

Correspondence.

New York Correspondence.

New York, Sept. 31, 1855.

Mr. Editor—

The case of *Passmore Williamson* is one of such peculiar interest, as connected with the history of Anti-Slavery in the United States, I have a mind to make a note of it for your columns. Mr. Wheeler, of Virginia, having received an appointment under the general government as Ambassador to one of the Central American powers, on his way thither, he came to Philadelphia, which is in a free State, with a female slave and two of her children. By the laws of Pennsylvania, any slave brought within her borders by the master is free. It seems Mr. Wheeler was aware of this fact, but still voluntarily ran the risk of losing his slave rather than forego the luxury of having her with him during his sojourn abroad. He, however, took the precaution to forbid his slave to converse with any people of her color while in the Free States.

But God, who loves to see the oppressed go free, so ordered events that the slaveholder was obliged to pass two or three hours more in Philadelphia than was his intention, and that during his stay the slave had an opportunity to whisper to some one of her color that she had been a slave in Virginia, and was at the time under restraint as a slave. The colored person to whom this secret was conferred lost no time in communicating it to *Passmore Williamson*, a Secretary of an Anti-Slavery society. The same intelligence was also circulated among a number of colored men. The result was, by the time the slaveholder and slaves were on board a boat to start for New York, during the few minutes that intervened before sailing, Mr. W., simultaneously with some colored men, came to inform the slave that she with her children were free. Upon receiving this information from Mr. W., she left with her children, though the slaveholder opposed her; the colored men helped her, and as Wheeler says, they gave him a thorough beating. The birds flown, the sorrowing owner applied to Judge Kane of the United States District Court for relief. Judge Kane, under writ of Habeas Corpus, required Williamson to present the slave in his Court, to which he returned he could not produce the slaves, inasmuch as said slaves had at no time been in his custody. The slaveholder's testimony, however, was construed in such a manner as to hold Williamson responsible for what the colored men did in taking away the slaves, and he therefore adjudged poor W. as guilty of making a return to the writ "false and illusory;" and thereupon sentenced him to prison for contempt of Court.

These are briefly the facts of the case up to the time of W.'s imprisonment, which was a little more than two months ago. W. has applied to the Courts of the State of Pennsylvania for protection, but in vain, for the appearance is, the State Judges are too anxious to win Southern favor, as well as many politicians.

Meanwhile a case has occurred which shows W. could make no other return than he did without violating truth. I now allude to the trial of the colored men who aided the slaves to escape. These poor men had been accused in Court of riot and perhaps treason, and I know not what all. The trial was so exorbitant that it was nothing less than a refusal to admit them to bail, but when the trial came, though the slaveholder swore very solemnly against the poor fellows, the slave woman's testimony, which very unexpectedly to her former master appeared in Court as a witness, and stated the facts of her escape as I have given. She stated moreover, that she had told him before leaving her home that she thought all ought to be free, and he had called her an "abolitionist." She added that if he would unlock a certain trunk in his possession having her clothing in it, he would find a dress which she had prepared for disguising herself when arrived in Philadelphia or New York, in order to make safe her escape. As a consequence, the colored men were only found guilty of assault and battery, and subject to comparatively light fine.

Still poor Williamson lies in prison, and there is no appearance that his release draws nigh. The Republican state Convention in the meantime has nominated him to an office, perhaps next in importance to that of governor's. He will receive a large vote at the approaching election. Still the martyr lies in prison, and is left so far as I know, to a man who has proved his tender mercies to be cruel. Your readers will have good reason to think we put the Habeas corpus that old safe-guard of liberty to a strange purpose in this country. Indeed we always make strange work, no matter how plain the case, if it concerns the interests of a colored man. Slavery with its all pervading poison withers and blasts every plant of liberty unless it in some way pertains to a negro driver's plantation.

This case excites much indignation even among a large class of persons who hitherto have taken little or no interest in the anti-slavery cause. May God hasten even by this case the day of doom to the foul system which holds its lawful trade in the bodies and souls of men.

Yours, G.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—*Accident in Boston Railroad Train*.—Last night the Boston Express Train met with a serious accident one mile above Williams Bridge. The train was going at a reduced speed when it encountered a broken chair. The five cars and passed safely, but the last car went off the track, and turned on its side down an embankment, smashing up the seats and trunks; the coupling of this car broke, and thus saved the train beyond. There were some twenty passengers in the last car, about twelve of whom were injured, none however, it is believed severely. One gentleman has a fractured thigh, one a broken arm, and several most severe contusions about the head. The train ran about a quarter of a mile before the accident was discovered.

Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B. OCT. 5, 1855.

The Fall of Sebastopol.

Sebastopol has fallen—the fortress that seemed almost impregnable, and to defy the skill and valor of the brave men who have at last become its victors. Its fall has sent a thrill of joy through the nations—and sorrows incident to the loss of so many beloved husbands and fathers as perished in the conquest, have been as it were forgotten awhile, in order to give full vent to the tide of joy that rolled on as fast as the lightning could spread the glad news abroad. Well, we rejoice too. We rejoice because the oppressor is humbled, and retributive justice is being meted out to the spoiler of nations. We rejoice because THE JUDGE OF THE WHOLE EARTH DOETH RIGHT. But in the victory gained by the Allies; and the loss sustained by the Russian despot, however great, we do not see any indications, to warrant a belief that the war will soon end—that the mighty conflict so deliberately undertaken, and so energetically prosecuted will be speedily terminated. The designs of God have not yet been fully accomplished—everything seems to give evidence that the time is at hand referred to by the Prophet more than two thousand five hundred years ago, that "the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee (Zion) shall perish; yea those nations shall be utterly wasted." (Isaiah 60:12). "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" is an inspired proverb, and God often allows the wicked to exalt and left themselves up, that their fall may be the greater, and his power more fully made known. At the very time when the haughty Nicholas contemplated the seizure of Turkey, and convert Constantinople perhaps into his residence—obtain the rule of the Mediterranean, and be mistress of Europe, thereby enabling him to suppress all civil and religious liberty, and forever crush the operations of those benevolent and Christian enterprises which are designed under God to make the wilderness fruitful field—at that hour, the finger of God wrote upon the walls of his palace in characters that made the world start—and proclaimed retribution in unmistakable language—"Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." And now his son has not humbled his heart, though he knew all this; but has lifted up himself against the Lord of heaven. But the work of God, to carry forward which, He has been preparing his people by infusing into them the spirit of missions, and the constraining love of Christ, must advance; and the obstacles will be removed. The oath of Jehovah in the wilderness of Paran—"As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord." is the guarantee for the spread of his truth; and peace on any other terms than liberty to spread the gospel, God will not have; and peace on these terms, we do not believe Russia is yet sufficiently humbled to give.

Evenings with the Prophets.

This book, which we have had an opportunity of perusing, is a most valuable work which the publishers have recently added to those formerly issued by them. It comprises a brief sketch of the history of some of the leading prophets of the old Testament, glances at a few of the cities and countries, and imparts instruction from a review of their rise and fall. And as the author states in his preface, "as the predictions of the advent of the Messiah run, like a stream of molten gold, from the commencement to the close of the old Testament, so the gospel of the prophets have been stated, and their reference to Christ and his kingdom have been pointed out." In this we think consists one of the chief excellencies of this work. A larger amount of knowledge is contained in it, than in any other work of a similar kind which has come under our notice. It is one of those useful and interesting books which we are very anxious to see widely circulated, and which should be in every family. We recommend it particularly to our ministering brethren, and to all Sabbath School teachers. We subjoin a single paragraph from the work to show the author's soundness on a question of vital importance which agitates some religious bodies in the present day. "We hear much, in our day, of the true succession in the Christian ministry. We have no faith in any succession of mere men. Truth is eternal—men are mortal. The Church is not a foundation of, dying men, but of living truth. He, therefore, is in that succession, who is a possessor of the truth. Name are, who are without this divine gift; no matter by what hands obtained, in what Church ministering, however eloquent, or however followed. Without the truth we are without God, and without God we cannot be sharers in his work. Besides, if the apostles had only one special class to succeed them, they must have been commanded by God to call and ordain their successors. We hear nothing of the apostles ever doing this; we hear of them preaching the truth, planting churches, and setting them in order; and of the believers scattered, going everywhere preaching the word. But, we repeat it, we read of no divinely-chosen, and divinely-ordained successors to the apostles, and therefore are bound to conclude that were none; but that holy men, welcoming Christ, having gifts for teaching and preaching, feeling constrained to give themselves to this work, were from the beginning, as now, the true ministers of the Lord Jesus."

A Visit to Hampstead.

Having made an appointment to meet with the Church at Little River, Hampstead, on Sabbath last, a number to bring before them the Mission cause, we accordingly took passage in one of the River steamers on Saturday for that place. We concluded, in the afternoon, to attend the Conference of the Upper Hampstead church on Saturday afternoon. It is in this church that has been enjoying the season of revival, noticed by us the two last weeks, under the labors of Elder Perry. The meeting was commenced previous to our arrival, and its want is deeply felt by the church, in the multitudes of her members who do not "run well." Spiritual conviction cannot be produced without the word of the Spirit, and it must be aimed at the heart. External evils may be repress-

ed, and partially corrected; but they are only cropped, not rooted out, unless the fellow ground is broken up. The end of all preaching should be, to convince of sin because of unbelief; of righteousness because that Christ has come to his Father and we see him no more; of judgment because the Prince of this world is judged. A gospel aiming at less than this, is "another gospel."

Ordination.

Mr. Archibald Burpe was ordained to the work of the Christian Ministry in the Congregational Chapel, Sheffield, N. B., on Tuesday, 2nd October. The Rev. Mr. Johnson, Wesleyan Minister, took the opening exercises. The Rev. Thomas Lightbody, Pastor of the Sheffield Church, preached from Luke x. 2. "The harvest truly is great, &c." He referred first to the pleasing similitude—our earth a plentiful harvest field. He showed that as it was only by the first settlers of this country working hard that the lands around are so productive, so it is only on account of a great work, the Redemption of Christ, that our work is now what the text represents it to be. He remarked that by the harvest being plentiful is especially denoted that earth is ready for being reaped, that the Lord of the harvest suffers loss, and the precious grain is injured, yea, destroyed, by labour not being at once put forth. He referred secondly to the painful fact: he remarked that in gathering his harvest from earth, God uses human instrumentality. That the laborers are few, compared with earth's millions, and the wants of humanity. He gave statistics to prove that many more ministers are needed for Christendom, and that in the heathen world there is only about the proportion of one Missionary to all the inhabitants of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia put together. He showed that by death our laborers are getting fewer, and that not much is being done to get the number increased. That in all the theological seminaries connected with the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches in the United States there were in 1850 fewer students by seventy than in 1840. He referred lastly to the urgent duty, Pray ye therefore.

The collection taken up at the close of our meeting was \$23 11 11
Amounts subscribed, (and nearly all paid) 16 7 6

Total, \$219 19 5
A considerable number who have not yet subscribed will doubtless hereafter, which will swell the whole amount, probably equal to any other church. In the evening we endeavored to set before the large congregation "the word of life," and we hope it was not in vain.

Christian Conference in Paris.

Many of our readers, doubtless, remember the notice we gave, some time since, of the Evangelical Conference to be held at Paris during the time of the Great Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations, in August last. The reports of this meeting which have reached us are deeply interesting, and in many respects highly encouraging in relation to the progress of Evangelical religion in the world. A large representation of ministers from various countries were present, and reports carefully prepared by persons well posted in religious matters, and the various questions affecting the interests of Christianity generally, were read. Among the distinguished missionaries, whose health has caused the suspension of his labors for some time, and forbid his return to India last year, as he expected. The Report on the state of Missions in the world, formed a beloved theme for this devoted man of God. His address on the occasion has not reached us, but the correspondent to an American paper furnishes us with some of the rich ideas contained in it. The reports on the state of religion in Sweden, and Switzerland, and Italy, and Turkey, and Greece, and several other countries, with reports also on Religious Liberty, and the observance of the Lord's day, afford a vast amount of valuable information, while the addresses in connection with these reports breathe a spirit of devotion in the speakers which give evidence of future success in the spread of truth, and the downfall of Antichrist. We regard this conference of ministers, belonging to different countries, and united to different branches of the Church of Christ, as a matter of great importance, and which must have an indelible influence in favor of the furtherance of the Gospel. We rejoice at the indications of the accomplishment of the glorious prediction in God's word—the spread of the pure truth, and the diffusion of the righteousness of Christ. God has committed to his people a great work—to preach the Gospel to every creature—to carry salvation to the ends of the earth. Happy is he who does what he can—happy is that church, and that people, who enter fully into this good work. The fields are white and ready for harvest, and he that reaps, will receive wages, and gather fruit unto eternal life.

True Religious Conviction.

The first and great essential to sound conversion is a thoroughly spiritual conviction. It is in this that all true conviction begins. Until the sinner is properly convinced of his sinfulness, he will never be converted from it. Christ came to save the world; and the spirit was sent to convince the world of sin, so that the world would lay hold of Christ as a Saviour; and so long as sin is undiscovered in us, Christ will be unsought for by us. Every work of conviction is not spiritual. Where the conviction within is not felt—where the heart is not broken, and self-abhorrence is not in some degree felt, the conviction however deep it may seem, is rational and natural, and a profession of religion resting thereon will either masquerade or end in apostasy. All convictions which do not discover the guilt and woe of the natural state, to the dread and terror of the sinner in that state, is not spiritual but natural. Conviction may proceed from the working of a natural conscience, charging guilt from the light of nature and education, without the aid of the spirit. These convictions are only directed against outward sin, and they touch the soul more about the punishment for sin, than the wickedness of it. They are seldom durable, and generally driving the soul further from God rather than bring it nigher. They lead to a worldly religion—a righteousness which is of self. Spiritual conviction brings hidden things to light—the sins of the heart, as well as the life—of nature as well as of practice, while it shows the evil that is in sin, the dishonor due to God by it, by which Christ is wounded and the Spirit grieved; and these are worse than the punishment due for it.

It is durable—it follows the soul, and seems sometimes to endanger the life of the patient, and can only be healed by the great Physician;—it drives the soul to Christ making it cry out—"If I perish, I perish"—but, blessed be God, none perishes there. It leaves a scar so that the patient can say when cured—"Here is the mark of my wound."

The lack of true spiritual conviction is a great evil, and its want is deeply felt by the church, in the multitudes of her members who do not "run well." Spiritual conviction cannot be produced without the word of the Spirit, and it must be aimed at the heart. External evils may be repress-

ed, and partially corrected; but they are only cropped, not rooted out, unless the fellow ground is broken up. The end of all preaching should be, to convince of sin because of unbelief; of righteousness because that Christ has come to his Father and we see him no more; of judgment because the Prince of this world is judged. A gospel aiming at less than this, is "another gospel."

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He said his hope that earth's desolation would not always continue arose from God being Lord of the harvest. When we look on the surface of this country in the winter season, nearly all covered with several feet of snow, had we no hope but that men must shovel it away before the land could be tilled or the seed sown, it would be discouraging indeed. But that we expect God by causing his sun to shine, will melt down the snow and leave the land prepared for the husband man. Even so when we look at the Christian church and see so much selfishness there, and think how much more must be done before there are labourers enough, we feel discouraged.

But when we recollect the work is His who so easily melts down the snows of a New Brunswick winter—our hopes revive within us. But thus saith the Lord God, I will yet for this be enquired of &c.; hence Christ says, "Pray ye therefore," &c. He then proposed the question, why 1800 years after this certain remedy has been prescribed, the evil should continue, and observed there was no way of truthfully accounting for the fact than by saying the duty has been neglected.

He then brought forward some plain truths in illustrating the idea that when Christians pray in right earnest for more labourers, they will succeed in their prayers with their efforts. We see, said he, that the Lord meant ministers should be laborers, but that it is a question the churches might do well to consider, whether they should not endeavor to keep these labourers from enduring unnecessary hardships and privations, and from having difficulties and discouragements such as could easily be prevented.

He concluded by congratulating the Sheffield Church that within a very short period two promising young brethren had gone out from among them, to labour in God's harvest-field, and asked them to be encouraged to pray more. He appealed to parents, to consecrate their sons to the work, if God should call them, and to pray that he would; and to pious, talented and educated young men, to come forward to the help of the Lord. Finally he entreated all to examine themselves as to the effect of the labor that had been expended on them, whether they were now as wheat in Christ's garner or as the chaff, the end of which is to be burned. The usual questions were then proposed by the Rev. George Stirling of Keswick Ridge, to which exceedingly lucid and interesting replies were returned by Mr. Burpe. Rev. T. Lightbody then offered the Ordination prayer. Rev. George Stirling delivered the charge, one fitted to make all who followed the advice given able and useful ministers of the New Testament. Rev. Mr. Emerson, Baptist minister, offered prayer, and Rev. George Stirling pronounced the benediction.

In the evening an interesting Tea Meeting was held in connection with the Sunday School. The pastor presiding, when addresses were delivered by Mr. T. C. Burpe, and Rev. Messrs. Burpe, Sterling and Milligan—Com.

CONNECTION.—We find by reference to the manuscript from which our Minutes of Conference were published, that Elders B. Merritt, and J. Noble were appointed to attend the District Meeting at Hampstead, on the 20th inst. Their names were unintentionally omitted in the printed Minutes, by the printer, and the error was not discovered until recently. We are glad it was in time to apprise them of their appointment.

ELDER S. HARTT has been spending the time since his return from Nova Scotia in St. John, and will probably continue some time longer.

The scrutiny between Mr. Cyr and Mr. Charles Watters has been abandoned. The friends of Mr. Cyr intend to bring the matter before the Legislature.

Judge Ritchie has been presiding in the Circuit Court, in the Counties of Victoria and Carleton, and has given great satisfaction to all concerned. Several addresses were presented to him, to which he made suitable replies.

General Intelligence.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

We gave last week the telegram from Halifax, announcing the joyful tidings of the fall of Sebastopol. We select from our English papers this week such details as had come to hand at the sailing of the Steamer from Liverpool. The next mail at Halifax will bring the particulars, which will no doubt be interesting to every reader. We shall publish further details then.

There is no mistake this time. Sebastopol has fallen. The town is in a mass of ruins. The Russian fleet—whose only achievements were to overawe Turkey, and to inflict the cowardly massacre of Sinope—has been burned by the victorious Allies, or sunk by the orders of Prince Gortschakoff, in a despatch to his Imperial master, profanely but tersely designates as a "fire of hell." It was continued without cessation the whole of the day. At night a Russian man-of-war in the harbour was set on fire by a shell, and burned to waters' edge. On the 6th the bombardment continued. On the 7th another Russian vessel was destroyed by the Allied fire; and during the night a violent explosion in the doomed city announced to the French and British that the works they had undertaken went bravely on. When day dawned on the 8th the flames of a vast conflagration were observed in the very centre of Sebastopol. At noon on the 8th—a day to be for ever memorable in the annals of Europe and of the world—the long-delayed and anxiously-expected assault on the Malakoff was ordered by General Pelissier. Attacks were simultaneously made by the French upon the Carreening Bay Redan and the Central Bastion; and by the British upon the Grand Redan. The French were repulsed from the Carreening Bay Redan and the Central Bastion, and the British from the Grand Redan, and both suffered severe losses. But the glory of the day was in nowise dimmed by these casualties. They but showed the difficulty and the peril of the enterprise, and enhanced the splendour of the ultimate triumph. The assault of the French upon the Malakoff, brilliantly made, and desperately resisted, was entirely successful. They made good their position, and held it against the whole force that Prince Gortschakoff could bring against them. The struggle was hand to hand—the French fighting with the energy inspired by hope that the consciousness of a good cause, and the Russians with the obstinate courage of despair. But the bravest resistance—and it must be added that the Russians fought well—was useless against the dashing bravery of the French. The Malakoff was taken, and the fate of Sebastopol was sealed. The day closed upon a scene of such horror as history has rarely had occasion to recount. Finding it useless to continue resistance, the Russians determined to abandon the Southern side and to transport the remnant of their army to the North. By orders of Prince Gortschakoff, the mines were sprung in every direction; the town was set on fire in several places and utterly destroyed; the ships in the harbour were burned or scuttled, and an immense quantity of provisions and military stores were consumed.

All night long the lurid glare of the burning city illuminated the French and British lines, and on the morning of the 9th it was found that the long-coveted prize of the war was a heap of ruins, that the Russians had totally evacuated the town, and destroyed the bridge of rafts, which they had formed across the harbour within the last few weeks in anticipation of the inevitable catastrophe. So great was the haste with which this operation was effected, that they left not only their dead, but upwards of five hundred wounded men among the still smoking and burning rubbish. Such, in few words, is the history of this magnificent achievement—the news of which has caused every gallant heart in Great Britain and France to throb with patriotic emotion; and which will cause satisfaction scarcely less intense in every part of Europe. And not only in Europe, but in Asia, and along the immense frontiers of the Russian empire, the news of the mighty deed will be received as an incubus. The dread spectre of Russian aggression no longer fills it with alarm; and none remain to deplore or regret the result, except the friends of tyranny and wrong, and the enemies of peace and justice.

Perhaps by the time this sheet is published the northern forts of Sebastopol will be in the possession of the Allies. But if not, their fate is none the less certain. However strong the forts may be, however obstinately the Russians may be determined to defend the last remnant of their insolent power, they cannot make an effective or a lengthened resistance. They are not only defeated and demoralised, but in a few days or hours will be hemmed in on every side. They must either surrender or be conquered by the slow process of starvation or the rapid one of the sword.

OFFICIAL DISPATCHES.

As the telegraphic despatches from the Crimea contain all the precise intelligence which has yet been received of the great victory, we have given the whole of them.

On Saturday afternoon the following despatch from General Simpson showed that the grand struggle was coming to a close:—

CRIMEA, Sept. 9.—Another Russian frigate was destroyed by fire, yesterday afternoon, in the Great Harbour of Sebastopol. A large fire is burning this morning about the middle of the town of Sebastopol. Last night about five minutes past one o'clock, a great explosion took place, supposed to have been one of the enemy's magazines on the north side.

On Monday afternoon the following two despatches from General Simpson announced that it was all over with Prince Gortschakoff; and the welcome news was accompanied by a brief despatch from Sir Edmund Lyons, which says:—"During the night (Saturday) the Russians have sunk all the remainder of the line-of-battle ships in Sebastopol harbour."

CRIMEA, Sept. 9.—Sebastopol is in the possession of the Allies. The enemy, during the night and this morning, have evacuated the south side, after exploding their magazines, and setting fire to the whole of the town; all the men of war were burned during the night, with the exception of three steamers, which are lying about the harbour. The bridge communicating with the north side is broken.

CRIMEA, Sept. 10.—The casualties, I regret to say, are somewhat heavy. No general officer killed. Names shall be sent as soon as possible.