

**Matrimonial.**

The following account of a curious explanation of a matrimonial alliance is from the *English Independent* of April 2nd.

The parish church of Oldwinford, near Stourbridge, was crowded on Sunday in consequence of an announcement that the rector, the Rev. C. H. Craufurd, would preach. The rector took for his text 1 Cor. iv. 3, "With me it is a very small thing that I shall be judged of you or of man's judgment." He went on to say that the conclusion to which he was led, so far as concerned his recent marriage with one of plebeian birth, and the superintendent of his domestic establishment, was that they had no right to judge her or him. But nevertheless, to avoid all reasonable cause of offence, and to justify in their sight what was incongruous, he should, in consequence of his connection with them as their rector, afford them some explanation. The rev. gentleman proceeded to tell them more particularly who, by birth and connection, he was. He was the eldest son of a soldier, second to the great duke alone. His father's share of prize money was estimated to exceed half a million. He was at least collaterally allied to, if not descended from, the lords of Craufurd, who ruled their broad domains in all the majesty of feudal state for centuries before the many mushrooms who swarmed at the present day had sprouted from their native dunghill. Having spoken of his mother's family and of his uncles, he proceeded:—Such was the sort of alliance which, in point of birth and connection, he might have fairly expected, and when a man in that parish had the effrontery to aspire to the hand of one of his daughters, though he had never spoken a word to her in his life, the highest lady in the land could not have been more astounded and indignant when he told her of the insult she had received, and he felt his insolence could not have been greater if he had demanded the daughter of a duke. It was partly to save them from the repetition of the insult, that he permitted them to fix their residence elsewhere. A woman who married beneath her station fell to her husband's level, and was disgraced for ever, with scarcely an exception. For it was the appointment of God that the man should rule over the woman, and that the wife should be in subjection to her husband. But by the usages of society, if a man married one of inferior position, instead of falling to the ranks of his wife, he exalted her to his, and unless a feeble fool—and such should remain unmarried except they found a strong-minded woman—unless a feeble fool, or careless of his beauty, and a traitor to his trust, a lowly woman, whom God's providence might have guided him to marry, and thus committed to his care, would, under his assiduous care, be raised, instructed, refined, and made in all respects a helpmeet for him. With such a woman (continued Mr. Craufurd) it had been his will and pleasure to form an alliance—an alliance little more in accordance with his rank—and he was sure his wife would pardon him in saying it—than was that which occurred when King Cophetua espoused the beggar girl. Well, he had married her, and pray what then? His wife was of plebeian birth, and as such was by the providence of God, it was no disgrace. Where was he who had not mixed in the great world of London since a young man, and among whose ancestry the great families of that neighbourhood would have deemed it an honour to have obtained a place—where was he to find a woman to take charge of a gouty old gentleman like him? (Laughter.) From any one who presumed to reproach him with his wife's lowly parentage, he could endure the taunt, and his only retort would be to inquire, "Who was your grandfather?" Having, then, no choice to him appreciable in rank, and utterly despising money, he had chosen one whose goodness, whose kindness of heart, whose disinterested love, whose simple piety, were incomparably more to him than her birth. But, further, his wife might possibly be something at a loss with regard to the little conventionalities of society. He could not, however, suppose his neighbours were so brutally deficient in good breeding, and so utterly un-Christian in such a trivial matter, as to expose her to ridicule; and, secondly, by reason of his infirmities, his studious habits, and his numerous avocations, and her quiet domestic nature, they had resolved to lead a life of almost complete seclusion, devoting themselves to their improvement, to the duties of their station, and the preparation of their souls for heaven. The benediction was then pronounced (says the *Birmingham Post*), and the congregation dispersed.

**Nonconformity and the English State Church.**

It is really amusing to observe the tactics of those who imagine it within the range of possibility to bring Dissenters into the State Church. Notwithstanding the utter failure of the recent attempt to woo the Wesleyans, and the ridicule with which the proposal was everywhere met, some of the clergy are endeavouring to conciliate the opponents of State Churches by proposals of absorption. It appears that the papers on "the best means of bringing Nonconformists into union with the Church," read in October at the Church Congress, have resulted in a meeting of influential clergymen and laymen from different parts of the country, at Wolverhampton, on the 15th and 16th ult. After a long and interesting discussion it was decided that an association be formed to promote the re-union of Christians at home, on the basis of the National Church. The interest excited by this meeting has encouraged the committee to arrange a further meeting, to be

held in London in the month of May, for the formal organization of the movement.

The Wesleyans are almost the only body that would be supposed to be at all willing to join such an ecclesiastical confederacy, and Dr. Osborn, in the *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine* for the present month, discusses the subject so clearly and so satisfactorily as to convince anyone that it is utterly impossible to form any such union. Proposing to inquire calmly whether any such union is practicable or expedient, he points out the preliminary difficulties arising from the purely clerical composition of Convocation, its want of powers, and the necessity of Parliamentary sanction. He then shows that the union must either set aside or preserve the existing Methodist discipline and doctrines. Upon this view of the case he comes to the conclusion that in every point, these proposals for union are impracticable, ill-considered, and inexpedient, and recommends those who make them to devote all their efforts to redeeming the Protestant character of their own Church.—*Freeman*.

Another attempt is to be made to bring the delinquencies of Governor Eyre before a Court of justice. Hitherto, assuming notorious facts, facts verified by the Jamaica commissioners, and assuming the charge of the Lord Chief Justice of England to be good law, the ends of justice have been signally defeated by the partisanship of Shropshire magistrates and of a London grand jury. The Jamaica Commission, with a perseverance worthy of their disinterested philanthropy, have returned to the charge in another form, and are seeking to convict Mr. Eyre of misdemeanour, principally on the ground of issuing an illegal proclamation—the proclamation of martial law—and of certain acts done under the proclamation. We hope, though it is almost hoping against hope, that unprincipled partisanship will be ashamed this time not to let the law, and that for a minor offence, be settled by a trial.—*Ib.*

At length letters from Dr. Livingstone himself have been published, the first is dated, however, November 10th, 1866, and the last February, 1867. The first was written shortly after the Johanna men, whose lies have caused so much sorrow in this country, had run away. The slave traders seem everywhere to have been in perfect dread of him, but the inhabitants where this accursed traffic was unknown were mild, kind, and genial. He has suffered much from hunger, but his greatest apprehension has been from fever, the boy who carried the medicine box fitted up for him at Apothecaries Hall having been robbed by two volunteers, who at first had behaved remarkably well, but being overcome with the fatigue of the journey, ran off in the forest with the box, much powder, guns, and other things. The loss, he says, fell on his heart like a sentence of death by fever. From all the reports, however, we trust that he reached safely a healthier region, and is on his way down the Nile to Cairo, if he has not already reached that city.—*Ib.*

**Correspondence.**

For the Christian Messenger.

**Ottawa Correspondence.**

**PARLIAMENT IN SESSION.**

The first thing that strikes a stranger, sitting in the gallery of either House of Parliament, is that the motive power of legislation, if I may so express myself, seems to be wholly concentrated in the Cabinet. I am not aware that a single measure good; bad, or indifferent, of a public character, has obtained even a second reading in either House of Parliament so far, unless it originated with a minister. One of the ministers arises in his place, and introduces a subject of discussion. It may be a Bill. It may be a Resolution, and a debate ensues, but as a rule subjects are introduced by a minister of the Crown. If it is general in its nature, the Premier will introduce it in the Commons, and the Postmaster General as the leader of the Government in the Senate. If it refers to matters connected with Trade or Finance, the Finance minister will take charge of it. And so in reference to other departments.

The Canadian ministers conduct their business in Parliament, with tact and ability. Having introduced a measure, be it Bill, or be it Resolution, the debate is thrown open and members on the Opposition Benches, and on the Government side speak for and against, but it is rare thing to find a Cabinet minister take any part in the subsequent discussion, unless the question be very important when the Premier may throw himself into the contest, to be followed by the Minister of Militia who, on that class of cases, usually speaks in French. But the other Cabinet ministers rarely interfere or mingle in the conflict. The Government in this way avoid laying themselves open to any assault from their adversaries, on account of any seeming want of harmony among themselves, or any inconsistency in their views, as regards one another. A short acquaintance with their course of action, and studied silence, soon convinces a skilled spectator, that this is a pro-

gramme prescribed and strictly enforced on the part of the leader of the House.

The style of oratory in the Parliament of Canada, is more practical than showy—with the exception of such addresses of those of the late Mr. McGee, all that you hear, as a rule, is the unstudied expression of the speaker, adapted to the occasion. Gray of St. John, makes it a point occasionally, it would seem, to prepare himself on special subjects, as does Senator Allen in the Upper House.

I cannot say much for the gracefulness of the action of the leading debates in the Commons; especially of ministers. Sir John A. McDonald is a fluent, rapid and not unfrequently an eloquent Speaker. But his action is wretched. He jerks his head at every place, in the sentence he is uttering, where if it were written, you would expect to find a comma—giving an extra jerk for a full stop. Rose, the present, and Galt, the late Finance Minister, both of them very clever men and good speakers, mar it very much, by a similar jerking process, but the pivot with them, instead of being at the neck, is at the small of the back. They make a bow, and forward inclination, at every emphatic enunciation, and this occurs three or four times perhaps in the delivery of a single sentence. Consequently it keeps up an undignified oscillatory motion of the body, which detracts a good deal from the orator. Cartier is a bold, fearless expounder, and throws great energy into whatever he undertakes. He speaks in both languages, sometimes repeating in one the substance of what he has already delivered in the other. He utters what he has to say in a loud, monotonous tone, and in a peculiarly harsh unmusical voice, still he is an effective speaker although occasionally very tedious. His counterpart in the Opposition is Holton whose voice is if possible more grating and less musical.

McKenzie who, perhaps, is really at the head of the Opposition and virtually leader, is a slightly built wiry Scotchman, a native of Perthshire, I believe, a mechanic by trade, formerly a stone mason, is a self-educated man. He speaks with a soft Scotch accent and usually with great good sense. There is no air of oratory or pretentiousness about him. And there is no member in the House who commands more undivided attention, when he rises to speak, than does McKenzie, the member for Lambton. Dorion is a very fluent speaker, and although a Frenchman, rarely if ever addresses the House in the French language. He is a good thinker, and expresses himself in good well-set English phraseology. He evidently thinks in the language he speaks, and the nicest ear would scarcely detect any thing to cast a doubt upon the nationality, the language of which he so readily and eloquently pronounces. Blake, also a member in Opposition, speaks with great fluency, and in very choice, well selected language.

There is a piece of testimony I feel it but right here to bear, in regard to the Legislature of Canada, and it applies to both Houses. It is this, with perhaps one single exception, and in that case, Canada is not responsible for the man, no member of either House is ever seen disguised by the use of intoxicating drinks. Sobriety is the rule and present order of the day in the Dominion Legislature.

Ottawa, May 1868.

For the Christian Messenger.

**DEAR BROTHER,—**

Please correct the typographical error that occurred in the name of my sister, Mrs. Killam, as given in Dr. Tupper's brief obituary. Her name was *Amie*, not *Annie*.

Please allow me to say also, for the information of our friends, that our dear daughter, who died on the 24th ult., had been sick about a year, and died of *pulmonary consumption*. She had professed religion when a child twelve years old, lived a consistent life, and died a peaceful death triumphantly trusting in Jesus.

Allow me to say yet further for the information of all concerned that I am not the author of either of the anonymous communications that have appeared respecting the Granville Street troubles. I have spoken freely and have written a few private letters on the subject. Having been thoroughly informed respecting the affairs, I have felt it my duty, sometimes, to give information with reference to it in my travels through the country, but have, I trust, ever aimed to do this impartially, without fear or favor. Let me say also that I fully accord with the straightforward manly Christian course which you and the Granville Street Church have been enabled to pursue all along under your deep and heavy trials.

Yours truly,  
S. T. RAND.

Hantsport, May 1th.

For the Christian Messenger.

MARGAREE, C. B., May 5th, 1868.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

For the gratification of some of the Lord's people, who lately placed in my hands a few pounds to relieve a minister of the Gospel, in want; and, also, in compliance with a request of the latter that I should tender his thanks to the donors for their Christian kindness, please insert the following extract of a letter to me, in the *C. M.* I am sure the author will pardon me for making it public, though he did not mean it for the public eye.

Yours, &c.,

J. F. KEMPTON.

"Very esteemed Brother,—

I have received the timely aid from the Lord, through you. In the name of the Lord Jesus, I thank you and the donors. The morning of the day that I received the "Order" for the money, my wife told me that we had not the provision of two days at home. I told her that I did not know whence help was to come; but that assurance was given me that help would come. I bless the Lord that helped me. . . .

I know that the Lord is bountiful; and you know, dear brother, that his greatest bounty towards us is to make us feel that He himself is our portion forever. Blessed Portion indeed! I can say that I feel that there is nothing worth living for in the world but Jesus. . . .

My dear brother, I need your prayers, in a special manner these times. Oh! pray for me and all this part.

I am,

Yours in the love of Christ.

WILLIAM MCPHEE.

Baddeck River, April 15th, 1868.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor,—

About the School law; the system of education; the books now in use, &c., &c., we hear much said from time to time; but more especially, near the close, and commencement of the terms; when monies are being collected and granted for school purposes. We admit times are hard, and money scarce; still we believe that by far the smallest number, would be willing to go back to the old system again. When we contrast the present with the past, and see what rapid progress has been made in our Common Schools, within the last 4 or 5 years, we cannot but feel, that the School Law has been one of the greatest blessings, ever conferred upon our Province.

For the purpose of maintaining order and discipline in the schools, we now find that it is not necessary to hoist the pupils on each others back, for the more convenient application of the ferule, neither do they have to be whipped, and spurred to their duties, like the ox or the ass to his daily labour, but they are treated like intellectual beings, and the finer feelings of their nature brought into lively exercise, thus, being urged forward through love and respect, instead of slavish fear. We were forcibly struck with this feature of the system, at a public examination of the school in Lower Stewiacke, East, on the 30th ult., which came off in a most creditable manner, at the close of which the pupils presented their Teacher with the following address:

MR. MURRAY,—

Dear Sir,—We are now about to be separated from each other, and we feel that we cannot permit you to depart without tendering to you in the presence of the public our heartfelt thanks for the interest you have manifested in our school during the past winter, and for the pains you have taken to instruct us in the various branches of useful education.

When health would permit you have always been found at your post punctual to time, and when there you have performed the duties devolving upon you with untiring patience and marked zeal, without partiality.

Your kind manner and amiable disposition have endeared you to us all; but especially have we noticed your kindness to the little children under your care.

If there are any who have not made good progress under your tuition, the fault is their own; no blame can be attached to you.

We, the undersigned, feel that we have profited very much by your instruction; and be assured that we will long remember you with feelings of highest respect and deepest gratitude. We wish you every success through life. May you have prosperity, health, and happiness; in short, if you are happy as we wish you to be you will indeed be blest.

We may never all meet again on earth, but our united prayer is that we may all meet where parting is unknown and where disappointments never enter; where God will be our father, Jesus our eldest brother, Angels our companions, and heaven our home.

(Signed by the pupils.)

And this we have abundant reason to know, was the language of their hearts, and not from feigned lips.

Notwithstanding that so great a boon has been placed within the reach of all, we see some parents