

United States Correspondence.

Modern Spiritualism.—The Deaf and Dumb.

New York, November 10th, 1855.

MR. EDITOR.—Our beloved pastor of the Freewill Baptist Church in this City, has commenced a course of Sunday evening lectures on Spirit-Rapping, which error has prevailed to an alarming extent in this City, and throughout the States. Exhibitions of table-turning, rapping, and tipping are to be seen every evening in this enlightened City, "astan having sent strong delusions that men should believe a lie," for none have yet given the least proof that they are any other than lying spirits. It is true that tables move, and raps are heard, but this may all be done on the principles of electricity. They have been known to tell the name, age, and creed of individuals, and the particulars of their death. But they have never been known to tell any more than what was in the mind of the person who put the question. If, for instance, a man asked the medium his age, he will tell him correctly, because his mind, when he put the question to the medium, was on the figure twenty-five; but if he fix his mind on thirty, and then on forty, the spirit will change his figures as fast as the questioner changes his mind, showing that there is some electrical influence passing from one to the other. Persons have asked the spirits what denomination they have belonged to; the reply has been Methodist: they have then fixed their minds on some other sect, and the reply has been just as they changed their minds. Thus it is that many persons are deluded who make inquiries about their friends, and receive so many true answers, whereas they are told nothing more than was in their minds.

The lectures now in course of delivery by the Rev. D. M. Graham promise to give it a blow from which it shall never recover. The first of this course was given on Sunday evening, Nov. 4th, and drew a large congregation who listened with the deepest interest. He took for his text the words found in John, "No man hath seen God at any time: the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."

He said he believed in Spirit Manifestations, but not the modern kind. God is a Spirit, and manifested himself through the universe; no one could see him; but they saw his works of creation and providence. In illustrating his subjects he said that when the American expedition sailed for Japan, they took with them as a manifestation of their power, a locomotive engine, which, were it possible to travel around the globe, would perform the task in about forty days, at the rate of twenty-five miles per hour; but God manifested his power in a much more extensive scale; for he makes the world travel round the sun, at the rate of sixty thousand miles per hour. After showing how God manifested his power through his works, he showed that Christ was the medium through whom God displayed his attributes. On this part of the subject, he dwelt at considerable length, and in so clear and convincing a manner, as must convince the most stubborn believer in Spirit Rappings.

There is a Sewing Society connected with this Church, which serves to promote much unity among its members. A large room is fitted up where they meet, and when the ladies have finished their work, something is done to make the evenings pass away in an agreeable manner. Last week a young man from the Deaf and Dumb Asylum amused the company by relating stories, exhibiting the passions, and describing scenes in the Scriptures by signs, while this young man cannot hear nor speak a word; yet he amused the company for a long time. The story he related of the man who got drunk, and in going home in the dark, fell down at the door of his house, and his wife coming and finding him, returns to her house bringing a sheet in which she sews him, and then commences to give him a beating, until he promises to do better. This story produced the greatest mirth. He then went through passions, admiration, love, vanity, pride, awkwardness, mirth, shame, causing the greatest merriment. He then described Christ stilling the tempest in a more graphic manner than the most eloquent orator could do with his tongue. This young man, a few years ago was looked upon as little better than a brute of the field, but he has now become one of the most refined and well educated in the City; (he has learned a trade) and can make as good a coat as need be worn, but is now a teacher in the deaf and dumb asylum in Fifth street, he was introduced by one of the professors of that institution who attends Brother Graham's Church. G. T.

Canada Correspondence.

Journey.—Agreeable disappointments.—Boats when travelling.—Montreal Calamity.

MONTREAL, C. E., Nov. 12, 1855.

DEAR BROTHER McLEOD.—Feeling deeply interested in the welfare of New Brunswick, my native province, your correspondent gladly avails himself of the opportunity which you have kindly afforded him of addressing the numerous readers of the "Religious Intelligencer," a paper to which, so long as it maintains its unsectarian and Christian spirit, he will deem it a privilege to contribute. The present communication cannot be expected to contain anything beyond a few reflections suggested by the incidents of a pleasant journey, and the novelties of a strange city.

Your correspondent left St. John, Thursday, Nov. 1st, and reached Montreal about one o'clock Saturday afternoon. The morning train had left Portland before the arrival of the "Eastern City," and he was disposed to regret the delay; but on reaching Island Pond by the afternoon train he discovered that the winter arrangements made it necessary that passengers should remain there over night, and he was not sorry to find that his detention for a few hours, had taken place in Portland rather than at Island Pond. How frequently in passing through life does the Christian discover that the very things which seem hindrances, prove the best means of true and more comfortable advancement.

A good book is an excellent companion when travelling. It can be used to fill up the intervals which would otherwise prove wearisome, and will not re-

prounch us if we use it only at such times. The greater part of those who travel without a useful and interesting volume at hand, lose much valuable time; since there are few journeys so full of incidents as to leave no time for profitable reading. Life is too short and its issue too momentous, to be frittered away; and there would be less cause for complaint about time lost in travelling, if travellers generally would intermingle conversation and observation with thoughtful reading.

Several things attract the notice of the stranger who visits this city for the first time. After selecting at random one from the many cabbons who solicit patronage with even more than ordinary pertinacity, and making a bargain to save future difficulty, the traveller is conducted to a two-wheeled vehicle, entered from behind; and his luggage having been placed upon the top, he is driven at a rapid rate over the rough pavement. A feeling of insecurity is superinduced—the luggage he thinks will surely be precipitated upon the street, and the only consolation is that if the worst should happen, he is so near the ground, that there is little personal danger. But the driver dashes on, and soon deposits the traveller and his luggage unharmed. If he should happen to choose, as your correspondent did, a driver who knows only English enough to say, "Cab, Sir?" and a few other words, and the Cabbon should mistake his direction and expend some time in finding the proper place, he must not be surprised if his driver should give him to understand, chiefly by violent gesticulations, that he expects an additional sum for his own blunder—a claim which may be met or not, as the traveller sees fit. But I have exceeded my intended limits. I hope to resume the subject again.

Faithfully and cordially yours, A. B.

Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B. NOV. 30, 1855.

ENLARGEMENT

"INTELLIGENCER."

On the 4th of January next the "RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER" will be ENLARGED. Each page will contain six columns instead of five as now. A new and beautiful heading has been obtained for it; and improvements are intended not only in its size and appearance, but also in other respects. No labour or reasonable expense will be spared to make it a family paper of the first order. It will always contain all the important news.

THE TERMS will be as usual, ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE. Any person sending us the payment for twelve copies—(three pounds), will be entitled to one copy free. We wish our Agents and others, to forward their lists as soon as possible.

Progress of Religion in the Crimea.

We have given our readers weekly, an account of the progress of the Allied Arms in the Crimea; our pages have contained the records of deeds of daring and bloodshed, all of which probably have been rendered less painful by the victories that have followed. We have occasionally also, as the true state of these things became known to us, given some account of the moral and spiritual condition of the army, and the East generally. We have watched for all intelligence of this kind, and have rejoiced not only to know that among the British officers and soldiers in the Crimea, are men of deep and earnest piety, but also that the most indubitable and self-evident labours are being prosecuted there in order to afford spiritual instruction to all the men, of whatever country they are, who are engaged in this terrible war.

The following interesting letter from Mr. Matheson, an agent for the Soldiers Friend Society to Mr. Drummond, of the British Messenger, we copy from a late number of that paper. It is dated September 20th:—"I hardly know from what point to start to let you know of my work since entering this field of death and bloodshed. It has been an eventful, thrilling, soul-trying time; and yet, in the midst of all, much of the seed of the kingdom have been sown—seeing since the 4th December last I have given away—tracts, 32,000; bibles, 622; testaments, 1477; French testaments, 770; bibles, 32; Italian testaments, 4300; bibles, 200; Welsh, Russian, and German testaments, 178; books for officers, 450.

The work has now and then been pleasant, yet seldom has a joyous heart been known, seeing so much bounding iniquity and such an utter recklessness to the things of eternity. You cannot think what a vast wilderness of ungodliness our army is. You cannot move a step without hearing that name, dearer to you than all others, continually blasphemed. Gambling has been carried on in the hospital, the camp, the trenches, to an amazing degree; and the curse of our country, drunkenness, is wide spread indeed. The sufferings of last winter were not overdone, nor was the lesson to be taught ever learned. Judgment hung heavy on us, and it passed away unheeded. The Lord had a few holy witnesses in our army, but most of these were taken away by death, the bullet, or removed to England. No wide-spread blessing has ever descended, and tens of thousands have passed to the judgment-seat. The sins of our nation were punished in our army; and a slumbering church started for a moment to sink into a deeper sleep than before. Often when ready to faint here I have been sustained by the blessed truth, "All that the Father hath given shall come," and some measure of faith in the omnipotent power of the Holy Ghost has revived the drooping heart, and enabled me more urgently to present Christ and Him crucified to dying men. Few have cared for the soldier's soul; an exception here and there with joy may be made—but Popery and Paganism have had it much their own way. The means to meet the wants have been totally inadequate, and every barrier has been thrust in the way of those that would. Evangelism has met with little favour, and Rome has plied her arts with untiring assiduity. What has tended much to demoralize our army is:

been the almost total extinction of the Sabbath. The Crimea has, I may say, known no Sabbath. True it is, for a few miles the form of parade-service has been gone through, and the men instantly hurried to fatigue. Let those who would like to see what Britain would be without Sabbath visit the Crimea, and they will see the soul-destroying effects of it. The poor soldiers long for it to recruit their over-worked systems, but the demands of war cannot afford it, and the ceaseless toil must go on. I wish to draw a veil over much that I have seen in the Crimea these ten months. The scenes witnessed, and the dark pictures presented, often makes the blood run cold, and draw tears from the eyes. Sure as I live it were really known at home by those who know the value of their own souls, they could not but cry, weep, pray, beseeching the Lord to open the windows of heaven and pour down a great and an abundant blessing. One cannot but admire the calm endurance of our army, and stand amazed at their contempt of danger.

O! how well it were if a real deep and abiding awakening took place—then it would be heavenly drawn from a right source, and endurance of suffering the result of right principle. Much prayer ought to be made for our neglected army, for it is high time to know the real spiritual state of it, and to awake out of sleep regarding it.

You are aware in the end of May the Sardinian army landed here. Hearing of its coming I had sent for thousands of Italian testaments, not knowing but the Lord would open a way for their distribution. I began the work with much prayer, yet in great fear and trembling. At first it went slowly on. Many prejudices had to be removed, and much wisdom to be crined. Cholera broke out amongst them, and many hundreds died. It softened them much; soon group after group called on me for the Word, sometimes thirty in one day. Since the 1st of June it has so continued; one brought his companion, and another his brother, till 1500 have so visited me. I cannot give you any idea of their eagerness to possess the Word. I have known many come miles for it; and never have I seen such joy as they manifested while gazing on the precious gift. Had I time it would be pleasing to me to send you more details, for it has been a glorious, cheering work. Time after time I have gone through their camp, and seen some in little groups reading it, others in their tent; and in the hospital nothing else is read. Many officers have visited me, written me, or sent for bibles; and in some regiments every officer, from the colonel downwards, has got a copy, whilst most of the medical staff have also been supplied. A spirit of earnest inquiry is at work with some, and an apparently anxious desire to know the truth by most. Wonderful are the ways of God. Italy, long shut, is opening; Popery is losing its power; the mask is being torn; light thrown around; and who can tell the amount of blessing the 4700 copies of God's Word, given to the Sardinian army, may be the means of accomplishing? It is touching to hear them say often, my father, my mother, or my sisters possess not this, and if I return they shall have it. Those that have been invalided and sent home carried it with them; and as they embarked, have held it up to me, saying, "This is my memorial of the Crimea." The work is still going on, and I expect, if the door is still open, to circulate 1000 more. Opposition was at one time greatly threatened. A Maynooth priest in our army tried to stir the Sardinian priests against the work, but ere his plans were fully matured, he fell sick and had to leave. One thing is clear, Sardinia is lost to the Pope, and every fresh bell fulminated is making the breach wider and wider. O! for living men for Italy to preach the everlasting gospel, and for the descent of the Holy Ghost from on high to call the dead to life. It presents a glorious field. It is ripe for the harvest. Who will enter in and raise the standard of the cross so long trampled in the dust; yes, buried under forms, traditions, and soul-destroying ignorance?

I cannot find time to tell you of the progress of the truth in Turkey. The only ray of hope is the American mission amongst the Armenians, which is greatly prospering. The Turk is what he was. There is no more opening of their minds to receive the truth. His enmity to Christianity is deep as ever, and the effect produced by the presence of the Allies is had indeed. As a nation they are dying out; evidently down is written on Mahometanism, and it is well. Gladly would I see the Crescent prostrate in the dust, and a Christian state raised on the ruins. The time is fast hastening on; the night is passing; the day breaketh. Soon the cry shall be heard throughout earth's millions—Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Wishing you all success, and seeking for you much of the halloing, huzzling grace of the Eternal Spirit, I am, in much haste, your affectionate friend."

REV. D. M. GRAHAM.—We have much pleasure in observing by the last Morning Star that brother Graham has been appointed one of the Editors of that ably conducted and excellent paper. We have pleasure also in informing our readers that we have reason to believe that brother G.'s connection with that paper, will not lessen his correspondence for our columns.—We expect his contributions to our paper next year will be considerably greater than they have been during the present one.

DUTCH VALLEY.—Elder E. Wayman will preach at Colpin's Mills, Dutch Valley, on the evening of the third Sunday in December next, (instead of the second as previously appointed); and at the school house near Mr. I. Teskies' on the Monday evening following.

WE omitted stating last week for the information of the friends in Johnson, that the reason we were not with them on the Sabbath before as was expected, was owing to the detection of the steambath in starting; and several hours after her usual time.

Revival Intelligence.

CAMPBELL, NOV. 30, 1855.

DEAR BROTHER,—I send you the following note in relation to my recent visit up the River St. John. After attending the District Meeting held in Beignon, and enjoying a pleasant season with the friends in that place, I left in company with Bro. McMullin, for Bridgewater Plantation, N. B.; here and in Portland Plantation adjoining, I tarried for about twelve days, and trust that my labour was not in vain. In Portland the Lord had recently revived his work among the people in the Social Meetings which the brethren had been in the habit of holding. When I visited them some came forward for baptism, and it seemed to be reasonable that I should tarry a few days. On Saturday following, Bro. C. E. Bell joined me, and we continued with the people for the next week. While I was there I baptized eleven, and Bro. Bell four, making fifteen in all, in the two Plantations, and the prospect was that he would baptize a number more, as he intended to tarry some time in that vicinity. It was a satisfaction to hear of the revival in the way of restoration, or the candid and solemn request so oft repeated; Christian friends pray for me.

A number had professed faith in Christ, and the prospect, when we left, was that an extensive work of grace would pass through that region; indeed, unmistakable evidences of an awakening by God's spirit, was manifested in almost every part of Arctostock, Co., and the upper part of the River St. John. Duty necessarily called me home to the people of my charge; but how did I wish it was so that I could labour in that region for the next six months. I have not ceased to pray however that the good work may go forward in that section of God's vineyard.

Monday, Nov. 4, in company with Bro. C. E. Bell, I met in Portland Plantation, and organized a branch to the Church in Bridgewater, of fourteen members, which was subsequently increased by baptisms and additions to the number of twenty-four, and a good prospect of many more being added to their number.

In my recent visit I had the privilege of seeing some of my brethren in the Lord whom I had not seen for some years past, and the pleasant seasons I enjoyed with them, and around their family alters I shall not soon forget.

Returning home by the way of Houlton and Calais, I found our dear brother, G. W. Haskell, who resides in Hodgdon, Me., engaged in a revival of religion in that place; I should have been pleased to have been able to stop with him a few days; but duty bade me move on. I tarried one Sabbath on my way home with the church in St. Stephens; found my family all well. While absent, one of our Sisters in Christ, a member of the Church, and one whom I baptized last spring, had departed this life and gone to a happier world above. Yours as ever, A. TATLOR.

BROTHER C. E. BELL writes to us under date Nov. 22nd. Saying that since brother Taylor left Bridgewater and Portland, the work of revival has been progressing favourably, and still continues. Twenty-eight have been baptized in all, and others are expected to be next Sabbath. Bro. B. is continuing his labour in these places with much success and encouragement.

A remarkable demand exists among the Sardinian soldiers, now in the Crimea, for the Word of God. About 6000 of these troops have become possessors of an Italian copy of the Bible, and as a proof of their value to it, it is said that about 1800 of these copies were purchased by them.

TURKEY.—In this petty State the case of the Mahdi is no longer isolated. Persecutions of Protestants are increasing there, and some are now in chains in that country for the Word of God.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—A numerous meeting of this Association was recently held, at which the half-yearly report of the society was read. It was stated that the meetings during the last year were better attended than during any preceding one, and the lectures delivered produced the best effects. In this meeting the young men were earnestly urged upon to practice integrity in their actions through life; to make the Bible the foundation of their hope, and above all in the concerns of life to remember the maxim of "doing to others as they would wish to be done by." Several eloquent and christian addresses were given, after which the Chairman expressed his hope that the society would maintain its strictly religious character, and not at any time become absorbed by secular pursuits.

CANNIBALISM.—The Missionary Ship "John Williams" has recently been making a voyage of inspection among the New Hebrides and other Westwardly groups of Islands. She reports in some of these much success in the missionary war. The island of Tanna, where the small pox had been committing dreadful ravages, and broken up the mission work, was visited, and teachers landed, who were received by a shout of joy. On reaching the island of Pate, the distressing news was brought on board that some of the teachers with their wives, left there on the last voyage; had been barbarously murdered. Only nineteen days after they were landed under the most cheering circumstances, the two Karatongan teachers and their wives were murdered to furnish materials for a horrid cannibal banquet. The real reason of this sudden act of cruelty could not be learned. Surely the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. May they soon be filled with the light of the presence of the glory of God.

"BIBLE BURNING."—The practice of open air preaching introduced again into Ireland, has stirred up the removal of scenes which it was hoped had forever ceased in that country. It appears that Kingston, the scout of Dublin has recently been the scene of Bible burning; the priests held forth to the people that it was very wicked for them to have in their possession novels, drama books, and Bibles, and at their instigation a large pile of Bibles was brought into the chapel yard, and were totally consumed in the presence of a large crowd. It is said the policemen walked up and down in front of the congregation to keep order.

General Intelligence.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

We published the news by the Canada last week, since which nothing further has been received. We subjoin interesting details from our files of English papers.

THE WAR.

The communications from the seat or seats of War are indicative of the close of the campaign. Rumors of the bombardment of Nicolaieff have come through the doubtful channel of Vienna; but they are without confirmation from any other quarter. Only we know that the Bosphorus has been reconnoitred to within some miles of the great Russian arsenal, and the channel, so far, found deep enough for sloops as well as gunboats. A British officer volunteered to go up by night as far as Nicolaieff itself; but the Admiral did not think well to give his permission. At the highest point the Allied vessels, in two several trips, were fired upon from a small battery partially concealed behind the cliff; and, on each occasion, replied, and retired. It is probable, therefore, that the shores are lined with forts. It is known, indeed, that General TORRES is throwing up earthworks on every available position. Beyond taking soundings in the waters of the Bay, and in the embouchure of the two rivers, and strengthening the fortifications of Kinburn, it does not appear, that anything has been done, beyond capturing some valuable rafts of timber, on their way to the dockyards of Nicolaieff; or that anything more is contemplated for the present. For, if we may believe the Russian despatches, the greater part of the ships had disappeared from Cherson Bay; and we have not the despatch of General SOBERG, stating, that, while the French would remain in garrison at Kinburn, the British troops under Brigadier SPENCER were expected at Belaklava on the third of this month. "The Allies," says the Journal des Debats, "established at Kinburn, which, in their hands, is an unassailable position. Masters of the seas, enabled to coast, from a long distance, by the movable and cross-fire of their gunboats, their floating batteries, and their steamers, the narrow tongue of land on the extremity of which Kinburn is built, they can easily render approach impossible to the Enemy during the winter; for the lake, formed by the confluence of the Dnieper and Dniester, never freezes firmly enough to allow a body of troops to cross over it with any appearance of security. And this is not all: it is not only a position whence the Allies may brave without fear the efforts of the Enemy; but it is a spot which they can at pleasure convert into a place d'armes, and which they may make a base of operation singularly favorable to whatever they may undertake, from the number and importance of the rivers uniting at this point, and forming so many channels for the display of the activity of their marine. And, that nothing should be wanting for the commodiousness and excellence of the position, at a few leagues distance to the south-East of Kinburn, is the magnificent Bay of Tendra, capable of furnishing a safe refuge, in all weathers, and from all dangers to the United fleets of France and England. Our sailors, until lately, deceived by Russian charts,—the only ones at their disposal,—were led to believe that the sand-bank extending from Kinburn to the Bay of Tendra was covered by only ten to twelve feet of water, and that, to go from one point to the other, it was necessary for a large ship to make a detour of fifty miles; but the Philæetion has discovered and reconnoitred a passage that will allow all vessels not drawing more than twenty feet of water, to pursue a direct course; that is to say, all vessels but ships of the Line."

CAPTURE OF KINBURN.

Mr. Russell, of the Times, gives a graphic account of the capture of Kinburn. The Governor, it appears, surrendered in the extremity of despair:—

When the flag was waved from the parapet, a boat, with a flag of truce, pushed off from the English and French Admiral, and at the same time Sir Houston Stewart proceeded to shore near the battery, where he found the French General advancing to parley with the governor. Major General Kekonovitch advanced with a sword and pistol in one hand, and a pistol in the other, and threw down his sword at the officer's feet, and discharged his pistols into the ground, or at least pulled the triggers with the muzzles pointing downward, in token of surrender. He was moved to tears, and as he left the fort he turned round and made some passionate exclamation in Russian, of which the interpreter could only make out, "Oh, Kinburn! Kinburn! Glory of Swaroff and my shame, I abandon you," or something to that effect. As the garrison marched out they were ordered to pile their arms, but many of them threw them on the ground at the feet of the conquerors, with rage and mortification pictured on their features. It appears that the second in command, whose name is something like Saronovitch—a Pole by birth—inflamed by courage and his Dutch ally, declared he would not surrender, and that he was prepared to blow up the magazine before the enemy should enter, and he was supported by the officer of engineers, and by the officer of artillery. Amid the crash of falling buildings, the explosions of mortars, the thunder of the fleet, and the smoke and flames of their crumbling batteries, the Russians held a hasty council of war, at which it was put to the vote whether they should surrender or not, and the majority carried the question in the affirmative, on the score of humanity and reason. In vain the fanatic Pole, the artilleryman, and engineer tried to persuade the Governor and the majority to persist in the madness and folly of continuing their passive resistance, for active opposition was out of their power. "We can hold out for a week," said they. "What then?" asked the Governor. "You have not been able to fire a shot for three-quarters of an hour. Are you likely to be in a better state two hours hence, and, above all, where are the men to live meantime?" Such arguments, enforced by tremendous broadsides and by the knocks of the admirals with cannon balls against every side of the fort, prevailed, and the white flag was hoisted, much to the satisfaction of every humane sailor.