# Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Letters to a Young Preacher.

LETTER XXIX. PUBLIC READING OF THE SCRIPTURES.

My Dear Brother,-

As the sacred Scriptures are the only source whence the knowledge of spiritual things is to be derived, a spiritual teacher obviously ought to study them with great diligence and constancy. He should also read them in public assemblies, for the benefit of his hearers. Under the Mosaic dispensation a great part of the exercises in public worship evidently consisted in " the reading of

now the same necessity for reading them in publie, since the people in general possess them, and they can peruse them at home. It does indeed hence appear, that it is not requisite to devote so much time now to the public reading of the living Oracles. To me, however, it seems very desirable that in every religious meeting some portion of God's word should be read. It is highly important that the minds of the people should be thoroughly imbued with principles imbibed immediately from the sacred fountain. In too many instances, there is reason to fear, the MR. EDITOR,-Bible is not duly studied by the people in their houses. If it be not read in the public assemblies, this neglect of it in private will probably preacher set by him in the pulpit.

Scriptures appears to be just before prayer. In stocked and a very fair result of what a high the former exercise God spe ks to us; in the order of instruction is expected to make for in- appeal in your issue of the 19th ult. latter we speak to Him. Let us hear Him first. telligent communities. But one thing, hereto-(Ps. Ixxxv. 8. Jer. xxii. 29.) We may thus fore much depreciated, more lost sight of alto- long accustomed annual meeting on behalf of

N.

" All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, peculiarly interesting and instructive to us. In the chapter whence the text is taken. The are instances in which the chapter principally conversation, but you will see a body of well inrelates to matters, which have no direct con- tormed, rather than of finely fermed men. nexion with the text. In these it is better to xi. 1. belongs to chapter tenth.

Every person ought to peruse every part of an appellation.

to interest his hearers, to impart useful informa- night. tion to them, and to encourage and excite them peculiarly beneficial. Of course this exercise requires a careful previous examination of the les-

May you, my dear young Brother, possess the wisdom and discretion requisite to enable you to discharge this duty, with all others, in a profit- heart and a good head, he should also have able manner!

Yours in gospel bonds, CHARLES TUPPER, Sec'y. Tremont, Aylesford, Feb. 19th, 1862.

the law and the prophets." (Acts xiii. 15, 27.

xv. 21. Deut. xxxi. 11. Neh. viii: 8.)

It may be suggested, that as copies of the inspired writings had then to be written out by hand, and were consequently scarce, there is not now the same necessity for reading them in pub-

[The error above referred to, which we much regret, we find, arose from the omission of a line of the manuscript.—ED. C. M.

For the Christian Messenger.

#### The Physical Education of our Students.

No. 1.

The friends of the Institutions of learning at Horton, whatever may be their anxiety respecting financial matters, seem to regard with real be increased. The hearers will be very likely satisfaction, their internal proficiency. 'Tis true, to imitate at home the bad example of their under the wise management and able instruction of Governors and Teachers, we have full class-The most suitable time for the reading of the rooms, minds well-trained and tolerably wellcommune with the Father of spirits, who graci- gether, we lack and have always lacked, and that their Foreign Missions. At that meeting it was ously condescends to hold converse with mortal is muscle. We need not less of intellect, but suggested, that other evangelical bodies in the more of physical health and strength.

A great mistake lies at the bottom of all this,and knowledge were incompatible.

the Bible There are, however, words and ex- could we not say, the majority of the Students above monies, when our operations are complepressions occurring in Translations of it, which know better. They know enough of Cicero to ted, will be duly forwarded ;-not quite the first are not suitable to be read in promiscuous assem- have learnt that he only is a whole man who has fruits, though certainly the most abundant blies. In these cases a preacher should either a healthy mind in a healthy body. They know hitherto, of the zeal of our little Island for the substitute unobjectionable words and expressions, enough of Plato to have heard that although ex- conversion of Burmah. or else omit the reading of them. David was cess of bodily exercise may render us wild and Such is the story to which I referred in my andoubtedly a gentleman, and Abigail was evi- unmanageable, yet excess of Arts and Sciences last. Dr. Tupper has somewhat anticipated my dently a lady in the true sense of the term. It may also render us effeminate, and that only the moral. We did not know, when we set about may therefore be fairly inferred, that the He- right combination makes the soul wise and man- this our effort, that the aid of our Provinces was brew periphrasis which he used with reference ly. A little reason must convince them that a so urgently needed for Burmah. We have thus, to his intention to slay Nabal and all the male body made strong and portly by muscular exer- unwittingly, had the high honour of being betime, distance of place, diversity of customs, and are temptations to the contrary to him peculiar. cause ?" numerous other circumstances, some expressions The ocean of knowledge newly opened to his in the Scriptures are obscure to ordinary readers. gaze looks so boundless, its waters are so sweet, Baptists are concerned; a point to be pressed It is desirable, therefore, that a preacher should that there seems little else to desire. The elo- rather than proved, Providence seems about to make himself acquainted with these matters and spilosophy, and wisdom that he bestow apon us exactly what we have wanted,

occasionally offer a few remarks, by way of elu- finds on every page of his book, engage his mind, cidation, on any obscure passages that may occur when the glow of exercise should be mantling in the course of public reading. This will tend his cheek. Literature is his meditation day and

Then again the opinion of people outside to peruse and study the living Oracles at home. stimulates ambition for mental, almost to the ex-The public reading of them will thus be rendered clusion of physical, attainments. Men will call the Student an orator, scholar, or good writer; but bestow quasi-praise upon his vaulting, lifting or riding. It would be no light task to show sufficient cause to the good people to whom he shall preach next Sabbath, why having a good good calves and stout arms. There is an opinion al road that all muscle, but that which is directly used in one's calling, is waste matter, the truth contained in the saying of Dr. Winshipthe first of American gymnasts-that strength is to a certain extent identical with health, being undiscerned or denied.

It is perhaps the most important experience of those best physically educated that every increase in muscular developement is not only an actual protection against disease, but conducive in the highest degree to daily health of body, mind and spirit.

In giving expression to my thoughts upon this subject, and especially in directing attention to the only sure remedy for the existing evils in the physical education of our Students, I shall ask space, Mr. Editor, in future numbers of the Messenger for the insertion of two or three other short communications.

Feb. 28th, 1862.

For the Christian Messenger.

### Prince Edward Island.

BURMESE BAPTIST MISSION.

DEAR BROTHER,-

I write in immediate response to Dr. Tupper's

In January our Methodist friends held their city should at last begin to imitate the zeal of Our students may boast of their intellectual their Wesleyan brethren in this department of and is profitable." Some parts, however, are and moral standing, but they have little cause to Christian enterprize. One of our own brethren boast of manly vigor and strong limbs. Not an although he had not heard the above suggestion, general these should be selected for public read- anniversary comes around, but the fact that the said to me, a day or two after the Methodist ing. The portions read should be appropriate muscle of the student is not worthy of his mental meeting, " If you will put forth an effort for the to the occasion, or the subject that is to be dis culture is but too evident to the visitor. Con- Burmese Mission, I will give you ten pounds." cussed. In many cases it is expedient to read veying the idea that the one has been sacrificed Of course, then, we had nothing to do but to to a false or rather fancied demand of the other. move forward. Collecting cards were put into audience will then hear the context, and know You will hear at the annual gatherings of our the hands of our Surday School children, which in what connexion the text stands. But there Alumni good speeches, sensible and instructive produced upwards of seven pounds. Collections were taken in our meeting-house. A public meeting was held in our Temperance Hall, at which the assistance of our neighbours of other select elsewhere such portion, or portions, of in some we are sorry to say a mistake in the religious bodies was freely afforded. Arrange-Scripture as relate to the subject. If the text theory as well as the practice, but in most a mis- ments were made for collections in the country. be Mark ii. 27. "The Sabbath was made for take in the practice alone, I verily believe that We are hoping to realize, on the whole, scarcely man," it will be appropriate and instructive to not one or two but many of the students, who less than £40 currency, equal to more than \$130. read Isa. lvi. 1-8. and lviii. 13, 14. in connexion repair to these schools, especially in the earlier The Lord, and his people have effectually aided with Mark ii. 23-28. It is frequently more period of their studies gravely fear lest the use us in this matter. Some unknown friend, at our suitable and profitable to read several passages of the ball, the bat and the quoit may, in some public meeting, put his ten pounds into our colbearing on the subject to be considered, than to way unfit them for study. At any rate such lection. Our children also did well. One read one whole chapter, especially if it be long, boys' play, to them, seems rather derogatory to young person collected as much as two pounds and not of peculiar interest, or not directly the dignity of students. I have seen fine bodied Little ones of four and five years, with judicious adapted to the occasion. As the division of the and healthy men, fresh from their farms and aid from their elders, obtained their ten and books of Scripture into chapters is not of divine manual toil, but with an all-absorbing ambition, twelve shillings. One young man, of the mature authority, and is sometimes injudicious, it is fre- for the possession of knowledge, despising all age of three years, contributed his two and sixquently desirable to read a part of two chapters, physical exercise; sitting daily in the bad air pence, saved to buy an axe, to swell our amount. or to connect some verses of one with another. of their rooms and with zeal applying their A id he has bought his axe; with its long handle, For instance, Joshua v. 13-15. should be read mind to study-gradually sicken, and with bro- reaching from the Gult of St. Lawrence to farwith chapter vi. of which the first verse is to be ken ambitions and invalid bodies at last seek of Burmah-with its head and its edge, weighty regarded as included in parenthesis; and 1 Cor. their homes, despondent, that for them health and sharp as Bible t uth can make them, and destined to tame for its exploits against the It would be little to the credit of our schools [" thick trees" of Burmese superstition. The

servants in his employment, was not regarded as cise is no disgrace but an honor to the mind. - forehand with the brethren of our own Foreign indelicate. (1 Saml. xxv. 34.) But the man But Cicero and Plato, and reason fail much to Missionary Board in making up contributions who should atter the words of a close version of touch the springs of action, strange and sad as for their treasury. We have no assurance, that it in English in the presence of a lady would be it may seem to thinking friends, whose hopes we shall be able to do in future years as we have deservedly called a blackguard. It can not be are upon the student, and whose marvel it is done in thi . But, after our recent experiences, incumbent on a minister of religion to merit such that he with the foundations of an irreparable it would be unpardonable on our part not to rehealth being sapped away fails through neglect peat hereafter the experiment which has this Owing to the difference of idioms, lapse of alone to apply the appropriate remedy, yet there time proved so successful. For, " is there not a

An abundant cause, no doubt, so far as we

and prayed, and waited for,-opportunity. for labour on our own immediate account in the great missionary field. Surely we shall not be backward to appropriate the gift; and in so doing take the nearest way to obtain other agents to work side by side with brother Crawley. Then too, amid the commercial depression of our times, golden resources, at our very feet, have begun to be developed. Shall not our increase in this way be consecrated by an increase in our efforts in the line to which we are now specially summoned? If, moreover, our hearts and our hands slould be opened, and opened wide in this direction, we cannot thereby be impoverished Nay, we cannot afford to deal here with a slack hand; unless, indeed, we have made up our minds, to a spiritual impoverishment in any case-perhaps to a pecuniary one. For who can forget the inspired preverbs ?- "There is that scattereth, and yet incresseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat : and he that watereth shall be watered ilso himself." Oh! who can tell what God may have in store for us, at home as well as abroad. f we but take good heed to the Macedonian cry now, louder than ever, ringing in our ears? In ruth, the reflex influence of foreign missionary zeal is an unspeakable compensation for all, and nore than all that, in every way, that zeal may

Nor need we be afraid to seek for aid from brethren of other names for our Burmese mision. None but Baptists are at work for the salvation of Burmah. Two priceless boons have they already conferred upon that land, in their Burmese and Karen versions of the Sacred Volume. There too they have their 16,000 bapized disciples, with the scarcely fewer than 100,-000 immediately connected with them, and inluenced by them. Then there is the native agency already called into exercise, and embracing so many of the people themselves, as well as their preachers and teachers. Morcover, here is the eminently New Testament aspect presented by the Burmese mission. Topics like these, at our late Missionary meeting, were strongly insisted upon by brethren not belonging to us; shewing thus the nature and force of the pleas which may be urged upon such brethren everywhere. Let us arise, therefore, and work. Heaven will be with us; nor will earth refuse its aid, and rich in many a way, shall be our fruits and rewards.

> Your fellow-labourer, J. DAVIS.

Charlottetown, March 1, 1862.

For the Christian Messenger.

### "Is the North justifiable, in waging war against the South?"

I have borrowed (without leave !) the above caption from a peaceful "Lakeville." I do not like the latter part of that caption, because it does not appear to me to express either the truth or the justice of the case. So I will change it, and thus endeavor to be more original, truthful, and just.

I will put the question in this form: " Is the North justifiable, in her present attempt to put down the Southern Rebellion?" Let us see. "We say, then, at the outset," says the able writer before quoted from, "that the purpose of the war on the part of the loyal States, is the defense of our National Government, the protection of our Constitution against a movement whose tendency, if not its purpose, is to destroy it. The war is in no respect a war of subjugation, except as it would, subdue to their allegiance those who have cast off lawful authority. It is not a war of conquest, except as it would conquer a rebellion."

Such are some of the introductory sentences of an article written on the present National crisis of America-the opinions expressed in which sentences have been indorsed and care fully adhered to by the Government at Washington, and well-nigh unanimously by the people of the Northern States, since the inception of the rebellion.

Now, Mr. Editor, let us pause here for a little. We will attend to the question of slave-emancipation soon. But let us dwell a few moments where we are. A recent contributor to the pages of the Messenger reiterated, what has indeed been of late often affirmed-that the North are now waging a war " for territory and power." Now I most strenuously contend that the present struggle on the part of the Northern States can in no just sense be denominated a war for " national aggrandizement."

But what are they fighting for? Well, in addition to much that I have already said and quoted by way of answer to this question, I will honestly endeavor to not the matter in a still