

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger United States Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16, 1878.

Genl. Sherman received a letter from ex President Grant recently, in which the latter expresses himself as immensely gratified and entertained in his European trip, and especially with his voyage up the Nile. He makes no allusion to politics in his letter, but mentions his freedom from care, anxiety and responsibility. He says the passage of the silver bill in the House here created considerable adverse criticism in Europe, but he finds that where the provisions of the bill as finally adapted are understood it is regarded more favorably.

Mr. Hayes cannot be called a favorite. His personal friends love him. His wife and children love him. But politicians as a rule do not. Neither do the mass of people and the mass of politicians incline towards the same character of President. Politicians prefer men of Franklyn Pierce's worldly stamp—whose vices and preferences are in sympathy with their own. "But this the wholesome feeling of the citizen abhors. The rank and file demand purity and moral sufficiency. The high and mighty would have their Chief on a level with themselves—intellectual, but not good. Mere intellectuality is common in public stations; goodness is rare—the goodness of a soft temper, a sample not rejected, a fortitude equal to abuse, but speechless."

People are getting worn out with fun and work and are beginning to talk of leaving the city. Secretaries Thompson and Schurz have gone west. They are called the champion workers of the Cabinet, and both are now haggard and sick with overwork. The President is the only important public man who seems as good as new. He pursues the even tenor of his way so regularly and so easily that nothing wears upon him. Here is the best pen picture of his personal appearance I have ever seen. It is from George Alfred Townsend, better known as "Gath":—

"Hayes gave us a good view of his back hair, cerebellum and animal nature, of which there is plenty. His sandy-gray hair, long and turned under at the bottom of the locks with the regularity of a country choir-leader's, is set upon a reddish neck of the kind called bull's. This neck expresses weather, food, appetite and gratification. The physique underlying it is heavy, but on a medium frame. The expression of the face is at variance with this physique, as if gentle manners, persisted in, had modified the bull. No politician can look into that face and live; it seems to say, 'I'm not of your kind, and, if bothered, will call on the bull part of me.'"

MERRILL.

For the Christian Messenger. LOCKEPORT, April 18th, 1878.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

Will you be kind enough to publish the following letter in the Christian Messenger?

(1.) For six brief years I have ministered to the Baptist church in this place. The unanimous voice of the people called me to the pastorate in the first instance in spite of the inexperience of youth and the untried ability of a mere beginner in the Lord's vineyard, and the same voice has held me year after year, charitably overlooking the weaknesses of the flesh until my sixth has come to a close. It has been our aim from the beginning to build up a church, with the help of God, after the apostolic model. We have rigidly held to a converted membership—believers' baptism—restricted communion—godly living—personal, united and persistent effort for the salvation of the perishing, and the voluntary gift of money to meet the various claims of the Redeemer's kingdom. We rejoice in the assurance that God has approved both our purpose and our work, for during the six years, seventy-two have been added to our number, an average of twelve each year, and of one each month. This is not great numerically, but who can estimate the momentous issues which eternity shall reveal? Besides this number added to the church, of such as shall be saved, we humbly trust, how many more

have swayed to the power of the truth as fruit trees sway to the wild wind? how many hearts have been moved by the gentle influences of the Spirit? how many have been brought into the narrow defile and are almost persuaded? We may never know how many, but our Master knows all about it, and since He is to have the glory and not ourselves, so long as He has been honored, we are more than satisfied.

Next to the Lord's goodness, which as a sun has shone with undiminished splendor all along our pathway, comes the goodness of the people, which has held us in loving embrace alike in storm and in sunshine. If we have been unflagging in zeal and untiring in effort for their spiritual good, they have been yet more abundant in expressions of love, in words of sympathy and encouragement, and in the more substantial tokens of appreciation—a promptly paid salary, numerous gifts of gold, silver, if not "frankincense and myrrh." A grateful remembrance of the many kindnesses shown us forces from our pen what has often been repeated in the closet of prayer: "God bless the people for their large-hearted benevolence, and return to them an hundred fold in knowledge and righteousness and true holiness." The people themselves are not less surprised than my friends will be to learn that this pleasant union is about to be dissolved.

The past year has gone by, and, so far as we can judge, there has been no conversions. The congregation has been as good as could be desired, the truth has been attentively heard, and the services throughout have been deeply solemn, but not one solitary soul that we know of has been brought to Christ. It is this harrowing conviction that gives significance to every other reason we may have for desiring a change of pastorate.

It is too bad to have a month pass away in the exercise of the divinely appointed means by the church, and not one soul saved; but that a whole year should have passed in effort to save the perishing, without success in one solitary instance, points to some break in the circle of influence with God which we are pleased to interpret, a lack of sympathy and co-operation on the part of a few. Complete unity between the whole church and the pastor is essential to a happy and successful ministry. Any break here is disastrous alike to the cause of God and the interest of souls.

Thus our first pastorate will close the 1st of July. An important vacancy will thereby be created. One of the strongest men will be needed. My own future is uncertain.

Yours fraternally, EDWD. WHITMAN.

For the Christian Messenger.

Valedictory Address.

TO THE REV. JOHN CLARK:—

Reverend and Dear Brother,—Your withdrawal from the pastorate of this Church affords us the opportunity of expressing our warm attachment to you as a Christian brother, and our high appreciation of your efficiency as a preacher of righteousness.

For nearly four years you have been our "under Shepherd," going in and out before us; and now that you are about to leave us, to exercise the functions of a Christian minister in another field of evangelical labor, we may say that the longer you have been with us, the more highly have we prized your effectiveness in the pulpit, and your fervent devotional spirit in the social gatherings of the church.

During your pastorate over us, revival influences have been experienced, and we have rejoiced over a considerable accession to our numbers.

While our attachment to you has not diminished, we would not, if we could, detain you an hour, if you have the prospect of more pleasant associations and greater usefulness elsewhere. With all our hearts, though the separation be painful, we would say:—"Go, brother, go; go in the name of the Lord; and may your future be more bright and prosperous than your past has been.

Be assured that you will long live in our affectionate remembrances—both yourself and sister Clark have our prayers for your future happiness in all your relations, domestic, social and ecclesiastical.

With esteem and Christian love for you as a faithful servant of Christ, we bid you farewell!

Signed in behalf of the Church, JOHN RICE, Church Clerk.

REPLY.

Dear Brethren,—

I cannot express the feelings with which I have listened to your Address. Language is insufficient. Words are simply vehicles of thought, and are often poor at best. The printer's type gives but a faint idea of a speaker's fire and force; and there is just as much difference between our warmest feelings and our most expressive utterances. I can only say that I thank you very heartily for this and every other expression of your sympathy and love. You have been very patient with me; I might almost say, indulgent. Your kindness has been uniform and constant; and it has been doubly sweet to me because it has been shown for the Master's sake. Bye-and-bye you will find all your kindness to me credited to Him. You will hear Him say: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." This affords me real joy; for I want no friendship or pleasure apart from Him. During the time I have been among you, I have lived and labored for Christ, and I have endeavored to extol His word, His work, His worth. Whatever has been done in the way of conversion, edification, and encouragement has been done by His Holy Spirit, and in His name and strength. My motto has been: "Christ first, man next, self nowhere." Scarcely any language can better describe my feelings than that of the hymn:—

"Oh, to be nothing, nothing, Only to lie at His feet, A broken and emptied vessel, For the Master's use made meet. Emptied that He might fill me, As forth to His service I go; Broken, that so unhindered, His life through me might flow."

We part with the most pleasant remembrances. Our fellowship has been happy and uninterrupted. (Our absence from each other is only "for a season.")

"Yes, we part, but not for ever, Joyful hopes our bosoms swell; Those who love the Saviour, never, Never know a last farewell. Blissful unions Lie beyond this parting vale."

"We love as brethren." "Love is of God;" and "God is love." Hence our love must be eternal. We have worshipped together here; we shall worship together yonder. We have bowed at the same footstool; we shall stand before the same throne.

The work performed remains. God's blessing has been given; and seed already sown will yet bear fruit to life eternal. The word preached has been "the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." Fruits have yet to follow. Other hands may gather them. It matters not; the glory belongs to God. "Neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

May the Lord bless you, and be with you all. Amen.

For the Christian Messenger.

Our Paris Letter.

(From our Correspondent.)

ARRIVAL OF AMERICAN EXHIBITS AT HAVRE —THE FIRST MAN ON THE GROUND—HOW THE U. S. AGRICULTURAL SHOW WILL LOOK —A CHAT WITH MR. WA-KAI, OF YEDDO, JAPAN—ENGLAND AND RUSSIA AT THE EXHIBITION—THE CATALOGUE.

HOTEL DU LOUVRE, PARIS, April 3, 1878.

As probably some of my readers will visit Paris this summer, I shall commence this letter by warning them against making arrangements for board or apartments too far in advance. Within the last fortnight, owing to the sudden influx of foreigners, which was, however, somewhat checked by the cold, snowy, and disagreeable weather that set in last week, landlords have raised their prices in anticipation of a big rush; but I am of opinion that, while the Exhibition will be a grand success in every respect, the visitors from abroad will neither, owing to hard times, be as plentiful as expected, nor so reckless in their expenditures. It costs as much now to live in Paris, as in New York, Philadelphia, or Boston; but after the opening of the exhibition it is more than probable that the cost of

living will be reduced, as many landlords will have empty rooms upon their hands on account of their present extravagant demands. An American, a stranger in Paris, would do well, before making permanent arrangements, to consult some of his more experienced countrymen. Of course, here, as elsewhere, he must look out for "black sheep" and use due discretion as to whom he confides in; but not to any greater extent than in the ordinary transactions of every-day life at home.

The two first American vessels which left the United States with articles for the Exhibition, the 'Supply' and the 'Constitution,' have arrived at Havre, safe and sound, and their cargoes are expected to arrive here in a few days. The first American on the ground with his exhibit was a starch manufacturer (I could not learn his name) who had shipped his complete exhibit at his own expense by the French line of steamers; and he was followed by Messrs. Mallory, Wheeler & Co., of New Haven, Conn., who have their fine exhibit of hardware, locks, &c., almost complete. The floor in the United States Division is already marked out and numbered, and everything is in readiness for the reception and arrangement of exhibits; and when I visited the grounds yesterday they were just completing the brick and concrete foundation for the steam engine which is to furnish the motive power in the American section.

One of the finest exhibits will be that from the Agricultural Department in Washington, the preparations for which are now being made. In the middle of the Agricultural Gallery there has been a space marked out, 75 feet square, in the middle of which is the figure of a five-pointed star, at each of the points of which will be erected a five-sided or pentagonal column, surmounted by an ornamental urn. In the center of the star will be a pyramid or terrace, made of glass, and surmounted by an eagle; and within this glass case will be exhibited choice specimens of the agricultural products of the United States. Reaching from this center to the five columns, which mark the points of the star, will be glass show-cases placed on counters and filled like the central case with specimens of grain, cotton, tobacco, &c.; and in the urns on top of the columns will be specimens of growing plants, such as corn, tobacco, cotton, rice, etc. Altogether, it will be a most tasteful exhibit, and will compare favorably with anything in that line from any other nation.

A few days ago, whom should I meet in the Champ de Mars but my old friend, Mr. Wa-Kai from Yeddo, Japan, whose acquaintance I first had the pleasure of making at Vienna in 1873, and to renew at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, where he represented the Koshio Gaishia Company, (I believe that is the way he spells it,) one of the largest manufacturing of china and lacquered ware in Japan. He is preparing a magnificent display here, which will surpass in costliness and grandeur anything the company has shown at previous exhibitions. Mr. Wa-Kai and your correspondent had a quiet walk together across the bridge and into the grounds on the other side of the Seine, where workmen are now busily engaged in the construction of grotesque, miniature cascades, the laying out of beds, placing statues, and planting of trees, shrubs and flowers. These grounds, while not so extensive as those at Philadelphia, will surpass them in beauty, and will be provided with cafes, confiseries, and restaurants innumerable, which will be under the immediate supervision of the French Commission.

As usual, England is ahead in point of completeness and forwardness of her exhibit, and, next to her, comes Russia, whose exhibit is on a gigantic and magnificent scale, surpassing in volume more than ten times what she sent to Philadelphia. The war cloud intervening between these two nations does not seem, in the least to darken their friendly rivalry at the Exhibition. The United States Section is more behindhand than any other nation, but a few weeks of hard work, now when most of the exhibits have arrived safely at Havre, will soon bring that round, and they will have everything in readiness to make at least a respectable show on the 1st of May, when the Exhibition opens. It is unfortunate that they are bordered on one side of the English Section, which

is more than four times the size, and with which they can scarcely hope to compete, owing to the munificence of the British Government and of wealthy private individuals, who have contributed money lavishly to make their exhibit at Paris a complete success in every respect. On inquiry at the *Impri-merie Nationale*, where the catalogue is now being prepared, I learn that no authority has been, or will be, granted for the sale, within the exhibition grounds, of catalogues, whether general or partial, published by private enterprise. The official catalogue, which will be very complete and printed in French, English, German, and Italian, will be sold at actual cost by government agents.

LOUIS.

For the Christian Messenger. Exegetical.

Psalm xxv. 11. "For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great."

When it is evident from plain and unequivocal cases, in which a word occurs, that it is susceptible of different meanings, it obviously ought to be understood, in any instance, in that sense which best accords with the context, and the nature of the subject. The greatness of one's iniquity should, indeed, be an inducement for him to be urgent in pleading for pardon; but it seems unnatural for him to allege this as a reason why it should be forgiven. There appears, therefore, some degree of obscurity in this text, arising from the use of the word "for."

Unquestionably the Hebrew (*ki*) here so rendered, often has this meaning; but the learned *Storkius*, who takes it in this text in a concessive sense, ("*quavis*) though," cites a number of passages which, to my satisfaction, fully confirm this view. See Exod. xxxiv. 9, where it is natural to read, "I pray Thee go among us, though it is a stiff-necked people. Ps. xli. 4, "Heal my soul, though I have sinned against Thee." In Ps. xlv. 20 it is rendered with manifest correctness, "Though Thou hast sore broken us," &c.; xlix. 19, "Though while he lived," &c., and Ezek. lii. 9, "Though they be a rebellious house." In Isa. xii. 1, no other rendering can make a consistent sense, O LORD, I will praise Thee; though Thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away."

As it is manifestly natural and proper in imploring pardon to confess the greatness of one's sin, in my opinion the text should read, "For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, though it is great."

C. TUPPER.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

BARTON, DIGBY Co.—Dear Editor,—

Recently I have had the pleasure of burying and raising again (Rom. vi. 4) seven suitable persons for this process. Others have professed fitness for this watery interment and resurrection. We hope that the good work will go on, and that many more will submit to this ordinance—having believed—as a necessary qualification to its administration.

On the occasion of administering the ordinance to three of the persons named, we had a SPRINKLING. The subjects were all present. The administrator, the clouds above us. It rained. We were all baptized, under the cloud and in the sea. Some who were present and received the pouring as indicated were quite as fit, I doubt not, as many who receive it in the name of baptism from the hands of a "Free Moral Agent" nearer terra firma. However all the subjects present could walk and talk and wore long clothes.

I do not object to this manner of receiving baptism (so called). A sprinkling from my Heavenly Father's hand, without basin, bowl or altar. Our old mother Earth seems to enjoy it too. It is really regenerating to her, at least as well as to her infant progeny, the springing blades of grass. In any other form I do object to it. I do not like sprinkling except administered by "watery clouds"—not over partial to that, much depends upon quantity—and believe that they alone have authority to "drop" water upon saint or sinner, infant or adult.

Yours in the water, GEO. H. GOUVER.