

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letters to a Young Preacher.

LETTER I. INTRODUCTION.

The gospel ministry is a work of vast importance. It is attended with much difficulty, and many trials. Every preacher is, like the Jewish high priest, "compassed with infirmity." A large measure of grace is, therefore, requisite in order to the faithful and successful performance of this work. Grace, however, is ordinarily communicated by means. It is evident, then, that the man who engages in this momentous and arduous work, needs to be furnished with all the aids that can be afforded him.

Among these the judicious counsels of aged and experienced ministers of Christ occupy a distinguished place. I would here gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to my worthy predecessors in the ministry, especially Elder Manning, my esteemed Pastor, for kind, faithful, and beneficial admonitions, cautions and instructions. Regarding it as a duty incumbent on senior ministers to assist their juniors, as Dr. Wayland justly remarks they should, by communicating to them such observations as may have been made during a long course of ministerial labors, I have for some time contemplated the imparting of a few friendly suggestions, without any thought of dictating, to brethren who may be just entering the gospel field. Being now in the sixty-seventh year of my age, and the forty-fifth of my ministry, I am aware that if this be ever done, it must be done soon.

While numbers of the Lord's ministering servants are being removed, and I must shortly follow, I rejoice that others are being sent into the harvest. It is my earnest desire that their number may be greatly increased; and that every one of them may labor faithfully and successfully. To aid them in the discharge of their onerous duties is the design of the series of letters now commenced. It may be reasonably presumed that no young preacher who is aware of the magnitude of the work before him, and of his own frailty, will regard the present attempt to promote his welfare and usefulness as superfluous, or require any apology from the writer.

As it is contemplated to recommend *brevity*, an example of it should be set. Each number may, therefore, be expected to contain a few remarks on some subject connected with the work of the gospel ministry.

These letters are, indeed, designed for the special benefit of those persons who are just engaging in that work. It is hoped, however, should the writer be spared to fulfil his intention, that they may, through the Divine blessing, be, directly as well as indirectly, serviceable to others, whether devoted to that occupation or not.

That judicious advice may be given, and that its influence may be salutary, is the sincere prayer of,

Yours in gospel bonds,
CHARLES TUPPER.

Tremont, Aylesford, Dec. 7th.

For the Christian Messenger.

English Correspondence.

Manchester, Dec. 15th, 1860.

CHINA, AND WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH IT.
MR. EDITOR,

We had been anticipating something new from China, but were certainly not a little startled on Monday last by the publication of a telegram received on Saturday Evening that *Pekin*, the Capital of the Celestial Empire had fallen into the hands of the Allied troops, that the Emperor had fled with his court and army into Tartary; that the Summer Palace at Peking, or rather some 4 miles out of the city had been taken and "looted" by the troops. Immense treasure and valuables had been taken. We were not prepared for such astounding news. And at first a feeling of exultation could hardly be restrained to find that immense empire, and those passive millions without a government, and at our mercy, through the indomitable courage of our troops and terrible power of our warlike engines of destruction, although reflection soon sobered any such tendencies, as we calculated the probable cost of such glory. How long shall we have to support a large force on the other side of the globe? and what is to be the end of the fall of Peking? We cannot afford to rule China or indeed to hold Peking long. We wish the foolish Emperor had not run and left us in such a really dangerous position, involving us in such heavy responsibilities. Much anxiety has been felt the past week for more details of this

strange adventure and to-day we have the China mail with full accounts of the march on Peking, the skirmish with a few pickets of the Tartar army, which however had to be hunted up to be found, the preparations for a bombardment of the city, and an unconditional surrender of the place, a quarter of an hour before the time fixed for opening fire. This Summer Palace appears to have been crammed like a warehouse with expensive luxuries and costly manufactures. Some private soldiers have for their share of the spoil as much as £1000 worth each. The "loot" is to be distributed amongst the soldiers. The Commander in Chief and principal officers having generously given up all claim. This will create a good feeling amongst the troops. It appears that San-ko-lin-sin, the Commander of the Tartar army had persuaded the Emperor that with his army of 50,000 cavalry he could surround our small force as they were on their march to Tein-tsin, and destroy them. Thanks to our Armstrong guns this scheme was frustrated, and that large force put to flight, minus some 500 or 600 who were killed, while on our side there were only two or three killed and perhaps two score wounded. Such results may well spread terror amongst the Chinese and Tartars too. No sooner had the governments of England and France received the first news than they at once gave orders for a large exportation of stores of every kind likely to be useful to the army in China, and already two transports are on their way from Toulon with stores and troops for Alexandria to be forwarded by the overland route. On our part no doubt much assistance will be given from India.

What great results now hang on the discretion of our representatives in their decisions! What will come of it? Commercial letters from the different parts state that the population seems quite careless of the state of politics. If they may be allowed to live, and labor and trade, and enjoy domestic quietude, they will willingly pay their taxes and submit to any power whatever which may be over them. The great rebellion which has made so much progress in the central and southern provinces, and has established a respectable government at Nankin for their capital for so long a period as ten years, may well look on our progress in the northern provinces with satisfaction. We have been doing their work most effectually. Two or three years since three large armies were despatched from Nankin to reduce the whole country to submission. Those which moved southward and eastward were more or less successful, and have only been kept out of Canton and Shanghai by our position there. But that which moved northward to encounter the Tartar troops, and a population with Tartar sympathies was completely destroyed. This new dynasty has ever professed to be more friendly towards foreigners, and foreign trade, and perhaps for a purpose has professed to hold Christian principles. It is only because it was in open rebellion, against the recognized government, that we could have nothing to do with them. The case is altered now. If the Emperor has taken away with him all his officials, and will not come forward with any proposals of peace, it will be necessary for us to put some power at the head of affairs, and who so likely as the King of Nankin.

Next mail may clear up some of these difficulties for us. Most likely however there will be some material guarantee given to both England and France. What so likely as the possession of the principal ports for a time or in perpetuity.

It is an excellent opportunity for France to gratify her ambition for Asiatic territory nor would it be a bad thing to let the Emperor have some stake in that quarter to divert his mind from Europe. China is ripe for political change of masters, and with a sensible set of rulers and a prosperous colony of French in the Corea to stimulate the faculty for improvement would do a great good. We fear however that a little would not satisfy either the French or the Russians or Americans in that quarter. The Japan Isles are so admirably situated and so wealthy withal that they would always be coveted. It seems a settled thing in British policy that we have enough on our hands in India.

ITALY, AUSTRIA AND TURKEY.

Gaeta still holds out. That fortress has proved far stronger than was expected. Like Sebastopol, till the attack upon it was actually commenced, the public had no idea of its very great strength. Francis II. remains steadfast. Loath to leave his patrimony, he dares to brave a bombardment. It is a pity that the Emperor of the French protects the town from an attack by sea. Were his men-of-war to leave, there is no doubt that the king would at once fly, as there would be no chance of holding his position for two days. Being constrained to attack the

place from the land only. General Cialdini, who commands the Sardinian troops there, has prepared for a severe attack when he does begin. Some firing took place last Saturday, but not continuous, and we are told that the bombardment ceased on Tuesday, but to what extent the attack was carried, and what results were produced, and why it ceased on Tuesday we know not. The people in the city seem to take it very easy, for though they are frightened with the bursting of shells in their midst, one writes that the state of things "is becoming more interesting" when the batteries began to be actively employed.

Political affairs in Italy are not so satisfactory as could be wished. The thousands of royalist and papal troops which have been disbanded and are scattered over the whole country are very troublesome to the Sardinian troops. The authority of Victor Emanuel is by no means well established. In Naples, an accident might any moment upset his government, and the chances in that case are that Garibaldi would be called from his retirement and be requested to take the lead. A very little scheming would place him as King of Italy in place of Victor Emanuel who seems too much under the thumb of Louis Napoleon. The Mazzinian party is very strong, and determined to carry out their old idea of Italian unity with Rome for her Capital, and would readily place Garibaldi over the whole country with the determination to drive out the Pope from Rome, and the Austrians from Venice. France seems not to sympathize very deeply with such a complete fulfilment of the "idea." Napoleon's idea is not exactly coincident with theirs. Hence we have the game of chess political going on. As the winter turns we shall see more new moves. Some indications of what will take place are given in stray paragraphs of the papers.

The Austrian seaboard in the Adriatic is now and then visited by a Sardinian ship, but the whole coast is closely watched and strongly protected by Austria. The people of the Montenegro are half inclined to revolt. The Hungarians spurn the large concessions of the Austrian Emperor, and demand complete restoration of their independence. The tradesmen have removed the double-headed eagle from their signs, and replaced it with the single-headed eagle of Hungary. The government has felt compelled to do so to on the public buildings; still there is a settled resolve to be free. Arms are being accumulated in Moldavia and Wallachia. Five Sardinian ships lately passed the Bosphorus with arms and ammunition. Three have been stopped by the Turkish authorities at the Sulbia mouth of the Danube. The other two have proceeded. The Porte has bitterly complained to the Sardinian minister of these ships being sent to his dominions. Mazzini is in London organizing a Society for the unification of Italy. Such statements put together certainly predict a struggle for 1861. Not only the liberation of Italy from the Papedom and Austrian dominancy but the independence of Hungary from Austria, Poland from Russia; and of Moldavia and Wallachia from Turkey may be the result.

It is not likely that all this will be accomplished but it will all be attempted, unless the active spirits who move in these affairs are put down by some diplomacy. The Conservatives of Austria are making great efforts to prevent such a rupture as is threatened. The Emperor has just appointed a Prime Minister M. Schmerli of known liberal tendency, who comes into power with a noble programme. If he could but carry out what he proposes and get the people to accept it all, the Austrian Empire might continue to hold its own for ages yet. He proposes entire religious liberty, complete separation of church (Catholic) and State, a revision of the Concordat, that fruitful source of evil; and a most liberal constitution for all the Germanic States, with almost a re-establishment of an Hungarian Parliament. It is good as far it goes, but it is not likely to be carried out with integrity.

FRANCE AND ITS EMPEROR.

The Emperor of the French does not let foreign politics absorb all his attention, he is equally alert in scheming at home. He is certainly carrying out the commercial treaty very fairly, and seems to want to make himself more popular with the influential classes of his empire. He has been very liberal lately in freeing the tongue and the pen of some of the stringent rules to which they were obliged to succumb. The French House of Commons are told that they may now have the privilege of discussing the Emperor's speech at the opening of a Session, and may vote an address in reply. Wonderful condescension to permit such an exercise of freedom of speech but he does not stop here,

the whole country is invited to discuss freely as we do, acts of the government, abuses of administration, and politics generally. The only restriction is that which obtains here and is very reasonable; no treasonable articles are to appear in the papers. We must rejoice at this valuable boon, and liberal tendency. The appointment of Persigny, so long the ambassador to our court, to the highest ministerial position is another bond to the permanence of the alliance between England and France.

Time fails me to make any remarks on home politics to-day.

HASTINGS.

For the Christian Messenger.

Exegesis.

LUKE xviii. 7, 8.—"And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

JESSRS. EDITORS.

It is true, indeed, that God does "bear long with" His people; but it appears incongruous to connect this idea with that of "avenging" them. In the parable (ver. 2-5.) of which this passage is the application, the "judge" obviously did not exercise forbearance toward the "widow," at toward her "adversary." It is, therefore, evidently the most natural and consistent to read the expression, "though He bear long with them," as referring, not to God's "own elect," but to their adversaries.

Instances not unfrequently occur in which a pronoun relates, not to an immediate antecedent, but to one more remote, or to one understood or implied. So in Numb. xxv. 4, it is said, "Take all the heads of the people, and hang them," &c. This was not a command, as it would seem at first view to be, to hang "all the heads of the people," but those persons who had openly rebelled against God by lewdness and idolatry, (Ver. 1-3). Accordingly we are informed in verse 5th, that "Moses said unto the judges"—heads—of Israel, Slay ye every one his man that were joined to Baal peor. In Ps. lxxiii. 10, 11, it is said, "His [God's] people return hither, and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them; and they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the Most High?" Here the pronoun "they" manifestly refers to a more distant antecedent, namely the "wicked" mentioned in verse 3rd. We read (Ps. lxxviii. 34). "When He slew them, then they sought Him." The obvious import of this, is, "When God slew some, the survivors sought Him." Substantially the same idea is more fully expressed in Rev. xi. 13, "In the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven."

In accordance with this view of the text under consideration, it is stated that "the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing;" and God is said to "endure with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction," (Gen. vi. 3, 1 Pet. iii. 20, Rom. ix. 22).

Unquestionably grace does dispose believers, in agreement with their Lord's command and example, to forgive their enemies and persecutors, and to pray for them. (Matt. v. 44. Luke xxiii. 34. Acts vii. 60.) The blood of martyrs, however, and the suffering of saints through persecution, call for retribution, and God will ultimately inflict it on His and their incorrigible foes. (Gen. iv. 10. Zech. ii. 8, 9. Rev. vi. 10, 15-17.) So an inspired apostle says, "It is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you, and to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven, with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power, when he shall come to be glorified in his saints." 2 Thes. ii. 6-10.

In consideration of the presumptuous blasphemies of impious persecutors, and their cruelties exercised toward the beloved children of God, He may be truly said to "bear long with them." Nevertheless, in view of the shortness of time as compared with eternity, it may with equal truthfulness be affirmed, of His oppressed people that He will avenge them speedily.

The coming "of the Son of man," spoken of in the closing part of this passage, may have reference to the relief afforded the disciples of Jesus, in different instances, when He comes to their rescue by the overthrow of their oppressors. It appears to me, however, to be especially applicable to His coming at the last day, when His