

Christian Messenger.

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"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

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Poetry.

THY WAY.

BY MRS. E. M. OLMSTEAD.

In thine own way
Let me be led, dear Jesus, to thy feet,
Through piercing storms, through blasts of
blinding heat
In deserts gray.

In thine own way
Subdue the froward heart, the stubborn will,
And, to the warring waves, the "peace, be still,"
Oh! sweetly say.

In thine own way,
And yet, forgive, if, failing to look up,
"Take, Father, from my lips the bitter cup."
I sometimes pray.

In thine own way
Let me not count my suffering, grief, or loss,
When fainting, faltering underneath the cross
Thy love doth lay.

In thine own way.
Thou wilt not break, I know, the bruised reed,
Though torn and quivering every fibre bleed
When rough winds sway.

In thine own way;
So shall it lead me to the heavenly height;
Still will I watch the guiding flame by night,
The cloud by day.

—Mother's Magazine.

Religious.

For the Christian Messenger.

OUR NATIVE PREACHERS IN BURMAH.

Dear Brother,—As it was not in my power to give in the Report of the Foreign Mission Board, as full a statement respecting their labors as might be desired, a few words of explanation may be useful.

Rev. Dr. Stevens, in a letter just received, dated "Rangoon, June 14, 1870," says: "I have requested Bro. Crawley to report the other preachers and school-teachers supported on the funds of your Board, as he is in a better situation than myself to do so." Sufficient time, however, had not elapsed after Bro. Crawley's return to Burmah to enable him to collect and prepare the needful statement of their labors.

The following incident now furnished by Dr. Stevens, with reference to the labors of Moug Pyoo, who is under his particular superintendence, and who was accompanying him on a tour, is gratifying. He says: "Two boats moored near us for the night. Long before daylight Moug Pyoo stirred up our boatmen to start in company with those two boats, which were also on their way down the stream. After some time I was aroused from a sound sleep by an earnest discussion between the men of the other boats. The three boats were side by side, floating down the stream together. One of the parties in the discussion was evidently a Mussulman, and the others were Burmans, arguing for Gaudama and merit. The Mussulman was evidently too strong for the heathen. We kept silent, enjoying the discussion, and our companions were entirely ignorant of us. Moug Pyoo at length broke the silence of our boat, and presented the Christian view of God, and of religion I was delighted with the skill and the strength of argument which he showed in the discussion; but nothing pleased me more than the simple and frank manner in which he told his countrymen how he had, through the grace of God, been brought out of the darkness of heathenism by hearing of Jesus Christ and his salvation. Our boats kept together till daylight, when we all made ourselves known to each other, and I had the pleasure of distributing among our fellow travellers, including the Mussulman, a number of portions of Scripture and of our evangelical tracts, which were gladly received."

Can money be employed to any better purpose than in supporting such preachers as Moug Pyoo?

Yours fraternally,
C. TUPPER, Sec.

Aylesford, Sept. 1, 1870.

For the Christian Messenger.

IRELAND AND ITS AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SCHOOLS AND FARMS.

SECOND LETTER FROM T. H. RAND, ESQ.

Mr. Editor,—

Good and great men in this land are stirring with a noble energy and patience to direct the attention of the people to the intimate and necessary connexion which exists between sound knowledge and all the departments of industry. In no department of economic science, perhaps, has greater success attended these efforts than in that of agriculture. By invitation of the Commissioners of National Education, I visited the Albert Agricultural Training School and Model Farms, at Glasnevin, one of the beautiful suburbs of Dublin. This Agricultural School was established by the Commissioners, in the year 1838, and has been an efficient agent in improving the system of farming throughout Ireland. It is designed to supply such instruction both in the science and practice of agriculture, as will qualify young men for the occupation of land stewards, farmers, gardeners, and agricultural teachers. The Farms and Gardens comprise about 180 statute acres in one block; and the entire establishment is presided over by the Agricultural Superintendent, Thomas Baldwin, Esq.

THE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SCHOOL is situated on one of the Farms. The suite of buildings comprises, lecture and school room for 75 resident pupils, laboratory, library, museum, dining hall and dormitories; a comprehensive range of farm offices, and apartments for the Superintendent, matron, land steward, literary teacher, and servants. Lectures are delivered daily, and the course includes Botany and vegetable Physiology, Chemistry, and Geology, the diseases of farm animals and their treatment, and agriculture. These lectures are amply illustrated by means of carefully executed diagrams, valuable collections of minerals and plants, and chemical apparatus. Among the lecturers are Dr. Moore of the Royal Botanic Gardens, and Dr. Sullivan of the Royal College of Science. The lecturer on Agriculture gives instruction daily in the theory and practice of agriculture, and assists in the general direction of the farming department. The Steward oversees the cropping and management of the Farms. Literary instruction, embracing all the branches of a sound English education, is given by a first-class teacher, who also superintends the internal discipline of the Institution; and a Gardener of practical experience has charge of the Horticultural department. The Commissioners grant \$150 annually to be distributed in prizes for proficiency in studies, and in the practical work of the farms and gardens.

The course of training occupies two years. Each year is divided into two Terms—from January to June, and from July to Christmas. Three classes of pupils are admitted to the Institution:

1. Free Resident Pupils. These are boarded, lodged, and educated at the public expense, and are admitted half-yearly by competitive examination. The Board's Inspectors in the several Districts forward to the Education Office, semi-annually, the names of such lads, educated at the National Schools, as they deem eligible for this class, —taking into account in all recommendations the age, which must not be under 17 years, the state of health and physical capacity for labour, and the moral conduct, industrial habits and tastes, and probable pursuits in afterlife, of the lads. The competition, however, for admission to this class is not restricted to pupils educated at the National Schools, but the Commissioners entertain applications made by respectable persons in behalf of any young men of good character. The persons nominated for competition are required to attend an examination held in the several school districts on a fixed day in November and in May. A number of the best answers are chosen, and submitted to a second competitive examination at Glasnevin. The expenses of the unsuccessful candidates are paid to and from Dublin.

2. Paying Resident Pupils. A limited

number of these are admitted on examination. The yearly fee for each pupil of this class is \$100. This payment includes the cost of instruction, board, lodging, and medical attendance. The paying pupils are required to conform to all the regulations for the discipline of the establishment. They take part with the free pupils in all the farm operations, eat at the same table, sleep in the same dormitories, and receive the same treatment in all respects.

3. Non-Resident Pupils. These are young men who board and lodge at their own expense without the Institution. They pay an annual fee of \$40, and are required to engage in the ordinary farm work, and attend all the lectures in course.

In order that the pupils may become thoroughly acquainted with improved husbandry, they are all required, as I have already intimated, to take part in the performance of every farm operation—including the feeding and management of live stock. Perhaps I cannot better convey a tolerably correct idea of the training to which the pupils are here submitted, than by outlining its chief features in a

GENERAL TIME TABLE.

At 6 o'clock, A. M., the pupils rise.
From 6 to 6.30 A. M., dress and prepare for study.
From 6.30 to 7 A. M., feed and clean horses, cattle, &c.
From 7 to 8 A. M., attend lecture on agriculture.
From 8 to 9 A. M., attend lecture on agricultural chemistry, botany, or veterinary science.
From 9 to 9.30 A. M., breakfast.
From 9.30 to 2 P. M., all the pupils work on the land.
From 2 to 3 P. M., dinner.
From 3 to 3.30 P. M., one half the pupils receives literary instruction, the other half is employed on the land till 6 o'clock in summer, and till dusk in winter; after which they study literary subjects, under the superintendence of a literary master, till 8.30, except a limited number of the junior pupils who, in their turn, assist in the stables, cow-houses, &c., as in the morning.
From 8.30 to 9 P. M., supper.
From 9 to 9.30 P. M., attend horses, cattle, &c.
From 9.30 to 10.15 A. M., retire to dormitories.

The Farms and Gardens are very complete in their equipments and much care has evidently been taken to adapt these models to the requirements of the country. The

EXAMPLE SCHOOL FARM,

containing about 6 acres, is cultivated chiefly with a view of exhibiting to the National School Teachers under training in Marlboro'-street, a correct system of cropping small holdings. It is a "spade farm," being worked without the aid of horses or plough. Suitable outbuildings for cows, swine, and fowls, are provided for this farm. The hours of feeding and watering, and the sorts and quantities of food to be given, are posted in the stables and other out buildings. The ripened and growing crops were very heavy, and everything looked as neat and trim as a garden. The lecturer on practical agriculture at the Albert School, delivers two lectures weekly in the Central Training Institution, Marlboro'-street, on the theory and practice of agriculture; and every Saturday during their course of training the teachers are required to visit this Example School Farm for practical instruction. The

INTERMEDIATE FARM

is 25 acres in extent, and is worked with the design of illustrating a system of farm management adapted to the circumstances of farmers whose holdings are large enough to give employment to one or two horses. There are no buildings on this farm. The

LARGE FARM

of 140 acres gives scope for the employment of the heavier farm implements; and its arrangement and management are such as to afford the largest possible amount of information upon every branch of farming. The practical details of dairy husbandry; the fattening of cattle, swine, and fowls; the breeding and rearing of different kinds of stock; drainage; the various operations of field culture; the application of manures; the curing of crops; and the permanent improvement of the soil, each and all receive careful and unremitting attention. The offices attached to this farm are extensive, and their arrangement is very convenient. A stationary steam engine of small size, furnishes the power for driving the threshing and winnowing machines, and raising supplies of water for the whole establish-

ment. It also provides a ready means of steaming the cut-food for the animals, and performing other and varied work on the premises.

On these model farms great neatness and economy are apparent. Nothing is wasted. I wish all our farmers who expose manure in heaps to sun and rain, could be induced to adopt some method kindred to that employed here for husbanding the resources of their stables, and materially contributing to the tidiness of their premises. The manure is placed in water-tight vats outside the stables, and the surface is daily covered with refuse straw or soil. Pipes or drains from the stables, piggeries, and all other buildings on the premises, lead into these vats. I may also mention that from the vat on the Large Farm a main pipe is laid into the fields; and in the late spring and summer, hose is attached to this pipe, and, by using the steam engine as a forcing pump, liquid manure is applied to the growing crops as desired. The cattle on these farms are chiefly short horns, the pure breed being preferred for fattening, and crosses, for dairy purposes. The cows are beautiful creatures, and all of the animals are very handsome, and in excellent condition. A careful system of rotative cropping, in courses of three years, is practised on each farm; that is to say, in the same field grasses are followed by grains with grass seeds. There is also a sub-rotation, different grasses, grains, and roots succeeding each other in course. It is ascertained by experiment that the land will produce turnips and clover less frequently than other crops, but the cause of this has not yet been fully ascertained. Wheat is sown in drills, except when the land is to be seeded with grass. The mat of new grass in the grain stubble was so even and rich, that these seeded fields would easily be mistaken for pasture land. In fact, heavy burthens in all the fields abundantly rewarded this careful husbandry.

THE GARDENS.

In order that such of the pupils as have a taste for Horticultural pursuits may have an opportunity of qualifying themselves to discharge the combined duties of steward, or farmer, and plain gardener, about 3 acres are set apart and cultivated as a Kitchen Garden. There are also, a small conservatory, peach house, vinery, fruit and flower gardens. Besides these, about 6 acres are occupied as a Market Garden.

In connexion with the sketch which I have now given of the Albert Agricultural School and Farms at Glasnevin, let me add a brief outline of the series of supplementary provisions made by the Commissioners of National Education, for the promotion of an improved system of agriculture among the people:

1. Model Agricultural Schools. Of these there are 20 established in different parts of the island, and controlled exclusively by the Commissioners. In these schools, resident agricultural pupils are trained in the practice and science of agriculture, and prepared to impart instruction in this department. With two exceptions there are schools for ordinary instruction attached to these establishments. The boarding pupils besides undergoing a course of instruction in the usual branches of English education, including land surveying and levelling, are instructed in agricultural chemistry, animal and vegetable physiology, drainage, tillage, sowing, harvesting, manures, and breeding and rearing stock. The Agriculturists in these schools are required to furnish to the Agricultural Superintendent at Glasnevin, weekly journals of work done. The farm attached to these Model Agricultural schools are from 10 to 125 acres in extent, the average size being about 40 acres.

2. First-Class Agricultural Schools under Local Managers. These are common schools with boarding accommodation of agricultural pupils from a distance. The Commissioners have contributed towards the erection of suitable buildings, but they make no grants for the purchase of farm implements, or for the cultivation of the land. The teachers receive \$50 in addition to their class salary. There are 18 of these schools, giving practical and scientific instruction to about 700 pupils annually. The farms attached to these schools vary from 7 to 80 acres in size.