

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. United States Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24, 1877.

The grounds of the National Observatory are near Georgetown and overlooking the Potomac. It is a spot of even pre-Revolutionary interest, being the place where a portion of Braddock's army encamped in 1755, when on the march from Alexandria to the Monongahela. It is the site, too, upon which Washington proposed establishing a National University. The Observatory was founded there in 1842, the grounds comprising 19 acres, 96 feet above tide water, the spot having been designated for it by President Tyler "with dignified obliviousness of its miasmatic qualities." The building has a centre and two wings, the former two stories high, crowned with a parapet and balustrade and surmounted by a dome. An extension runs back from the centre and terminates in the great iron dome, where disports with majesty the giant telescope. This dome rests on a massive stone foundation and revolves on conical wheels, one panel being removed from its hemispherical top through which the mammoth telescope points, both being easily moved in any direction. A sort of a ladder-chair is arranged to slip up and down and tip back, and in this the astronomer sits and holds "his nocturnal revels with the gods of Olympus." But when he wishes to study the heavens towards the zenith he lies prone on his back with the tube of the huge-sized instrument pointing nearly or quite perpendicularly upward. This great equatorial telescope, the largest in the world, was made in 1873 by Alvin Clark & Sons, of Cambridgeport, Mass., and cost \$47,000. The object glass is 27 inches in diameter. The next largest to this in the world is 25 inches, and is owned by a private gentleman in England. This, our instrument, rests upon a double pier of masonry, imbedded 17 feet in the ground. Above the floor, the pier is of brick, arched and capped by 2 feet of solid red sand stone, upon which rests an iron support weighing 1,100 pounds which receives the axis upon which the telescope is mounted, and which, with its base, weighs 6 tons. The tube is of sheet metal, 32 feet long, and was rolled in Pittsburgh. The beauty is that, although so gigantic in its proportions and complicated in its workings, it is so delicately and accurately mounted that a wee child can move it.

The chronometer room is extremely interesting, where all the chronometers of the navy not in actual use are kept. They number some 200. It is from the standard, mean-time clock in this room that the time all over the United States is regulated, the instant of noon being given to the Western Union Telegraph Co.'s offices by means of an electric wire connected with the pendulum. Our time signals here consist of sunrise and sunset guns from the arsenal, and the dropping of a great black canvas ball from the top of the flag staff that surmounts the observatory dome at exactly noon.

Prof. Hall has his headquarters here, studying the heavens the whole night through whenever the weather is clear. His sleeping time is from 3 o'clock, P. M., till the stars come out, and a few hours after day-break. Of late this man has been most highly distinctive and sought after—since his discovery of the moons of Mars. Well, he has worked all his life, and this is his first very important discovery. It is said that his wife has been his inspiration. When they married, he was a day laborer, and she, possessing a superior mind and education, perceived in him a studious and investigating mind, and urged him to turn his attention to his present pursuit. A gentleman, who is acquainted with both ladies, saw Mrs. Hall shortly after her husband's discovery, and who accompanied the Presidential party on its Ohio and Southern trip, (it will be remembered that Mars moons were discovered while the President was absent on that journey) told me that he could not easily tell whether Mrs. Hall or Mrs. Hayes felt the most pride in her husband; that the faces of each showed how deeply the other self was appreciated and honored.

Words of Cheer.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger:

SIR,—Among the interesting articles which appeared in your last issue, were two that were particularly noticeable and gratifying. Both were the expression of feelings awakened by the late burning of Acadia College. The first was a communication from the President of Harvard University to the Boston Advertiser; the second a fraternal letter of the Faculty of King's College, Windsor, to Dr. Sawyer.

The Harvard document is noteworthy in a number of particulars, but especially as a testimony to the standing of Acadia College in the estimation of an authority so disinterested and so competent as President Eliot. He not only speaks in general terms of the "good service" which the Institution, now so seriously dismantled, has done "in the cause of liberal education in Nova Scotia," but he enters into particulars, and bears testimony to the "character and capacity" of those "excellent young men"—"graduates" of Acadia College—who have at times sought the additional advantages which Harvard affords—a testimony which will be valued not only by the parties immediately concerned, but by all the friends of their Alma Mater.

President Eliot goes further, and although warned by the maxim which says that "comparisons are odious," proceeds to single out Acadia from among our provincial Colleges, in terms which, though gratifying to the patrons of the former, they would perhaps from modesty hesitate to adopt without qualification.

The expression of sympathy and good will from King's College has in it some elements as gratifying as those from Harvard. King's is the oldest of our Nova Scotia Colleges, and might regard Acadia as an intruder into the education domain and a rival. But the letter before us would disabuse the mind of any such unworthy notion, if it existed. It gracefully acknowledges the services of the younger labourer in the field, and expresses the "hope" that the "characteristic energy of the supporters of Acadia College" will not fail them on this occasion; but that the "immediate loss" which they have sustained may prove their "future gain."

I am sure that those who are the objects of such kindly sentiments, will appreciate them as they deserve, and derive from the words of cheer proceeding from both Harvard and King's additional encouragement to equip themselves anew for the further prosecution of the work they have voluntarily assumed, and in which they have laboured so successfully.

RESPONDENT. Wolfville, Dec. 29, 1877.

For the Christian Messenger.

Autobiography of Rev. C. Tupper.

APPENDIX NO. 13.

Through Divine goodness my health has been better during the year 1877 than could have been reasonably expected. Being disposed, in accordance with apostolic example, "as much as in me is," to aid in the furtherance of the cause of Christ, and in the promotion of the welfare of my fellow men "while I am in this tabernacle," (Rom. i. 15; 2 Pet. i. 12-14.) I have endeavored to continue my evangelistic labors in some small measure.

Owing to infirmities, especially the imperfection of my sight, it has not been in my power to attend evening meetings with frequency. It has, however, afforded me pleasure to aid my ministering brethren now laboring in the field formerly occupied by me, at meetings held in the day time, or to supply in vacant places, where it would not interfere with their appointments. It has also been highly cheering to me to witness the happy effects that have evidently attended the faithful labors of these valued brethren.

As there is a meeting-house within about four miles of my place of residence, where ministers of different denominations preach, but which is not usually occupied by any other in the former part of the day, I have frequently held worship in it on Sabbath mornings.

After the former pastor of the Baptist Church of Cambridge had resigned his charge, and before the labors of the present pastor were secured, I spent

five Sabbaths there and at Grafton, between April 8th and June 2nd, in some cases remaining through the intervening week days, and making family visits. As numbers of my relatives and old friends resided in these places, and opportunity was thus afforded to visit many families, of whom several were in deep affliction, and needing affectionate sympathy, this was to me a pleasant service. My labors, both in public and in private, were evidently appreciated, and it may be hoped they were in some degree useful.

One Sabbath was also spent by me at Black Rock. The only time this place was ever visited by me before was in July, 1816. There were then very few inhabitants in it, occupying inferior houses: now there is quite a number of people, living in good habitations with two houses for public worship; and, best of all, a goodly number of persons making a credible profession of vital godliness, of whom some had recently put on Christ in baptism.

Having been prevented last year by sickness from attending either Association or Convention, it gave me much pleasure to meet my brethren of the Central Association in Upper Aylesford, June 23rd to 26th. Although the additions to the churches had not been great, yet the entire prevalence of a spirit of mutual Christian kindness was quite gratifying. The painful intelligence of the very extensive and disastrous fire in St. John, N. B., called forth much sympathy; and a liberal collection was very properly taken up on behalf of our suffering brethren.

After our pleasant meetings and agreeable interviews with friends at Association, Mrs. T. and I proceeded to Newport, where two Sabbaths were spent. On the second, July 8th, Rev. James Strothard, the Methodist minister at Avondale, who, though just recovering from serious illness, had three appointments for the Sabbath, respectfully requested me to fulfil one of them. He obligingly gave me the largest congregation, where, as he remarked, a number of Baptists would be peculiarly accommodated. Such friendly arrangements, which certainly may be made without any sacrifice of principle, are evidently both "good and pleasant." Ps. cxxxiii. 1.

Through mercy we reached Amherst in safety, July 12th. Some of our relatives were, indeed, in a state of affliction; as was also the case in Avondale. But persons who have large family connections, can not reasonably expect to find them all continually in a state of health and worldly comfort. It was, however, cause of thankfulness to meet all my surviving children together, with a considerable number of grandchildren.

On Lord's day, July 17th, it was my privilege to address large congregations in Amherst twice, who kindly gave tangible evidence of their appreciation of my labors in my advanced period of life. My visit to Amherst Shore, where I preached the next Sabbath, was also very pleasant. At each service the house was well filled. Some old friends came from different directions ten or twelve miles. One of these good brethren remarked to me that he had derived great benefit from my labors many years before. While all the glory is to be given to Him to whom alone it is due, such reminiscences are cheering and encouraging.

From August 25th to 28th I enjoyed the satisfaction of attending Convention in Wolfville. Being kindly accommodated with entertainment at the nearest house—occupied by relatives—opportunity was afforded us to attend all the meetings. The season was one of much comfort. Blessed be the Lord for his goodness.

In response to kind invitations, Mrs. Tupper and I attended the Jubilee of the Granville Street Baptist Church in Halifax, September 30th, precisely fifty years from the day of its organization. The pleasure of meeting many Christian friends there was enhanced by hearing my old and valued brethren, Rev. Dr. Crawley and Rev. I. E. Bill, preach the precious gospel of Christ. Probably no other person can say what the latter said at one of the meetings, namely, that he saw me baptized by the venerable Edward Manning, in 1815, heard one of my first sermons, in 1816, witnessed my ordination, in 1817, and visited me on what was supposed to be my death-bed, in 1876. On the evening of

the 1st day of October we attended a social tea-meeting of the church and congregation, in the new vestry on Spring Garden Road. It was delightful to sit at one table with the five Baptist ministers resident in Halifax and Dartmouth, all in Christian harmony. One of these, Bro. Hunt, who had been acquainted with me from his boyhood, and who, as he remarked in his pleasant address, was baptized by me nearly forty years ago, seemed quite vigorous; but was attacked with illness on the 13th day of the same month, and was doubtless called home to his rest on the 23rd. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

As my age, 83 years, and my infirmities, admonish me, in unison with the fact just named, that the "time of my departure is at hand," and unquestionably my public labors must be near their close, it may be well for me now to give a brief summary of them. During the year 1877, they have, of course, been more limited than in former years. It has, however, pleased my gracious Master to enable me, in it, to travel 2,060 miles, to preach 79 sermons (including four on funeral occasions), to attend 95 other meetings, and to make 456 family visits.

It may be noted, prior to giving the summary, that distances travelled by steam, whether on land or water, are not usually included; and that no calls or visits are reckoned as family visits, unless prayer is offered with as many as can be collected, and, in all ordinary cases, a portion of Scripture read, usually accompanied with expository and practical remarks.

My ministerial labors were commenced March 24, 1816. Between that time and December 31, 1877, during at least 9 months and a week, either sickness or hurts have laid me aside from public work. The period, therefore, of actual service in the ministry may be reckoned 61 years.

With reference to travelling it may be remarked that a year and a quarter was spent in pastoral labors in the city of St. John, N. B., and about the same length of time in Fredericton, as Principal of the Baptist Seminary, and Pastor of the Church. My travels, however, have been extensive, as a Home Missionary, an agent for the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, and while laboring as Pastor in country places. But they have been performed moderately. This course, from long experience, and attentive observation, I strongly recommend.

With regard to baptisms, it may be observed that, though mistakes may have been made, it has been my care not to administer that ordinance without satisfactory evidence that the subject was a regenerate believer in Christ. In a number of instances persons who have united with a church under my pastorate have, owing to my bodily indisposition, or from other circumstances, been baptized by other ministers.

While a Diary has been regularly kept by me, with slight exceptions, when able to write, minute memoranda of distances travelled, &c., have not been noted every year, but for many years they have been. From these data an estimate is made, with caution not to exceed the real limits. The result is as follows:

Travelled by ordinary conveyances, 275,220 miles; preached—including 686 on funeral occasions—8,149 sermons; attended other religious or benevolent meetings, usually taking an active part in each, 7,398; baptized 565 persons; and made 16,300 family visits.

While many defects in these labors, as well as in those devoted to the interests of Education, Temperance, Foreign Missions, &c., are to be deplored, I do humbly trust that through the Divine blessing, some good has been effected, if so, to God alone let all the praise be ascribed.

Tremont, Aylesford, Dec. 31, 1877.

The Famine in Southern India.

The following letter from Mr. Chowryappa, the missionary of the English Baptist Missionary Society, at Madras, dated November 1st, has been addressed to the secretaries of the Society.

My dear Brother Baynes,—I am very thankful to be able to state I have received your very kind and welcome letter, with the enclosed bank draft. Out of this amount I have spent about Rs. 600; the amount in hand will,

I trust, be all gone ere this letter reaches you. I have endeavored as much as possible to distribute as wisely to those only who were really in need. Hundreds of those who have been naked are now clothed, and those who have been in a starving condition for weeks I have provided with food. Two hundred women, 120 men, and about 40 children have already been helped, both in food and clothes, and I trust I shall at least have enough to help about 500 people more; and I pray that the help thus afforded to the poor sufferers may prove a great blessing both to the soul as well as to the body. I intend in a week or so to leave Madras for Trincomalay and around the villages with a large supply of clothes to cover the poor naked people; for thousands of the poor have scarcely a rag on their bodies. Thousands of children up to the age of thirteen and fifteen, both boys and girls, are perfectly naked and homeless, and thousands of these poor may be seen in groups as if determined to die naked, and starved. The sight is enough to make one's blood run cold; they are covered with dirt and filth, and this helps them to die out in scores. Sickness and pestilence are so prevalent amongst these people that some are afraid to go near them for fear of the disease being catching. I have seen them die on the roadsides, under trees, in the plains, and even within sight of help. This monster famine has slain and is slaying thousands of men, women, and children. The number of the slain cannot be rightly estimated; for about the past eighteen months the wild beasts and dogs have been fattening on human flesh. Mothers and fathers have deliberately deserted their offspring to be devoured by wild beasts; they were even eager to drink the blood and eat the flesh of their once dear babes. How can the dear sisters and brothers in England, who are loving fathers and mothers to their little ones—how can they bear to hear of all this and not cry to the God of mercy to stay his loving hand? Oh, it is horrid, most horrid, to have to relate the condition of the poor. The slaughtering on a battle-field could not be worse; men, women, and children can be seen in mobs, just a string of bones, walking as skeletons—just a mere thin skin covering to their bones—really pitiable objects. Thousands of women are mourning the loss of their fond husbands; husbands are mourning the loss of their dear wives; husbands and wives are mourning the loss of their children. The huts that the poor occupied for centuries together, are to be seen in heaps here and there; and thus have these poor people been driven from the homes of their forefathers to die in exile, and that by this monster famine. Oh, what has not this famine done?—and it will take a long time before this wound will be entirely cured. Those who have escaped will and are likely to suffer long unless the Lord raises up some friend or friends to help them to be re-established. This only can be done by building up the huts which are now in heaps in ruins.

I am so glad that I do not know how to express myself in thankfulness to you for the money you have sent. The amount you sent me I made over to Mr. Digby, in order that the accounts may be rendered to you from one side. I really cannot say too much in praise of our most worthy friend, Mr. Digby; his help is really a valuable one. He has not only given me the money you sent him cheerfully, but has wisely assisted me in the disposing of the same. He is truly very diligent in this work, seeing his work as an editor to such a wide spread paper as the Times. Yet with all his laborious work, he has helped several missions, even the American Strict Baptists have received a large share of his valuable sympathy and love; and while zealously helping the "household of faith" he has not forgotten those who are outside the household.

I have omitted to state that thousands of children who have been deserted by their parents are to be seen wandering here and there. I intend, the Lord willing, to collect a few dozens of the above children and start a home for them. Of this I will write more fully in my next letter to you.

S. J. CHOWRYAPPAH.

Oxford is nearly eight hundred years older than Harvard, and her library has only twice as many volumes, though the income of the former university is annually one million dollars. Each has about thirteen hundred undergraduates.