

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

NOTES OF A RECENT VISIT TO WESTERN NEW YORK.

P., Monroe Co., N. Y., Oct. 1874.

What a magnificently fertile and lovely country is this Genesee Valley. It is really the garden of the Empire State. Yet I have seen men within a few days who were among those that helped to remove the forests, and lay out and build the roads where populous villages and cities now stand, and cut rank in point of wealth and beauty, many of the oldest cities of the Union.

On every hand in the rural districts, there are manifest thrift, wealth and culture, to a remarkable degree.

And this autumn especially, affords proof of Nature's most lavish bounties bestowed on the agriculturists. The crops of cereals, of potatoes, and fruits are abundant and of excellent quality. The yield of apples, nearly always large in this vicinity, is immense this season. Summer and early fall varieties could scarcely find purchasers, and the winter varieties will be cheaper this year than for many years previous. It is estimated that this County will ship abroad, about 300,000 bbls. of selected winter apples, and the adjacent County, Orleans, will ship more than double that quantity. Just think of it,—about a million of bbls. of apples. Many of these are consumed in the Dominion, particularly in Quebec and Ontario. Then, here are raised immense quantities of other fruits for shipment such as plums, pears, grapes, tomatoes and some peaches.

One of the neighbors newly opposite the residence of "mine host," has a small tract of land consisting of about ten acres. Six of these he has given to be occupied by grape vines of various kinds growing on wire trellises, about four feet apart and the intervening space covered with strawberry vines. He informs me that last year he gathered from this vineyard about 15 tons of grapes for which he received about \$1700, and sold from his strawberry beds about \$1200 worth of strawberries. This year he expects to realize a little larger sum. And yet the age of this vineyard is not more than 6 years.

A very important and lucrative business has been developed in this county since my first visit to it, now nearly 25 years ago, namely the raising of young fruit and ornamental trees for transplanting. I can remember that when the firm which now stands at the head of the American nursery business purchased a large tract of land in the vicinity of Rochester and commenced a nursery on a large scale, that prominent capitalists regarded them as foolhardy and insane. The other day I rode past one of these nurseries containing 100 acres entirely devoted to raising young apple trees, and many other acres I found devoted to other fruit trees and ornamental trees and shrubs. On part of the first tract they purchased I found extensive gardens and green houses filled with exotics and the rarest plants and trees, while other portions of it had been laid out in streets and lined with houses of a fine appearance and substantial material and each one possessing an adjacent garden, filled with flowers and fruit trees. The business of this firm is now immense, but it is only one out of a score who are engaged in the same line on a large scale.

It is admitted that Monroe county now raises and disposes of more trees in a year than all other portions of the American Republic combined, and the capital now invested in this business is very great, and steadily increasing. I had the opportunity of attending the "New York State" and "Western New York" Fairs, both of which were held in Rochester this autumn. The display of horses, horned cattle, sheep, poultry &c., was very fine, as was also the exhibition of the products of the farm, manufactures, machinery, agricultural implements, and fruits and flowers. Some of the features of the Exhibition were particularly interesting to me on account of their novelty. Among these, was the department entrusted to Mr. Seth Green, the State Superintendent for propagating and distributing fish to re-stock the Lakes and Rivers of New York with stony inhabitants. He exhibited his tiny specimens of infant trout, salmon, bass, and white fish. The trays and other apparatus essential for successful hatching of spawn and care of the young fish were present for examination, and Mr. Green himself was in attendance ready to answer the inquiries of interested parties, for he is now not only recognized by Amer-

icans as best authority on the breeding of fish, but his reputation is becoming world-wide. A few weeks since, the French Academy of Science in Paris requested his permission to translate into French his treatise on Fish Culture.

The second thing of special interest in the State Fair, was somewhat in the line of Mr. Green's Exhibition, but instead of being fishy, it was both fowl and fowl:—fowl as to the product,—fowl as respects the means employed.

A Monsieur —, a native of Belgium, but for some time past a resident of Long Island, N. Y., where he has a "henry," and a "Gallinaceous Institution," where he imparts instruction in the art of hatching and rearing chickens, exhibited an apparatus for hatching chickens in an artificial manner. He claims it as an original invention and declares that it has proved a grand success. He had the apparatus in active use at the fair and showed some of the eggs so far hatched that the chicks were just emerging from the shell. He also exhibited chickens a few days old who evidently had learned to do all the things that are naturally required of a well behaved chicken who possesses the fostering care and direction of a fond clucking parent. A portion of his apparatus is provided with a portion of sheep skin retaining its wool, which by an ingenious arrangement is raised or lowered so as to afford warmth to the chickens of any size who seek for its brooding benefits. So far as I could see, they accepted the situation with good grace, and seemed to enjoy their inanimate, woolly protector, with as much gusto as chickens do who have a living feathered mother.

The article which he uses to engender heat sufficient to hatch the eggs is common stable manure which packed in a sort of outer box around an inner one that contains his nest of eggs made to afford the proper temperature to hatch the eggs and give to the young chicks a proper warmth after they are hatched. He claims that with one of his smaller boxes and 12 ordinary hens to furnish eggs he can hatch and rear chickens enough to bring \$500 per year.

He obtained a diploma at the last Saratoga County Fair and also one at the State Fair. When one comes to consider the matter and remembers that Ostrich eggs and also the ova of Turtles are hatched in the warm sands without the intervention of the mother, it does not seem unreasonable to grant that this Belgian does accomplish what he claims. Several parties I learn are about trying his apparatus and soon we shall know the results. If favorable a large business may be carried on as the eggs can be hatched in winter as well as in summer. But I must close this already too long communication.

S. JOURNER.

For the Christian Messenger.

NEW BRUNSWICK NOTES.

THE ST. JOHN CHURCHES,

in which is included that of Portland, are at present all supplied with pastors, and are pursuing the even tenor of their way." In none of them is there any special revival interest, but the pastors and some of the members seem to be in an expectant attitude.

The Leinster Street people are to be congratulated on the completion of their beautiful and commodious parsonage, which we hope may never be without an occupant. The expense has considerably exceeded the estimate. It has cost \$6,500; towards the liquidation of which \$3 800 had been raised. But the brethren seemed unwilling to dispense with more than one of the "modern improvements," and sagaciously selected the one very commonly attached to first-class houses, viz: a mortgage; and so with their characteristic enterprise they are already in the field soliciting new subscriptions to pay the balance of \$2,700, and the indications are most favorable to a speedy and complete success.

The Rev. D. McClellan, late of Cheshire, England, has met with a hearty reception from the Portland Church, and enters upon a most interesting and ever widening field of labor. His congregation are reported as large and increasing, and we believe our brother will achieve the success he merits. His brethren are determined to furnish him ere long with a convenient and comfortable parsonage which is nearing completion. The Bazaar held by the Portland sisterhood for the benefit of the Parsonage fund, was a grand success, netting them, I understand, over \$700.

On Sunday next, I learn, the Pastors of the neighboring Churches are to meet at the Portland Church to assist in services whereby the new pastor may receive public recognition.

The Brussels Street Church, slow but sure, are mooting the project of erecting or purchasing a pastor's residence and are to have a social tea-party next week where the talk, it is expected will be succeeded by work and money. When this church provides a parsonage, then all the Baptist pastors of St. John will have good permanent homes; for the Bishop of Carleton, Bro. Hickson, has provided himself with a mansion. What a future blessing these earthly saints-rests will prove to St. John pastors!

We are glad to chronicle the RETURN OF MINISTERS

to our Province. Our esteemed and only New Brunswick Doctor of Divinity, Bro. Spurden, returned from England a few weeks since, and we rejoice in learning that his health is quite restored, and he has been engaged to supply the Fredericton Church with preaching during the winter. Our worthy Brother, Rev. George Howard, has also returned from his trip to Europe, ready and able to thrust his sickle into the great spiritual harvest field. Rev. T. W. Crawley in response to the pressing invitation of the people whom he formerly served, has resumed the pastorate of the church at St. Andrews, and his numerous friends are predicting for him a pleasant and successful pastorate.

While we congratulate St. Andrews on its withdrawal from the rank of

DESTITUTE CHURCHES,

we feel an increased sympathy for the many churches which are pastorless in our Province. Among these are several in Charlotte County presenting good fields for men of faith, nerve and industry. There also is Moncton with its sanctuary and parsonage both of goodly proportion and substantial material. This church covets the best gifts, and not having the fear of—men before their eyes have been coveting the services of our General Home Missionary Agent, Bro. Todd. We hope the Lord will give them a good pastor for their important field. Then there is Sussex, which surely deserves a good under-shepherd. Other fields there are which are shepherdless, and ought to be immediately supplied, such as Newcastle, Miramichi, Shediac, Gagetown, &c., &c.

REV. T. H. PORTER,

the devoted and successful Fredericton pastor left us a short time since for California, where he hopes to regain his health. Many are the prayers which will be offered on his behalf. His presence and labors will be greatly missed in more than one department of Christian and denominational labor.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION

comprising delegates from our New Brunswick Baptist Sabbath Schools was held last week in the Germain Street Church of St. John. The attendance for several reasons was not large, but the exercises were interesting and profitable. Essays on Sabbath School subjects were presented by Rev. Messrs. McClelland and Pope and Mr. E. H. Jones of St. John, and discussed by delegates both lay and clerical. The Convention is to convene next October in Moncton.

PROF. ALLAN CURR,

of Scotland, occupied two of our pulpits on Sunday last and proposes to deliver four or five lectures in the city during the week.

We rejoice in the revival influences now pervading Halifax and Yarmouth, and pray that our city may soon enjoy like precious influences.

Yours fraternally,

SEEWIS.

St. John, N. B., November 9, 1874.

For the Christian Messenger.

FROM REV. W. S. MCKENZIE.

III.

Dear Messenger,—

In my last reply to strictures by "An Oriental" I said that our Foreign Secretary and one of our recently returned Missionaries, Dr. Stevens, had endorsed my representation of the Kingdom of Siam, relative to the present prospects of successful Mission labor in that country. What Dr. Stevens himself witnessed and reports, as presented in my last communication, certainly authenticates a portion of my statements under dispute. And now let us see what we have from the field, under the latest dates, in justification of my alleged "mythical representation" of the condition of things under the sway of the present King of that country. I have before me "The Friend

of India," published at Singapore, and sent regularly to our Mission Rooms in Boston, bringing a record of the latest important events occurring in the East; also "The Siam Weekly Advertiser," published at Bangkok, and also forwarded to these Rooms, another valuable source of information; also the correspondence of our own Missionaries in the East, and other documents.

And first let us collect something from the correspondence of Missionaries. Dr. Dean, a veteran Missionary in Bangkok, Siam, will testify. He writes thus:

"Our young King is making various improvements about the palace and city, and adopting various European customs, and a partial European costume. It is reported that his wife or wives sit at the table with him, and eat with a knife and fork. He and his court were out a few days ago in European carriages, for a procession to a temple near our place. He expects to leave for India in a month or two."—Baptist Missionary Magazine 1872, p. 62.

Again Dr. Dean writes (Baptist Missionary Magazine 1872, p. 377) on "Progress in Siam," in the following strain:— "This country is just awakening from the sleep of pagan night and catching the first rays of dawn of civilization. Paganism is coming into disrepute. Buddhist priests are being diminished, and some of them set to work. The King's bodyguard of soldiers are mustered on Sabbath morning, in imitation of an English camp; but, instead of listening to the sacred Scriptures and uniting in prayer to the Christian's God, a moral essay is read to them by a native scholar, and then they are dismissed without any form of pagan worship or heathen superstition.

There are signs of upheaving and mental revolution, if not moral reformation in the nation. It was no trifling outbreak from the former customs of the country and the usages of all Asiatic kingdoms, for the ruling power to leave his throne and travel, first to Singapore and Batavia, and again to visit, attended by his fleet of steamships, the ports of Burma and India, and trust himself to travel by railroad through the interior of distant countries. We remember to have seen a former Siamese King, uncovered from head to foot, except a cloth about the waist, paddled in his boat canoe, while his subjects were shut up in their cottages, or prostrate on their faces in the street, while royalty passed. Now the king of the same throne, with one sovereign intervening, is clad in European costume, steps upon his steam-fragate, attended by his nobility, travels abroad for months, and is everywhere met by European governors and gentlemen with the honor due to his rank, to which he responds with the courtesy of high bred manhood, mingled with the dignity of enlightened royalty. There is good reason to believe that this mighty stride upward in the line of civilization is not to leave his majesty and his ministers, still prostrate before their wooden blocks and gods of brick and mortar.

The common people are becoming more investigating, and significantly ask, who is to reward them for their deeds of merit, since their god is dead? The people, from the governor to the lowest subject, are losing their confidence in Buddhism? but it does not follow that Christianity will by them be adopted in its place.

Such sentences as the following closely resemble some of my own "mythical representations":—"This country is just awakening from the sleep of pagan night." And "Buddhist priests are being diminished." And "There is good reason to believe that this mighty stride upward in the line of civilization is not to leave his majesty and his ministers, still prostrate before their wooden blocks and gods of brick and mortar." And "The common people are becoming more investigating." Once more, "The people, from the governor to the lowest subject, are losing their confidence in Buddhism." Dr. Dean is no mean authority, though not a missionary to Siam, and never was.

A chieftain in my speech as reported runs thus:—"And the whole land was open to Christian Missionaries." If I did not say that, I ought to have said it. But "An Oriental" is amazed at the declaration. How could I have made such a statement? Turn to *Bap. Miss. Mag.* for 1873, p. 15 on the disposition of the Siamese government towards Christianity, and read the following:

What is the real disposition of the Siamese Government towards Christianity? There are American missionaries located in Bangkok itself, in Petaburee, in Ayuthia and at Chienmai in Northern Laos. All preach and distribute books with perfect freedom; all testify to the friendliness of the Government to themselves personally; all believe that the policy of the Government is one of perfect religious toleration. But why is it, that after many years of faithful preaching by not a few good missionaries, so few of the Siamese subjects have accepted Christianity? It appears to me that there must have been a latent fear on the part of the people, similar to that expressed by the Karens. They know well that the king and chief nobles have the power of life and death.

they know that for frivolous reasons even vengeance may be visited upon them. The late king was for many years at the head of the Buddhist priesthood, and he was a magnificent supporter of that religion throughout his reign. The present king, however, seems to be quite free from his father's devotion to the state religion. It is quite likely that under him the Siamese will feel greater liberty in religious matters. The subjoined translation of an extract from the *Siamese Calendar* for 1871, an official document, annually published by royal authority, seems to be satisfactory and is worthy of note.

"In regard to the concern of seeking and holding a religion that shall be a refuge to yourself in this life, it is a good concern, and exceedingly appropriate and suitable that you all—every individual of you—should investigate and judge for himself according to his own wisdom. And when you see any religion whatever, or any company of religionists whatever, likely to be an advantage to yourself, a refuge in accord with your own wisdom, hold to that religion with your own heart. Hold it not with a shallow mind, with mere guesswork, or because of its general popularity, or from mere tradition, saying that it is the custom held from time immemorial and do not hold a religion that you have not good evidence is true, and then frighten men's fears and flatter their hopes by it. Do not be frightened and astonished at diverse events (stilted wonders) and hold to and follow them. When you shall have obtained a refuge, a religious faith that is beautiful and good and suitable, hold to it with great joy, and follow its teachings, and it will be a cause of prosperity to each one of you."

That quotation is from the published utterances of Rev. Mr. Carpenter, whose knowledge of the present condition of the Asiatic nations is extensive, accurate, and varied. "An Oriental," in his second letter on "RELIGION IN SIAM," writes rather carelessly in the following paragraph, as in other paragraphs also. He says—"Our good friend Rev. Mr. Carpenter, a returned missionary, last year drew a picture of Siam with its millions of people, and of Karens, nobody knows how many—that seems to have taken a mighty hold upon the minds of many young people in the Provinces, but he drew no such picture as the Secretary of the American Baptist Missionary Union has drawn." Now Mr. Carpenter, in what he said to our brethren in the Convention at Windsor, had in view one thing, and I, in my remarks, at Saint John, another thing. If I am correctly informed Mr. C. spoke of Siam only in relation to the Karens inhabiting that country, and advocated, not a mission to the Siamese, but to the Karens in Siam. Further, Mr. Carpenter gave no indefinite and extravagant estimates of the population of Siam—he is the last man in the world to do that sort of thing. He said the population of Siam, according to the latest and most reliable statistics, was 8,000,000, and as far as could be ascertained there were 50,000 Karens in Siam. I cannot learn that Mr. C. said anything at all in the way of arguing for the project of a Siamese mission by our Provincial brethren. If he did advocate that, then some present will surely remember it, and I must stand corrected. He may have said something in regard to the fact that, in going with a mission to the Karens of Siam, missionaries would meet with no interference or obstructions from the Siamese government, as there is now perfect religious liberty in that country. Had Mr. C. been urging a mission to the Siamese, he could, and would, no doubt, have said more in its favor than is to be found in the single fact of religious toleration.

In conclusion, for the present, if "An Oriental" wishes to divert the minds of our brethren from the contemplated project of a mission to the Siamese, and in that I feel disposed to join him, let him not distort some facts, and present other facts in such a way as to make of them mere fictions.

W. S. MCKENZIE.

ERRATA.—In my former letter "Cocacanda is 200 miles east," &c., should have been "is north-east," &c., also "The Foreign Mission Board make mistakes," should be may make mistakes, &c.

W. S. MCK.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION IN SIAM.

BY AN OCCIDENTAL.

The readers of the *Christian Messenger*, who have only a tolerable acquaintance with mission history in the Asiatic countries, must have perused with surprise, if with no other emotion, the wild statements recently published by "An Oriental" relative to the work attempted by the American Baptist Missionary Union among the people of Siam. And those not familiar with such history, and how many are not,