

"I want Charley Pardee," she muttered, fumbling with her hands.

"Here I am, Aunty."

"Yoh've bin good to me, sonny—better dan anybody in dis wohld. I've got somefin' foh you. Whah's a squire? I must say it foh a squire."

"I am a magistrate, aunty," said the doctor.

"I wants to say, fohr de squire, dat dis boy's uncle, Charles Pardee, was as innocent as a baby of George Tygart's murder. It was my son, Oaf, as done it—Oaf, de barber in Dover."

"I kep' it quiet, 'cos I didn't want Oaf hung. But when he was shot in dat fight las' summer, an' I knowed he'd got to die, I made him write a paper 'bout it, an' swar to it befohr witnesses."

"Hyah's de paper. I gib it to yoh, Charley, kase you've bin good to me. I don't want folks castin' up to yoh dat yoh's got a uncle whah's grazed de galls. Yoh've bin good to me, Charley."

"Before morning she was dead."

"Grandfather," said the boys, after a pause, "is that a true story?"

The old man's eyes grew dim.

"Boys," he said, "I was seventy-seven!"—Rebecca Harding Davis in Youth's Companion.

Ministerial Intelligence Office.

The way some church committees go hunting for a minister having "gifts, grace, and usefulness," borders somewhat upon the peculiar. The Christian Advocate prints the following as an actual letter of inquiry, addressed by a worthy lay brother to an official of a certain church, whose minister he wanted to get:

Subject of inquiry, Rev. —

- 1. Age.
2. Number in family.
3. Salary paid him present year.
4. Style of preaching—doctrinal, rhetorical, philosophical, emotional, or composite.
5. Health or physical condition.
6. Pastoral and social qualities.
7. In what rank or class would you place him as to his pulpit efforts—ordinary, intermediate, or extraordinary?
8. Is his preaching marked by any freshness, or originality of argument, or illustration, or thought in any department?
9. Any information with regard to his wife and family, bearing upon his capacity for usefulness, will be gratefully appreciated.

If this thing is going to be done at all, it may as well be done in a business-like way, and the best method we can suggest is that of a Ministerial Intelligence Office. It should have two sets of inquiries:—that above for the church desiring to know of a minister's merits, might do. But the minister ought to have a chance, and some such schedule as this might answer:

Subject of inquiry — Church.

- 1. Social character [state if Plebeian or Patrician], and how many well-dressed, cultured Christians there are who are about as good as they can be, and serve as bright and shining lights for others to look at.
2. Number in congregation of males and females, and state if the females are as a rule good-looking.
3. Salary paid former pastor, and was it paid promptly?
4. Style of preaching required? Are the congregation up in the classics? Do they want regular allusions to Tyndall and Huxley; and must Spencer be confuted and utterly overthrown more than once a year?
5. Cost of church building, its architecture, and amount of mortgage. If none, give the excuse for the destitution.
6. Is there an organ? if so, maker and number of stops, and state if blown by water or manual power?
7. Weight of bell?—and is it the biggest one in the place?
8. Average amount of contributions?
9. Are there many wealthy people in the church, and is their property in bloated bonds or real estate? What are they worth? and state whether the amount is given in 92 cent pieces or in dollars.
10. Number of stingy people.
11. How many "managers" in the church, and of what sex, and who has the upper hand; and state if the minister is ever allowed to have opinions of his own, and if so, upon what subjects?
12. Least number of tea fights the minister must attend weekly.
13. Can the minister occasionally select a hymn, or are all the selections made by the choir leader?
14. State how many ministers the church has had during the last twenty-

five years, and state how long it will be before Divine Providence is expected to call him to another field to give place to a younger man.

15. State if what is wanted is a minister and pastor, or simply a hired man to do the preaching.

16. Give any other information not included in the above.

In the absence of any Ministerial Intelligence Office we shall be glad to answer any inquiries that may be addressed us as to the qualifications of ministers or congregations. Terms to ministers, free; to congregations, 5 per cent. on the amount of the church mortgage.—Christian at Home.

A Presiding Elder's Joke.

The Universalist pastor at Hightstown, New Jersey, one day was on his way to Goodluck, a town in Ocean county, to preach to the society there. He changed cars at Farmingdale, taking the New Jersey Southern line to Toms River, and thence he was to take a stage to his destination. It was in the winter, and a snow-storm was in progress. When he entered the cars the seats were mostly occupied. He found a vacant one by the side of a clerical-looking gentleman, made the usual inquiry and was invited to sit down. As he did so, he remarked:

"I always like to get into good company; you are a clergyman, I presume, from your appearance?"

"I am," was the reply; "and for the same reason I take you to be one."

"Yes. Of what denomination are you?"

"I am a Methodist, presiding elder of this district, on my way to a quarterly meeting. To what church do you belong?"

"I am a Universalist, pastor of the church at Hightstown, on my way to Goodluck to preach to-morrow."

"Married?"

"Yes."

"Any children?"

"Yes."

"Have you a pleasant home?"

"Yes, as comfortable a home as any man in town."

"Do you love your wife and children?"

"Love them? Of course I do. No man has pleasanter family relations than I have."

"Then I wouldn't, if I were you."

"Wouldn't what?"

"Wouldn't leave a comfortable home and a happy family in such a storm as this, and make a long and tedious journey to preach a sermon to people whom I believed were bound to be saved, preaching or no preaching."

The Universalist was fond of a joke. He fully appreciated this witty thrust at himself, and was fond of relating the story.—Harper's Magazine.

Blunt, but True.

There is said to be a young man in the Missouri penitentiary, whose parents, at their death, left him a fortune of \$50,000. There is where his parents made a fatal mistake. If they had taken the precaution to invest that sum in a small dog, and shot him, and then simply left the young man a jack-plane, or a wood-saw, with printed instructions how to use it, the chances are that, instead of being in the penitentiary, he would to-day have been gradually but surely working his way up to a handsome competency and an honorable old age. But ever since the days of Adam and Eve, parents have made it a point to toil and struggle all their lives in order to realize a sufficient sum of money to purchase, when they are dead and gone, their sons each a first-class through ticket to the devil, and it is not much to be wondered at that so many of their sons, reared in vice and idleness, as too many of them often are, have no higher ambition than to invest their inheritance in just that sort of transportation.

Soul Sleeping.

N. A. MC CONNELL.

Is man wholly matter?

No. Proof:

1. "It is written man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. iv. 4). To understand the fitness of this proof, it is only necessary to remember that matter only is necessary to sustain matter—that matter can not feed upon spirit, and that the words proceeding out of the mouth of God are

spiritual, and, when understood, the conclusion is reached that man has a spiritual as well as a material nature.

2. "But there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Job xxxii. 8). Now if spirit and matter are not one and the same thing, then man is not wholly matter; and if they are the same, then the passage itself is absurd.

3. "I pray God your whole body, soul and spirit, be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. v. 23).

Here we have the body, which we know is matter—the soul, which is the result of the union between the spirit and the body, and the spirit. These three constitute the man for whose sanctification the apostle prays, saying, "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly" (1 Thess. v. 23).—Chris. Standard.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger United States Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 23, 1878.

The proposition for an adjournment of Congress in June, made in the House of Representatives last week, is said to have no significance beyond killing time for an hour or two for the purpose of crowding out some other speech or petition. There is no real intention of adjourning till August. Congressmen and their families talk as if it were very hard for the members to remain here during the hot weather, but it hardly seems so to us. They undoubtedly occupy the coolest place in the District of Columbia. Besides being higher than the rest of the city, cool fresh air is forced into both Halls constantly, and the temperature thus kept comfortable. They long to be off to the seaside or mountains, however, and therefore legislative duties are irksome.

Last week Mrs. Grant's sister, who live here, received letters from the ex-President's family describing their visit to Rome. The most striking event of their visit appears to have been their presentation to the Pope. In 1873 Genl. and Mrs. Grant celebrated their silver wedding at Long Branch, and, among other gifts, Mrs. Grant received from her husband a silver cross. This the lady (good Methodist!) took with her when she visited the Pope, and asked him to bless it for her, which he did. Her letters do not state whether or not she kissed his toe.

The weather is fast growing warm and the markets are full of spring flowers and vegetables. Strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers and various relishes are abundant, though not yet low in price, and wood nose-gays may be had for a penny or two. Bunches of violets are most common unless it be lilacs which are too fragrant to be winsome.

Friday afternoon the question relating to the rebuilding of the William and Mary's College, in Virginia, was brought up and so determined was the effort to defeat the bill that the action very nearly approached the old-time filibustering movements to kill time and keep speeches in its favor from being made. Three or four times the yeas and nays were called, each roll-call occupying more than half an hour. Such times are not wholly uninteresting to the looker-on. They afford opportunity for a study of human nature at least. All interest in what is before the House ceases among the members the moment the yeas and nays are called, and they relapse into their reading, writing, conversation or naps, as inclination chances to prompt. The hum of voices is continuous, and every lounge in the room—and there are 12 or 15—is occupied by prostrate forms of the honorable gentlemen, some with handkerchiefs spread over their heads and nearly all sleeping. Indeed, the occasions are rare when these sofas are empty of nap-takers.

The weather is getting warm and people are making preparations for leaving the city. Houses in the suburban villages are renting fast. Many business men who own cottages from five to ten miles out of town, shut up the city houses, move their families into the country and go back and forth daily upon the steam-cars. A large number of Government clerks also go out into these villages and board during the summer months.

For the Christian Messenger. Our Paris Letter.

No. 2. (From our Am. Correspondent there.)

HOTEL DU LOUVRE, PARIS, April 11, 1878.

Somebody has said that Americans make the best Frenchmen of all the foreigners who flock here from all parts of the globe; and from what I have seen of our beloved countrymen abroad, I am inclined to believe that such is really the fact. The English are always English, and promenade in London styles on the Rue de Rivoli, affect nothing but dog-carts and drags on the Boulevards and in the Bois de Boulogne, and, when they condescend to learn French, never speak it without the peculiar nasal cockney twang of Piccadilly. The Russians, of whom there are always a large colony here, are intensely Russic in everything, and spend more money on diamonds and champagne than all the other foreigners put together. The Germans, of whom we have also a great many here, are, as a rule, of an economical turn of mind; patronize cheap restaurants and third-class hotels, and assimilate with nothing as readily as beer. They are the least popular of all the foreigners here, for Paris has not yet forgotten 1871. But an American has not been a week in Paris before he waxes his moustache, buys a plug hat of the latest Parisian style at Chantilly, sports lavender kids and a whale-bone cane.

During the last fortnight, every train from Calais and Havre has brought a swarm of Americans to Paris, most of whom intend to remain here during the coming exhibition. Go to any of the first-class hotels and you will find crowds of them.

It is yet too early to derive much pleasure from a visit to the Exposition grounds, where everything is still in confusion; but from day to day, order is being evolved from chaos, and by the first of May, everything, with the exception of the United States Division, will be in apple pie order, and our Commissioners are doing all they can to make, at least, a respectable show at the opening.

The Wheelock engine, built at Worcester, Mass., which is to propel the machinery in the American section, is now being erected, and will be ready for its trial test in a few days. Though inferior in size to many of the engines in the French, English, and German departments, it compares favorably with them in workmanship and finish, and I was told by the engineer in charge that it works almost noiseless. Strange to say, Krupp, the famous gun manufacturer of Essen, in Rhenish Prussia, has, so far, none of his cannon placed in position; perhaps this is a point of delicacy, however, because Paris saw and felt rather too much of the Krupp cannon in 1871. The monster gun which he had on exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876 has been purchased by the Russian Government, and now forms an important and formidable part of the armament of the fort Cronstadt, in the Baltic Sea.

The recent order issued by the art committee of the French Commission, that no paintings commemorating scenes from the late Franco-German war would be allowed at the exhibition, has given rise to considerable dissatisfaction among some of the leading French artists, who had painted battle scenes with the express purpose of exhibiting them to the world at the Champ de Mars this summer. But this order was made imperatively necessary by the action of the Emperor of Germany in prohibiting German artists from contributing pictures of the siege of Paris, battle of Sedan, and similar scenes by no means soothing or complimentary to the French. So that the Art Gallery at the great International Exposition of 1878 will be neutral ground, where both nations may meet without stumbling over anything that would rip up wounds that have scarcely healed yet.

The canvas screens, which it has been found necessary to stretch across the roof of the United States annex, are in place, and will bear favorable comparison with anything of the kind in the Exhibition. Each screen bears the name and device of one of the States of the Union, and in the centre is a grand design representing the arms of the United States. The colors are very

bright, and the ornamental designs very chaste and effective. The designs on the screens are so arranged as to form lines running the whole length of the building, so as to draw out the perspective lines and make the United States section appear as long as possible. Even if we are limited in space, we are bound to make the most of what we have, and by a little innocent optical illusion, "make," as the Parisians say, "the sausage look as big as possible!"

LOUIS. For the Christian Messenger Foreign Missions.

LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF THE N. S. CENTRAL BOARD.

CHICAGO, Feb. 21, 1878.

My dear Mrs. Selden,—

I am so glad to have no sickness to report. At last we seem to have distanced our enemy, though he fairly fought us off the field in Kimediy. I wonder that we escaped so well after running such risks. Chicacole is a very healthy place. The sea breeze here is just delicious, cool, fresh, invigorating, it seems to put new life in us.

We had a very pleasant visit to Cocanada during the Conference there, and feel the better for it in many ways. We went to Bimbi by land, Mr. Sanford having sent his bullock-coach for us; we got over the road very comfortably. Mr. Armstrong was still weak at that time, and the doctor feared the journey would be too much for him, but we thought we would try it, we were so anxious to go.

We had a pleasant visit of a day or two at Bimbi, and went thence accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Churchill to Cocanada, by steamer. Though it is a rapid way of travelling, I dread it very much. In going and coming from the steamers you have to pass through one, two, or three miles of shallow water in a small boat under a burning sun, and through surf that is very trying to any nerves. This is peculiar to all the eastern coast of India. We were well repaid, however, by the warm welcome awaiting us and the happy intercourse of friends we had not seen for a year. We were very much pleased with the New Canadian missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Craig. It was a good time to plan for reaching here to attend Conference, and so become acquainted at once with those already on the field.

We spent nearly a fortnight in Cocanada and reached home again in safety early in February. Mr. Armstrong's health seems thoroughly restored. So we have gone to work here in hopes of a more favourable time than we had in Kimediy.

I have been very much pleased with the way the little girls have answered to our call to come and learn with us. We have two Brahmin girls and others of all castes in regular attendance. We have quite a number of little boys, too. Three little folks came for admittance the other day whom I would have liked you to have seen. Two little boys and a mite of a girl that looked more like a little black doll than a human being. The boy of six was husband to the little woman of four. She had been engaged and married and left her mother's for her husband's home at that tender age.

I cannot say how anxious we are to hear from home and know what the Board have to say about our leaving Kimediy. I know they will share in our disappointment. I never felt so impatient, or rather desponding, during the past year. There was so much to be done, and we had no strength, our hands completely tied with the fever and ague. Whoever was well at all had all they could do in taking care of the sufferers. I feel very thankful that we are so well rid of it, and trust now that we will be able to work with fewer hindrances.

I was very glad to get your donation of one hundred dollars (from the Central Boards) for school purposes, which came to hand last month.

We are very pleasantly situated here, though our house roof is rather insecure. We have a room for meetings, and give the veranda, or, rather, two rooms enclosed on it, to the school. We trust ere long to have permission to buy and repair and enter into possession. The house we vacated in Kimediy has been rented by a government official there. He came a stranger and had no place to live. His being there will keep the place from going to ruin. In case the Board do not wish to sell out, it gives fair interest on the money spent there. Believe me, as ever, Yours affectionately, H. M. N. ARMSTRONG.