

For the Christian Messenger.
European Correspondence.

Paris, August, 1863.

MR. EDITOR,—

This is one of the finest cities in the world, if not the finest. Though far behind London in population, still it is the next largest in Europe. Its population has increased most rapidly since the reign of the present Emperor, and now numbers 1,700,000. It is encircled by walls. Its circuit being 20 miles, with about 50,000 dwellings. On arriving in the city, the first thing is to look for lodgings. The excellent guide-books published by Chambers of Edinburgh, intimates where good and inexpensive accommodations may be had, stating at the same time that the farther from the Tuileries (Emperor's Palace) and the nearer the sky you select your room, the more moderate the charge. I selected mine not in the extreme in either case, and found a snug room, with attendance, for five shillings per day. But the eating is a separate affair: few in Paris eat at their lodgings, and a majority of even families get their two chief meals at a restaurant or eating-house. On rising, those who feel inclined, get a cup of coffee and a roll at a *café* for about 6d., but the regular breakfast is made at 11 A. M., when fish, meat, fruits and wine are served up. Those who choose to dispense with the wine call for coffee, but this is mostly done by strangers, as the former is the ordinary drink, and preferred by nearly all Europeans. Dinner is taken about six o'clock, P. M., and much the same as breakfast except the coffee, and more courses of meat; but fruit and vegetables enter largely into the consumption of the French, and are certainly most palatable and nutritious, and well suited for a mild climate. Wine is the common drink of all parties. It need never be called for, as it is placed on the table at each meal,—a pint bottle to each person. It can be dispensed with at breakfast and coffee ordered in its place, but this is seldom done. But your readers must not imagine that the wine-drinking Europeans are, therefore, an intemperate people, such is far from being the case. On the whole, intoxication is rare. The wine drunk in common is a thin dark claret, and like weak vinegar, tinged with logwood. This is largely mixed with water, and, as far as I could judge, there is no alcohol in it; or so small a quantity, that it is hardly perceptible. The higher priced wines are stronger, but these are not indulged in as ordinary drinks. During a week spent here, at the public dinner tables, where some hundred or more dined daily, I never once heard brandy called for. I observed in my walks through the city by day and by night, no liquor shops or places where people resorted for the purpose of drinking. But those who use the wine take it at home with their families: I allude to the working classes, as we use tea and coffee. The Parisians are fond of living out of doors. Thousands may be seen in the evening on the edge of the sidewalks or in the *cafés*, (which are thrown open by the fronts being removed,) sitting at little tables—both sexes—sipping a cup of coffee or chocolate, or a mug of wine, and talking over the news of the day. The air here is pure; no smoke or dust, and no fog, consequently to sit outside of the house is preferable to the confinement within. 'Tis impossible to describe the streets (rues) and avenues (boulevards) of this splendid city; the latter are about 100 feet wide, and are planted with trees on each side between the carriage drive and the side walks. Not only is the shade of these most agreeable to the pedestrian, but the city is much beautified thereby. One of the chief boulevards runs from the church of the "Madeleine" (a splendid structure) to the site of the old Bastille, some 2½ miles in a straight line. This whole distance on both sides is occupied by the finest shops in Paris, whose windows, tastefully arranged with goods, make an elegant appearance. The taste of the Parisians is exhibited in the style and arrangements of their buildings; the width and cleanliness of their streets; the number of squares and open spaces in various parts of the city,—which, in addition to trees, are usually cultivated with flowers; the number of monuments, fountains, public walks and gardens. Trees and flowers abound, which makes this city to differ from nearly every other I have seen or heard of. The English are very deficient in these healthful and tasty embellishments. The people correspond well with city appearances. They are a neat people in their dress, and most polite in their manners. The soldiers, of whom a large number are seen here, are fine looking men; their dress suits them admirably. One sees horsemen traversing the city in every direction on handsome horses and rich military trappings.

On enquiring if they are the officers of the regiments in the city, he is informed that they are but the City Police; and so with the foot police, they are richly uniformed. So fond are the French of display, that every official, from the Mayor to the Porter wears uniform. But the working people at their labours, the serving maids and the children of the humbler class are all, however plainly, still cleanly dressed. Paris has no sea-port nearer than Havre, which is, by rail, over 100 miles distant; but the Seine—a dirty, sluggish river,—divides the city into two parts, and is only navigable from the ocean for small steamers and barges. Its banks are well protected by stone quays of much strength and beauty, and is spanned with 27 bridges, some of which are quite elegant, and, with but two exceptions, are free of tolls. The quays are lined with trees and form a most agreeable promenade along the banks of the river. Among the trees and along the streets and promenades comfortable seats are placed at short distances, that those who wish to rest, to lounge, or to do business leisurely, can sit at their ease. The Parisians study comfort in various ways, and seem a cheerful, easy going people, living more in the present than in the future. Dress, ornament, and amusement seem to occupy much of their thought and time; still in their seemingly careless mode of living, wealth is predominant to a large degree. This is evidenced by the fine residences of the upper classes: the rich jewelry displayed in the goldsmith's shops and worn, and by the multitude of elegant carriages with their fine horses and liveried coachmen which resort to the fashionable drives of an evening. The present Emperor—who is a good ruler for the French and, as far as I could judge, very popular—has done much for the appearance of the city. Old buildings have been torn down and replaced by new ones; streets in every direction straightened, widened and well paved, and numerous squares enlarged and beautified. So there is plenty of room to breathe pure air, and obtain suitable exercise, and only in a few of the back streets can Paris be said to be crowded. In London a rail-road runs under the city, whilst in Paris a canal stretches from one side of the city to the other, traversed by boats and barges, under one of the principal streets.

As I find my communication is getting beyond a suitable length, I must reserve what more I have to say of this city for another letter.

J. W. B.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 21, 1863.

The Evangelical Alliance Conference in Dublin.

The seventeenth annual conference of the British Organisation of the Evangelical Alliance was opened with a *soirée* on Tuesday 22nd ult. The Rotunda is a very spacious apartment; and yet hundreds were disappointed of obtaining any tea in the ante-rooms, which, for a full hour before the meeting began, were most inconveniently crowded with ladies and gentlemen.

The speeches of Tuesday evening were of a miscellaneous character, referring principally to the rationalism and infidelity of the age.

On Wednesday the release of Matamoros and his companions was subject of congratulation. Rev. Dr. Steane moved a long resolution respecting the loss of Sir Culling Eardley. A paper on "the Week of Prayer" by B. Scott, Esq., was read. In the evening a paper on "the Progress of Christian Union at home" was read by the Rev. Thomas Curme, vicar of Sandford, Oxon; then one on "the Progress of Christian Union abroad," by Rev. W. Monod, of Paris.

The next topic introduced was "What special incentives to Christian Union arise from the social and religious signs of the times?" by Rev. S. Walker, of Bristol. Rev. Dr. Winslow also spoke on this subject. Rev. Dr. Kirkpatrick then brought forward "The results of the recent revivals in Ireland."

On Thursday morning several letters were read from members of the Alliance in different countries of Europe, concerning the progress of evangelical truth in France, Holland, Turkey, Sweden, Germany and Spain. A letter was read from Matamoros, expressing the thankfulness of himself and companions for the efforts made by the Alliance on his behalf. A resolution was passed, declaring the joy that had been felt on learning that Her Majesty the Queen had expressed her entire and warm approval of the efforts made to promote liberty of conscience in Spain.

On Friday, after devotional exercises, papers on "religion in Belgium," and on "Lay

Agency," were read before the Conference. Sermons, by several of the ministers, were preached in the various churches of Dublin during the sittings of the Conference.

THE RACES were held as proposed on Friday last on the the Halifax Common. The day being delightful seems to have put all parties in good humor with what has been hitherto pronounced in Nova Scotia a pest and nuisance. We do not think this species of gaming the less pernicious in its tendencies because it has been controlled with the strong arm of military authority, and it has gone off without any serious accident. One of the riders was thrown and slightly injured. The circumstance of there being five or six thousand people to witness the rare spectacle does not remove its objectionable features. One of our contemporaries came out on Saturday in condemnation of horse-racing, and asked "Can not the Mayor and Aldermen do something to put a stop to the races? They probably could if they would; and they would if moved thereto by the voice of the community." Rather late in the day, neighbour, seeing that the races took place on Friday.

The Prayer Meeting opening the eleventh Course of Lectures under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association will be held (D. V.) in the Granville Street Church on Tuesday evening the 27th inst. at half-past seven o'clock.

Lovell's Series of School Books.—British North American Almanac, 1864.

The spirit of enlightened enterprise deserves public patronage, and we are happy to embrace an opportunity of noticing the above series of publications, got out by Mr. John Lovell, of Montreal. Upwards of twenty books have already been brought out, several of which deserve special notice. We must, however, content ourselves by a word or two concerning the "Easy Lessons in General Geography," by Mr. Hodgins, the Deputy Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada. This is intended to be introductory to the General Geography by the same author, which we noticed some time since. It is a most attractive book of eighty pages, exactly suited for young beginners, and conveys just the information required, and in a style which must render the study a pleasant recreation. The conversational trip through the several countries brought before the pupil, must fasten his attention upon them and induce in him a wish to know more about them. The maps are clear and distinctly marked and colored. The wood-cuts of cities and animals are very neatly executed. We doubt not that teachers will adopt the book as soon as they have learned its excellencies.

The General Geography is equally good. We understand that the New Brunswick Government have agreed to take a large quantity of them for their Parish Schools, on condition of Mr. Lovell putting some additional matter in it concerning that province.

Mr. Lovell is also purposing to publish an Almanac for British North America with a full account of Trade, Commerce, Mineral and Agricultural Resources, Public officers, Periodicals, Telegraph, Steamboat and Railway lines, Clergy &c., &c.

This is a highly important movement, and will doubtless be a means of conveying to the mother country and other parts, information concerning these provinces which has not been available hitherto. We commend the object to the public, and hope that every effort will be made to supply information and to encourage the publication.

News Summary.

Our last week's English mail Steamer the *Africa* was a rare exception to the usual regularity of the Cunard line. We learned on Wednesday last that she had struck on Cape Race. We subsequently learned that about 10 o'clock on Monday night in a dense fog she took ground fore and aft and midships, and remained on the rocks half an hour. There was considerable sea with a southerly wind and the ship was much damaged. The boats were got ready but were not launched. After an hour the ship floated and the pumps speedily freed her of water. The captain (Capt. Stone) then headed for Halifax but afterwards thought it prudent to bear up for St. John's, Newfoundland.

The mails and passengers were forwarded by H. M. Steamer *Venezuela* which arrived on Sunday evening last.

Nothing of very stirring interest appears from Europe.

Mr. Mason the Commissioner from the Confederate States has withdrawn from England by the command of President Davis.

Lord John Russell in a speech at Blair-

gowrie has given an exposition of the foreign policy of the British Government on the Polish Question, and on the present position of Britain with the United States. He gave full expression to his views of the late speech of the Hon. Mr. Sumner at New York. As this speech gives the views of the British Government on several questions of much importance at the present time we shall probably copy it in our next issue.

There would appear at present to be an almost universal lull in warlike operations on all the chief battle fields of the South. It is quite evident that the Confederates under Bragg, have been unable to follow up their bloody victory over Rosecrans—bloody and destructive of human life it appears to have been on both sides. But it is plain that the Confederates were not in sufficient force to cut off the Federal communications with Chattanooga.

The armies of the Potomac are still watching each other, and anxious to guard their respective capitals from a sudden attack. Charleston seems no nearer capture than ever. Indeed it is reported that the Federals have had to relinquish their recent possession of Morris Island, on account of its exposure to the fire of other harbour forts, still held by the rebels. The approach to the city from the sea, is said to be a perfect network of chains, torpedoes and other obstructions. Unless the place can be more strongly invested from the land, the probability of its speedy capture is not great.

On the west of the Mississippi, partial successes are occasionally reported on either side. In the mean time the conscription in the North does not appear likely to afford any great prospect of large success, and from all accounts the numbers yet obtained are few in comparison to what the Government anticipated. The present funded debt of the Union is said to amount to twelve hundred millions of dollars, which is daily increasing by an enormous amount. Business, however, throughout the Northern States was never more active, while thousands are realizing immense fortunes. This may well be supposed, while supplies have to be furnished to keep on foot some half a million of soldiers, and a corresponding naval force. But Government paper currency struck off by the million, keeps up a quick circulation, and ensures high prices for every article of life. No thoughts appear to be entertained on either side of bringing the war to a conclusion. The North thus far seem determined to inflict and the South to submit to extermination, rather than entertain any thought of mutual agreement. No victory as yet, on either part, has had any other result than to leave the parties more than ever exasperated against each other.

Notices, &c.

Tea Meeting at Waverly.

The Ladies of the Baptist Congregation at Waverly, intend having a Tea meeting in the Baptist Meeting house of that place, on Thursday the 22nd inst. Proceeds to go towards finishing the house.

ROBERT R. PHILIP.

P. S.—The cause there is in its infancy. A donation towards the above object from any kind friend will be thankfully received. Please forward to Christian Messenger Office.

R. R. P.

Monthly Meeting of Home Missionary Board.

IN THE VESTRY OF GRANVILLE STREET CHURCH.

Wednesday, Oct. 7th.

Present—Rev. Dr. Pryor in the chair. Brethren J. W. Nutting, Geo. Robbins, Rev. R. Philip, Alex. Robinson, S. Seiden and H. N. Paine.

Letters received—from Rev. G. F. Miles, M. A. Bigelow, J. Bancroft, J. Davis; Bro. Wm. Bagg and Cape Canso Church.

Appointments.—Rev. John Shaw, 8 weeks in destitute parts of P. E. Island. Rev. D. McKean, 4 weeks to Margate and Baddeck, C. B. Rev. James Stevens, 6 weeks at Waverly.

R. N. BACKWORTH, Secretary.

Letters Received.

J. B. McNutt, 21st, 10s. Rev. Jos. H. Saunders, 9th. Rev. U. D. Ward, 8th. Rev. Dr. Tupper, 12th, \$5. Rev. E. N. Harris, 16th. Jos. F. Kempton, 12th. John Broderick, Esq., 14th. S. E. Monteith, 13th.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

CIVIC.—On Thursday last the City Council met for the purpose of the annual election of city officers. Some considerable talk was perpetrated concerning "retrenchment" but it resulted in nothing further. The officers elected were the same as last year with but one exception—W. Sutherland, Esq., Recorder, J. L. Craig, Esq., City Clerk, Mr. Thos. Rhind, Assistant City Clerk, L. Harshorne, Esq., City Treasurer, Mr. Garrot Cotter, City Marshal, and Dr. J. C. Hume, Surgeon of the City Prison.

The constables were re-elected. Mr. W. Hood fills the vacancy, in that body, caused by the dismissal of one of their number. Conroy, The Clerks of Market, Weighers of Flour, and