

# Christian Messenger.

A REPOSITORY OF RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

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## Poetry.

### Who are these? whence came they?

Not from Jerusalem alone  
To heaven the path ascends;  
As near, as sure, as straight the way,  
That leads to the celestial day,  
From farthest realms extends;  
Frigid or torrid zone.

What matters how or whence we start?

One is the crown of all;  
One is the hard and glorious race,  
Whatever be our starting-place;  
Rings round the earth the call  
That says, Arise, depart!

From the balm-breathing, sun-loved isles  
Of the bright Southern Sea,  
From the dead North's cloud-shadowed pole,  
We gather to our glad some goal—  
Our common home in thee,  
City of sun and smiles!

The cold, rough billows hinder none;  
Nor helps the calm, fair main;  
The brown rock of Norwegian gloom,  
The verdure of Tahitian bloom,  
The sands of Mizraim's plain,  
Or peaks of Lebanon.

As from the green lands of the vine,  
So from the snow-wastes pale,  
We find the ever open road  
To the dear city of our God;  
From Russian steppe, or Burman vale,  
Or terraced Palestine.

Not from swift Jordan's sacred stream  
Alone we mount above;  
Indus or Danube, Thames or Rhone,  
Rivers unsainted and unknown;  
From each the home of love  
Beckons with heavenly beam.

Not from gray Olivet alone  
We see the gates of light;  
From Morvan's heath, or Jungfrau's snow,  
We welcome the descending glow  
Of pearl and chrysolite,  
Under the setting sun.

Not from Jerusalem alone  
The church ascends to God;  
Strangers of every tongue and clime,  
Pilgrims of every land and time,  
Through the well-trodden road  
That leads up to the throne.

## Miscellaneous.

### The London Peace Society and the people of the United States.

The following address from the Peace Society of London to the people of the United States has been published:—

"Friends and Fellow Christians,—More than sixteen months have elapsed since we ventured to address to you a few words of respectful and earnest entreaty against referring the dispute which agitated your country to the decision of the sword. Since then the evils of war have been brought home to your own experience with an impressiveness and force which make the language of respectful admonition we then employed, and indeed all human language, poor and powerless in comparison with the reality.

"But the difficulties in which the war originated appear as far as ever from satisfactory solution. And is it not necessarily so? How is it possible that conflicts of brute force can decide complex questions of moral and political right? Is it not the inevitable tendency of such conflicts to exacerbate, rather than to conciliate, differences? And is not the time come, when thoughtful and religious men among you should begin to ask yourselves the question, 'Shall the sword devour for ever?'"

"We entreat you to believe, Christian friends, that apart altogether from political and commercial considerations, of any and every kind, there are myriads of Christian hearts in this country which are wrung with a very anguish of sympathy and sorrow at the desolating calamity which is laying waste your country. How, indeed, can it be otherwise? Are you not our nearest kindred among all the nations of the earth? Are we not united to you by the manifold ties of common race, language, literature, and religion? Are there not many of us bound to

many of you by the closest moral and spiritual sympathies, by community of interest and action in great enterprises of Christian philanthropy, and by frequent acts of religious fellowship? How, then, can we witness the deplorable scenes of blood and misery now presented to us in your country, without having our hearts rent with grief?

"It is not merely the loss of precious human life, with the premature extinction of what incalculable capacities for usefulness in the service of God and man; not merely the enormous waste of wealth, which might have been turned to so many admirable purposes; not merely the prolonged agony of loving hearts, and the eternal desolation of families, which this war involves. More mournful to us than even these evils, fearful as they are, is the appalling moral damage it is inflicting on the national life and character, hardening the heart, searing the conscience, unchristianising the temper of the whole population. Nor is this deteriorating process likely to stop. It is in the nature of all war, emphatically so of all civil war, to become more ferocious in feeling, more bloody and barbarous in act, at every step in advance. There are not wanting ominous indications that this war is rapidly developing the same tendencies, revealing to us, at no distant time, the probability of a series of retributions and reprisals, becoming ever more ruthless and savage, until humanity veils her face in horror at the prospect.

"Is the time not come, we repeat, friends and fellow Christians, when an attempt should be made to arrest this destructive conflict? We deprecate utterly all armed intervention, or any intervention at all, but such as you yourself would willingly admit on the part of England or any European Power, in your affairs. But surely the idea of a friendly mediation may be entertained without any derogation of your national dignity. We beseech you to reflect that sooner or later some method of peaceful adjustment must be adopted. There are only two alternative issues out of war,—either the utter extermination of one party, or some form of accommodation and compromise between the contending sides. None of you can wish the former. And is it not better at once to have recourse to the latter, before further blood is shed, and the feelings on both sides shall become hopelessly inflamed with animosity and vengeance?"

"We appeal especially to the religious portion of the community amongst you. Is not this one of the conjunctures by which the practical value and power of Christianity are to be tested? And shall American Christianity at such a crisis as this abdicate its high functions as the great reconciler, whose special business it is to calm the angry passions, and to keep before the minds of men the sublime lessons of the universal fatherhood of God, and the universal brotherhood of man?"

"The eyes of the whole world are fixed upon you. There is no great principle in which the friends of humanity are interested, but must suffer incalculable injury by a prolongation of this conflict. We beseech you, therefore, friends and fellow citizens, for the interests of civilisation, for the honour of free government, for the glory of Christ's Gospel, that you, the ministers of religion and the conductors of the religious press especially, should put forth your influence to bring about a speedy settlement of a quarrel which at present is arresting the progress of civilisation, bringing disrepute upon all free government, retarding the triumphs of the Gospel, and causing the Name that is above every name to be blasphemed among the heathen through you.

"JOSEPH PEASE, President,  
HENRY RICHARD, Secretary."

### The Marriage of the Prince of Wales.

The London Times, referring to the contemplated marriage of the Prince of Wales, says, "Rumour, which has proved herself tolerably accurate in these matters, has been busy upon the union of the heir to this throne and a Danish Princess. According to this authority the Prince has met her, as indeed he has met many other ladies as eligible on ordinary grounds. But Rumour adds that he admires and likes the Danish lady as he likes none

other, and that in the tour upon which he is about to start the 'young people' will have the opportunity of seeing a little more of each other. As yet the proposal has neither been made nor accepted. The two are to meet at Brussels, and in a few days we may hope to have good news from that friendly Court. Should all be as we desire, the mother of our future Sovereigns will be of a good stock and a kindred race—a race all but English, and contributing the noblest qualities to the composition of our own nature. The lady, we are told, is handsome and amiable, and with all the qualities to engross the affections of a young prince and win those of a great nation. When we have said this much, the next thing most of our readers will be anxious to learn is that the alliance will add no further complication to the Schleswig-Holstein question, or compel the British public to understand that mystery. On this point we can assure them. The lady will become a British Princess and no more; and if that unfathomable controversy should ever vex the world, she will, in sacred phase, forget her own people and her father's house. The world at large naturally wonders how Royal marriages come about, where it is assumed there is so little choice and so few opportunities, and people can really know so little of one another. This, however, is the exaggeration of those who judge too much from the more ordinary conditions of life. Princes, and, perhaps, we should add, still more Princesses, have abundant opportunities of hearing of each other and bringing about such happy consummations as that now in prospect. Rumour assigns to the Princess Royal the chief part in this affair. Nothing is more natural and proper than that a woman with the warm affection of a sister, and the additional experience afforded by her age, her sex, and her position, should feel anxious for her brother's happiness, and give him something more than her prayers and good wishes. She could look about for him better than he could for himself, and she appears to have done so with success. The alliance—for every marriage in these days is called an alliance—is, perhaps, the last that would have occurred to the friends now about her. She thought, however, of one thing only, and that was the pleasure of seeing her eldest brother with a wife occupying as soon as possible the important position of the chief married couple in this country. We have only to glance at our Royal marriages, far or near, to see that the hope of a second one so happy and prosperous as Queen Victoria's was indeed worth trying for. The hope that the Court may continue what it now is,—the sweet fountain of domestic virtues, whose salutary influence is felt over the whole empire—reinforced the sisterly endeavour to find a future Queen for England. That endeavour, we believe, is crowned with success; and before many months we trust we may congratulate Queen Victoria and the nation on the sight of three young princely families branching already out of the auspicious union so recently and so sadly concluded."

### Extraordinary Scenes.

We find in one of our New York exchanges an account of the proceedings of the Cayuga Baptist Association. After a sermon by Dr. Robinson, of Rochester University, from John viii. 32, "And the truth shall make you free,"

"Mr. Bishop, the pastor at Auburn, rose to tell his experience. He stated that from the first of this outbreak, he had felt a desire to engage personally in the defense of righteousness and truth, which he regarded as the cause of our country, but had not felt at liberty to lay aside his work as a Christian minister to engage in it. But last week, when speaking at a war-meeting, he expressed a wish that something might take place that would clearly indicate that it was his duty to go forth to fight the battle of truth; and when the news of the recent disasters began to come, he felt that he could doubt no longer. He had drawn up a declaration to enlist as a soldier of the Government, and now he called upon all present, young men, and men in the meridian of life, to come forward and enrol their names, and go with him to the field of

battle. He exhorted pastors to aid in the work, by encouraging enlistments in their several churches and congregations. At this point the congregation could restrain their patriotic feeling, but gave way to a burst of applause.

The excitement was great, but it was destined to receive a fresh impulse, for Rev. T. B. Gregory, pastor of the church in Ontario, was introduced to the audience in the uniform of a captain of volunteers.

He told us that for several months he had preached to his people the gospel, and had also urged them to rally round the standard of their bleeding country. Recently, some twenty of his people said to him that if he would enlist, they would enlist with him. He thought of the sacrifices he must make, and after prayerful consideration, he drew up an enlistment paper and placed his name on it, and in ten days 119 names were appended to it. The company made choice of him as their captain, and on receiving his commission from the Governor, he tendered to the church his resignation as their pastor; but they refused to accept it, and generously voted to grant him leave of absence for three years, or during the war. "So," said he, "I appear before you as pastor of the Baptist church of Ontario, Wayne Co., and captain of company B, in the Cayuga and Wayne Regiment." Here again applause could not be restrained.

The Moderator called on Dr. Robinson for a closing speech. He said he heartily approved of the decisions of these brethren. Those who made war speeches should be ready to go themselves. He was very much afraid of guns and powder, but he did not know but he should yet go himself, notwithstanding he was two years too old to be drafted.

A correspondent of the same paper the following week, in commenting on the above, remarks:—

"I cannot help thinking that the faithful pastor makes a great mistake, when he exchanges the pulpit for a place at the head of a company or regiment of armed men. It may yet be necessary for us all to turn soldiers. But even then, pastors should be the very last class to be drawn upon for a sword-and-musket military service. They have other and mightier weapons—for the building up of all that is noble and pure, and for the pulling down of all that is mean and wrong."

### Robert Hall.

We shall, perhaps, surprise our readers when we avow our belief that the lord of modern conversation, most nearly approaching to Johnson, but in many things far surpassing him in conversational powers, was Robert Hall. He had that rapid nimbleness of fancy and imagination, seconded by a vehement rapidity of language. His estimate of a very popular author was good, if not just: "Sir, he has set out on a race after obscurity, and, sir, he has overtaken it." Again, on a pleasant ride with Mr. Green, as the great preacher's eye glanced over the sun setting beneath the waves, he exclaimed:

"Only look, sir; that mild silvery light on that expanse of waters! why, sir, it looks as if they were preparing for a magnificent public baptism, and the whole of the hundred and forty and four thousand described in Revelation were about to descend into the waves!"

We believe Robert Hall was the finest of all our table-talkers. He was in conversation what he was as a preacher: rapidity, imagination, wit and force—he possessed these in a large degree. Somebody said, "No doubt, in a future state, the powers of the human mind would be enlarged to an indefinite degree."

"What's that, sir? What's that?"

The question was repeated. "Why the mind more than the body, sir? Will the body undergo this frightful increase? Then we should have a man whose nose would perforate the sun, his chin stretch across the Atlantic, and battles fought in the wrinkles of his face; none but a fool could believe in that, sir!"

His genius for happy retort never slumbered. A timid man was the subject of conversation, when he remarked:

"Mr. — is so nervously modest, he seems