

Christian

A Family Newspaper—Devoted to



Visitor.

Religious and General Intelligence.

GEO. W. DAY, Proprietor.

"BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED."—ST. PAUL.

{ Rev. E. D. VERY, Editor.

VOL. I.

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1848.

No 51.

"ALL THY WORKS PRAISE THEE."

The moon beam on the billow deep,
The blue wave rippling on the strand,
The ocean in its peaceful sleep,
The shell that murmurs on the sand,
The cloud that dims the bending sky,
The bow that on its bosom glows,
The sun that lights the vault on high,
The star at midnight's calm repose;
These praise the power that arch'd the sky,
And rob'd the earth in beauty's dye.

The melody of nature's choir,
The deep toned anthems of the sea,
The wind that tunes a viewless lyre,
The zephyr on its pinions free,
The thunder with the thrilling notes
That peal upon the mountain air,
The lay that through the foliage floats,
Or sinks in dying cadence there;
These all to thee their voices raise
A fervent voice of gushing praise.

The day star, herald of the dawn,
As the dark shadows flit away,
The tint upon the cheek of morn,
The dew drop gleaming on the spray,
From wild birds in their wanderings,
From streamlets leaping to the sea,
From all earth's fair and lovely things,
Doth living praise ascend to thee.
These with their silent tongues proclaim
The varied wonders of thy name.

Father, thy hand hath formed the flower,
And flung it on the verdant lea,
Thou bad'st it open at summer's hour,
Its hues of beauty speak of thee!
Thy works all praise thee; shall not man
Alike attune the grateful hymn?
Shall he not join the lofty strain,
Echoed from harps of seraphim?
We tune to thee our humble lays,
Thy mercy, goodness, love, we praise.

Universal Peace.

A world's Convention, to promote universal brotherhood, and devise means to arrange National Controversies without an appeal to war, has been recently held in Brussels. Mr. Cobden, having been invited to attend, and not being able to comply, sent the following letter, which, from Mr. C.'s position and late success as a politician, will be read in all countries with interest. We append also the result of the deliberations of the Convention from published reports:—

LETTER OF RICHARD COBDEN.

To JOSEPH STURGE—

My dear Sturge—I regret my inability to accept the invitation to the Congress of Brussels, but I beg you to be the bearer of my best wishes for the success of your peaceful demonstration.

My opinion is asked upon three propositions which are to be submitted to the Congress:

1. "The expediency of recommending the insertion of an arbitration clause in all international treaties, by which questions of dispute shall be settled by mediation." I cordially approve of this proposition, but may I be allowed to suggest that it will be better to recommend that treaties be entered into for the express purpose of binding the contracting nations to submit their quarrels to the decision of arbitration. I do not think it would be easy to find an object more worthy of a separate treaty than that which is contemplated in this clause.

2. "The propriety of establishing a Congress of nations to form an international code." Until I hear the arguments upon which it is founded, I shall be in doubt as to the policy of this recommendation.

3. "To recommend, as a matter of primary importance, general disarmament to the several governments of Christendom." I hope the congress will endeavour to open the eyes of all the nations of Europe to the enormous expense and waste occasioned by their standing armaments. To accomplish this object, you need only publish in the different continental languages a few simple facts.

When I was last year travelling over the continent, I took some pains to be correct in the following statistical details. Bear in mind that no revolu-

tionary symptoms had appeared, and that the armaments had been everywhere increased during the year. I estimated the total effective force of the regular armies of Europe, in 1847, including that of Great Britain, to amount to upwards of 2,000,000 of men; and the number employed in ships of war to exceed 300,000, making together 2,300,000 regular soldiers and sailors. The national guards of France and Switzerland, the Landwehr of Germany, and other bodies liable to military service, I put down at a very moderate estimate of 1,000,000; add to these the armed police, civic guards, gens d'armes, and custom house officers, and you will have a total of nearly four millions of men with arms in their hands. But confining our attention for a moment to the 2,300,000 regular soldiers and sailors. This is called the peace establishment, but I doubt whether in the most active period of Napoleon's wars there was so large an armed force in Europe. There might have been a greater number on paper, but a far larger proportion was in hospital or rendered non-effective from other causes. It is not easy to compute the precise cost of these armaments. If the total expense on the continent bore the same proportion per head as in England (but this would be an exaggerated estimate,) the direct charge for the regular forces alone would amount to £200,000,000 per annum. There is, however, a very large expense incurred for maintaining and repairing fortified places on the Continent, from which England is in a great measure exempt.—Then we must bear in mind that the men who are thus wholly withdrawn from productive labor are all in the vigor and prime of life, and assuming that they would be capable of producing in agriculture or manufacture wealth to the amount of £50 per year each, a very moderate estimate, it amounts to an additional loss of £100,000,000 per annum. I have put down nothing for the cost of the arms and accoutrements of the National Guards and Landwehr, or for the value of the labor which they withdrew from private pursuits, and devote to occasional military services.

"Without attempting any exactness in my estimates, I will obviate all objections by understating the case, and therefore shall content myself by asserting that the cost of the standing armaments of Europe, exclusive of police, amounts to more than two hundred millions sterling a year. This enormous burden must have greatly aggravated the sufferings of the industrious populations during the late bad seasons, and may have partly caused that discontent which has so often ended in revolution.

"It may be objected that I appeal to low motives in thus dwelling upon the primary view of the question. True, but if the New Testament has failed to inspire Christian nations with faith in the principles of peace, it may surely be excused if I demonstrate how costly is the reliance for defence on the spirit of war. When Jenner found all his appeals to the humanity of certain parochial authorities fail, he at last succeeded in persuading them to adopt his discovery, by proving that it would cost less to vaccinate the poor, than to pay for coffins for those who died of the small pox. But there is no danger of the Congress losing sight of the moral aspect of the question. The modern system—for it is of modern growth—of maintaining huge standing armaments, in times of peace, is a scandal on the boasted civilization of the age. It proclaims to the world a total want of confidence on the part of each European state in the peaceful professions of the others, thus carrying us back to the state of society when barbarous tribes were constantly armed, expecting every moment to be attacked by their savage neighbours. You will probably be treated with ridicule on the Continent, as I have been in England, for advocating such a utopian scheme as a general disarmament.

"The large portion of mankind are perhaps at the present opposed to, or indifferent to our views;

but we know that in contending for a principle based upon truth, and sanctioned by the law of God, we have only to persevere to convert our minority into a majority.

Your Congress will be the protest of this minority against a system repugnant alike to humanity and common sense, and I can only repeat the regret I feel in not being able to take a part personally in your proceedings.

"Believe me, my dear Sturge, faithfully yours,

"R. COBDEN."

The result of the respective discussions was the passage, two members only dissenting, of the following resolutions:—

"That an appeal to arms for the purpose of effecting a solution of differences between nations, is a usage condemned alike by religion, reason, justice, humanity, and the interests of the people, and that in consequence, it was the duty of the civilized world to adopt proper measures to promote the entire abolition of war."

"That it is of the most importance to insist upon the government introducing into all international treaties a clause by which all international differences may be settled by arbitration, the principle of which should be founded on reason and justice.—Special arbitrators, or a supreme international court to pronounce a decision as a last resort."

"That it is desirable to establish, as speedily as possible, a Congress of nations, composed of representatives chosen by each amongst themselves, in order to draw up a code regulating international relations, and that the establishment of this congress and the adoption of a code sanctioned with the consent of all nations, would be the sure means of arriving at universal peace."

"That the attention of the government should be called to the necessity of entering into a general and simultaneous measure of disarmament, which, while it would reduce the expenditure of the state, would at the same time remove one great cause of irritation and alarm. That reciprocal confidence and the exchange of good offices were equally favorable to the peace and prosperity of all nations."

These resolutions were not adopted as matter of form, nor because the members were ordered to do so, by a dogmatic and domineering board; but for the simple reason that they expressed the honest convictions of every responding member. In fact, they were adopted by acclamation. The only two opponents were an unfortunate Spaniard and a rather heavy Dutchman, (who had not yet got over "taking Holland.") The Congress concluded its sessions as usual, by expressing very grateful emotions towards all the officers, and resolving—like lovers all—to be faithful—alms peaceful "unto death."

On the evening of the 22d. the members in connection with many of the most respectable people of Brussels, had a grand reunion or soiree, which presented a scene of social brilliance and enjoyment rarely witnessed.

Scotland and Ireland.

What a wonderful contrast is presented in the conditions of Scotland and Ireland at the present moment! In the former, her Majesty, with her Consort and her Court, are roaming over flood and fell, and luxuriating amidst some of the noblest scenery of which this or any other empire can boast. Her subjects, from the highest in station to the humblest, are striving with each other how most fitly to do her honour, and to contribute to her pleasure. In the latter, possessed of advantages infinitely superior, the picture presented is one of outrage, idleness, and disaffection to the person and the rule of the sovereign. No resident nobility—no feudal lords there—could pride themselves in presenting to her notice their tenantry and retainers; in allowing her to enter into the cottages of their

humblest hinds, to visit their village schools, or to sit in the house of God, where a decorous and happy congregation are met to worship. There is nothing of all this—nothing to resemble the scenes of which we daily read as coming before the eye of royalty in Scotland—capable of being realised in the sister land. Were her Majesty to set her foot there, she would more probably be met with little beyond scowling looks and mutterings of turbulent discontent.

How can we account for such a contrast?—What is it which keeps Ireland constantly plunged in misery and disorder, whilst a country upon which nature has conferred infinitely less of fertility and of the means of industrial development presents so different a spectacle? The answer is the difference between the education and the religious training of their people. The Scottish peasant is a free man—moral, industrious, and fairly educated for his position in life. The Irish peasant is the slave of his spiritual instructor, bound down to the earth by the meshes of a blinding superstition, taught to hate all above him in station, and kept, from youth to age, in feud with his landlord, his Protestant employer, and with all who do not pander to his bad passions. The one as well as the other has its Act of Union. Scotland, however, has taught her sons to look up to, instead of curse, the powerful nation to whose destinies she is united—to cling to her strong neighbour, and by its aid, to set about the development of her internal resources; whilst Ireland with a perverseness which seems inherent in the temper of her people—only because it is the lesson taught them from the cradle by the teachers set over them—refuses advantages which would raise her to the highest rank in the scale of prosperity, intelligence, and power. And thus it will remain so long as the blighting influence of Popery hangs over the national mind of Ireland, and the priest and the demagogue usurp the places of the natural protectors of the people.—*Liverpool Stand.*

State of Ireland.

The South of Ireland is evidently in a frightful state. The system of pillage which, excepting private assassination, was the worst thing to be apprehended from the "rebels" has begun. In parties of from thirty to fifty, they have distributed themselves over parts of the disturbed counties, on marauding expeditions. Corn and meat are the objects of their present pursuit; but human blood, it is to be feared, will yet flow. An anecdote illustrates the state of society, if society it can be called, in these districts. "On Tuesday last," writes one of the Correspondents of the Morning Chronicle, "I happened to fall into conversation with a gentleman belonging to the county of Waterford, who in answer to an observation of mine, said, 'Do not expect that the trouble is over, or that it will ever be until the people get the land, or be convinced that they never can get it. It was but a month since that I overheard a gatekeeper of mine, whom, by the way, I dare not dismiss, though I know him to be a scoundrel, upbraided by a labourer with having become very careful of his master's oats and potatoes of late.'—'How do I know but I may be eating them myself before Christmas?' was his reply, and one quite satisfactory to the other party in the dialogue."—*London Patriot.*

NEW STEAMER FOREST QUEEN.—This vessel which was recently built and fitted up at Spring Hill, near Fredericton, by Messrs. T. W. Hathew, Barker and others, arrived at Indian-town on Thursday evening in a short trip from Fredericton. She is intended to ply on the River. Her arrangements appear to be well calculated for the comfort and convenience of passengers. She left for Fredericton last evening.