

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

United States Correspondence.

NOVA SCOTIA AND ITS PEOPLE.—BIBLE SOCIETIES.—COMBINING INSTITUTIONS.—THE PANIC AND ITS RESULTS.—POLITICS.—TEMPERANCE.

DEAR BROTHER,

I thought that perhaps some of my friends in Nova Scotia would like to hear from me through the Messenger, so I have concluded to send you a letter. It is, however, wholly at your disposal. Do with it just as you please.

My visit to the Province was one of real pleasure. Its variety of landscape, beauty of scenery, fertility of soil, richness in mineral wealth, habits of industry, genuine hospitality, refined intelligence, elevated morality, and good degree of piety, made me happy in the reflection that it was my own native land. Nor will those churches that I visited there soon be forgotten, nor their ready and cheerful response to an appeal for funds to send a Bible-reader to the perishing. They will doubtless remember that their subscriptions were to be paid into the hands of their pastors in the month of November, who will have the kindness to send the money to the Rev. William Burton, of Hantsport.

Most of the churches in our State have held their Associations. So far as their reports have been received, the news, for the most part, is cheering. A spirit of peace prevails: higher attainments in piety are desired; new purposes, to labor and sacrifice for the cause of the Redeemer, are expressed; visitations of the Spirit are gratefully recorded; and that, in many instances, the Lord has added to their number of such as shall be saved, is noticed with ascriptions of praise.

Bro. Love, the esteemed and laborious Secretary of the A. and F. Bible Society, has resigned. This is a cause of sadness to many of its best friends. Much good has been accomplished by the Society since he has been connected with it. Its Bible-readers have been greatly blessed of God in persuading many to attend the sanctuary, awakening the thoughtless to reflection, and winning souls to the Saviour. Doubtless, the services of another efficient Secretary will soon be secured by the Board.

More confidence is expressed, by some, of late, in the Bible Union, who have not given that Society their support or approbation. If the scholars live, and have their health to complete their work, into whose hands the revision of the Scriptures is now committed, they will give a version to the world that will be alike creditable to themselves and to the Union, and which will afford a pleasure to all who love the truth to read, even if it does not take the place of the "Old Family Bible."

Many of our most judicious brethren wish to have several of our benevolent institutions blended together, whose work is of a kindred character. A spirit of mutual compromise, involving no sacrifice of principle, but only the cessation of partizan feeling, would easily effect this. Were they harmoniously blended, it would save much expense, promote brotherly love, give to the churches several efficient pastors, who are now agents or secretaries, prevent a great deal of unpleasant feeling, and, perhaps, secure all the good that these several societies are now accomplishing.

Our State Convention for Domestic Missions held last week its Anniversary. This was its year of jubilee; and it was celebrated with joy and gladness. The fathers, to whom it owed its existence, have nearly all gone to their reward; but their names, labours, and memories, are fragrant with piety, and are cherished in grateful remembrance. The Convention has passed many days of darkness and discouragement, but it has been crowned with signal success. Churches that it planted and fostered in the wilderness, are now strong and flourishing, and many of them are in the centers of large villages and cities, shining as lights in the world; and some of them are planting churches themselves among those who are destitute. May your own, recently formed Domestic Missionary Society have a history of equal success, and celebrate as happy a jubilee!

This country is passing through a severe commercial panic. None of our divines are positive as to the cause. The effects, however, are apparent, and will long be visible. Faces, whose look once bade defiance to danger, have been blanched with fear, and stout hearts have quivered, as if the nation had been shaken by an earthquake. Human character has been manifested, often to its honour, but sometimes to its shame.

When it was feared that all the banks would yield to the shock, bills, that had been stowed away snugly, were brought out of their concealment, and were used to pay honest debts, perhaps to the relief of some consciences, but more to the ease of minds that feared soon they would be valueless. Thus millions of dollars rapidly kept changing hands, and the bills found no rest till they were returned to the banks from whence they came.

The panic has prevented the usual shipments of flour from the great store-houses of the west; and, unless a brisk business is done before the canals are closed, its price will not be as low, before the opening of Spring, as many hoped and anticipated. As confidence is somewhat restored, and money is more easily obtained, and is also more readily taken, although the banks have suspended, probably, much will yet be accomplished towards getting the abundant harvests into market. A high price of provision would occasion great distress to the thousands who have been recently thrown out of business in all of our manufacturing cities. There will doubtless be a great deal of suffering under the most favorable circumstances.

For the past few weeks a vast quantity of rain has fallen, so that the earth is surcharged, and the low lands are flooded with water. This week, although the pastures around are as green as at mid-summer, yet winter appeared in earnest, and at a few miles distant the snow fell two or three inches deep. Have you beaten this in the higher latitude of Nova Scotia?

There is no special religious interest in the States. Politicians are preparing for the election, which comes off the 2nd Tuesday in November. There is no great principle at stake to awaken a lively interest among the masses of the people, and as these leave the loaves and fishes to the office-seekers, they have almost all the interest among themselves.

The Maine law finds but little favor with any of the prominent political parties. All of them profess to hate Rum, but many who compose them would rather take it down, than vote, to have it put down. Rum-sellers have things their own way by paying a small sum for a licence, but all who get drunk in our place, and are so unfortunate as to be caught in the streets, are fined \$10, and costs. Is not consistency indeed a jewel?

Very truly, yours,

I. M. HARRIS.

Ithaca, October 23, 1857.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Canada West.

GALT, Oct. 25th, 1857.

I took a ticket from London to Paris by railroad, and then came to this place by private conveyance, the distance being much shorter, and affording an opportunity of viewing the country. Galt is situated thirty miles north of Hamilton, and is built of stone. Most of the towns in Canada West, and nearly all the new houses in the country are built of brick. Galt has a population of 3,500—a Mayor and Town Council—eight houses for public worship—a central School House, erected at a cost of five thousand pounds—with a Principal and six assistants, also, a Grammar School with two teachers. I was shown through the Central school by the Principal. It is finished and furnished upon the most approved principles. I was much pleased with the system and order manifested, and interest taken by both teacher and scholars in their respective vocations. There are two mills which make three hundred barrels of flour daily, in the grinding season; thus affording a cash market for wheat, the staple product of the country; also three foundries and an axe factory. They are now building a Town Hall, with a market in the lower flat, at a cost of three or four thousand pounds.

The principal advantage I see in municipal government is, when a school house, town hall or any other public building is required, it is immediately erected by order of the Council, and each person pays his equitable proportion of the cost—and if the Tax is burdensome issue Debentures, and let those who come after, and are most benefitted, pay part of the expense. While Nova Scotia depends upon the benevolence of the people, she will always have the mean description of school houses, which now disgrace nearly every town and village in the province.

Two ably conducted newspapers are issued weekly, at Galt—keeping the residents posted up in the news of the day. Nearly every township in the western province, has its newspaper,

* We have had no snow to whiten the ground, but ice, half an inch thick, appeared two or three weeks ago. We are now expecting our Indian Summer.—Ed. C. M.

with such facilities for information, an intelligent people can readily be imagined.

I was shown a flock of sheep—about twenty, valued at twenty pounds each—fifteen pounds each had been refused for the lambs, the owner took nearly all the prizes awarded to the "Southdowns," at the Provincial Fair.

Since my visit to Lake Erie I took a trip through the counties of Halton and Wellington. The part of the former county bordering on Lake Ontario, is level, mellow and fertile, the northern part, and the latter county, is rather rough and rocky—the soil is good but not so easily cultivated as some other. Guelph, the shire town of Wellington, has a population of about 4,000. The Court House is being enlarged and a splendid market and town hall are being built. A Farmer of this town sold his surplus stock by auction, realizing over twelve thousand dollars from the sale. Some of the cows and heifers brought \$550 \$650 and \$750 each. And the best of the cows were bid in at \$1,000 and \$1,500 each, the owner refusing to take less. There is plenty of stock to be bought as cheaply here as in Nova Scotia, but the value of good breeds is perfectly understood—the farmers finding out that it does not pay to keep poor stock, raising wheat is more profitable.

The Municipal Act has been in operation for some time in this province. It is not so cumbersome nor so radical in its changes as the act passed by your Legislature, but this act is thought to be susceptible of improvement, and a Bill to supersede the present one has been prepared and printed—and will be discussed at the next meeting of the Legislature—it does not contemplate any very important changes—more nominal than real. Each county is divided into Townships—and each township into concessions which are divided by streets running parallel about a mile distant from each other. Cross streets are made where required, the concessions are divided into lots, and property is described by the number of the Lot and of the concession and name of the township and county. The streets are occasionally planked or macadamized by companies, who collect tolls from travellers to pay interest and expenses. Each township elect a Council to transact their business. And every town of 3000 inhabitants are entitled to a Town Council and a Mayor, who is elected by the Council. The new act requires the Mayor to be elected by the people. County councils are composed of the Reeve (Chairman) and deputy Reeve from each township council, and a Reeve from the Town Councils. The County Councils elect their chairman, who is called a Warden. Business formerly transacted by the general sessions of the peace is now attended to by the County Councils. In addition to the Provincial Superintendent of Education, county superintendents are appointed by the county councils.

Although the Canadas are united, there are important divisions. Upper Canada has different systems of public instruction from Lower Canada, different Municipal regulations—different forms of judiciary, a different system of road expenditure, in fact there is hardly an act which applies to the whole province, except the tariff, postage and currency. Canada West progresses more rapidly than the East, and containing a greater population, is not satisfied with equal political influence, but wishes representation in Parliament according to population, the only just principle.

Courts in Canada West consist of a Chancery Court, which has a different practice from others. Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, Quarter Sessions and Division Courts—the two latter are presided over by County Judges. Division Courts are held every two months in each division, comprising two or three townships, and try all Causes below one hundred dollars. Quarter Sessions are held in each County four times a year, for the trial of larceny, misdemeanours and other offences—one or more Magistrates must be associated with the Judge in this Court.

If the Court in Nova Scotia could be held quarterly instead of triennially—the system appears less confused, and is doubtless better than here.

The Act adopting the Decimal system of Currency comes in operation the first of the year—this system is unquestionably the most convenient, and better adapted to a new country—for a hundred thousand dollars sounds much larger than twenty-five thousand pounds. As Nova Scotia and the other provinces will have to adopt it—they had better do so at once.

Canada is likely to get part of the Hudson Bay territory—judging from the report of the committee of the House of Commons on the subject—part will answer for the present—and no doubt the Canadians will feel as much inflated with the acquisition as the Yankees were when they got Mexico.

WILL.

For the Christian Messenger.

London Correspondence.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

London, Friday, October 23, 1857.

INDIA AND ITS MUTINY.

MR. EDITOR,

There is gratifying intelligence to record: but as it arrived and was partly printed on this day week, perhaps you are in some measure aware of it. The principal source of gratulation is, that Lucknow is believed to be safe. For some time its position was most desperate; but latest letters say that General Havelock was urged, by the besieged, not to run any risk in relieving them, as they had provisions for six months, and the attacks of the enemy were growing fainter.

The sortie I mentioned, which resulted in drawing within the walls considerable stores, as well as defeating the enemy, proves true:—More than 100 of the enemy were blown into the air by a mine; a 24-pounder gun which had greatly annoyed them was spiked, and large supplies of provisions were secured. The garrison now consists of about 500 men, of whom 150 are in hospital; there are also about 200 women and children, who have gone through all the dangers and hardships of the siege, certain (for the fate of the Cawnpore garrison had reached them) of a cruel death if compelled by famine or any other cause to surrender. We may now almost look upon their relief as secure: humanly speaking it is quite so. General Outram, with 1,300 men of the 5th Fusiliers and 70th, was at Allahabad on the 1st inst.

A letter of the 6th, from the same place, says that General Outram's force left on the preceding day (5th), and marched in two columns. The first, of 680 men, left at one, P. M.; the second, also of 680 men, left with the General, some hours before. The advanced column, it was intended, should reach Cawnpore on the 10th, and the second on the 11th, September. General Outram had, very nobly, sent on word to Havelock that, though superior in military rank, "he should only come in a civil capacity, and, by serving under the gallant Brigadier, leave him to complete what he had so nobly begun and maintained." Instructions were also forwarded, to prepare for crossing the river directly on arrival of the reinforcements; and as the rivers had all fallen considerably (the Jumna, 30 feet in a week), crossing would be rendered easier; and operations permitted on the enemy's flank on the road to Lucknow, which latter could not have been if the country were, as recently, under water. As Gen. Havelock's recent delay did not imperil the garrison, we may now rejoice, at its furnishing greater facilities and more certain victory. General Outram had taken heavy guns, drawn by elephants, and his troops were in good health and vigour.

Sir Colin Campbell was busy. For days, however, even in a crisis which he went to meet, he was prevented from taking his seat at the Council Board, because his formal authority had not arrived! Lord Canning and he are said to have quarrelled; and it seems very likely, contrasting the effete, imbecile lordling with the vigorous, energetic, decisive soldier.

Lord Canning has promulgated an order regulating the punishment of Sepoys. By implication he reproves the methods of martial law which the Generals have seen fit to adopt; and places so many restrictions, and gives so many loopholes for escape, that, if adopted, they would let off many of the actual perpetrators of the villainies all deplore—such among other things, and beside all the woman-torture already known, as "whipping a poor child to death with red-hot ramrods!" The Governor-General is accused of criminal and dangerous clemency—of jealousy at the appointment of Sir Colin Campbell,—and of an adherence to strict routine, which, in more than one case, hazarded the lives of Europeans. Such a proclamation would be in place when the struggle for bare life should be over; but now, when such treachery as Nana Sahib's is prevalent amongst nearly all the mutinous regiments, it can do nothing but harm, because its false assumptions imply that our Generals are mere butchers, and indiscriminately sanction repayment in kind of what we have received. But the real secret lies in Lord C's own character—self-sufficient, obstinate, and regardless of all but his own whim. This is not merely my own opinion, but that of the general press. It is reported that his reign is over, and that the Government can no longer defend him; but there is mystery and uncertainty about it, which can only be explained by government wishing to hush the matter up. However it may be done now, Parliament will be sure to have the real truth out.