

# Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

"Get slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

NEW SERIES.  
Vol. XV. No. 37.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 1870.

WHOLE SERIES  
Vol. XXXIV. No. 37.

## Poetry.

### HINDRANCES TO BAPTISM.

BY THE REV. TIMOTHY HARLEY.

"What hinders me to be baptized,"  
If I have truly realized  
The Spirit's saving grace?  
If I am washed and justified,  
Why am I not identified  
With all the risen race?

Has *prejudice* possessed my mind,  
And made me to the duty blind,  
Or dimmed my mental sight?  
Do any lessons learned in youth,  
However void of Scripture truth,  
Shut out the purer light?

Does *pride* at all obstruct my way,  
Or check me when I would obey  
My Lord and Leader's will?  
Or, if obedience be a cross,  
Am I unwilling at a loss  
His precept to fulfil?

Or does *presumption* dare to say,  
"Tis not essential, so you may  
Be saved without the sign"?  
Undoubted truth—but he who slights,  
Or separates what God unites,  
Assumes to be divine.

Or does *procrastination* say,  
"The truth is clear, but not to-day"?  
Deceiver! stand aside:  
Salvation's terms are here comprised,  
"Believe in Christ and be baptized,"  
And these shall be my guide.

## Religious.

We have received a copy of the following address, with a special request for insertion in our columns. The fears therein expressed, have already been fully realised, in the fearful slaughter of human life on the battle field.

The International Court of Arbitration, if it could be formed, would doubtless be an effectual check to much of the war that is in the world, but it is not so plain how such a Court could be brought into being:—

### ADDRESS FROM THE COMMITTEES OF THE LONDON AND AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETIES TO THE FRIENDS OF PEACE.

DEAR FRIENDS: That which we have long feared has come upon the nations. The system of armed peace which the Governments of Europe have insisted on maintaining has issued, as such a system could not fail, sooner or later, to do, in open war between the two Powers which had most distinguished themselves by the excess of their warlike preparations. The conflict which has now commenced will, beyond doubt, prove to be one of the most awful in the history of the world. It will involve an incalculable destruction of human life and property, will fill myriads of hitherto happy homes with horror and anguish, will derange those beneficent ties of commerce by which mankind are bound to each other, will arrest the progress of liberty and civilization, will envenom men's spirits by evil passions, and will make the very name of Christianity—the religion of mercy and brotherly love—for the time a mockery in the earth.

But while overwhelmed with sorrow at this terrible event, we at least can look upon it with a conscience free from remorse. For many years we have not ceased, to the extent of our abilities and opportunities in our endeavours to impress upon Governments and peoples the duty of using the lucid intervals of peace in adopting means which would give some guarantee to the nations against so dire a calamity as that which has now overtaken them. Far from having proclaimed, as we are sometimes mistakenly accused of doing, an approaching millennium of universal peace, our voice, on the contrary, has been one of constant deprecation and warning, on the ground that there was no security for peace

while Europe was incessantly preparing for war, and while the nations were content to leave the continuance of peace at the mercy of the excited passions and hazardous accidents of the moment. Therefore it is that we have been strenuously contending, first, for a mutual and simultaneous reduction of those enormous armaments, which, kept up professedly in the interests of peace, are the most dangerous incentives to war; and, secondly, for the establishment of a Court of Arbitration, or some form of international jurisdiction, by which the differences of nations could be referred to the decision of reason and justice, instead of prejudice and passion. If there be any who doubt the efficacy of these means will they suggest some means more efficacious, or are we to abandon mankind in despair to the eternal rule of barbarism and brute force?

What now, dear friends, remains for us to do? Unhappily, in those countries, which are the actual seat of war, the voice of justice, reason, and religion is stifled, for that is the only condition on which war can be prosecuted. Our excellent fellow-labourers in the cause of peace on the Continent, have not been wanting to their principles and convictions at this awful crisis. Consistently and courageously, even on the very arena of warlike agitation, have they, in every way that was open to them, uttered bold and eloquent protests against the war. But while it may be difficult for them to persevere in that course—for war is the most oppressive of tyrants—we must continue to denounce this great crime against humanity, and, undazzled by the glare of victory which may attend on one side or the other, turn upon it steadily the light of sober reason and Christian morality. We must guard ourselves and use whatever influence we possess in guarding others, against the contagion of the war spirit which is apt to spread even to those who are only spectators of the conflict. We must do all that lies in our power to prevent the area of the war being enlarged and especially we must strenuously resist all attempts to involve our own country in this dreadful imbroglia. We must watch every opening for the restoration of peace, so as to encourage our own and other neutral Governments to offer their mediation at the earliest possible opportunity with a view to bring the war to an end. And above all we must stand prepared, whenever this deplorable conflict is closed, to invoke the public opinion of all Christendom in favour of such measures being taken, as will for the future place peace of the world beyond the reach of the personal ambition of individuals, or the capricious impulses of popular passion. And may we not hope that the horror and indignation which this war cannot fail ultimately to inspire, will convince all men of the supreme folly and wickedness of referring the disputes of nations to the blind and brutal arbitrament of the sword—will awaken so stern a demand among the millions of the oppressed populations of Europe as can no longer be resisted, for those measures of disarmament and arbitration for which we have been so long contending, and which seem the only means of escape from the vicious circle in which the nations have been so long revolving?

JOSEPH PEASE, Pres. } London  
HENRY RICHARD, Sec. } Peace Society.  
HOWARD MALCOM, Pres. } American  
AMASA LORÉ, Sec. } Peace Society  
Sept., 1870.

A meeting of the Directors of the American Peace Society was held in Boston on the 25th of August.

After brief remarks by the chairman, and other gentlemen, several strong resolutions were adopted, among them were the following:

Resolved, That in view of the foregoing considerations, we earnestly call upon all who administer or direct our national affairs; upon all ministers of the Prince of Peace; upon all conductors of the public press; upon all citizens in every walk and condition in life, who desire the welfare and happiness of their own and other lands, to join in a general and earnest endeavor to create such a public sentiment as shall imperatively demand a general disbandment of the armies of the world.

Resolved, That we accept the emphatic words of the distinguished Premier of England in pronouncing the present "quarrel between France and Prussia" "one of the most mournful, miserable and causeless ever witnessed by mankind;" and in asking, "In the name of humanity and of growing civilization, with institutions nearly perfect, famous in every department of history and the admiration of the world, rushing into conflict and mutual slaughter? The issue is difficult to state or appreciate, and no intelligent mind can suppress its horror at the spectacle."

### IRELAND AND ITS NATIONAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

Letter from T. H. Rand, Esq.

IRELAND—ITS BEAUTIFUL SCENERY—ITS PEOPLE—ITS BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN—PROVISION FOR EDUCATION—THE "NATIONAL SCHOOL" SYSTEM.

Mr. Editor.—Three weeks ago I set foot for the first time in my life on the shores of Ireland. I need not say that my heart has been stirred to deep emotion amid people and scenes at once so familiar and yet so strange. I have already traversed the Counties of Dublin, Kildare, Queens, Tipperary, Cork, Kerry, and Limerick, and the field of observation has been to me

Of wonder out of west and east.

I suppose freedom from care and pressing anxiety is always sufficient of itself to heighten the effect of natural scenes and quicken and broaden their apprehension in the mind of the observer. The added stimulus of moving upon soil every foot of which has its human history, and over which are scattered so many visible memorials of the old worthies, the stories of whose deeds have thrilled our hearts from childhood, tends to excite feelings of lively interest even in the commonest objects. And the very garb which nature here wears, has something of novelty to the eye of a Nova Scotian. Here are no primeval forests—no breadths of Canadian spruce, fir, hemlock, pine, and haematac—no reaches of maple and beech upon the mountain sides and tops. The wild woods of majestic fir and oak have long since fallen, and their remains are embedded in the turf. But the landscape is not deficient in trees and shrubs. Oak and elm and sycamore have been carefully planted in groves, with the larch, the lime and the beech. The Scotch fir with its tawny trunk and boughs of dark lustrous green, stands beside the lovely Irish yew. The holly and laurel with their glossy leaves, and the classic arbutus are here. Ivy running over the stone fences and up the rugged rocks, and clothing their barren sides with the leafiest green; pale furz, studded with blossoms of lemon chrome, trooping along the tops of walls, the sides of moats, and encamping in unmolested spots; heaths, pale-lilac and purple side-by-side, covering the wilds, and, like Wolfville sunsets, giving a tint of amethyst to the mountain slopes—these add such grace and beauty to field and pleasure-ground, wayside and waste, as only those whose eyes have feasted on them can know. The arable land is a rich mosaic of grass, and grain, and flax, and green crops. On every hand the harvest is bountiful, and weather has been warm and bright. For hundreds of miles the air has been fragrant with the hay-making. The mowers with broad blades and, here and there, with mowing machines, have been followed by men, women and children, engaged in saving the hay. The crop is not housed, but put up in stacks in the fields and thatched. Most of the hay appeared to be bleached by too long exposure to the sun, and much of the grass was certainly too nearly ripe when cut. The fields of wheat, oats, and barley hasted, under the warm sun, to the harvest. The yellow fields shewed a thick and strong growth of straw bending with heavy ears. Farmers have been pressed for help to overtake in time the gathering into sneaf and shock. The green crops, also, are luxuriant, promising ample returns; and the evidences of a fertile soil abound. The best farming which I have seen in the country districts, was along the beautiful valley of the Lee.

The physique of the Irish people must arrest the attention of a Nova Scotian on seeing great masses of them for the first time. Strong frames well wrapped in flesh, of good height or even tall—this is the rule. A little gross, perhaps, but health blooms on their faces. This mild, humid, and equable climate does not exhaust itself in mantling valley, hill, and mountain in the softest green, but adds a fine

rosy complexion to men, women and childrer. The cheeks of even ragged boys and girls whose only fare is bread, butter-milk, and potatoes, glow like carmine through the smutches of dirt that is wont to turn their chubby faces into a painter's pallet.

The beauty of children has, indeed, been the most marked and wonderful thing I have seen in Ireland. There is nothing of that fascinating *spirituel*, or of that intellectual precocity one so frequently sees in the children in Nova Scotia. But the wholesomest flesh and blood, the smoothest, rosiest, sweetest faces, with large and liquid eyes, meet one in groups at every turn. At first I thought I must have chanced on the fairest, and that I should soon meet the quick eyes and resolute faces I had left behind; but when I saw 150 children, about seven or eight years of age, seated in one group in the gallery of an elementary school, I was almost overcome with emotion, at the beautiful sight. There, most unmistakably, were the faces of the Saxon, and Dane, and Norman and Celt, in all their freshness and innocence. It was a very garden of roses and lilies. The head teacher, a son-in-law of the great educationist Wilderspin, by way of response to my expressions of admiration, pointing out to me a lovely little girl with large blue eyes and dark chestnut hair, said: "I never saw a more beautiful child before the mother cut off her magnificent hair, because it so attracted the notice of strangers." He added, "I think the mother did right."

There is a cheerful air about the people both in the towns and rural districts. I have had abundant opportunities of conversing with all classes, even the poor dwellers in groups of little huts on the mountain sides, and have been agreeably surprised to find an entire absence of that dejection and *abandon* which I looked for as the result of hopes ardently cherished but deferred and baffled by the persistent application of the expedients and principles adopted in the supposed interests of government. If the sounder political policy which has been inaugurated can so far secure the confidence of the people as to supplant the chronic unrest and discontent, resulting from a state of things already past, or, rapidly passing away, there must be a great and prosperous future for Ireland.

I have been impressed with the universality of the means of elementary education, and more especially with the fact that the poorest classes are rising to some definite appreciation of the benefits of knowledge. In the public streets and squares, on the quays, and lanes and alleys, in the level country and in the mountains and passes, the wayside, children have been questioned by me with an audacity and persistency quite trans-atlantic. Though often surprised at the inquisitiveness which sought to search into every cranny of their store of knowledge, in no instance have I received other than the most respectful replies. It is surely no small testimony to the energy with which the means of education, by one instrumentality and another have been applied, to say that I have met but a very limited number who do not attend school some portion of the year, and in no case were these in the country districts. Even in the wild and rocky mountain lands one not unfrequently receives one's first hint of the whereabouts of settlers by coming upon a school house bearing the inscription "NATIONAL SCHOOL." I find it conceded on all hands that the system of National Education has been a most powerful and far-reaching agency in the diffusion of sound knowledge among the masses.

Through the kindness of Dr. Lawson, of Dalhousie College, I was enabled to present letters of introduction to David Moore, Esq., Ph. D., M.R.I.A., of Glasnevin, Dublin. This gentleman, devoted to every well-directed effort for the spread of popular knowledge, shewed me attention and kindness to which I had no claim, and which I can never forget. To him I am indebted for the pleasure of inspecting under such experienced direction as was at all stages most cordially afforded me by James Gibson, Esq., Q. C. Commissioner, the Right Hon. Alexander Macdonnell, Resident Commissioner, and William H. Newell Esq., L.L.D., one of the Secretaries to the Commissioners, the whole system of the organization and management of the Education office, the Training and Model Schools, and the Albert Agricultural School and Model Farms. The Board of Commissioners of National Education consists as is well known, of twenty perma-