

Religious Intelligencer.

Canada Correspondence.

Elijah Burritt—Plan for the extinction of slavery—Railroad preachers—Father Channing—Young Men's Christian Association.

MONTRAL, April 18, 1857.

MR. EDITOR.—The most conspicuous item in our city news this week is the visit of Elijah Burritt, familiarly known by the name of the learned Black Smith. Yes, Elijah Burritt, not Mr. Burritt, nor Dr. Burritt, nor yet Dr. Barron, what a laying down from his dignity would such titles be! The truly great and remarkable are unknown by titles. George Washington, Daniel Webster, are familiar examples. The lecturer, who appeared under the auspices of the Mercantile Library Association, addressed a crowded house in our largest Hall on his plan for the peaceful extinction of slavery by a brotherly co-operation of North and South. It seems the most feasible yet presented for consideration, slavery is a national sin, and the nation must not it out. The present antagonism between the North and the South would disappear before the working of the plan proposed. Let the nation devote the proceeds of its sale of public lands henceforth to the purchase of the slave population, and it cannot be doubted the day would soon dawn when American slavery—that foul blot upon the fame of our neighbours—would be no more. The lecturer gave arguments and facts in abundance to sustain his position; and an illustration substantially as follows proved him a Maine Law man, in which, as in his present mission, may God speed him! When the different States at intervals passed the Maine Law, time was given before its execution. Wherefore? That the liquor-dealer might get rid of his stock, and not lose the capital invested in the business. Was the traffic thereby pronounced honest and honorable? By no means; but it was thought best not to involve the liquor-drinkers in a loss calculated to extirpate them, especially as the traffic had been formerly legalized, and investments in the business had been permitted and protected. Then the law has permitted, and cared for slavery, whether, and, horrible as the thought is, money has been invested in human beings, under legal sanction: let these investments become a loss to the owners and holders, and they have some reason to complain: but let the slaves be purchased and freed, and the slave-holders are protected, while the yoke of bondage is broken. Such a proposal from the North would, in the opinion of the lecturer, exercise a moral influence of great value, and for ever close the mouths of Southern defenders of the peculiar institution.

Elijah Burritt is not eloquent in the oratorical sense. His language is full of eloquence, but delivered with more deliberation and someness of tone than consist with deep emotion. He gesticulates none, and except an occasional movement of the head, remains almost motionless. His reverence for sacred things was marked, and his allusion to the Cross stirred the soul. Would that the world had more such men!

The verdict of the Jury on the sad calamity at the Dufferin Canal excalpates the Company. They recommend a permanent bridge over the Canal, the removal of the law requiring the trains to come to a dead stop before crossing this or any similar bridge. Already some good fruits has been produced. The Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Company has organized a sufficient force of workmen to attend to every bridge on the line, and ordered a complete stoppage of the train before going on any bridge, thus exceeding the requirements of the law, which relate only to swing bridges.

Father Channing continues to attract attention in many quarters, and in none more than among the Romish Hierarchy. Bishop Bourget, of this city, whose return from a visit to Rome I noticed last year, has entered the lists against the eloquent, refractory priest. Father Channing was once under his jurisdiction, and the Bishop professes to quote from the Priest's letters, giving passages apparently, and I suppose really, contradictory to his opinions as at present promulgated. But even so, wherein consists the contradiction? In matters of faith and opinion we change, and often wisely. If Father Channing was once an ardent defender of the more than divine rights of papal ecclesiastics, I say more than divine, because God claims no right to do wrong, may he not now with honesty repudiate such sentiments? Every change which brings us nearer to truth is laudable, and a token for good.

The Young Men's Christian Association of this city continues to manifest a becoming interest in the work of evangelization. Not content with supporting one City Missionary, it now advocates for another, thus exemplifying the truth of the sentiment that the more we do, the more we are disposed to undertake. Is the kindred Association of your city doing anything to reach its degraded population? Have the young men a Missionary constituency at work? Do they keep up prayer meetings in desolate localities? If not, might they not copy Montreal, nay, go far beyond it? We bid you God speed in this work, if you are assisting it.

Our noble river is free from ice opposite the city. It does one good to see the water once more. The season is backward thus far. Trade is brisk in Montreal. Money is tight in the West, and not a few failures have occurred.

A. S.

SUPPRESSION OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.—A conference of Ministers of the Gospel is to be held in Manchester, in the second week in June, for the purpose of deliberating on plans for countering intemperance, and to consider how far it will be admissible to throw their weight into the scale on behalf of the movement now making for the total suppression of the liquor traffic. Few more serious inquiries could engage the attention of our ministerial brethren. The celebrated Neal Dow, the originator of the Maine Law, is expected to attend the conference. At least 500 ministers of all sects have signed their names to being present, if possible, including the Rev. Samuel May, the Rev. Kelly, &c.

ANOTHER ARCHBISHOP MURDERED.—The Archbishop of Manila, according to a German Catholic paper at Cincinnati, was recently stabbed and killed while saying mass at the high altar, for the soul of the late Archbishop of Paris. Verily, clerical outrages are becoming the order of the day among the romantics.

The Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., MAY 1, 1857.

Church Watch and Discipline.

The subjoined remarks on the subject of church watch and discipline are from a series of articles which have appeared in late numbers of the New York *Independent* under the very appropriate heading of “Defective纪律 in the Church.” Although lengthy, we think we can scarcely do a greater service to our churches than publish it entire, and we recommend its careful perusal to our brethren generally. The subject of proper watch and discipline is we believe not only greatly neglected in many churches, belonging to different denominations, but greatly misunderstood. It is too often supposed that discipline should only be exercised in case of flagrant crime, and then merely to cut off, or expel; while mutual watch and care for each other is neither exercised nor comprehended in its true scriptural sense. Every Christian should feel a deep interest in this subject, and he who dares to throw off his responsibility in regard to it, is guilty of an abounding sin against God, and gives unmistakable signs of being himself in need of discipline. We cannot help exclaiming, “Alas! how far realize their deep responsibilities as church members; and how many would sooner be altogether excluded from church watch and discipline, than have the scriptural care and correction of these brethren.” These things indicate a great error in the heart. But to the article—

“It is highly important to guard against the beginning of evil, and hence the friendly warning and admonition against temptation is an important duty of Christians towards one another. Gomorrah fits are often occasioned by neglecting against the first approach of the temptation. Most cases of parental discipline seem to be occasioned by neglect to attend to the case in the commencement. The church first sins by allowing the offender to go on in the evil way until suspicion is most difficult, and the reproof is deep and extensive. ‘Our discipline, in no way instances, begins to bite’ too late for the claims of duty, and too late for the ends of discipline.”

“If there was more of Christian watchfulness among brethren, and frankness in speaking to each other about these matters there would be much less need of church discipline.”

“These of our brethren who are disposed to be faithful in this duty, ought to receive our warmest approbation for their intentions, and our most hearty support in their object. It was no very pleasant thing, except as the most painful duties are always pleasant in one sense, to the faithful Christian to tell others over their faults.

The selfish world knows this, and hence flattery far exceeds rebuke for sin in its amount and in the favor it meets. But rebuke for sin is commanded, and he ought to be encouraged by all his brethren who attempt to obey the command. One standard writer on this subject has said: ‘It was ever a characteristic of the best men, that they were faithful reprovers. Such were the prophets and apostles, and such, above all, was our Saviour.’ On the other hand, the most wicked men are ever indifferent to the sins of others. They say it is not their business to look after their neighbors, and they demand, with Cain, ‘Am I my brother's keeper?’”

There is no sin which is small; every sin persists in proves impudence and a want of Christ's character; therefore it can never be an unimportant duty to rebuke any professedly Christian brother for an actual or allowed sin, or to enjoin him to repentance and a change of conduct. It is, on patient labor, he refuses to give heed, it can never be an unimportant matter to carry the affair to other brethren, as Christ has commanded, with the hope of ultimately securing the transgressor's re-pentance, and great works obtaining service for the injured, and removing the reproach which has come upon Christ's cause. Whenever there is an allowed violation of moral principle, or of divine precept, there is an enough to require the extraction or rebuke of a Christian brother; and to draw back from giving the rebuke or rebuke, is itself a violation of God's command. It is no violation of the offence to only the eye of a just, if it be stealing, or in only one wicked conception of a single word or even look, it is to be deceptive or only the softness of a single step, or, if only softness—in every such an unclean principle is concealed, and any such unclean principle is perfectly liable against all supposed evidence of purity, it shows a wrong heart, and that wrong heart put not away, will carry the soul down to hell, thence the correction of a brother for any offence, a command can never be an unimportant thing; and to neglect the correction tends to further impunity and backsliding among Christ's people, and to widespread reproach to his blessed cause. How is most great Jesus to look on and see his professed people display no command to rebuke, and by their conduct suffer his church to become corrupt and bring the greatest of all, and to the destruction of the world.

“We have had no founder, no Luther, no Loyola, no Wesley. If we had any man whom we acknowledge as a founder, he was only a talker. True, he was not unlettered, but he had not a theological, nor even a classical education. RANDALL converted under the influence of the great Whedon's last sermon, made a profession of his faith, and became a member of a Congregationalist church. From reading the Word of God he afterwards demanded baptism as a believer. Refused by his own pastor, he was baptized by another, and became a member of a Baptist church. At length ordained as a Baptist minister, but not long after, repudiated from the Baptists by their hyper-calvinism and ‘restored’ communion; he formed a church of a few friends of congenial views and spirit. This he thought to be the end of the matter, but other similar churches sprung up, partly by his influence, but more because they were pressingly demanded by the times. In a quiet way the work has been onward, till, to-day, we find ourselves numbering fifty or sixty thousand communions, with still three hundred thousand who depend upon our ministry for the word of life.”

The following is a portion of the covenant which prevails in nearly or quite all the Freewill Baptist Churches:—

“We covenant that we will not traffic in, nor use intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and that we will sustain the other benevolent enterprises of the day, as Missions, Sabbath Schools, Moral Reform, Anti-Slavery, Education, and all others which, in the use of holy means, tend to the glory of God, and the welfare of man.”

Such is the origin, and such are some of the peculiar features of the Freewill Baptists of the United States. The Free Baptists of New Brunswick have no denominational connection with them, but are the same in sentiment. The Quarterly we had as a religious and literary work shadowing our own views and feelings on those subjects which it discusses, and hence a work which can be safely recommended to our churches. We regret that a monthly literature is not also sustained by this same body of Christians as well as others. We believe that no adequate organization of churches can very long prosper at the present day, without a sound and high tone literature of their own.

The reception which the Quarterly has met with by reviewers and editors in the United States, of different denominations, has generally been highly commendatory. The price at which it was first published was two dollars, per annum, but at the commencement of the present volume it was reduced to one dollar, and postage, which is about nine-pence a year. We should be glad to see this work patronized by our brethren, and especially those in the ministry. For one dollar,

and nine-pence, sent to our office, it will be immediately ordered from the Publishing Establishment and sent to the subscriber.

The contents of the last number are:—I. Historical Power. II. Progress of Doctrinal Theology, and Biblical Interpretation. III. The Incarnation and Atonement of Jesus Christ. IV. The Inspiration of Scripture. V. Logic. VI. Second Advent. VII. God against Sinners. VIII. Contemporary Literature.

The work bound, and also in numbers, can be seen at the Religious Intelligencer Book Store.

THE CREAM OF SCOTTISH HISTORY.—By W. M. PARKER, A. M., &c., &c.—This is a neat pamphlet of forty-eight pages, from the press of W. L. Avery, of this City. It is compiled by the author from authentic Scottish Historians, and embraces the period from about 300 years before the Christian era, to the reign of James the VI. King of England. This period he divides into four parts, and in each of which presents such facts as are necessary to form an unbroken chain of Scottish history. The work is the result of the author's research in the preparation of a lecture on the subject, and the pamphlet is valuable to every person desirous of being informed on the history of Scotland. An appendix on the Extinct Peerage of Scotland is added, which will serve as an aid in the study of the History.

THE BULWARK.—The April number of this valuable work is received, and is more than usually instructing. It contains an address of great value and power in the election of Great Britain, in which the dangers and claims of Protestantism are ably presented. An article also on Papery in Nova Scotia, with several others make up its valuable pages.

IMPRESSIONS OF AN AMERICAN IN ENGLAND.

The following letter written by an American gentleman after visiting England, was not intended by him for publication, but some how found its way into the London *Christian Times*, from which we copy it. It is highly gratifying to hear a foreigner speak thus of our beloved country. We know that many of our readers will be delighted with its perusal.

MARCH, 9, 1857.

You speak of the “change—the perfect revolution,” which has taken place in your views and feelings in respect to America, and in comparison to the institutions of England. Certainly your mind is turning into the true estimation of the two countries. When I was with you in 1851, my mind was changing, growing, expanding as to the value of England, to herself and to the world.

I saw in the future, wealth flowing into England from all countries in the world. Every department of the English enterprise had made their investments and were going to seed in affluence. The manufacturers, the railroads, commerce, and the soil,—each of these investments was now producing ripe fruits, accumulating treasures; you see how they have been thrown into the Black Sea, and yet are abounding.

It is done that Zion may again rejoice in multiplied and powerful means of religion?” One answer, and in that sense, complete answer is Take the Bible standard of holiness? Pouch it, Pray for it. Store it in the pocket of the preacher. Hold ourselves and all our brethren, and all men, accountable to it. Let faint prevail against all discouragement in not realizing a perfectly good and comfortable. Accept of nothing in its stead but the following experience and inward standing in Christ and walking in the way of the Spirit. Do this, and the Lord will show us what else to do. Thus shall we draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh unto us. Such as this we will not leave without his blessing.

THE FREEWILL BAPTIST QUARTERLY.

The second number of the fifth volume of the Freewill Baptist Quarterly is on our table. This work is now issued from the Freewill Baptist Printing Establishment at Dover, New Hampshire, in January, April, July, and October.

It is in the fifth year of its existence, and the numbers which have been issued during that time, contain many valuable, and ably written articles, on different subjects.

Although a Denominational periodical, the articles which it contains are not Denominational, neither are they all written by Freewill Baptists. Other Christians write for its pages. But the work is owned, conducted, and its pages principally supplied by Freewill Baptists—it is Freewill Baptist literature, and is designed to supply a want which was felt to exist in this large body of Christians in the United States. For the information of some of our readers, relative to the origin of this Denomination, we quote the following paragraph from the introductory article in the first number of the first volume of the Quarterly. Says the writer:

“We had no founder, no Luther, no Loyola, no Wesley. If we had any man whom we acknowledge as a founder, he was only a talker. True, he was not unlettered, but he had not a theological, nor even a classical education.

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