

The Christian Messenger.

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Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.
Joseph Cook's Lectures.

I.
BOSTON MONDAY LECTURESHIP.

Prelude: The Career of Wendell Phillips.

Lecture: Do we Need a New Theology?

Interlude: Questions of General Interest Answered.

The Rev. Joseph Cook began on Monday last at noon the Eighth Series of his Boston Monday Lectures in Tremont Temple. The great hall was of course crowded. In the audience were to be seen the faces of prominent clergymen and leaders of religious and philanthropic work in this city. The Interlude will hereafter be a new and interesting feature of these lectures. It will consist of replies to twelve questions selected from various written inquiries. Some of the topics discussed on this occasion were:

- (1.) Constitutional Prohibition.
- (2.) The Brahmo Samaj of India.
- (3.) Prayer for Colleges.
- (4.) The Prospects of the New Departure in Theology at Andover.
- (5.) Probation after Death.

The great Indian Reform movement prominently represented by the late Keshub Chunder Sen has three grand branches—the original, the progressive and the popular. The progressive has been valuable in its destructive tendencies and will awaken a desire for that which Christianity can alone satisfy. The leading German Theological University is Leipzig and its foremost Professor takes the position that our Future is positively decided in this life. Andover is one of the seven Congregational Theological Seminaries in the United States. The New Departure there is equivalent to the old Broad Church movement in Europe and its prospects of success are not good.

THE PRELUDE.

The previously announced topic of the Prelude was, "President Arthur and Henry Ward Beecher and Mormonism." But the death of the great Boston Orator on Saturday evening led to the change of subject. And Mr. Cook paid an eloquent and glowing tribute to the memory of Mr. Phillips. I will give certain of his periods *verbatim*: Whom God crowns let no man try to discrown. There lies dead on his shield in yonder street an unslung soldier of popular reform, a spotlessly disinterested champion of the oppressed, the foremost orator of the English-speaking world in recent years, the largest and latest, let us hope and not the last, of the Puritans. A servant of the Most High God, a man on the altar of whose heart the coals of fire were kindled by a breath from the Divine justice and tenderness. Wendell Phillips has gone, doubtless, to an incalculably great reward. He is with Garrison and Sumner and Lincoln now; he has met Wilberforce and Clarkson. He is in the company of Aristides and Scipio and the Roman Gracchi, and of all the host of martyrs who have laid down their lives that the dolorous and accursed ages might a little change their course. What cares he for our praise or blame. He cared little for it in life. Fifty years hence history will not ask what Boston thinks of Wendell Phillips, but rather what he thought of Boston. We cannot crown him. The memory of his career crowns our civilization.

For more than 40 years this great orator, unmatched on either side of the sea, passed to and fro across the breadth of our continent, moving together the sentiments of our great commonwealths into opposition to human bondage: The platform in Antislavery days was in advance of the press; yes, even in advance of the pulpit. It was Mr. Phillips's oratory which gave a soul to the North, which gave it such power as made the victory possible. Without this one leader of the abolitionists it is entirely possible we might have lacked the courage for the maintenance of the Union!

It may be said that from 1835 to his last hour Mr. Phillips was a pillar of fire through which God looked in the morn-

ing watch of better ages to come, and troubled the hosts of his enemies, and took off their chariot wheels.

But you say that after all Mr. Phillips was not a logician. A seer is a logician who melts his logic in the fire of emotion, and Mr. Phillips was a living seer. I think that whoever wishes to study the best models of popular eloquence America has ever given to the world must spend his days and nights on what poor remnants we have left of Mr. Phillips's speeches. Here are coals of fire lighted by the breath of God. Let the young men come to this altar and light their torches and carry them out into the march of civilization. Boston mobbed Mr. Phillips. Let this city now proudly, reverently, and yet penitently build his monument. His hands were clean from any stain of gold; he did not love place or pelf. It is said that most of the gains of his lecture courses were given away in silent philanthropy. Certain it is that the last person whose interest he thought of was himself. That unspcakably sacred relation of his to an invalid wife—who dare speak of it over this open grave, except we look into the coffin, with tears. We are all passing to the majority of souls. God grant that we who are alive may sell our existence as dearly as this holy soul.

The Lecture: Do we Need a New Theology?

Only saving Theology is worth saving. The final finger of the law of the Survival of the Fittest. In the struggle for existence it will be asked, what positions have approved themselves. I hope I am progressive: I know I am conservative: my wish is to be a progressive conservative. There are certain great facts which call for a readjustment of Theological doctrines. Some of them are:

- (1.) The Providential necessity for choosing a religion for the whole world.
- (2.) The advance of the study of comparative religion.
- (3.) The revision of the New Testament.
- (4.) The triumph of Christian scholarship in the search for the truth of the miracles of the Old Testament.
- (5.) The necessity of making Theology a balanced system.
- (6.) The decadence of strife within the Church.
- (7.) The certainty that the Christian Faith has not yet been lifted into entire harmony with Christian principles, that is, that Christianity has not been Christianized. Mr. Cook then spoke principally on the first of these themes. Whatever succeeds under the Northern Bear will succeed under the Southern Cross. Infidelity is claiming the attention of foreign countries. It becomes one of the most pressing of questions whether Rationalism or Christianity shall capture the nations. But there are certain purposes for which an illegitimate demand for a New Theology has been made:

- (1.) To make religion easy and fashionable.
- (2.) So effect a multitudinous union of believers and unbelievers.
- (3.) To satisfy the spirit of the hour, social and political.
- (4.) To gratify a mere love of change. Such are the fancies which have attempted to lead us into a kind of Religious Desolation. Let us beware of them. It is the duty of the Christian to lay down:

- (1.) Axiomatic Theology as a base.
- (2.) Experimental Theology above that.
- (3.) Biblical Theology above all. I want a Theology which will satisfy the demands of all advanced culture of our times and also the demands of God's saints. There are four things we must have to accomplish this:

- (1.) Truth.
- (2.) Comprehensiveness.
- (3.) Balance.
- (4.) Faithfulness.

We are to construct such a vessel to sail across the sea of life; and in building this vessel let God be the guide, not fashion.

Mr. Cook's eloquent remarks were frequently interrupted by applause. He has one of the most massive brains on this continent and it is of fine, though not the finest, quality. He is the possessor of a splendid Vital

Temperament to nourish that brain. Therefore his words are deserving of attention. I think that he himself is a pillar of fire through which the Spirit of God flashes Light. His prayers I consider to be among the rarest, most notable ever put into words. In his closing prayer of Monday last he seized the very central soul of all the Christian Truth, when he said: We pray for the coming of Thy kingdom: we transmute that prayer into deed: we hereby do give ourselves unreservedly to Thy service.

A solemn hush was over that vast audience, and in those supreme moments doubtless many souls made a full surrender of self to the Will of God, that is to Righteousness. God grant they may be kept faithful unto the end.

It will be observed that Mr. Cook occasionally gives utterance to certain very advanced ideas. It will be observed that he enumerates among his great facts looking towards a New Theology, this, that Christianity needs Christianizing or that the Christian Faith has not yet been lifted into entire harmony with true Christian principles. This announcement will repay careful meditation. Again he places Scipio, Aristides and the Roman Gracchi among the good and wise souls of all the ages. The reason of this is that they loved and practiced Righteousness. And that is equivalent to saying that they were the servants of the Christ and the friend of the Christ. Because the Christ in His essential and spiritual existence is the Truth and the Righteousness of God for all our world. I have taken the liberty to subjoin these few observations.

Very respectfully,
E. M. CHESELEY.

For the Christian Messenger.
(Circular.)
Acadia College.

It has recently come to our knowledge that some misapprehension has arisen in the minds of contributors to the "Indebtedness Fund" and other friends of Acadia in respect to the financial condition of the College as affected by the action of the Board of Governors in founding the new chair of "Education and History." As the Finance Committee of the Governors we feel that an explanation is due from us to those especially who have so nobly aided us in our work. We feel satisfied that when the facts are known every one will be convinced that the College finances have in reality been much benefited by the new arrangement. What are the facts? At the close of the Convention in August last two of the chairs which had been maintained at Acadia for many years were found to be vacant—the chair of "History" by the appointment of Prof. Tufts to the Principalship of Horton College Academy, and the chair of "Systematic Theology, Hebrew &c." by the removal of Dr. Welton to Toronto. The prospect now is, that for the next five years, at least, the entire amount heretofore paid to these two Professors will, after the present College year, be wholly saved to the College. A temporary arrangement has been made for this year for instruction in history, costing about \$300, but the new chair provides for this department. Moreover while the appointment to this new chair has not been hampered or embarrassed by any conditions whatever, yet the fact should be known that some of the friends who have contributed most generously to the "Indebtedness Fund" have also, in view of the fact that the chair was to be filled by Dr. Rand, pledged themselves to additional sums, payable annually, on "current expense account." One of those who was already the second largest contributor on our list, has, in addition, in this way donated \$500 yearly for five years, and several others have pledged themselves in smaller amounts for the same period. For the present year we may say, the entire salary of the new Professor was promptly guaranteed. It will be readily seen, then, that the action of the Governors in founding the new chair will not likely operate to impose any additional tax whatever on the College Treasury. On the contrary, however,

that action has already been the means directly, of discovering new sources of College income, while, at the same time, the expense of a separate chair in History will hereafter be wholly avoided.

These facts should lend stimulus and encouragement to the friends of Acadia everywhere, and the knowledge of them should prove not only acceptable to our friends, but helpful to us in our work. It is very desirable that the College indebtedness should be wiped out with the least possible delay; and a large amount of money has been subscribed for this purpose, much of which is now due. Subscribers to the "Indebtedness Fund" will give most valuable aid in the matter by forwarding the amount of their subscriptions to the College Treasurer, Mr. X. Z. Chipman, Wolfville, as soon as possible. We are anxious to pay off, at least, one of our mortgages before the end of the present month.

On behalf of the Governors of Acadia College,
E. D. KING,
D. McN. PARKER,
J. W. MANNING, Agency Committee.

News from the Churches.

Rev. A. MacArthur pastor of Granville Street Church preached on Sunday last, morning and evening, after being confined to the house three weeks. His voice is not yet quite restored. The pulpit has been supplied during his illness by Rev. Dr. Saunders and Rev. Dr. Fryor.

CHESTER.—Rev. J. F. Kempton writes: "The Lord is granting us cheering indications of His presence in some parts of this field."

BERWICK, Feb. 11, 1884.—The Rev. E. O. Read has accepted a call to the pastorate of the 2nd Cornwallis Baptist Church where he previously labored five years. The good work of the Lord is still progressing. Bro. Young the Evangelist has been laboring most earnestly and faithfully here for the last eight weeks in connection with Mr. Read. God has greatly blessed their labors. Yesterday twelve were received by baptism and three by letter, making in all baptized, sixty one persons.

LOWER ECONOMY AND FIVE ISLANDS.—Rev. Geo. F. Miles, informs us that the new House of Worship for this church was opened on the 27th of January, and the people find it all they can wish at present.

Bro. M. also states that the name of Mr. Samuel Archibald was omitted from the list of Licentiates in the Association Minutes where it should have appeared.

SUSSEX, N. B.—Dear Editor.—We have been holding extra services, continuously, beginning with the week of prayer. The number in attendance and the interest have constantly increased, until, we are happy to say, a powerful work of grace is going on in our midst. The Church has been greatly quickened and many who have been cold and inactive are now hopefully and rejoicingly cooperating with us in the good work. Our large and commodious Vestry is nightly filled to overflowing. A score have expressed an earnest desire to be Christians and have requested an interest in the prayers of the Church. As many as ten have already professed faith in Christ and will be baptized in His name and added to the Church. The outlook is inspiring. Our prayer is that we may have wisdom and grace sufficient for the mighty responsibility of this important time, that the work may not be hindered nor cease till multitudes be brought to Jesus and His people established in the faith.

—SYDNEY WELTON.
Feb. 8th, 1884.

News of the World.

The Imperial Parliament was opened by commission on Tuesday of last week. The Queen's speech stated that friendly relations continue with all foreign powers.

The correspondence with France relative to Madagascar has so terminated as to confirm the cordial understanding between the two countries.

In conjunction with the President of the United States commission had been appointed, and is now sitting in Paris, to discuss the regulation of the Newfoundland fisheries.

An agreement with Portugal respecting Congo and the adjacent territory had been formed. A treaty of commerce with Turkey is under discussion. A commercial agreement with Spain has been signed and awaits action of the Courts.

An effort will be made to secure greater efficiency of administration and an enlargement of the powers of the rate-payers, including regulation of traffic in intoxicating liquors.

Bills relating to the security of life and property at sea, to the repression of corruption at elections, and to the promotion of education and morality, will be introduced.

Loud cheers greeted Mr. Gladstone. He gave notice that a franchise Bill for the United Kingdom would be introduced on Friday.

Hon. Arthur R. D. Elliot moved the address in reply to the speech.

Samuel Smith, member for Liverpool, seconded the motion.

The Right Hon. Robt. Bourke moved an amendment to the address, reviewing the late events in Egypt, and asked whether the Government was responsible for sending Baker Pasha, who had not faith in his enterprise because the force sent with him was worthless.

Baron Henry de Worms seconded the amendment. Nobody rising, the Speaker put the question of amendment. It was rejected by a vote of 77 to 20.

The Conservatives accuse the Government of trickery. Members of the Cabinet, however, state privately that there was no intention to close the debate. All the Cabinet members were absent from the division owing to a special Cabinet Council on Egyptian affairs.

Sir Stafford Northcote, thought the conduct of the Government very extraordinary. Mr. Henry Labouchere, member for Northampton, gave notice that he would introduce a motion in favor of the speedy evacuation of Egypt.

Mr. Gladstone stated that the Government do not feel called upon to adopt fresh measures because of General Baker's disaster.

On Thursday Sir Stafford Northcote, leader of the Opposition, gave notice that he would introduce a resolution on Tuesday, stating that in the opinion of the House recent events in the Sudan are a direct result of the vacillating and inconsistent policy of the Government.

In the House of Lords the Marquis of Salisbury gave notice that he would introduce a resolution similar to that which Sir Stafford Northcote gave notice of in the House of Commons.

On Friday Mr. Parnell moved an amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech severely condemning the policy of the Government in Ireland, asserting that it has failed to tranquilize the people, has wantonly prohibited public meetings and interfered with the freedom of speech.

The trial of the fifty-two members of the Park Club in London charged with gambling in playing baccarat at the rooms of the club ended on Thursday. The proprietor and members of the committee were fined £500 each, and the players £100 each.

3,000 shipbuilders at Belfast Ireland have struck.

Advic-s from St. Paul de Loando, capital of the Portuguese province of Angola, West Africa, state that during an attack upon whites by Muenlla natives, an explosion of gunpowder occurred, killing forty natives.

The floods in the west and south of the U. States have of late been most destructive. Thousands of people have been driven from their homes, millions of dollars worth of property destroyed, quite a number of people drowned and several cases of insanity produced by the terrible devastation.

A telegram from Wheeling, Va., on Thursday says:

The flood now covers three miles of the city front, and five thousand people are homeless. The loss on property is a million dollars. A dozen lives are reported lost. No street cars or telephones are in use. Rottingberger & Garon, dealers in cheese, will lose \$100,000. The telegraph offices are drowned out. There has been no train from any point to-day. A number of houses have floated off. A family of three was drowned in the lower town.

On the following day the report was: Houses are on their sides, washed some distance from the sites or entirely carried away. Barns and stables are collected in great masses. Near the city the river forms a lake from one to three miles wide. There is no railroad traffic within ten miles of the city. People are camped on hilltops. Wheeling is in danger of famine. Nearly all the bakeries and many of the grocery stores are under water, and the stock of provisions is rapidly becoming exhausted and there is no prospect of it being replenished. The situation is hourly growing grave, and many appeals have been received from inundated portions of the surrounding country for provisions.

At Cincinnati there was great destruction.

At Pittsburg it is said it is the greatest flood that has occurred for fifty years.

A careful estimate of the loss in the country gives a total of \$3,000,000. All the mills lie low, and will be inundated long after the streets are clear.

At Coshocton, O. on Friday, four drowning accidents are reported—three brothers named Nelson and an unknown woman.

At Lawrenceburg, Ind. water covers the town from the river front. All business has been given up and thousands of people have left the town. The remainder are occupying houses on high ground or third stories of buildings in the water. There are provisions for several days and the people are provided with boats.

At Louisville, Ky., Shippingport and Portland are flooded and already over 800 people have been driven out of their homes. The Government building is the only house not submerged in Shippingport. Considerable excitement prevails there and the river banks are thronged with people.

At Pittsburg, on Thursday the telegram said between 5,000 and 6,000 buildings are submerged, including the residences of 25,000 people, 10,000 of whom are not able to occupy their houses. Fifteen thousand men are temporarily thrown out of employment by the stopping of mills and factories. Two more drowning cases are reported.

We have news of a most disastrous defeat of the army under Baker Pasha. He was attacked on Monday of last week by a skirmishing party of Arabs, but before whom his Egyptian cavalry ignominiously fled. Baker then hastily attempted to organize his infantry into a large square flanked by two smaller squares of negroes. The enemy meanwhile had completely surrounded Baker's position. At the first fierce attack of the enemy the Egyptians became filled with fright, and casting away their arms, ran away shouting, throwing the whole command into confusion.

The European officers, enraged at the conduct of the Egyptian soldiers, dashed into the midst of the disorderly crowd and fired their pistols right and left, endeavoring to drive the cowardly fellows back into a position of defence again, but all their efforts to stay the fleeing mass were unavailing. Baker Pasha himself was the most prominent figure on the field, and exerted almost superhuman efforts to rally his men to make a determined stand and avoid disaster. He was often surrounded by the enemy, but, in spite of his utter disregard for his own safety, he escaped unhurt. Col. Harrington and Major Giles also acted most heroically, and it is largely due to their efficient co-operation that Baker was able to bring the remnants of his force through to Trinkiat in good order.

Thirteen thousand rifles have been discovered in the possession of the Egyptian Governor, who ought to have delivered them to Baker Pasha on his arrival.

Baker Pasha has telegraphed to the British Minister at Cairo that the force which attacked him was less than one thousand strong, but the Egyptians threw away their arms and fled.

Gold, in the pocket of Christians, is like bread in the hands of Christ