

CORRESPONDENCE.

For the Christian Visitor.

BROTHER VERY,—On occasions like the present, when the attention of many of your readers, and, especially of the young, is arrested by the word of truth, I thought that the perusal of the following letter, written by a young lady from this City, who has been residing for some months with some of her friends in Amherst, N. S., might be found both entertaining and instructing to many who have been subjects of like impressions.

Though I am not an advocate of the practice of making the religious experience of others in every case our pattern, there is, however, a striking similarity existing in the feelings of all who have been born of God. The mould of sound truths into which believers are delivered must produce a degree of sameness in their impressions, although our feelings may differ from the peculiar constitution of our minds, and from the character of our religious education. In making a profession of the Lord Jesus, no subject can be of equal importance to our having a scriptural apprehension of how a man can be just with God. In the extracts given below, the reader cannot but feel the force of the writer's remarks respecting the degree of religious impression necessary to our reception of Christ, as the hope of the guilty, as well as the source through which her own mind was sprinkled from an evil conscience.

A. McD.

AMHERST, N. S., March 30, 1848.

MY BELOVED PARENTS,

Although this is the first time that I ever attempted to write you a joint letter, or even, at any time, to write to you, my respected Father, yet have been frequently impressed to do so, though hitherto neglected. I am happy, however, in doing so for the first time, that it is on a subject which will be, I am convinced, exceedingly gratifying to you both. Up to this time, I have had no disposition to say anything in my letters home on the subject of religion, now I have no desire to write on any other; and why should this be a matter of surprise? when I inform you that my sister R. and myself have hopefully received an assurance of our love to God; that whereas, we were aliens, we are now heirs, and, wherein, we were enemies, now reconciled and the children of God. Last Sabbath we were enabled to follow our Saviour, in being baptized into the likeness of his death, since then I have had more real enjoyment than I ever experienced in all my life before. I need not here attempt to describe to you our joy in the spirit, as you have been, for many years, made acquainted with the consolations of a new born soul. I have been the subject of serious thoughts from my childhood, those feelings, I, at times, encouraged for a few days, and then allowed them to pass away without putting forth a scriptural effort to retain them. Oh, the coldness with which I approached a throne of grace and as I had never received an answer to prayer I used to be entirely discouraged at times. * * * * * When I learned that a series of meetings were to be held in connection with the church, in this place, I earnestly hoped that it would prove a blessing to me, yet my fears predominated over hope. Though I felt anxious to attend the meetings from the commencement, yet I did not attempt to bow the knee before God for some days. My feelings were not different at this time from those which I had before, except that I was more decided and fixed in my purpose, so that I felt I would prefer spending a life time in seeking the Lord, even in the absence of the comforts which religion imparts, to living in the service of sin, and the vanities of the world; though the result, in the end, should be the same. On the Thursday evening following, being more than usually impressed I retired to lay my case, as on former occasions, before God; and most earnestly prayed for a change in my views and feelings. Thanks be to my Heavenly Father that he heard my prayer. The light of truth found its way into my heart, and I soon discovered such beauty and adaptation in the plan of salvation, as my wants required. I left my retirement with my load of guilt removed, a tranquil peace pervading my soul, and an overwhelming sense of the mercy of God in pardoning my sins. I had been a stranger to true and lasting enjoyment till now, it heightens every other pleasure. May Heaven grant that these impressions may not pass away and the Church of God be called to mourn over

us. We are sensible that we need to be found often at a throne of grace; being both young and inexperienced we need the instruction, encouragement, and prayers of the Lord's people, we earnestly crave the continuation of yours. I feel now that I would rather suffer the loss of all things, or endure any affliction, and even be removed from this world to my rest, than bring a reproach upon the sacred cause which I have espoused before men and angels. I have doubts but they all arise from a consciousness of my own unworthiness, but I know for whose sake I am accepted, and that it is contrary to the tenor of the word of the Lord, that the believer should be punished for sin as Christ was bruised for them on the cross."

"I should like to say a word or two to my sisters and could I write anything that would contribute, in the slightest degree towards influencing one or altho of you, to decide on the Lord's side before Christ hides his now smiling face behind a cloud of vengeance; I would most willingly attempt it. Are you taken up with the pleasures of the world, or are you waiting for such an overwhelming apprehension of your guilt that you will feel, as it were, a weight crushing you to the very earth, without rest, by day or by night? If it is the latter, you may never experience it; and if it were essential to salvation, God would be faithful enough to reveal it in his word."

J.

For the Christian Visitor.

MR. EDITOR—I understood from your prospectus, that your object, and that of your friends, in the establishment of the Visitor, was the exposure of error, and the elucidation of the word of God, that the churches might be more thoroughly established in the faith and practice of God's elect. From the general tone of your editorials, I perceive that your desire is to prove all things by the living oracles. Conceiving this be your aim, I am emboldened to send you the following queries, for insertion in your paper:

1st. What idea do the Scriptures annex to the expression, "taking up the cross?"

2nd. From what portion of scripture do we learn that it is essential to our being the followers of Christ, that we proclaim the same in public meetings, as often as opportunity offers, after we have made "the good confession," previous to our Baptism?

3rd. Do we learn from the writings of the Apostles, to whom the instruction of the primitive churches was entrusted, that they enjoined indiscriminately on their members public speaking, independent of their ability to instruct each other in the knowledge of God?

I hope that your answers to these will be full, explicit, and scriptural, as it will give me much comfort to understand what the mind of God is on these points.

A YOUTH.

For the Christian Visitor.

DEAR BROTHER VERY,—I again take the liberty of writing to you, having occasion to send you another name for your list of subscribers.—Your paper is well received, but the want of means prevents a great many from receiving it, for you know that here times are hard as well as in other lumbering places; many are in want of food, and I do not know what it will come to. I visited the Ranger Settlement, and spent a week among them, and preached 11 times, and I trust my labors have not been in vain, for, although there was water on the ice, they came four and five, and some six miles to meeting.—The people here are very poor, many are out of potatoes and induced to use oatmeal for their bread, but I think the Lord is bringing many of them to think of their soul's poverty; I had more encouragement to labor among them than at any former period. I have been much cast down, on account of seeing so little good done by my labors on this mission; but I am doing what I can, and it is only the Lord that can bless. Paul may plant, and Apollos water, but God must give the increase. I hope my brethren pray for me, for my field of labor is large, and I am weak, but I know Jesus is all-powerful in heaven and earth, and doeth what seemeth good in his sight. I have great reason to bless God for health to labor in so good a cause. I am happy to hear of the cause of God prospering in other places, and may the Lord continue his work, till the spirit shall mark my field of labor. I have disposed of the books you sent me, except the French books, they sell slowly for there are but few of the French can read.—

I desire to be remembered to my brethren, and to have them especially remember my mission in their prayers.

Yours, in the bonds of the gospel,
Restook, April 3, 1848. JAMES WALKER.

Extract of a letter from brother Hall, St. George:

DEAR BROTHER VERY,—The Lord is pouring out his spirit on my field of labor, last Lord's day I baptized 12; next Lord's day there is to be baptism in St. George and Penfield.

St. George, April 14.

[For the Christian Visitor.]

HAMPTON, April 18, 1848.

DEAR BROTHER VERY,—I consider it a duty I owe to the Board of the General Union Society to state, that they are right in exonerating themselves from remissness in their duty. The fault is mine, in not fulfilling the wishes of the Board. Since my stay at Sackville and Sussex, I have felt that I have sinned in this matter. I hope I have sincerely sought the forgiveness of Heaven, and now avail myself of this medium to ask forgiveness of my brethren.

I beg to tender my thanks to the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and members of the Board generally for their kindness towards me, and am happy to be able to bear testimony to their efficient and faithful labours.

Dear Brother Very, I hope I receive and appreciate your Editorial remarks; they are honest and candid, and my heart's desire and prayer to God is, that your fearless and uncompromising advocacy of just principles and sound practice may long be preserved to the denomination in this Province. The able appeal of the Board to the Churches, which appeared in last week's Visitor, will, I have no doubt, have the effect of rallying the people of God to the standard of Immanuel, with cheerful and liberal contributions. I am persuaded, that if the appeal is read attentively, none of them will allow the forthcoming Associations to pass without bringing or sending their offerings of love to the Saviour.

Objections that at first were made against the Society have vanished, and the Union system is now almost universally approved by members of the churches and congregations; yet we cannot expect success, until those churches that are in a depressed state are raised nearer the scripture standard. I am happy to say, there is a disposition, on the part of such churches, to come up to duty; but in order to produce a permanent scriptural state of things, the labours of judicious, faithful brethren must be secured, and proper time allowed. Some of the churches have nearly lost their visibility, and in such places we cannot at present do any thing for Missions, nor any other benevolent object; and unless some prompt and scriptural measures are resorted to, others will fall into the same unholy and unhappy state.

I will only add, that although not the Agent of the Board, I feel a determination to promote the interests of the Society to the utmost of my power, and if the Board should appoint one of the ministering brethren in the city, who has not a travelling outfit, to the Agency, I will supply a conveyance, and accompany him, for one month gratuitously, and longer, if I can.

I am, Dear Brother,

Yours very respectfully,

JOHN FRANCIS.

We were glad to receive the above letter from brother Francis, confirming our sense of the urgent claims of the Union Board; but we almost fear to publish it, lest it may convey wrong impressions to our friends abroad.

The Board have never questioned brother Francis' motives in leaving their work; but only the correctness of his conclusions, that a revival at Sackville and urgent solicitations from Sussex were a sufficient occasion to justify the suspension of his agency. Brother Francis' generous offer to the Board is only another proof (of which the Board had no lack previously,) of his interest in whatever relates to the welfare of the denomination and of the cause of religion at home and abroad.—EDITOR.

For the Christian Visitor.

COLPORTEUR CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR BROTHER VERY—I find in the Baptist Record, of Philadelphia, for October last, the statements of a brother Colporteur, of the ground he travelled over, which does honour to the country, and shows energy of soul possessed by him. His name is brother Zethen, of Ohio.—Being sick, and in want, his brethren readily responded to his needs, and at an anniversary, contributed the sum of £5 15s.: also an offering of clothing. He purchased an outfit con-

sisting of saddle, bridle, carriage, harness, &c., at an expense of £24 1s. 3d., and when his wife asked him how he would pay for the same, he declared he knew not, but as these were indispensable, and no other object in view but the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, he was confident that God would provide a way. The Lord did provide a way: the donations he received, with clothing, &c., covered the amount of the outfit, and caused his overflowing heart to pray the Lord who regards the giving a cup of water to one of the least of his disciples, to bless abundantly with temporal and spiritual blessings, all those who had taken part in these benevolent contributions, relieving the wants of an unworthy disciple of Jesus. When shall we relate like cheering things respecting our people here? My heart inclines me to say, it will not be long until a spirit for Colporteur labour prevails throughout our Province. I have with pleasure related our condition in some of our churches, and not in one instance have I felt my words rebound upon me. The success of the cause of God above everything, is what we need. A dearth has taken place in our land, and in too many of the churches. Because of the iniquity of the children of Israel, in the days of Ahab, God called for a famine in the land, and it came, and at the end thereof a reviving of the worship of God by his holy prophet Elijah; and shall not we see a return of the spiritual worship of God, and with it a prosperous season in things of this world. May God send speedily by whom he will; and why shall not colportage be one of the means in His hand to restore the simplicity, the energy, and power of the Gospel. Let brethren awake to duty; no longer join affinity to the world; seek peace, and pursue it, and extend the Redeemer's kingdom. Bring all the tithes in his storehouse, and prove the Lord therewith, and see if he will not pour out a blessing that there shall not be room to contain it. Already the hearts of some have rejoiced in God, through this work, and let not the coal be extinguished, but blown to a blaze that may spread far and wide through our land—which may be done by our friends' coming forward with their contributions the coming season, and strengthening our hands to this good work. The route to St. George, St. Andrews, and St. David's, I will take, as soon as I can make my arrangements, and I will see you in St. John shortly.—As I expect there will be nothing to prevent my going forth, I shall now devote myself to the work continually. Pray that God may grant me strength therein. I meet with some trials and buffetings, yet I want to renounce all for Jesus' sake.

I am, dear brother, yours, &c.

JAMES V. TABOR.

Norton, K. C., March 30, 1848.

THE CHEROKEES.—121 BAPTISMS.—The following item of intelligence, from the Cherokee Nation, will be interesting to our readers. The extract is from a letter of the Rev. Evan Jones, under date of March 2d.

"I must not close without a word about the mercies we have experienced the past year from our heavenly Father. Since the 11th of April last, we had the unspeakable pleasure of immersing one hundred and twenty-one persons on the profession of their faith in our blessed Redeemer. And what enhances our joy to a degree I have no words to express, is the fact that four of the number are our own daughters. It is utterly beyond the power of language, my dear brother, to express the joy of a parent on account of a child's passing from death unto life. The attention to religion in the Nation is very encouraging. We have many serious inquirers at most of our preaching places."

BRITISH WEST INDIES.—We are in receipt of papers from Barbadoes to the 23rd ult.

The West India news is generally of a desponding nature, and in these files we find nothing but complaints of dull times, scarcity of money, failures, stoppage of plantations, &c., winding up with complaints against the home government.

We extract the following paragraph from the Jamaica Despatch, as it may be of interest to those who have transactions with that Island:

"It is necessary that shippers to this market should, for some time to come, exercise the utmost prudence and discretion in sending on our supplies. Large additions to our stocks would, at this moment, render business still more inactive and precarious, and would perhaps be productive of all those unhappy results which an overstocked market, with a restricted money circulation, is certain to entail. We cannot too often reiterate the suggestion that cargoes intended for this market should be small but well assorted; that they should be sent at regular intervals, and with a due regard to the existing state of business in the Island.—N. Y. Herald.