

(From the London Freeman.)

One Hundred Years Hence.

1881.—A POSSIBLE SKETCH.

Mrs. Robinson Jones Brown was the wife of a solicitor whose office was in Chancery Lane. She had chosen the London suburb of Clacton-on-Sea as her place of residence, on account of its easy access from the City and the number of express trains. Her sitting room was furnished expensively in the Queen Victoria style, which had just come into fashion. The walls were covered with a small patterned pink paper, like that now generally used for servants' bedrooms. An old bronze pendant gaselier of three lights, such as now would be worth about a couple of pounds, hung from the centre of the ceiling. This was entirely for ornament, for gas was not used in the house. It was said to be in cultured taste and the style of the period. A fireplace was not needed, as other modes of heating were employed, but on one side of the room there was something that was like a common grate with a shelf above, on which were two shepherdesses in china, and three willow pattern soup plates, and some other articles, such as at the present day we consider very common, but this lady and friends valued as being antique and elegant. A handsome carpet covered the floor, and the chairs were all that could be desired. At one side of the room there was a very remarkable piece of furniture, not unlike a cheffonier; upon it there was a row of silver handles, and a number of small bells. This was the electric apparatus of the home. Light, warmth, messages, and other needs were supplied by it, and its complicated machinery was covered by an elegant mahogany case.

Miss Electra Robinson Jones Brown was in attendance on her mother. Her dress we attempt not to describe; it was supposed to be that of the nineteenth century. Probably no one of that by-gone era would have recognized it. She was naturally gifted with beauty, and therefore looked well, adding a grace to a graceless attire. Her mother was a confirmed invalid, her ill-health being chiefly due to want of exercise and abounding luxury. Scientific appliances had so reduced all need of effort that the perfect health-condition of the house was rendered nugatory for want of activity and the encouragement given to indolence.

"My dear," said she to her daughter, "I do wonder whether Charles has returned safely to San Francisco this afternoon? It is really very thoughtless of him not to let me know."

"I will soon see mamma," said Electra, and moving one of the handles of the instrument referred to, she had one telephone put into communication, and in a few minutes, putting her ear to another, received the answer that Charles had reached home safely, but fears were entertained that the baby had the measles.

"Ah, well," said the mother, "I cannot go and help. Tell him to let me know to-morrow morning how they all are, and that we will be on the listen at about eleven o'clock."

Just then a little silver chime rang prettily. "Your pa is speaking," said the lady, "please hand me my telephone and my new patent triple sensitive telephote. He has tried to get me the ribbon I wanted. Come here and see if this pattern will do, these telephotes often deceive one as to colour, but I shall tell your pa to bring home five yards like the sample. I think it will do."

Miss Electra R. J. Brown then thought she would like to do a little work, so she brought out her sewing machine, and just switching on a power wire, had simply to get it going, and stop it when she wished by touching a little plated knob. The electricity supplied all the movement required.

Just then the news-bell rung. In those days, persons only needed morning papers which gave intelligence at length. At a reasonable subscription, they had all important news received during the day sent direct to their homes, printed off in well-known cypher on slips of paper which were unrolled by clockwork also set in motion by the instrument. These slips fell into a basket, and could be read at leisure. This one contained the intelligence that Her Majesty's representative at Port Comber, on the Congo River, had completed some im-

portant arrangements with the large and thriving town of Bentley, in relation to the commerce of the interior of Africa.

In this, Miss E. R. J. Brown was much interested. "I often wonder," said she, "how our forefathers of old got on with their slow method of gaining intelligence. What would they have thought, one hundred years ago, of having news from abroad sent to our homes immediately it arrived. They would scarcely have believed it possible!"

The lady complained of feeling chilly. There was a thermometer on the wall, with a sliding hand on one side; she moved this up a degree or two, and almost immediately the temperature of the room corresponded. This was a recent application of electricity, by which the atmosphere of an apartment could easily be cooled down to freezing point, or heightened to that of a Turkish bath. "I think, mamma, I shall order tea," said the young lady. She conveyed by telephone her wishes to the kitchen. A few minutes afterwards a bell rang, some things were cleared aside from the middle of the room, a trap-door opened, and a table ascended with the tea things all laid thereon ready for use. This was effected by very simple machinery worked by electricity, which was found to be a great saving of labour.

The shades of evening were now darkening the room. "What coloured light would you like, mother dear?" said the young lady.

"My sight is feeble, so I think we will only have two hundred candle power with the greenish tinge. Then, if any one comes in, we can easily change for the geranium-pink hue, which suits my complexion. If you wish to read, you can place a quarter white screen for the sofa where you sit."

Miss E. R. J. Brown was an accomplished young lady. She had obtained a prize from the Cambridge Local Examiners for translating one of the hymns of Dr. Watts into the Browning dialect. She had just received from the library a new work on the Victorian Literature of England, and was deeply interested in a chapter proving that there were two Alfred Tenynsons, for it was as impossible that the author of the "Idyls of the King" should have written the "Northern Cumbler" as that the two parts of the Book of the prophecies of Isaiah should have been written by the same pen, or that the Elohist and Jehovist portions of the Pentateuch should have had the same author. "As sound higher criticism has proved that there were two Moseses, three Zecharias, and several Shakespeares, so it is evident, &c." But our sketch refers chiefly to the electrical developments, each of which every scientist knows well must be brought into use in time.

"I cannot understand the character of Queen Victoria," said the young lady. "There were many beautiful features in her character, but her reign was disfigured by the persecution of Pelham Dale and Enraght, those holy martyrs, for conscience' sake. Then there was the tyrannical prevention of the union of Miss Coutts and the gentleman on whom her heart was fixed. I wonder how people lived in those days; I am thankful my lot is cast in a time when there is liberty of opinion, and love is free."

"We must be careful," said her mother, "not to be misled. Many of the journals of that period were very prejudiced and unreliable. Do you know what *The Freeman* said on those subjects? I believe it is now generally admitted that that journal is one of the most trustworthy sources of information, especially on ecclesiastical matters, of any of the publications of that age."

"Hear," said her daughter, "what this distinguished historian, whose work I am now reading, says in his preface: 'I am greatly indebted, in preparing this history of the Victorian period, to *The Freeman*, a weekly journal of advanced opinion. Its view of public events is clear and trustworthy, and its perspective shows great discernment of the times. In religion and politics, in philosophy and sociology, its standpoint was a firm conviction of the completeness of the Bible as an inspired guide. Its writers show acquaintance with traditional religion, and such smattering of science as was known in their time, when the great laws of Nature were so little understood. Yet were ever found looking at events from the point of view of the Puritan theologians—a confidence in the sufficiency of Holy

Scripture. The Baptist denomination was in the cold shade of unpopularity, and evidently unconscious of its power. Subsequent history has shown how much in advance of the age were the opinions of that body of men of which this journal was the exponent. Had the Victorian Baptists but known their true strength, their influence might have been tenfold what it was. But they were possessed by a singular lack of cohesion, or more properly speaking, a spirit of incohesion. Members forsook their churches and were found throwing their influence in the Episcopalian denomination, then fostered by the State, and called the Church of England; they were in many places the life of Congregational chapels, the main sustenance of those free churches which clung to infant sprinkling, and even kept alive by their support the whimsical little sect of Plymouthists. We shall have occasion to show, as the history proceeds, how that fine independence of thought which was a distinguishing feature of this class of men, became misused, and was the cause of other bodies gaining the spoils of victories they had won. In the Victorian Baptists, we have a phenomenon the philosopher may well study. In rainy spring they sowed seeds, and in sunshiny harvest allowed others to reap the fruits."

"I feel," said her mother, "I should like a religious service this evening. I think I will get you to switch on my telephone to the chapel. It is prayer meeting night."

"I will, mamma, but I do not think I can join you in that. Papa was good enough to open a wire subscription for me to the church of St. Maconochi, the martyr, and there is to be a new anthem to night in seven parts in the Phrygian mode."

"I forgot," said the elderly lady, "Dr. Perorate Thunder lectures this evening in one of the cathedrals on the Pillars of Thebes, to prove the world will come to an end in 1882. I am told his calculations are unanswerable, and numbers of clergymen believe in him. Signor Tenorini is to sing at ten o'clock to-night at the Town Hall, but I am not sure that the fee for communication to hear him has been paid. I think, my dear, it would be as well for you just to enquire at the central bureau to know what is really going on to night. Your papa may not return till late, and he is very careless about sending home word. We may as well hear what is to be heard."

The lady had only just finished saying this, when suddenly the light went out, her daughter sprang to the telegraphic instrument, but found it had ceased working. A terrible crash and screaming was heard in the kitchen. The foolish servant girl contrary to many cautions, having laid aside her glass pliers, had attempted to turn on the heat communication with a pair of scissors and received a considerable shock. It struck her to the ground, in falling she overturned a large kitchen table, which came into contact with the main electric switch and broke the connection just where the wire-main entered the house. There she lay in the darkness screaming with alarm, and the ladies in the sitting room upstairs were in equal confusion and terror.

Just then Mr. Robinson Jones Brown returned by the hundred-mile express. He had brought home to dine with him the secretary of a new limited liability company for obtaining electric power by means of the floating up and down by the tide of the large piers on the river Thames. He ran up the door steps, found the bells would not work, heard the screams of the ladies in the sitting room, and those of the servant in the kitchen, and saw with alarm that all was in darkness. What to do he knew not, for the doors had been just fitted with patent anti-burglar locks and bars, which would strike down with irresistible electric shock any one attempting to force an entrance.

"After all," said his friend, when after considerable trouble and skill matters had been put right, "we may laugh at our forefathers who succed in living without any of these inventions, but they have their drawbacks as well as their advantages. And I am not certain that they really make men any happier or any better."

Professor (looking at his watch).—"As we have a few minutes, I should like to have any one ask questions, if so disposed." Student—"What time is it, please?"

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Best Cherries.

PLEASANT RECOLLECTIONS, AND DESCRIPTIONS OF VARIETIES.

By R. H. HAINES.

There is an almost indescribable fascination in those simple words "Cherries are ripe," that many still feel who have passed the meridian of life. How the thoughts go back to the past,—to days of childhood! What pleasant memories come to mind of the happy hours of those youthful days! Far back in the vistas of many a person's memory, is indelibly impressed the picture of some favorite cherry tree. How eagerly was the time awaited when those luscious cherries should first ripen. Visits were paid, days beforehand, to the almost idolized tree, to see if the fruit had yet been kissed by the sun into blushing maturity; and when at last the cherries were found to be tinged with red, how joyfully would youthful voices re-echo the cry, "Cherries are ripe! cherries are ripe!" What an opportunity, too, did these cherry trees of former days afford to the boy of six or eight years for displaying his valour or courage to his admiring little playmates! He would climb as proudly among those (to him difficult) branches and dizzy tree tops, as does the sailor as he springs up the lofty mainmast in the presence of wondering "landsmen." The woodman's axe, with its keen and relentless stroke, may have felled to the ground those trees of former days; changes may have occurred in "the ship of state;" fashions in dress may have come and gone; but that part of human nature, with its love for fruit and the display of boyish valor, is still the same, and each recurring year we see the scenes of past years re-enacted over and over again. It does us all good to become young again. Perhaps the fountain of perpetual youthfulness of feelings may yet be found among the cherry trees, or in sipping the nectar from other delicious fruits. Let us now turn to see what qualities of special value some of the most prominent varieties of cherries may possess.

Luelling.—This is a fine, large, new, black cherry, that is now attracting considerable attention. It is a native of Oregon, where it is highly esteemed on account of both its large size, and good shipping qualities. The fruit is fine and solid, keeping well after being picked. The tree belongs to the *Heart* or *Bigareau* varieties of cherries, nearly all of which are also desirable for shade trees, being of rapid and vigorous habits of growth.

Gov Wood, Elton, Napoleon, Bigareau, Downer's Late Red, and Yellow Spanish are all white or light colored cherries of the *Heart* or *Bigareau* class, and are varieties that are quite well adapted for planting in most localities in the United States. Of the darker or black cherries of the same classes, I might mention *Early Purple Guigne, Black Partarian, Rockport, and Black Eagle* as being among the best for general planting. All of the above also make fine shade trees for planting along the sidewalk or near a dwelling.

The *Ox Heart*, a large white cherry, is also popular in many sections. Many other kinds of cherries, whether white or black, are erroneously called by this name, as it is a name that seems to have taken a strong hold upon the popular fancy. Cherries of the above classes are among the *finest* and *most delicious* for eating. The trees may not be as hardy in extremely cold latitudes as the *Dukes* and *Morellos*, soon to be mentioned, but most of them thrive well in such northern localities as Nova Scotia, Lower Canada, Michigan, or other places where the climate is moderated, or rendered more uniform by large bodies of water being near at hand.

Olivet and *Montmorenci Ordinaire* are two popular, new, large red cherries of the *Duke* and *Morello* class. The first commences to ripen early, and continues to ripen over a long period; while the second is a week or two later than the well known *Early Richmond*, and considerably larger. Other desirable varieties of these two classes, that are well adapted to general cultivation, are *May Duke, Belle Magnifique, Reine Hortense, and Late Duke*. The trees of the *Duke*

and *Morello* class are usually more hardy than others, and better suited to such localities as Maine, Wisconsin, and Northern Iowa. In the lower Gulf States, the *Morello* class is about the only kind that succeeds there.

The *Early Purple Guigne, May Duke, Rockport, and Early Richmond*, are among some of the earliest of the above varieties, and the *Downer's Late Red, Belle Magnifique, Black Eagle, Reine Hortense, and Late Duke* among some of the latest. Most of the other varieties named above ripen about the middle of the cherry season. A longer list could be given, but it is doubtful whether it would be an improvement for general planting.

Cherry trees are usually planted in March, April, and early in May, also in October and November. They generally require but little care after they are planted, except perhaps to keep the soil over the roots mulched or cultivated during the first few summers. Little pruning is needed, the removal of a few interlacing side shoots from the trees while young being sufficient. Certainly there are few ways in which such unalloyed enjoyment can so easily be obtained as in the planting of a few cherry trees, with their accompanying crops of delicious, joy-bestowing fruit.

Moorestown, N. J.

For the Christian Messenger.

A Question concerning College Grants.

Dear Editor,—

The *Christian Visitor* of the 12th inst. contains an editorial "urging our people" "to assert their rights" (?) to their part (?) of the Provincial Grants. The communication of "J. H. S." in the same issue assumes that measure may soon be taken to this end.

The Convention Minutes for 1879, page 15, contains this:

"Rev. D. W. C. Dimock presented the following:—*Resolved*, That the Board of Governors of Acadia College be instructed by the Convention to act for the denomination in case there is any further legislation in the matter of public grants to Colleges in the Province, on the expiration of the present law. This being seconded, it was moved in amendment by Dr. Rand: That the Convention deems it inexpedient that College Education be a charge upon the public revenues of Nova Scotia after the expiry of the existing law in their behalf, and that the scholarship holders of Acadia College be solicited to transfer the same to the Board of Governors, in order that, with the annual contributions of the churches, ample means may be supplied to the Treasurer to meet the loss of the Provincial Grant after February, 1881. The resolution and amendment were laid on the table for future discussion."

This resolution and amendment are yet tabled. The question of whether Acadia College should apply for or receive a Legislative Grant is, therefore, now denominationally undecided. The enquiry is, then, pertinent as to whether any person or persons can legitimately, directly or indirectly solicit or aid in soliciting, a continuance or renewal of the Grant to Acadia College. Will you, or any one of your readers, kindly answer this inquiry?

ENQUIRER.

January 15th, 1880.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

DELHAVEN, CORNWALLIS,

Jan. 16th, 1880.

The 6th Baptist Church of Cornwallis, has for the past few weeks been receiving a blessing through the instrumentality of our faithful brother, the Rev. Isaiah Wallace, who began his labors with us about the close of last year. Very interesting meetings have been held, generally twice almost every day since. Stormy weather, in some cases, prevented many from attending, at other times large congregations would assemble, and much good would seem to be done, inasmuch as many of us who have strayed into by and forbidden paths, have been brought back again, and others, both young and old, have been constrained to turn from their evil ways, and seek the Saviour's pardoning grace. To-day quite a number would have been added to the church, but that our brother lies prostrated upon the bed of sickness, no doubt the effect of over