

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. Letter from Paris.

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(Correspondence of the Christian Messenger.)

EXHIBITION OF BRONZES—COMPETITION BETWEEN BRUSSELS AND PARIS, PIRACY AND CHEEK—HOW AMERICAN INVENTORS HAVE BEEN TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF—THE FUTURE USES OF THE EXHIBITION BUILDINGS—ELECTRIC LIGHTS—HOW AND WHY THE PARISIANS GROW HAPPY.

HOTEL DU LOUVRE, PARIS, Sept. 12, 1878.

Formerly churches and palaces alone enjoyed the luxury of decoration, whereas now every middle-class drawing-room possesses its elegant mantel ornaments, elaborately worked candelabra or chandeliers, goblets, flower-stands, and pretty faience. The desire to be surrounded with works of art is a craving which is felt by everyone, and is a sign of refined and intelligent civilization. Paris was the cradle and still remains the principal centre of the bronze industry. In the present Exhibition is noticed a formidable competition to the hitherto unrivalled superiority of the Parisian bronzes in the neighbouring capital of Belgium. In the magnificent collection displayed by the Company of Bronzes of Brussels, the anxiety of the Parisian artists to found a museum of decorative art, with the express view of developing the taste of designers, is justified. An equestrian statue of Baldwin of Constantinople and a colossal figure in zinc, intended for one of the gates of Antwerp, gained for this Company a silver medal at the Paris Exhibition of 1867. But these two specimens of its manufacture did not reveal any special characteristics. Like all such subjects, they were made not without the assistance of a sculptor, and were unaccompanied with decorative bronzes wholly designed, modelled, and finished by the Company. The Company did not wish to compromise by a premature display and artistic renown still in its infancy. This wise husbanding of strength is now amply repaid by its present brilliant and unexpected success.

Some of the American exhibitors have been complaining of wholesale piracy on the part of Swedish and other manufacturers, and in some cases the castings of American machines have been used right in the sand, the copyists not even effacing the pattern maker's numbers, &c.

But the worst case of "cheek" that has yet come to view is that of the "R. R. Privilegerte Homboker und Marienthaler Eisenwaren Industrie und Handels Actiengesellschaft," of Moravia, in Olmütz. This "imperial and royally privileged" establishment shows, in the Austrian annexe, padlocks suspiciously American in model and finish, their duplicates being exhibited in the United States section by Mallory & Wheeler. Close inspection shows that these are not merely copies of this firm's American locks, but are really made by the Connecticut firm referred to, bearing the private numberings of that house's catalogue, and numberless little unmistakable "ear marks" not so perceptible to the uninitiated!

The idea gains ground that the Champ de Mars building will not be entirely destroyed, but the two grand machinery galleries and the vestibule facing the Seine will be retained, together with most of the ornamental grounds, including the lakes and fountains. The south vestibule and the picture and industrial galleries being removed, a large space will remain for military manoeuvres, and the noble machinery galleries will be converted into military magazines. The Champ de Mars is a sad, dreary place in ordinary times, and almost any change in its aspect must be an improvement.

The close of the Exposition of 1878 is now gradually drawing near. It seems to be generally understood that its duration will not be prolonged beyond the 31st of October, notwithstanding the many reports to the contrary. It will probably be known in history as the greatest world's fair ever held up to this time. In a financial point of view directly it cannot, however, be considered a success. The cost to the French government has been ninety million francs, while the fullest expectations will be realized if the gross returns

foot twenty million francs. On the other hand, the beneficial results of the exposition will be felt by the nation for years to come. Paris is the heart of France, and upon it depends the life and activity of the nation. By attracting thousands of strangers here from every part of the world, and showing to the world the beautiful results of French genius and workmanship, the old channels of trade, grown sluggish since the recent disastrous war, will be reopened, and a more healthy and vigorous life current will be infused in the nation, already so wonderfully recuperated. The results are beginning to appear even now. Work has been given to thousands of unemployed; business has improved everywhere, and the cry of "Vive la République" comes with such earnestness from all sides, that no one can doubt that the present form of government is becoming more and more endeared to the people. Compared with the Centennial Exhibition, three out of every four Americans who come to Paris ask the question, "How does this exposition compare with our centennial exhibition?" That is a question which they find is a very hard one to answer. The "Centennial" was as far behind the Paris Exposition in some things as this is inferior to ours in other respects. In all things pertaining to American industries and the results of a useful inventive genius, the Centennial was a wonder; but none the less wonderful is this exposition in the amount and variety of everything beautiful and artistic contributed by France and the other nations of Europe.

Important experiments with the electric lights have been made at the Exhibition. The Lontin light was pronounced to be very successful. The price of shares in the Continental gas companies has been seriously affected by these and similar trials.

One of those official returns has just appeared which the least fastidious of the monde elegante stigmatise as degoutant and unfit to appear in the columns of a newspaper. The documents referred to tell us that, during the last year, the fastidious gourmards and gourmets Parisians, actually swallowed 133,061 tons of butchers' meat, 20,587 tons of poultry and game, 20,538 tons of pork and other compounds, 5700 tons of tripe and other delicate inner meats, 25,889 tons of fish. Enough to make a vegetarian faint with horror.

LOUIS.

For the Christian Messenger. United States Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 17, 1878.

The Treasury has an elephant on its hands in the form of ten million silver dollars. One million of them weighs just 26 tons, therefore the U. S. Treasury holds to-day 260 tons of silver dollars. The principal demand for these standard dollars comes from the Western States thus far, and as silver certificates are used to represent the coin, there is little danger of the supply now on hand being exhausted. The higher Treasury officials confidently predict an immediate disappearance of the slight premium which gold coin now commands.

Although the most distressing accounts of the yellow fever scourge continue to reach us and the pestilence appears as yet unabated, yet Southern residents predict with the utmost confidence its disappearance within a month from now. They reason from analysis, saying that 90 days is sure to compass the disease. It was so in all of the three epidemics that have visited New Orleans in the last 25 years. In 1853 the yellow fever carried off 8,117 persons in the city of New Orleans; in 1858 4,839 were stricken and died of the same dread disease; and in 1867 there were 2,972 victims. In each case the pestilence ran its race within 90 days. In 1853 the epidemic raged more fatally than it has ever done, though within 70 years that ill-fated city has been visited no less than 20 times by yellow fever, tens of thousands of her citizens being victims. Well versed physicians tell us that the way is perfectly plain to prevent the terrible plague, and nothing is necessary for that save simple sanitary measures. Prominent Southern men declare their belief that hereafter such precautions will be taken in the cities now under the curse as will effectually prevent the introduction or outbreak of

yellow fever to any extent in all years to come.

Capt. Eads, having benefitted his country inestimably by deepening the bars at the mouth of the Mississippi River, proposes doing it still further service in the same line (of which he is undeniably the master) by improving the channel of the river from the mouth of the Ohio to the sea, a distance of 1,100 miles. The benefits that would accrue to the country at large, and especially to the agricultural interests, are incalculable, and the man who has thus successfully accomplished an immense national good, cannot be unduly lauded. Capt. Eads has been opposed by the strongest possible forces, but by sheer strength of purpose and strong conviction of right on his part his success has been all that the most sanguine could have wished.

There is no end of the things for which the National Capital is famous. For politicians, for lobbyists, for widows, for cripples, for orphans, for fine jewelry, for office-seeking, for titles. It has been called the "city of magnificent distances," and it may just as appropriately be termed the "titled city." It is seldom you meet a plain "Mr.," but you may stand on the Elliott House corner for half an hour and in that time hear a score or two of people accosted as "General," "Judge," "Major," "Captain," or "Colonel." A Chicago man lately met a friend in this city, near one of our leading hotels with the question, "What a Notary Public would be called in Washington?" Said he, "I have just been introduced to a lot of men over there at the hotel, and I happened to know several of them by reputation. A man who served as Captain for 3 months in the — Ill. Infantry, was introduced to me as General. Another who, to my certain knowledge, never shot a gun nor drew a sword, was introduced as Major; and a third, who studied law with Ex-Congressman —, but who got into a Government office before he was admitted to the bar, and never tried a case or made a motion in Court, was introduced to me as Judge." A city of magnificent pretensions withal.

MERRILL.

For the Christian Messenger. Home Missions, &c.

Dear Editor,—

The friends of the Baptist cause are doubtless pleased that the important subject of Home Missions is to become a part of the work of the Convention of the Maritime Provinces. Instead of this movement becoming a hindrance to the progress of Education and Foreign Mission work, as some formerly predicted, we firmly believe it will only tend to their further development.

IMPROVED SYSTEM.

It occurs to us that no more time need be occupied at the Conventions than is now spent, or at the farthest not more than one day additional. If committees, previously appointed, have their reports on these three subjects carefully prepared, as much work can be accomplished in one day as is now frequently done in two. Let the Home Mission, Education, and Foreign Mission subjects each have a day, or a portion of a day, with a public mass meeting in the evening. At these meetings the best minds can be employed to present the most interesting matter to the people. The public will thus become more deeply interested in each object, and our people feel that a tri-cord binds these equally important causes to their hearts which time cannot sever.

Home Missions lay the foundation and Education prepares the way for the successful accomplishment of that noble Foreign Mission enterprise which the Baptists of America so dearly love. The working power of this machinery is of course the Holy Spirit.

A FELT NEED.

The subject of Missions ought to be brought before our people periodically, and in some more practical and energetic form than it has been done in the past by many of our churches.

Each member should be taught that it is their bounden duty to contribute something to each of the benevolent objects of the denomination.

A monthly missionary prayer-meeting might profitably take the place of one of the regular weekly meetings. One

Sunday service in each month, bearing on the subject, with a collection at its close, would tend to increase interest in this important work. Quarterly missionary meetings might be made exceedingly interesting and profitable to our people. Ministering brethren outside could be invited to address the meeting, thus adding largely to the interest.

PUSH.

In this progressive age an individual, to be successful in any enterprise must be energetic and determined. The world should not be wiser than the children of light. All our good people need in order to have an abundance in the treasury, is the claims of the different objects fairly brought before them. Let our leaders see to it that this is done in the best possible manner and good results must follow.

OUR FUTURE.

Now that the three chief objects are fairly before the denomination in our Convention, let there be a grand rallying among its supporters,—a constant bringing in of tithes,—and when this is the case so as to meet the divine approval, such a blessing will be showered down as will astonish the most sanguine.

W. J. G.

For the Christian Messenger. Faith vs. Works in the Central Association.

The Central Association embraces a membership of seven thousand six hundred and twenty-two. Within its limits are comprised our Seminaries of learning and the Metropolis, two great centres of life and power. It occupies the four central counties, one of them the garden county, and all populous, wealthy, and highly cultivated.

The ten thousand Baptists of Vermont, under probably similar circumstances in regard to material wealth, contributed last year \$6000 for Home Missions alone. In the Minutes of the Congregational Association of Kansas, lately published, 139 churches report a membership of 5507. These are all settlers in a new State, and one which has been repeatedly devastated by grasshoppers. Their contributions for benevolent funds amounted to \$2286.75.

The sums reported in the Minutes now before me are, for Foreign Missions \$537.24, or seven cents each, and for Home Missions \$498.03, or six and two-thirds cents per member. But a closer examination of the record reveals even a sadder condition yet. For instance, a church numbering 293 sent for Foreign Missions \$12.09, or four cents each, and for Home \$9.65, or three and one-third cents per member. Another, the largest in the Association, enjoys a membership of 600, and is located in one of the richest farming districts in the province. Her gifts for Foreign Missions were \$19, or three cents per member, and for Home \$12.75, or two cents each. It is difficult to believe that this church has been ministered to by some of the most prominent men in our denomination.

That at —, whose ranks have been joined during the past year by the generous number of 98, and which now numbers 468, sent for Foreign Missions \$25.63, or five and a half cents each, and for Home Missions \$16.50, or three and one-third cents per member. For forty-three years this church has listened to the gospel. Another, forty-eight years of age, numbering 343, and surrounded by an industry whose energies penetrate the remotest nooks of our earth, sent for Foreign Missions the startling sum of two dollars and fifty cents, less than one cent each, and for Home Missions \$15.10, or three and a half cents each.

Another, resting almost under the shadow of our College, and whose home is one of the gems of our rural scenery, numbers 442, and sent for Foreign Missions \$9.82, or two cents each, and for Home \$8.50, less than two cents per member.

Turning now to the Metropolis we find that the Baptists of Halifax contributed for Foreign Missions \$152.56, and for Home \$115.71, in all \$268.27.

During the same time the Wesleyans of Halifax gave for Missions alone \$4613.69, a larger sum than that given by the churches of our three Associations, according to the returns in the Minutes.

The last annual contributions of the

Presbyterian churches of Halifax for Missions amount to \$3269.32.

Comparisons are proverbially odious, but may I not venture to suggest that these figures themselves afford a hint as to one at least of the causes which have produced the disparity so painfully apparent in our statistics in the Metropolis.

I have no spirit to carry this analysis farther; but every one who has a copy of the Minutes under review can learn for himself the value at which the membership of each church estimate their profession of absolute self-surrender to the will and purpose of our Lord, which forms so distinguishing a feature in our Baptist faith.

JAMES.

For the Christian Messenger. Ministerial Aid Associations.

Sir,—

This subject has been before your readers. I would most respectfully offer a suggestion or two in addition.

One dollar only, payable at the death of each minister-member constitutes honorary membership.

Surely there is not a member of any of our churches who could raise a dollar but would cheerfully contribute it to a fund for the benefit of the widow and children of our ministering brethren,—left perhaps comparatively destitute.

I would suggest, 1st, that the annual payment of one dollar constitute the honorary membership.

2nd. That at the death of each minister connected with the Association the accumulated funds be first appropriated towards the payment of the dues entitled to be levied for the minister members and that such ministerial members only be taxed for their proportion of the balance remaining, and that as the Society increased, the sum total to be paid to such widow be limited, so as not to be too burthensome to the ministers in case of the death of a number at any one time.

Our ministering brethren should be eased not burthened by the lay members.

3rd. Any surplus funds accruing to be appropriated towards the support of aged or infirm ministers.

4. That an urgent appeal be made by the officers of each church to secure a large and very general membership, male and female, to this excellent Association.

Yours, &c,  
W. J. G.

Fifth Sunday School Convention of Annapolis Co.

The fifth annual Sunday School Convention of Annapolis County met in Whitman's Hall, Annapolis, on Friday, Sept. 13th, 1878.

In the absence of the President, Mr. H. K. Richards, the senior Vice-President, Mr. J. D. Halfyard took the chair and called the Convention to order at 10 a. m.—Rev. R. Smith conducted the preliminary devotional exercises, after which the managing committee reported a programme, which was adopted.

The secretary presented his report, which contained the following statistics: No. Schools reported, 4 Union, 2 Presbyterian, 6 Methodist, 21 Baptist. Total 33.

No. Teachers reported, 89 male, 96 female. Total 185. No. Scholars reported, 977 male, 1053 female. Total 2030; books in libraries, 5112.

The constitution was read, and the following officers duly elected:—

W. V. Vroom, President; Whitman Armstrong, Dow D. Potter, N. P. Richardson, Isaac Young, Wm. Beals, Alfred Brown, and J. B. Reed, Vice Presidents; J. E. Armstrong, Sec.; G. E. Croscup and J. H. Gates, Assistant Secs.; and J. L. Britain, Treas.

The President, W. V. Vroom, assumed the chair, and announced the first topic for discussion, "The best means of raising funds to carry on Sunday School work."

—Rev. T. A. Higgins opened the discussion with an instructive and highly practical paper. Messrs. S. Spurr, B. H. Parker, O. Dodge, O. Taylor, and Revs. W. B. Warren and W. G. Parker continued the discussion in an animated manner. On motion, resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting, the methods of raising funds for Sunday School work, suggested in the Rev. T. A. Higgins' paper, should be adopted. The meeting closed at 12.30, with the benediction by Rev. T. A. Higgins.