

"To-morrow morning," answered Mrs. Secor, laying her card on the table. "Be at my house at eight, and you can take breakfast before you begin. I will give you breakfast and dinner, and you can come home to supper with your mother."

Neither meat, nor tea, nor coffee, nor milk had been possible to the Mac-Brides in some time. Potatoes, meal, and molasses, had formed their diet. A few days of good food and steady work in Mrs. Secor's sunny, airy house, wrought a great change in the looks of the seamstress, and ere long she was able to remove to better apartments. Mrs. Secor interested herself to obtain employment for her from other friends, and as the winter deepened, and the poor suffered more bitterly, she multiplied her errands of charity, and tried harder than ever to find ways and means of helping those who were in distress. She did not buy so many new dresses, nor wear as rich a bonnet as Mrs. Dart, but when her head pressed the pillow at night, her sleep was sweet, for often there came to her the blessedness of his tender voice, who said, "Inasmuch as ye did it to the least of one of these, ye did it unto me."—*Christian Weekly.*

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. To the Rescue at Last.

Mr. Editor,—

When I finished my open letters to Revs. D. D. Currie and A. W. Nicolson on the lexicon and communion questions, it was my intention to let the matter drop, as I could see that all efforts on my part, and that of others, to get the lexicon question settled were in vain; but a letter dated from Halifax, bearing on the front of the envelope the post-mark 'Pleasant Point,' and signed 'Geo. W. Thompson,' (to me unknown,) which was awaiting me on my return from vacation has tempted me to trouble you once more.

You will remember I asked once or twice why it was that no one came to the rescue of Mr. C. if he was innocent of the charges brought against him. You will also remember my offer to apologise for or withdraw anything I had said on being shewn that I had stated that which was incorrect or misrepresenting, and make all amends for the same. At length Mr. Thompson (the first and only one who has done so) has come out in defence of the above two reverend gentlemen, and calls upon me to apologise, either in the *Westleyan* or *Messenger*, for certain errors, falsifications, &c., which he attempts to point out. But as he completely fails I do not feel called upon to apologise for, amend, or withdraw anything. If Geo. W. Thompson is not satisfied with this, I shall be very happy to send his letter to the *Westleyan*, on condition that it be published word for word and letter for letter, and then if any reader thereof see anything therein that really calls for apology, &c., if I cannot defend myself, I will at once apologise or withdraw as the case may require.

Mr. T. at the end of his letter (which occupies eight pages of foolscap, or measured by the foot rule, eight feet long by eight inches wide) says with reference to his letter, "You are at liberty to use it as you like; either publish in the *Westleyan* or *Christian Messenger*." I shall therefore avail myself of his kindness and for the edification of your readers give a few extracts from this remarkable epistle; and that those most concerned may see what an able defender they have in the person of Geo. W. Thompson.

I shall give the extracts word for word, letter for letter, stop for stop, and with your permission, Mr. Editor, I may address myself to Mr. T. now and then.

Extract 1. "I trust you will not be offended at those few plain words."

Thus begins the letter, and I at once promised to keep cool and not be offended. A few lines below this come a "few plain words." Thus:—

Extract 2. "In rading your articles, I was saying, that proverb came to my recollection. "A fool is knowing by his much spaking" (or writing)."

I wanted to get mad just here, but I remembered my promise. I wonder is Mr. T. an Irishman. He rades and spakes like one.

Yes it was "very injudicious" Mr. T., just as it was "very injudicious" of me some four years ago to "force myself into a controversy" with a gentleman of the woods, whom few would choose as a travelling companion or house pet; and when going along the road a few days ago I espied a relative of the gentleman just referred to, you may be sure, Mr. T., I gave his lordship all the room he wanted.

And although in the said controversy (though I say it) my opponent certainly got the worst of it, for he saw not the setting of that day's sun, the experience gained on that occasion has not I hope been lost upon me, for it was certainly none of the sweetest. And if I had not encountered a certain gentleman (not that I wish to draw ungenerous comparisons by any means) I should not have run the risk of being bespattered with such obnoxious matter as your letter, Mr. T., contains.

Extract 4. "Sir, in your articles, you have not only abused men who, judging from the manner the deal with bible docterns, are your superiors, &c."

The way some of them "deal with bible docterns," Mr. T., show that they have need to learn the first principles of truth and honesty, and the way you deal with the Queen's English shew that your education has been sadly neglected, or that you were a very dull scholar.

Extract 5. "You also handell the name of Wesley . . . I hope, dear Sir, I hope that your teaching may BECOME as orthodox."

What kind of a dog is that, friend T? I have heard of a great many kinds of dogs, but "orthodox" is something new. If you mean orthodox, then I hope your hope will never be realised. I have no wish whatever to be as orthodox as Wesley. Thanks for your good wishes all the same.

Extract 6. "You heap upon him (Mr. Currie) a number of charges which you well know are false."

It would be well for Mr. C. if this statement were correct, but it is as far from truth as Mr. C's statement about the lexicons. The charges have been all sustained, and I am prepared to repeat and re-sustain them before the wide world. I will bear patiently with you, Mr. T., because you know not whereof you speak. You here say virtually that the Greek lexicons give the meanings of baptizo which Mr. C. says they do. Why, Mr. Thompson of Pleasant Point, you are as bad as he. But hold!—did you ever see one of those dictionaries? Did you ever open the covers of an English dictionary? It is good for you that I promised at the outset to keep cool and not be offended, or I would pour out my wrath on you, sir, for charging me with lying when I have not lied. The charges I made I KNOW ARE TRUE, and no living man can refute them. If they could be refuted, it is more than strange that it must be left for you to do. You, who must be one of the most ignorant men in all Nova Scotia. Read my letters again Mr. Thompson, if you have them, and if not I will send them to you in pamphlet form, (with an English Dictionary, post free, if you send me your address) where you will see I have made and sustained another charge which did not appear in the *Messenger*. I wish your letter had reached me in time to be published with those letters, it surely would have helped the circulation amazingly.

Extract 7. "Now, sir, you say. 'We have no account of infant baptism in the word of God.' Such sir is, is a lie, for you will find that when the children of Iseral was crossing the red sea, the Apostle Pall says they were ALL baptized. Now among all this great multitude there must of been some thousands of children. . . . David says 'the clouds pourd water out on them. And I bleive David before you. You say they were not UNDER the cloud. (I said when they crossed the Red Sea.—J. B.) while Pall says in first Cor. x. i. 'All our Fathers where UNDER the cloud, which are we to bleive you or Pall?'"

Extract 3. "In the first place do you not think it was very injudicious of a man possessing such little ability as your writings shew that you possess to force yourself into a controversy with such men as the Rev. — and the Editor — (I omit names out of respect to those gentlemen.—J. B.) Gentlemen of such fine thoughts intelligence?"

How I hope this eight foot letter will be called for to appear in the *Westleyan*. Extract 8. "When you saw (as surly you had sence enough to see.) that you had forced yourself into a trap. When you saw defeat steering you in the eyes &c."

What a joy it must be to those whom Mr. T. defends to find they have one who can so well defend them.

Extract 9. "Some time ago I noticed an article in your church organ under the heading 'Who Makes The Most Ado About Baptism.' Wether it was an article from your own inexhaustible equilibrium, I am not prepared to say, &c."

If it is any satisfaction to you, Mr. T., to know, it was not from my "inexhaustible equilibrium." But I endorse it all; it was a real good article. I am obliged for your supposing my "equilibrium" could produce it. I have to tell you, however, that when I read your letter I lost my equilibrium, and therefore find it quite difficult to reply to you; and I should be glad if you would do me the kindness of enquiring in some of the stores in Halifax to see if you can get a new one for me. This is only fair since you caused me to lose the one I had. I would not trouble you but it is a thing I cannot well do without.

Referring, I suppose, to the Union version, Mr. T. describes it as "manufactured by your (our) demonation." This last word is a new one; the dictionary refuses to give its meaning. The nearest word to it that I can find is "demonian," which means something dreadful!

Extract 10. "You seem very much annoyed because Mr. Currie will not deem your articles (which are so wild and void of comon sence) worthy of notice. In doing so he has obeyed the injunction of our Saviour! Cast not your pearls before swine, least they trample them under their feet, &c."

Here, then, at last, we have the reason of Mr. C's not answering my question. Why did you not tell us this before, friend Thompson? I was thinking it was because he could not, but I find now it was because he was anxious to obey the above command. Thanks to you, sir, for this piece of information.

I hope the above extracts will satisfy, if not I can give plenty more; and if Mr. T. particularly wish and can secure its insertion in the *Westleyan* I will transcribe very carefully and forward it. I would not send the original, for I wish to put that away among my curiosities. And if any one doubts my faithfulness in copying the above extracts, I shall be happy to let them see the original, but they must give a guarantee that they will return it.

In closing his letter, Mr. T., anticipating a confession and apology for my errors which he tries to point out, says:—"I expect the apology through the *Messenger* as you have promised Surly we can depend that much on your word. I shall watch the *Messenger* to see how much honour you possess (if any) Trusting as. Minister you will confess your error through the *Messenger*."

If the foregoing does not satisfy you, friend Thompson, you must write to me again; but go to school a few weeks first, and when you write next do not let it be eight feet of the most unmitigated nonsense it was ever my lot to read from a man professing to be so wise as Geo. W. Thompson. Have mercy on yourself and your friends. For pity's sake, do, and on

Yours, J. BROWN.

Paradise. For the Christian Messenger. From Georgia.

The fearful extent of the ravages of yellow fever on the Mississippi, and several of its tributary streams, it is to be feared, are but faintly realized by few outside the fever-stricken cities and sections where it has been making such fatal progress. To read the news, telegraphic and otherwise, which comes daily in the newspapers, is heartrending enough; but then there come private accounts from those places, making the astounding revelation that these reports only partially represent the extent and soreness of distress in the fever-stricken parts. This is very likely true in many respects; for there are many, very many, reduced in life to hardships, penury and want, living in secluded places and sections, not easily reached

by benevolent societies, sicken and die and their remains scarcely get a decent burial. It is impossible for human judgment to estimate the results of such a fearful visitation, which now is, and has been, occupying the thoughts of many.

It appears that the epidemic is mostly confined to the valley of the Mississippi, and the heaviest percentage of mortality is among children. Another noticeable feature: In places where sanitary laws have been disregarded, and organic matter and filth have been by neglect permitted to accumulate, the fever has assumed its most malignant form. This has been particularly so in Grenada, Miss., where the fever has proved very fatal.

The present year, it may be said, has been somewhat noted for religious awakening in many parts of Georgia. Many of our churches have been blessed and have experienced precious seasons of divine grace in their midst. Several have been made to rejoice that they have found Jesus very precious to their souls and have been added to his church. While Baptists have shared largely in such heavenly blessings, and have been partakers of such divine out-pourings of God's grace, it has by no means been confined to them. Our Methodist brethren have likewise enjoyed the same; many of their churches have been greatly revived and received many accessions.

Between the evangelical denominations in our midst,—Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterians,—there has been of late more Christian unity manifested than for some time previously, while each denomination maintains its own distinctive rules and regulations, members have freely mingled together in their respective houses of worship, prayed together and labored together, and maintained the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

The State School Commissioner, Prof. G. J. Orr, is alive to the interests of education. He is now busy canvassing the State, delivering public addresses, urging the people to instruct their representatives to pass a law giving all the aid possible to the free public schools of the State. These schools only exist three months in each year. The late State Constitutional Convention, much opposed by many excellent men of the State, engrafted into the new State Constitution a restriction that State aid should only be given to the elementary branches of an English education; it also restricted the raising of funds for the support of such schools from any other sources than a very moderate poll tax, a special tax upon the sale of spirits and a tax upon dogs, or to use nearly the language of the Constitution, "A tax upon such domestic animals which from their nature are destructive to other domestic animals." It will thus be seen scanty means are afforded by the organic law of the State for raising such funds. Moreover, this organic provision does not enforce upon the General Assembly of the State the necessity of passing a law to tax the sale of spirits and to derive a tax upon dogs but only makes it the only available provision for raising such funds besides the poll tax.

What Prof. Orr may be able to accomplish remains to be seen. The truth is, most of the old slave-holding element is much opposed to a system of public free schools, and it will require some years yet for the spirit of this opposition to be uprooted in their minds. P. L. H. Stone Mountain, Ga., Sept. 25, 1878.

For the Christian Messenger. John iii. 23.

I notice in the *Christian Messenger*, 21st ultimo, that one who signs himself "An Enquirer" wants to know how those who practice pouring or sprinkling for baptism can reconcile such practice with John iii. 23, "And John also was baptizing in Enon, near to Salem, because there was much water there, and they came and were baptized." This passage, in the view of the Baptists, is very conclusive, and has led thousands to follow their Lord and Master through the baptismal waters; but our Methodist brethren seem to have no difficulty in harmonizing this scripture with their theory of baptism. I had the privilege not long since of hearing a minister of that body inform

his hearers that John did not take his position at Enon because he needed much water for the purpose of baptism, but as John's meetings resembled Methodist camp-meetings, where much people and many animals attended, it was very requisite that he should select a place of much water, very convenient for drinking and cooking purposes. Some again of those good people give us much light on the geography of the country where John laboured by telling us that although John found a place in that dry country where water in sufficient quantity could be found to satisfy thirsty animals, yet so scarce as to be entirely insufficient for the purpose of immersion. This view of the above passage may do very well to help prop up a falling system, but we presume that even babes in Christ, who are willing to follow their great Redeemer through floods and through flames will not be led or influenced by such far-fetched and shallow expositions of plain and simple passages of the Word of God. What an account will such expositors have to give when every man's work must be tried.

Yours in the faith, C. MOSHER.

For the Christian Messenger. United States Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 9, 1878.

Notwithstanding the much-talked-of financial depression, Washington continues active as usual, and there was never a summer when more building was going on than has been the case during the one just passed. Monied people owning real estate here have been taking advantage of the hard times, cheap labor and material to improve their property; and the report of the Inspector of Buildings stated that during last July and August permits for building were issued to the amount of over a million dollars. Values here were established and improvements encouraged by the late Congressional legislation which re-organized the District Government, fixed a maximum of taxation and settled beyond dispute the proportion the United States shall pay towards the support of the District of Columbia.

Among the finest buildings here is that owned by the British Government and used as a legation; and residents of Washington are glad to hear that several other foreign nations intend erecting suitable dwellings for the use of their representatives next spring. The style of living considered imperative upon diplomats and other prominent officials here is such as requires more than their salaries afford unless homes are provided for them extra, as is the case with foreign ambassadors generally. Last winter one of these paid \$1,500 a month for his apartments and service—the expense being borne by his royal master. It is high time a change was made in this direction, and that society should either cease to make such demands upon the higher servants of the Government or that such demands should pass unheeded by the servants. Were the civil service thoroughly pure and honest there would no longer exist the necessity of catering to public opinion and obeying the beck and nod of constituents in order to escape official decapitation.

Poor William Tecumseh Sherman, though General of the whole United States Army, is a doubly and trebly disappointed man. The loss, by death, of his first son, William, was a stroke that nearly broke his heart. But the last stab was inflicted when the oldest living son, trained and educated for the bar, and inclined, as his father believed, to the profession of law, left it, the world and all active living, and buried himself in a monastery in a foreign land, and that without his father's approval, consent or even knowledge, not so much as affording the General a parting interview. The blow cut all the more keenly from the fact that the boy's mother was cognizant of all the boy's actions and failed to apprise the father—designedly keeping him in ignorance of the son's intentions. The General has grown, in the past few short months, from a brisk and youthful-looking man to one old and gray and bowed down.

MERRILL.

The dying testimony of Dr. Raymond, late President of Vassar College, was: "How easy—how easy it is to glide from our work here to our work there."