

Correspondence

For the Christian Messenger. Our Paris Letter.

No. 8.

(From our Am. Correspondent there.)

THE PROGRESS OF THE EXHIBITION—WANDERINGS AMONG THE EXHIBITS OF FISHES—INSECTS AND TUNISCIANS—THE PARIS-VOLTAIRE CENTENNIAL—DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO THE AMERICAN DEPARTMENT.

HOTEL DU LOUVRE, PARIS, May 22, 1878.

We are not far from the leafy month of June, and the Exhibition will not be completed before the close of May. Yesterday an immense train of exhibits for the French groups entered the building, and the last may find themselves first. England, the most advanced, has yet to complete her colonial trophy. The Canadian section, very rich, will soon be ready. New Zealand is conspicuous by her absence, and the Cape of Good Hope just puts in an appearance, chiefly in wool, ostrich feathers and diamonds. Australia is nearly settled down to business, and is fully represented, not only by natural products, but by manufactures of a really high order. Each colony has its separate court, and, as the Turk, perhaps, likes to have no rival near its throne. It is fair to say that the Queensland section looks remarkably bright and fair; the walls are covered with excellent local colored photos, whose effect is heightened by their brilliant, but not garish coating of eucalyptus oil. Some mohair, a good twelve inches long, is very much admired, also specimens of dark malachite that Russia has nothing to match. By more careful cultivation of her tobacco, Queensland could become a famous "weed" producing soil. America is actively fixing herself up; the visitor is struck by these facts connected with the States; the smallness of the section, the quantity of chiralurgical instruments, and the abundance of patent medicines. Are people ever ill, or always sick, in the Far West? Her machinery, agricultural especially, is excellent, and so is that from England. Ploughshares are polished like rifle-barrels. The jurors must be Solomons to award the medals to these competitors.

The continued absence of catalogues renders all comparative study impossible. However, this does not prevent the building from being visited by 40 to 100,000 persons daily—a mere overture of the coming crowds. In the way of receipts it will prove a veritable Big Bonanza. Visitors still indulge in wanderings, rather than special inspections; they want to take the whole idea in before looking up details. Yet, not a general excursion you make but you discover something new, and re-visiting of the old is equivalent to an original peep. The aquarium, a subterranean marvel is far from affording a miraculous draught of fishes; quite a legion of eels, pike, crabs, carp, &c., are in depot, to be sent adrift when the water ceases to be troubled. The underground alleys, when choke full of visitors, become as oppressive as a mine before an explosion; in July next the water in the tanks must be raised to such a temperature that the fish may be cooked, if not in their own juice, at least in their own element. The Trocadero is still closed; persons sensitive to suffocation will avoid it, as immense stoves are employed day and night to dry the walls for coloring. The big organ will give its first blow on the 15th of June. On passing the hut appropriated to useful and destructive insects, a notice prays the visitor to draw the guardian's attention to any exhibits desiring to indulge in French leave. As the Shah is to open his own pavilion, pass to that of the Bey of Tunis, whose kingdom cannot be so savage, to judge by the specimens of artistic industry in sword blades and hammer cloths. But a Tunisian passes most of his life in the saddle, and his most trusty companion is a sword with a razor edge, that would make the mouth of a Bedouin water. The Tunisians have an almanac, some very nice jewelry, and fair pottery; they exhibit a curious candle, with fine twisted branches, destined, not to shed light, but to protect against the Evil-eye; just as Italians wear a bit of coral on their watch chains. There is a mosaic table

in marble dating from the foundation of Carthage. Perhaps Queen Dido drank palm wine on it, or cut up the bull's hide into strips to measure the site for the city. There is a man with a necklace of human teeth, said to be a dentist, that produces the same effect on clients as laughing gas. Tunis is evidently behind in musical instruments; crockery-ware does duty for drums, and hollow vessels with skin cords, for banjos. The music, however, has a different kind of weirdness from the Tziganes, and the perfumed coffee, served with a "divine hookah," is the real moka.

We have a Voltaire war raging, and which forms a capital standard for testing the intensity of hate between the clericals and liberals. The French are said to be Voltairians, but in what sense? Certainly not in approving the foibles of that apostle's character, the rude blows he administered to religion and his contradictions. This is the villanous part of the indictment, and that Mgr. Dupauloup expands with more of invective than accuracy or impartial judgment. The municipality of Paris intended to erect a statue to the great encyclopedist and fête the centenary of his death. Reminded by the government that they had no legal power to expend the city taxes thus, the Municipal Council, like true Conservatives, bow to law. Modern modes of critical investigation have condemned all that was light and frivolous in the character of Voltaire, and yet he remains as popular as ever, and everything relating to his life is eagerly sought after. Voltaire loved mankind; he bemoaned the miseries beneath which his fellow creatures suffered, and lamented above all, "Man's inhumanity to man." He exclaimed, "There is no nature, all is art, and that marvellous art reveals a great Artisan." If man was unhappy by nature, Voltaire endeavored to render him less so by subduing his passions, still more so his fanaticism. Thus "toleration" became the text of Voltaire's life and writings; if we cannot love one another, let us at least have mutual toleration; if we think differently it is because God has made us so, and He will punish us only for our actions."

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the American section yesterday. They were shown all the points of interest by Governor McCormick, and frequently expressed their pleasure at what they saw. Tiffany's exhibit particularly attracted their attention, and the Princess of Wales was so well pleased with the goods that she invested the sum of 3,500 francs. The Prince was particularly well satisfied with the American representation on account of the general usefulness of the goods displayed. The Exposition is well attended daily, but it covers so much space that a crowd doesn't make much show. Sunday, of course, is the great day. On that day, however, the English exhibit, which is one of the features of the Exposition, is all covered up. The Prince of Wales has been very favorably received by the French, and they have changed the name of one of their running races to the "Prince de Galles" in his honor. The Paris Figaro had a paragraph the other day to the effect that the Prince wrote home to the Queen, asking if he couldn't go to the races on Sunday, and saying that as he was in another country it wouldn't make any difference. The Queen answered, "No," by telegraph. The number of Americans in Paris is steadily increasing, but they don't stay long as a general thing, preferring to take a little trip and come back to see the exposition when it is finished. Those who do stay who are not millionaires won't be able to get out of the city unless the prices are lowered.

LOUIS.

For the Christian Messenger Ontario Correspondence.

THE APRIL MEETINGS IN WOODSTOCK—HOME MISSIONS—FOREIGN MISSIONS—THE INSTITUTE: ITS WORK AND PROSPECTS—ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT SYSTEMATIC GIVING BY THE CHURCHES, &c.

So long a time has elapsed since the date of my last letter to the MESSENGER that it is difficult to find a place of commencement. The first impulse is, not unnaturally perhaps, to offer apologies and reasons for long silence. But second thoughts, said on good authority to be always better, suggest that it is

hardly worth while to call the attention of your readers to a deprivation of which most of them probably have not been conscious. It will be kinder to spare them the knowledge of their loss.

The readers of the MESSENGER will, I dare say, feel most interested in the state and doings of their own body in Ontario. The semi-annual meeting of the various Boards representing the public work of Ontario Baptists was held a few weeks since in Woodstock. These were, I am sorry to say, the same old stories of debt and deficit in the treasuries. These deficits seem destined to become chronic. In other respects the reports were tolerably satisfactory.

The income of the Home Missionary Society for the financial year ending April, 1878, shows a very gratifying increase over that of the preceding year. It falls not far short of \$8000. This, considering the undoubted "hardness" of the times, is very satisfactory, and is due largely to the indefatigable efforts of the Secretary, Rev. Dr. Davidson. Considerable difference of opinion amongst the brethren had arisen at the commencement of the year in regard to the wisdom of employing a permanent Secretary at a salary of \$100 per month, to give his whole time and energies to the work. The appointment was made with the result of increasing the income of the Board, under too unfavorable circumstances, by about \$3000, if my memory serves me. The reports from the various mission stations showed that 158 had been added by baptism during the previous quarter.

The report of Foreign Mission work and prospects was on the whole encouraging. The chief drawback here was the lack of funds. Some little difficulties had arisen between the Ladies' Mission Circles and the Society in consequence of the method adopted by the former in appropriating funds raised, directly, instead of through the Central Board. It is gratifying to know that correspondence has resulted in bringing about a satisfactory arrangement, the ladies, in a wise and Christian spirit, having amended the constitution of their Circles in the direction required in order to bring them into harmony and close co-operation with the Board.

Another item of deep interest to many in connection with these April meetings was the report of the Committee appointed at the October Convention, by the Trustees of the Institute, to consider the question of an Endowment. The Committee were obliged, I regret to say, to report unfavorably in regard to any immediate movement. The money stringency was found to be still too great. However, after a free discussion, it was resolved, upon the advice of some of the lay brethren, to whose business knowledge deference was wisely paid, that if the crops should prove good this season and the indications of returning prosperity prove reliable, a vigorous effort should be made in the Fall. We wait and hope. The circumstances of the Baptists in Ontario and Quebec are such that those best qualified to judge, feel certain that any effort will be futile, unless the list is very liberally headed by a few of our wealthy men, and it is thought to be better to depend as hitherto upon the liberality of churches and individuals for current expenses than to run the risk of coming to the ground between a partial endowment and partial annual contributions.

Meanwhile the work of the Institute is hopeful. Four students graduated from the Theological Department in April. These all settled down at once on fields of labour awaiting them. Twenty-seven undergraduates from this department have also been located on mission fields for the summer months. Only a few of these have to look to the Board for any part of their support. Notwithstanding this considerable number, other fields could not be supplied, the demand for students being still in excess of supply.

A new departure, too, has been taken this year in the Literary Department. For the first time the Senior Matriculation examination of the University of Toronto was held in the Institute. This is the exact equivalent of the first year examinations in the University. The papers and the order of examination were the same as at University College, Toronto. Five students were examined at the Institute, one of them a

lady. The results are not yet known. The University deputed a gentleman to attend, to whom the sealed question papers are forwarded by each day's mails, and by whom the answers are sealed and forwarded as soon as written. Each student, both in Woodstock and in Toronto, is furnished by the Registrar with a number, with which alone the papers are signed, and by which the writers will be identified after the reports of the examiners have been handed in. Next year it is hoped to have both First and Second Year examinations in Woodstock.

One other question of interest discussed at the April meetings is worthy of record, as the same difficulty doubtless exists elsewhere. Complaint was made of the competition, and sometimes conflict between the agencies of the three societies which represent the great objects of the Denomination.

Some churches gave largely for Home Missions, and little or nothing for Foreign or Ministerial Education. Others gave the lion's share to Foreign Missions, and others again to Education; (too many, alas! gave little to either.) But the evil developed was this: The zealous agent who happens to first visit the prominent fields reaps the crop, leaving but scanty gleanings for his successors. With a view to remedy this anomalous and undesirable state of affairs, a joint Committee was appointed by the three Boards to report a scheme for the guidance of the churches in their beneficence. The movement is certainly a desirable one. Whether a scheme can be devised that will prove workable and be generally adopted remains to be seen.

I. E. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Mr. Editor,—

The Watchman of May 23rd contains the following quotation from the Baptist Battle Flag:—

"If it is right for Messrs. Moody and Sankey to conduct their meetings in such a way that no one would learn to what denomination they belong, then it is right for all others to do the same. If it is scriptural for them to withhold all instruction concerning the Church of Christ and its ordinances, then it must be scriptural for all others to do the same."

And then apparently, in reply to the above quotation, and in vindication of Mr. Moody's manner of studiously withholding from his hearers, his denominational bias, (if indeed he has any) and all instruction concerning the Church of Christ, and its ordinances, quotes 1 Corinthians iv. 29, 30. Now, some of us, are of the opinion that, the apostle Paul would condemn such an application of his teachings. We believe Mr. Moody has said, that as Paul was sent not to baptize but to preach the Gospel. So Christ has sent him. Be it so. Let him do and teach as Paul did. Paul not only baptized Crispus and Gaius, and the household of Stephanus, but he enjoined the observance of baptism, and the Lord's Supper upon the churches. He told the brethren at Corinth that he had received from the Lord that which he delivered unto them, "That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread &c., 1 Cor. xi. 23, 24. And says "Now I praise you brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the ordinances as I delivered them to you 1 Cor. xi. 2. Paul was emphatically an evangelist. He travelled much, and preached the gospel in many cities, and other places; and wrote many letters to the churches, and to individuals, and was the means under God of the conversion of many persons, and although he baptized but a few persons himself, he evidently taught that all believers in Jesus should be baptized. And in writing to the Churches he addresses them as those who had been buried with Christ by baptism, Rom. vi. 4. and Col. ii. 12. Paul does not speak of ministers alone. But of the whole church to whom God had given the various gifts named in 1 Cor. xii. He (Paul) possessed many of those gifts yet he did not on that account, feel justified in keeping back the truth. But at parting with the elders of the church of Ephesus he could say to them. I am pure from the blood of all men, for I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Mr. Moody, in pursuing the course he does, sanctions and helps to propagate all the errors, and false doctrines, (and they are not few nor small) that are held by (the so-

called) Christian churches. Perhaps, he supposes, that, in pleading for a union of all denominations, he is imitating Paul, and even Jesus, when they exhorted the disciples to be united. But he should remember that in Paul's time, although there were a large number of churches, they were all Baptist Churches. Those modern names such as Lutheran, Episcopalian, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Friends, &c., had not then been thought of. Though it is evident, Paul foresaw that, in process of time those sects with their various errors would arise, for he warned the churches against them, Acts xx. 29-30. Mr. Moody is for compromising with errorists, Paul says "come out from among them. Mr. Moody is not willing to be called a sectarian, Paul acknowledges that he belonged to, and gloried in a "sect that was everywhere spoken against," Acts xxviii. 22. And finally according to Jesus and Paul, and the general teaching of the New Testament all those called of God to preach the gospel, whatever their peculiar gifts may be, are required to teach and preach, all the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, and to baptize, or command to be baptized, all who believe the gospel, both men and women; even as Philip did at Samaria, Acts viii. 12. Is it right for the Watchman to make such an application of Scripture as is calculated to encourage Mr. Moody, or any other minister to keep back an essential part of that which Jesus commanded to be taught? Matt. xxviii. 19-20. Jesus says, "He that is ashamed of Me and of My Words, of him will I be ashamed. Let him that readeth understand."

R. S. MORTON.

For the Christian Messenger.

United States Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 5, 1878.

Some person of a superstitious turn of mind has discovered that Friday—so often considered the day of ill-omen—is to President Hayes both a lucky and an unlucky day. He was nominated at Cincinnati on Friday, the bill creating the Electoral Commission was passed on Friday; the Commission rendered its decision on the last disputed State on Friday; the count was completed and Hayes declared President on Friday, and on Friday the Potter resolutions were passed. It scarcely seems possible that Mr. Hayes can really feel the composure and unconcern he has exhibited throughout all the turmoil that has been raging about him of late. Serenely he sits at his wonted desk calmly attending to his usual every-day duties. He declares his conscience to be clear, and if that is true, then his composure is accounted for, for he needs no other upholder. And, in fact, he must be more of a man than he generally receives credit for being if he could assume the exterior that he has shown for these last weeks.

He believes in himself, in God, in the mass of people and in his good wife (chiefly in the first and last, some one has said), and so he is not afraid. No one can have forgotten the terrible events connected with the Chisholm family, of Mississippi, which occurred last year. The funeral services of the father, son, and daughter, mob-murdered, were but lately held in this city, Bishop Gilbert Haven officiating. Mrs. Chisholm now holds a position in the Treasury, a \$900 clerkship, and is making an effort to raise funds for the removal of the bodies of her husband and children and to raise a monument to their memory. She has property enough in Mississippi, but can neither sell nor use it.

Decoration Day, the 30th, passed as usual as a general holiday. The Government clerks made a regular gala time of it, though not a few of them have cause to remember the occasion of the day most mournfully. Anything that lets loose from office the thousands of persons who serve Uncle Sam, gives our city a 4th of July appearance. Memorial Day is getting to be one of these; though it is strange that the people here can be anything but sad at such a time, for in no other city in America can be seen so many who were bereft by the war.

The marked point of interest in this vicinity on last Thursday was Arlington just across the Potomac from here—where extensive ceremonies were observed. The roads from Washington to