

For Christian the Messenger. Letter from Germany.

(From our correspondent.)

AN AMERICAN PRIMA DONNA—THE CELEBRATION OF BISMARCK'S SIXTY-FOURTH BIRTHDAY—DIVORCES IN GERMANY, &c.

Before leaving Paris the other day I had the great pleasure of listening to the truly astonishing performance of the young American pianiste, Miss Anna Bock, which excited the utmost enthusiasm of a large and critical audience and stamped her reputation as a first-class artist.

Tuesday was the 64th birthday of Prince Bismarck, the Chancellor having been born a few weeks before the battle of Waterloo. All day countless telegrams, letters of a congratulatory nature, and gifts from far and near poured into the Radsiwel Palace. At early morn the Prince was serenaded by the band of the Kaiser Alexander Grenadiers, and at midday that of the 2nd Foot Guards took up and continued the complimentary strain.

The facility with which divorce can be obtained in Germany has seldom been more strikingly shown than in a case lately before the courts. A short time ago a young lady being desirous of finding a husband, advertised for one in a newspaper, stating as an inducement to any suitable man who might feel disposed to come forward, that she possessed a fortune of 6000 marks, or about \$1500.

to those who believe, and consequently excludes such as do not, or cannot believe.

2. "He that will not work, neither shall he eat." "Of course infants cannot work, and must not, therefore eat."

Need our friends, sharp-witted enough in most matters, be told that of those who could but would not work, it was said they should not eat? And yet such things as this go down generally as smoothly as butter. He continues:

3. "He that believeth not shall be damned." "Infants cannot believe, and therefore must be damned."

It may be here remarked for the sake of those who are in love with such trifling with serious questions, that the condemnation (as they must know) is of those who can but will not believe.

4. "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." "Infants cannot repent, therefore they must perish."

This argument is of the same nature as 1, 2 and 3, and may be met in the same way.

And thus the Methodist referred to, finds room in the Christian Observer to utter such weak, subtil, and false reasoning, which is carefully copied into the Wesleyan as a choice morsel for "those who are weak in the faith."

Such water and milk as that will only tend to make them weaker.

The writer concludes: "The conclusion to which such reasoning leads, brings with itself a fearful and weighty anathema—it is as presumptuous as it is evil." Yes, but the conclusion is false, because the premises are, and consequently the "fearful and weighty anathema" does not fall on the heads of those on whom the writer would have it fall, and to which blind effort the Christian Observer, and the Wesleyan lend their aid.

But our main object in mentioning this at the present time, is to call the attention of those having the matter in hand to the following suggestion, which may be worthy of their consideration. This we may state briefly as follows: As a member of the class of '71 have not found it convenient—from good reasons, doubtless—to pay in the sums stipulated, it will likely be some time yet until the long-looked-for instrument will appear on the ground.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., May 7, 1879.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

Many professing Christians have never made the attempt to institute and maintain the worship of God in their families; others make it a matter of mere convenience; and others observe it occasionally as a compliment to a guest, while a few, from principle, call their family around them, morning or evening, or both, and render to God thanksgiving and praise, accompanied with prayer for mercies and blessings needed.

asked or acknowledged of a fellow being. Prayer is not for the instruction of the Almighty in regard to our wants. The Saviour has said, "Ye heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."

ABOUT THE ACADIA COLLEGE TELESCOPE FUND.

The Acadia Athenæum alludes to this matter, and says:

"We are frequently asked the question 'When are we going to have that telescope?' Said question we are not prepared to answer in full, but we might state a few facts which we happen to be acquainted with in this connection for the benefit of those interested. The enterprise of raising a fund for the purpose of purchasing a telescope was first undertaken, at the suggestion of Prof. Elder, by the class of '71. In a communication from A. Cohoon, A. B., of said class in (No. 4, Vol. 1, of the Athenæum) it will be found that up to that time (Feb., 1875) \$440.00 had been collected from members of the class for that purpose.

What steps have since been taken in this direction we are not prepared to say at present. It would appear, however, that the amount—now about \$500.00—is still lying at interest. So far the scheme has failed from the fact that a number of pledges have not been forthcoming. The amount on hand at present is only about half what will be required to furnish a suitable instrument, and if we add to this the cost of mounting, the sum required grows to an amount which we fear that on hand at present will not soon reach.

But our main object in mentioning this at the present time, is to call the attention of those having the matter in hand to the following suggestion, which may be worthy of their consideration.

This we may state briefly as follows: As a member of the class of '71 have not found it convenient—from good reasons, doubtless—to pay in the sums stipulated, it will likely be some time yet until the long-looked-for instrument will appear on the ground. And again, while such an instrument might be useful to amuse occasional visitors, we are of opinion that its practical value would be less than that of many other objects at present. Just now there is wanting much necessary apparatus for our Science department, and it has been suggested to us by some deeply interested, that it might be a good move to appropriate a part of the above-named fund for the purchasing of suitable instruments for this department, to be placed in the new rooms now about to be occupied.

The appropriation of this fund, however, lies entirely with the class who have the matter in charge; we only ask their consideration of the matter. Come on, gentlemen of '71, let us have your opinion on the subject."

One of the class of '71 writes us as follows in reference to this matter:

As a member of the class of '71, I can scarcely refrain from saying one word respecting the Telescope fund collected under the auspices of that Class, which I see referred to in the last number of the Acadia Athenæum; and as it would be too late to make the suggestions I intend in the next number of that excellent monthly, I will avail myself, with your permission, of the Messenger. The circumstance which interfered chiefly with the completion of the obligations assumed by the Class was the unexpected resignation of Prof. Elder. It was altogether owing to the enthusiasm of that distinguished instructor, that the Class was inspired to undertake the purchase of the Telescope, and when he severed his connection with the Institution, many members of the Class rightly or wrongly, declined paying further instalments on their subscriptions.

As a matter of fact, one or two of the Class have paid the entire amount of their subscriptions; others have paid part of the amount, more or less; and some few have not paid anything. But the fund which has already been accumulating should not be permitted to remain idle, when its services in various forms are so much needed by the Institutions, and I entirely concur in the observations made in the Editorial of the Athenæum that this fund should be expended for the benefit of the Science department. A Telescope was the original object of the contributions, but if the sum available is insufficient for that purpose, then it should go to some other branch of a Scientific Apparatus. Of course this is only my own individual view.

When the Class of '71 was about to separate after graduation, they held a very affecting meeting in the Classical Lecture room, and very solemnly re-

solved to hold a grand Class-reunion in June, 1876. When that period arrived only two or three members were found in attendance at the Anniversary, and it was therefore impossible to hold a Class meeting. It would have been the chief business to dispose of this fund if such a meeting could have been held. I can see no better solution of the present difficulty than for the leader of the Class of '71—Rev. W. H. Warren, M. A.,—to call a formal meeting of the surviving members for the next Anniversary of the College at Wolfville. Let all attend who can and if any are unable to attend, let them send written proxies to those who they know will attend. At this meeting the fund may be fairly disposed of and the Institution get the benefit of it. No harm can result from Mr. Warren calling such a meeting, and I do not see any other ready way of dealing with the matter.

Yours, &c., J. W. LONGLEY.

Halifax, May 1st, 1879.

If all the contributors to this fund agree to such change of appropriation we suppose no one could fairly object to it. It is very doubtful, however, if it would be well to so divert a fund raised for this special object, unless a very strong case were made out in its favor. Doubtless something very handsome in the way of a Telescope could be obtained for the sum of \$500, or such an enlargement of that amount as could be made in the course of, say, six months or so. The danger is that if this fund were disposed of for another object it would be a very long time before another effort would be so successfully put forth for such purpose, and this has long been a decided desideratum in connexion with the Institution.

CONCERNING RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPERS.

The Church Guardian just started in Halifax, talks to its readers after the following fashion:

"No body of Christians can expect a warm and generous sympathy to exist among its members, without possessing an Organ, by means of which each congregation and individual can have the work and needs of the whole placed before them.

Dissenters in these Provinces, as elsewhere, understand this very well, and leave no stone unturned to induce their members to subscribe for the Weekly Religious Paper.

Indeed, it is made an important feature in the work of each minister to secure names for the paper; and also regularly to supply such information, as shall make the whole body acquainted with the needs of each Mission.

One cannot enter a dissenter's house, either in city or country, without finding the sectarian paper subscribed for by some member of the family.

Come, brethren, Clerical and Lay, if you wish us well, bestir yourselves, and help us in deed and by active canvass. Show us how far you care to see the work a success."

Whilst we do not recognize ourselves as "Dissenters" or admit the right of the Episcopalian denomination, where it is not the Established church, to designate other bodies by that name, we presume our young contemporary refers to the bodies represented by religious weekly newspapers.

We have no objection to the word "sectarian," when used in the sense of Acts xvii. 6. In that respect we regard the Baptist Churches as the true apostolic succession.

The members and ministers of the Church of England are Dissenters in Scotland and some other parts of the British Dominions.

Our young neighbour we think a little over-rates the number of subscribers to the religious weeklies amongst the families of the different bodies. Whilst we may have the more intelligent families on our list of subscribers there is quite a number besides who might be benefited by the weekly visits of their own paper.

Our brethren "Clerical and Lay" will please notice the request made, and try to make the statement nearer and nearer the truth by seeking to introduce the Messenger to every family of our churches and congregations throughout the land.

Cruelty to animals is now considered a vice so injurious to the best interests of the community that the law very properly gives large powers to a Society formed for its prevention. It is an excellent sign of the times that men are not now allowed to do as they choose with their own animals any more than with their own children. Any wanton cruelty or injury inflicted on a dumb brute, even in a burst of passion, is liable to severe punishment and a heavy fine. We are glad to see that the Halifax Society is occasionally found doing good service through its

active Secretary. Our city has provided at least one drinking trough for horses by the Ferry wharf, but we have been pained to see horses brought there and have to go away as they came, finding it by some means inoperative and the trough dry! The hardworking animals, and many men who would otherwise quench their thirst at its crystal stream, are disappointed, and have to quench it somewhere else.

In the interests of sobriety for men, and on behalf of the thirsty brute, we ask that this matter be attended to forthwith. It is within sight of the police station and might be easily watched by a kind-hearted police constable. There is water in abundance, but not where it may be obtained to drink.

Our Canadian brethren are experiencing considerable difficulty in carrying on their educational and missionary operations. Their Home Missionary Society has incurred debts amounting to \$4000 beyond the funds they have to meet them. Their Foreign Mission is greatly in need of funds having an empty treasury, and the Canadian Literary Institute has a deficiency of \$6000. This state of things will probably embarrass our brethren greatly in the present times of financial pressure. Great prudence will be required in the management of our own mission and College operations in these Lower Provinces, or there will be similar difficulties to interfere with the work of the churches.

Dear Editor,—What should a church do when one of their members, contrary to the articles of the church, repeatedly invites and insists upon unbaptized persons coming to the Lord's Supper, and they do partake; and the pastor persists in administering open communion, to the great annoyance of the church?

A BAPTIST.

We know nothing of the case to which the above refers, or whether it does really refer to an actual case. It would seem, however, one of but little difficulty. We can hardly imagine a pastor persisting in annoying the church, as such a course must result, sooner or later, in disaster to himself and all concerned. If remonstrance fails the rules by which to proceed are plainly given. See Matt. xviii. 15-17; 1 Thes. v. 14; Rom. xvi. 17; 2 Thes. iii. 6. Be sure that the first step is taken first. See Matt. xviii. 15.

RETURNING MISSIONARY.—Mrs. Armstrong, (formerly Miss H. M. Norris) is supposed to be on her way to this country from India. A very brief note to the Secretary of the N. S. Central Board says:

It seems as if I have utterly broken down at last. I have struggled so hard to keep at my work, but as soon as the hot weather began to grow on us I went down all at once.

I am trying to get a chance home with Mrs. Clough and children, who sail some time in April. If I can only keep any strength to get home alone, I am anxious to do so, for Mr. Armstrong is of course needed here, but he will be obliged to come part of the way at least. As soon as I get a little strength he will return, perhaps from Madras. I am wonderfully weak now.

It is quite likely Mrs. A. will arrive in the course of two or three weeks. She was our pioneer missionary, and has done good service. We hope her health is not so impaired as to need more than temporary change, and rest for a while in her native land.

BAPTISM.—Open letters to Rev. D. D. C. and A. W. N., on Baptism and Communion by Rev. J. Brown, 10 cents per copy or 15 for a dollar, postage paid. To be had of many of the Baptist Ministers in N. S., N. B., and P. E. I., also at the Messenger office, Halifax, Visitor Office, St. John, N. B., and of the author, Paradise, Annapolis Co., N. S. April 30. 4ins.

Notices.

The Hants County Auxiliary Missionary Board will meet in the Falmouth Baptist Church on Monday, the 12th inst., at 11 A. M. SPECIAL MEETING! J. A. McLEAN, Sec'y. Poplar Grove, 1879.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES. Falmouth—Miss M. Young.....\$8 25 Halifax—Granville Street Church, Miss Selden.....10 00 M. R. SELDEN, Sec'y. Halifax, May 6th, 1879.

For Christian the Messenger. Infants and Baptism.

It is astonishing how eagerly those who hold to the above, clutch at anything, however weak, which seems to support it. For instance the Wesleyan of May 3rd quotes the following from the Christian Observer. (The quotations have the usual marks).

INFANTS AND BAPTISM.

"A Methodist makes short work of a common argument against infant baptism:—

1. 'Believe and be baptized.'" Here is a professed quotation from the New Testament, but these words as they stand are not to be found there. However, we know, what is meant. He then says: "Infants cannot believe, and must not, as a consequence, be baptized." That is just so, quite correct. The command to be baptized is confined