to be out of date, or its consideration, among the matters which occupy public attention, to be passed over for any great length of time. It is always sure to obtain favor with certain portions of mankind. For if those who passed through the ordeal long ago, and have almost forgotten that they were ever anything else but man and wife, are oblivious of the subject, the rising generation will take care that it shall not long be out of fashion to marry and be given in marriage. It has received a larger share of public notice in Britain, of late, in consequence of the expected marriage of the Prince of Wales. Everybody has an interest in such an event, and is willing to express his (or her) opinion on the suitability of the ages of the Prince and his fair intended, and the propriety of their making a commencement of housekeeping at no very distant day.

The question as to whether it is desirable to encourage early marriages generally has had new interest given to it by this circumstance. The advantages to society, in a moral point of view, have been set forth anew, and the dangers arising from the parties so united being without experience or ability to provide for all the responsibilities arising from the important relationship, have also been canvassed with fresh vigor.

This is doubtless a fast age, and the question may be asked, if, with our rapid communication by means of telegraphs, railroads, and steamships, the same progress ought not to be expected in those who make and use these wonderful achievements of science; and with the advancement in education, whether boys and girls ought not to be qualified to become men and women earlier now than formerly? As fashions usually come from France, perhaps, now that the Emperor has decided that his son shall attain his majority at fourteen years of age, it may be that a diminution will take place in the number of years to which our youth are doomed to be minors. It is well, however, that our beloved Queen has no occasion to imitate Louis Napoleon in this respect, and that the Prince of Wales has so nearly attained his majority before any intimation was given of the family with which he would be brought into alliance. The choice of the Prince for himself seems to be in perfect harmony with that of the nation for him. So far, good. May it all continue to run as smoothly as it seems to have begun. There will then be an exception to the rule.

The circumstances of these exalted personages are, however, so different from those of

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