

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

THE TARDY SPRING. THE EVANGELISTS. THE NORTH WEST AND MISSIONS. ANOTHER MISSIONARY TO THE TELUGUS. THE INSTITUTE; PROPOSED PAYMENT OF DEBT AND ENLARGEMENT.

"It is May! It is May!" but I fear we in Ontario can hardly shout the whole of the May Day song as yet. Old Winter is not quite away. True, the flutter of his familiar coat-skirts is no longer to be seen on either hand, yet some of our Western breezes are so unmistakably tempered by his breath as to lead us strongly to suspect that he is still lingering in the vicinity. The plough is here and there to be seen at work, but the farmers' welcome broadcast is scarcely to be seen, except in the scattering of peas, or some of the hardier cereals. However farmers are not at all disposed to take a gloomy view of the matter. The fall wheat, as far as I am aware, looks well, and what are called late seasons are universally regarded, I believe, as the most favourable for fruits. By the Almanac there must be at least three weeks difference between this Spring and last, in respect to farming operations.

The Evangelists, of whom I have once or twice written, are at present labouring in Toronto, but without any results so marked as have attended their labours in Galt, London, &c. The differences of opinion in respect to the character of their preaching and its results seem to grow broader. "They are good men" say some. "Nay they are deceiving the people" cry others. Even Christian ministers may be found amongst those holding wide extremes of opinion on the subject. That they preach in the main the Gospel, most Christians, I think, except those utterly blinded by a devout horror of Antinomianism, and all its fancied kin, are ready to admit, and in that they can, like Paul, rejoice. That many things are said by them which were better left unsaid, few, even of their admirers, can deny, while many fear that the evil tendencies of their neglect—perhaps I might say hostility to—regular church organization, must do much to neutralize or counterbalance the good they are doing. One indirect result of their labours—in addition to all the direct good which I trust they have done in leading many to Christ—is the calling of attention to the employment of lay agency in making known the truth. Christians and Christian ministers are thinking about it, talking about it, writing about it and preaching about it.

The prospective opening up of the Great Northwest,—now coming to be looked forward to as a fact to be accomplished—is directing the attention of Missionary bodies to that quarter as a field for missionary labour. There is a general expectation that a great tide of immigration will shortly be setting in that direction. The Board of the Baptist Missionary Convention of Ontario have appointed Rev. Dr. Davidson, the Secretary of the Convention, and Rev. T. Baldwin, of Ingersoll, to visit and spy out the land. They are to have three months leave of absence, expenses paid and their churches supplied.

The sending of Bro. Timpany and wife to the Telugus is bearing fruit both in the foreign field and at home. Cheering intelligence comes from time to time across the water. Our devoted young brother is already able to help in the work, though it will not be two years till next Autumn since he left our shores. He has had the privilege of immersing a number of believing Telugus. He writes of a hundred who, at one time, were inquiring about the way of life. His warm heart is all aglow in the work. Nor are his earnest appeals disregarded here. The churches, or rather the friends of the Mission, have nearly completed the raising of, in addition to ordinary contributions, one thousand dollars, for the purchase of a Mission compound at Allour.

Fruit of another kind is also appearing. Rev. John McLaurin, a friend and former class-mate of Bro. Timpany at the Institute, and a young man of considerable promise, has offered himself for the work and been accepted by the American Baptist Missionary Board. He is to leave in August. He goes to the same people, the Telugus. He is just now visiting some of the churches in the interest of the mission.

The Spring term of the Institute is well attended. The Winter term, lately closed, was marked by an unusual amount of sickness amongst teachers and pupils. In other respects the work of the term was prosperous. The closing exercises were rendered more than usually interesting by a new feature. Mainly through the kindness and liberality of a friend who with-

holds his name, about seventy dollars were distributed as prizes, for general proficiency. The examinations—always of more value and importance than the gifts—were rigid. They were written throughout, the papers being mainly prepared, submitted, and the answer to them examined, by gentlemen, not connected with the board of instruction, but appointed for that purpose.

The Denomination, in addition to their other undertakings, are just now engaged in raising, by voluntary contributions, the sum of four thousand dollars, to wipe out the only debt which cumberers the Educational enterprise. I have good reason for believing that this will be accomplished during the present summer. And I have still better reason, which I may be at liberty to state in my next, for believing that before the commencement of another term a successful effort will have been made to raise at least another four thousand, for enlargement of the present building. The staff of teachers—now numbering seven—is to be increased and we hope to see the Institute recommencing operations in the fall under auspices still more favourable than heretofore. Can it be that while the Baptists of Ontario and Quebec are nobly rallying around their youthful "school of the prophets," those of the Maritime Provinces, are to leave Acadia, "the child of Providence," so blessed of God in the past and, so great a degree, the hope of the future, to languish for want of support? It cannot be. Yet what mean the facts in the Secretary's appeal?

In closing, I ought to state that since the date of my last the Board of Education in Ontario have published an order, granting to girls, for the present, the privilege of entering the Grammar Schools on the same terms as boys. This concession is made only in consequence of the pressure to which the Government was subjected during the late session of the Legislature and is rendered rather ungracious by the strongly expressed hope that the permission will not be taken advantage of.

J. E. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

OTTAWA CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. EDITOR,—

Sir,—The event of the week in the opinion of the fashionable world of Ottawa, has been an Entertainment, given by the Citizens, in honor of the Governor General and the Legislature of the Dominion. Having declined an invitation politely furnished, if disposed, I would, therefore, be incompetent to chronicle the noteworthy features of the "exhausting festivities," of the occasion. A ludicrous mistake is reported in connection with two of the guests—one a Bishop—the other a Belle—whose trunks by some mischance got exchanged at the Railway Station. You may easily fancy the consternation and surprise of each, when they unlocked their respective coffres. The grave man of misalls, albes, dalmatics and surplices, to find instead, silks, satins, tarlingtons, paniers, and what not—while the devotee of Terpsichore to her amazement, could only unpack the sacerdotal garments of a Ritualist, albs, stoles, chasubles, capes, veils and palliums, all ornamented with devices, that would have charmed Mr. Maconochie himself, or any incumbent of St. Albans. But some waggish folks say that it was no great mistake after all, and had they kept the secret themselves and dressed accordingly none but Anastasia Dolby, or a Pugin would have discovered the mistake.

The politicians have been all expectation and anxiety, for some days past, looking forward to the Budget, and Mr. Rose's explanations. An impression has been abroad, that the deficit will be very large and startling. There is little doubt but it will be considerable, and the debate that usually follows in such cases, may be expected to be both sharp and spicy.

On Wednesday, a motion was made in the Senate,—as Thursday was a holiday in the R. C. Church—Ascension day—that when the Senate adjourned it should stand adjourned till Tuesday the eleventh of May. This would enable most of the Senators from Ontario and Quebec to visit their homes, and the motion prevailed accordingly.

Several chapters of Criminal Law have obtained a third reading in the Commons, and several others have passed in the Senate, and been sent to the Commons.

In reply to a question asked by Mr. McCully in the Senate, the Government announced that a Bill to provide for a Court of Appeal was in course of preparation, but that it was not quite certain, whither it would, or would not be introduced during the present Session. It is just possible with the prospect of such an entire

revolution and reconstruction in the Administration of Law in England as is foreshadowed in the report of the Law Commissioners and supported and sustained by the most eminent living jurists of the age, it may be, that the Administration will hesitate a little. But our circumstances in this Dominion are so diverse from those which obtain in England, there would seem to be but little room for analogy.

The question of the Banks and Banking, looms up just now very conspicuously in the atmosphere of Ottawa. But as nobody outside the charmed circle of the Privy Council seems to know exactly what the forthcoming measure in course of preparation is, it is difficult to offer so much as a rational conjecture as to what its fate will be. Bankers from all portions of the Dominion are here, vigilantly watching the signs of the times, and ready to grapple with any proposition which shall have for its end or object interference with the system of Banking at present in operation.

To a question put by Senator Locke the other day, Government replied that it was the intention of His Excellency to fill up during the present Session, the vacancy in the Senate caused by the death of the late Hon. Mr. Wier. Who the forthcoming Senator is to be, is a matter of some speculation, it is said, among the Nova Scotians. Several names are freely discussed, but probabilities would seem to favour a personal friend of Hon. Mr. Howe, who has recently renounced Repeal, and accepted the situation. There is a seat at the Railway Board also in reservation for Nova Scotia.

Since the foregoing was written, the Hon. the Finance Minister has delivered himself of his Budget, which is now before the country. He frankly confesses to a deficit of nearly a million and a half of dollars less than the estimated Revenue. The amount estimated from Customs for the year ending 30th June, 1869, was \$9,100,000. The amount received—judging by the ten months already expired—will not, he alleges, exceed \$8,102,236, showing a difference of \$997,764. The deficit from Excise will, by the same process, be found to be about \$608,404. From other sources of Revenue, however, there is a surplus over Estimates of \$201,000, making the exact deficit on estimates as admitted by the minister \$1,369,344. But, by some economical arrangements adopted, when the prospect of a deficit of Revenue became evident, Mr. Rose claims that at the end of the current financial year he will nevertheless have a surplus to carry forward of \$274,032. How this can be, does not yet seem to be very perfectly understood by many. Mr. Holton severely criticized the financial reputation of the Minister, and asked what would be thought of a British Chancellor of the Exchequer whose Estimates should prove erroneous to the extent of one tenth of the whole Revenue? He said that an error like that on the English Estimates, taking the Revenue at £70,000,000 sterling, would amount to £7,000,000, and no Chancellor of the Exchequer could hold office there a week, under such circumstances. Mr. Rose in reply contended, with some plausibility, that he was dealing with a state of things entirely different from what existed in England, where from long continued and repeated experiments, the results of taxation could be ascertained almost to a certainty. But in the Dominion Parliament, no Financier could possibly command as yet the necessary statistics to enable him to do much more than make approximate estimates, and even these would be liable to much fluctuation for a time.

Assuming the Finance Minister to be right in his final results, which some persons persist in doubting, the future prospects of the Dominion would seem to be much more cheerful than had been anticipated by many. An announcement that the Minister of Militia had consented to a sweeping reduction of \$250,000 in the estimates for the ensuing year in his Department, was received by the House with approbation and tokens of applause. No additional taxation, Mr. Rose admits, will be required for the ensuing year, and the tariff it is expected therefore will not be materially altered. The additional subsidy to Nova Scotia will be brought down as a distinct item, and is likely, I hear, to furnish a battle ground, for advanced men and disputants from each of the Provinces. The Intercolonial Railway loan, and the appropriation of the funds in the interior, before expenditure, was defended by Mr. Rose with great ability. The House adjourned from Friday, at the conclusion of his address, as usual till Monday the 10th May.

OTTAWA.

May 8th, 1869.

An Englishman relates that he recently dined in Nevada with an editor, who inquired after the health of Tennyson and Carlyle, remarking that "them men kin sling ink, they kin."

REVISION OF THE ENGLISH SCRIPTURES.

No. 12.

The corrections and improvements which we have cited are only samples. It will repay any lover of God's word to sit down with a friend, and compare, verse by verse, and chapter by chapter, the Common Version and the Revised, throughout Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, First Samuel, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and the whole of the New Testament. He will love God's truth more than ever before, and he will long to have all the errors of the sacred volume corrected. His zeal for truth and principle will grow with the increase of his interest in the divine communications.

And this leads us to notice the influence of the principles involved in the work of revision upon the minds of God's people and on the world.

It renders the former more scrupulous in respect to truth, especially the truth of God. The loose philosophy which has floated through the minds of multitudes, including many ministers of the gospel, that it is of little consequence whether the word of Jehovah is accurately translated, provided the reader gets the general idea, however indefinite, begins to be looked upon as false and mischievous. The more scrupulous a man becomes about the pure word of God, the more he fears God himself, the more conscientious he feels about everything relating to his Maker and his Redeemer. He contemplates with awe and horror the idea of knowingly and purposely circulating the words of sinful man as the utterances of his Maker.

And, then, he feels in his own heart the influence of God's word. The Holy Spirit employs no other instrumentality than this either in conversion or sanctification. And the more nearly our minds are brought into contact with pure inspired truth, under the direct influence of the Spirit, the more we grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

All missionary operations among the heathen are connected with the translation of the Sacred Scriptures into native languages. If the defects of the English version are transferred to foreign versions, the latter will have accumulated faults; those inseparable from translations made in languages imperfectly understood, and those knowingly imported from the English. Missionaries are ready to discern the evils thence resulting. Many of them study the original Scriptures, and make their translations as faithful as the means at their disposal will permit. They feel themselves conscientiously bound to give the whole truth to the heathen so far as it is in their power. But before our Revised English Testament was issued, they encountered a practical difficulty, which is aptly illustrated by the following incident:

When the Siamese New Testament was first printed, the translator, Rev. Dr. Jones, presented a copy to the Prince of Siam, who was afterward king of the country. The latter was a man of extensive accomplishments, and well versed in English and French literature. In a few days he sent for Dr. Jones and charged him with unfaithfulness as a translator, pointing out the numerous differences between the English and the Siamese Testament. Dr. Jones endeavored to explain that the Siamese was translated faithfully from the original, but no explanation was satisfactory. The Prince declared that one of two things was evident; either both versions were unfaithful, or one was right and the other wrong, that Dr. Jones and his countrymen had a different Bible, and taught different doctrines, at home and abroad.

It is creditable to missionaries of all denominations, that nearly all of them eagerly seek for the publications of the Bible Union and use them with great satisfaction. These publications have already exerted great influence over missionary translations. A new era has been introduced, in which greater regard for the exact rendering of God's truth is manifest. This feeling is by no means confined to heathen lands. On every side it is evident that the people of God are awakening to renewed reverence for truth, increased vigilance in detecting and avoiding error, and a greater zeal for principle and integrity in everything.

This state of things augurs favorably for the advance of pure religion. When men of the world see the professors of Christianity in any degree reckless about the words of inspiration, their belief is strengthened and their consciences pacified. Nothing is more alarming to them than to observe persons really in earnest about the truth. When it is manifest that Christians believe what God has said, conscience is alarmed. But when Christians are indifferent to the claims of the word, when they act as though it is of small consequence whether that word be faithfully translated for themselves or their children, Satan suggests to the world that Christians have no faith in what they profess; that actions speak louder than words, and that the Bible is only used to frighten the weak and ignorant.

Wm. H. WYCKOFF.