

CHRISTIAN



VISITOR.

A Family Newspaper: devoted to

Religious & General Intelligence.

REV. E. D. VERY,

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

EDITOR.

Volume II.

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1849.

Number 34.

DAY IS BREAKING.

BY REV. NELSON BROWN.

Day is breaking!—day is breaking!
Soon will pass the gloomy night;
Rosy morn is now awaking—
Ho! she comes in robes of light.
Day is coming,—light is streaming
Gently from the smiling sky;
O'er the world the light is beaming!
Ho! old Night is passing by.

Day is breaking!—up, each sleeper!
Ho! to work!—there's work to do!
Up, each sower!—up, each reaper!
Up, each brother, good and true.
Morn is coming!—who rejoices?
Every heart that throbs with love;
Hark the gladsome angel voices!
Joy below, and joy above.

Love shall conquer;—clouds of warning,
Flee before each golden ray;
Up, each sleeper!—for the morning
Brightens fast—behold! 'tis Day!
Love shall conquer; then no longer
Hate's foul flag shall be unfurled;
Every day our ranks are stronger,
Gaining victories o'er the world.

Hark! the shouting!—hark! the shouting!
Hasten on with sword and shield;
Truth old Error now is routing—
Soon we win the battlefield.
We are brothers—we are brothers,
Working men, all good and true;
We can work as well as others;
Ho! there's work enough to do.

Tears are flowing—tears are flowing;
Love shall wipe them all away;
Broken hearts its power are knowing,
Sorrow's night is changed to day.
Light is beaming—light is beaming
Now is glory from the sky;
O'er the world its rays are streaming—
Love shall conquer by and by.

DR. BAIRD'S LECTURES ON EUROPE.

HOLLAND AND BELGIUM, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

We pass now to the consideration of Holland and Belgium, which are on the west side of Germany, to which they ought to belong, as they are of Teutonic origin. They are both insignificant countries, as compared with some others in Europe, but they have had a history, and a very important one, too. Holland has about three and a quarter millions of square miles, and Belgium has four millions and a quarter. They have each about twelve millions of inhabitants. Holland is the most populous country, for its extent, in the world, even more so than China. It is very low and level, and remarkable for its great number of canals. The sea and all the rivers are dyked to prevent them from overflowing the country. These dykes are very high, and often have roads and canals on their tops. There were formerly a great number of lakes and ponds, but they built dykes around them and pumped them dry. Such places are called *polders*, and some of them are very extensive, having villages in them. Their roads are macadamized, and very fine for traveling. The Dutch have undertaken to make a polder out of Harlem sea, and it is now nearly completed. The work will cost \$2,000,000. At the mouth of the Rhine, there are some very fine hydraulic works.

These two countries are very much unlike in several things. Belgium has a great deal of agriculture and manufactures, of which Holland is nearly destitute. The latter has a great deal of commerce, of which Belgium

has none at all. Holland has, moreover, a number of colonies, which have 6,000 people in them, and which furnish her a great deal of commerce. Holland is a Protestant country, and Belgium is Catholic; though there is religious toleration in them both. Each of them has a legislature of two branches, and are hereditary monarchies. Leopold, King of Belgium, is a man of good sense, quite a scholar, and is very popular. He had the ability to keep his position last year, amid the general crisis, and gave his subjects a constitution. Belgium has a great many railroads, while Holland has but two. The king of the latter country I know but very little about. I saw his father, who was stern and severe, and very popular; he died a few years ago. The grandfather of the present king was a very remarkable man. On my first visit, in 1836, he was very popular, but having married a Belgian princess, and a Catholic, both of which the Dutch hate, his people were very much offended. He persevered and they persevered, and what is uncommon in quarrels, they both had their own way—he kept the lady, and they made him give up the throne. An amusing anecdote is told of this king. He was a little deaf, but not so much so as he pretended to be sometimes. During the general dispute, the clergy took the marriage up, and from every pulpit it was heartily denounced. It was amusing to hear what a great number of queer texts were found in the Bible having a bearing upon this subject. One of the most violent sermons was preached in the presence of the king, and on leaving the church, he said to his attendant, "I used to think so much of this preacher, and like to hear him talk, but now I am getting so deaf that I cannot hear a word he says." The truth was he had caught an inkling of what he was saying, and did not care to hear more.

The hotels in these countries are admirable, and the people, take them in all, are very pleasant. The Dutch are an elegant people, and the higher classes are as accomplished and polite as any in Europe. There is an admirable school system in Holland, and one also in Belgium; but it is not of so long standing as the former. They both have universities; Belgium four and Holland three, the latter are by far the most ancient and valuable. Holland has produced more cultivated talent than any country in Europe, in proportion to its extent, although it is of them all the most flat and insipid. The cause is obvious—it had liberty and the Protestant religion. The Dutch, too, live upon the past—they know that they can be nothing now; but they love to talk of Von Tromp, of De Ruyter, and the De Witts, when they thought nothing of going to war, single-handed, with England, and sometimes France into the bargain.

There are many cities in Belgium. Liege is noted for its university and manufactures. Antwerp is a fine old city of 800,000 inhabitants. In this city the people have some curious manners. The ladies, to avoid trouble, have looking-glasses placed outside of the window at such an angle that all that takes place in the street is reflected into the room, where they sit sewing, or otherwise engaged. This does away with the trouble of looking out of the window, as I have frequently seen practiced, I won't say where.

The city of Brussels is situated on the river Lenne, and in its southern parts it is beautiful. It has been called the Paris of Belgium, but I do not think it is fully entitled to the appellation. It contains the palace of the king, and a beautiful cathedral.

In Holland the Hague is a pleasant city, and although well built, is not very extensive. The palace of the king is not worth going to see, but it has a museum which is worth looking at.

Amsterdam is situated on a small stream of water which connects the Harlem See and the Zuyder Zee, and it is the principal city in the kingdom. Some of the streets have in the middle a canal, with trees on each side, and by this means ships come into all parts of the city. The principal part of the vessels, however, lie in the harbour, and they are locked up at night by immense pieces of timber, which stretch across on the outside. The houses are built with the ends to the street, high gable roofs, and almost invariably leaning over. I thought that they had fallen in this way; but the Dutch are a very economical people, and I found that the houses were built thus for the purpose of gaining a little more room in the upper stories. They are also very careful not to agitate their houses by running heavy drays and omnibusses, but use instead, even in the middle of summer, vehicles on runners.

Between Rotterdam and the Hague, is the small town of Dort, from which the Pilgrim Fathers started on their voyage. Here also is the house in which the Prince of Orange was assassinated. It is a plain brick house, in about the centre of the town. The circumstances are as follows:—The Prince was commander of the Dutch army, although not a Dutchman, and was then engaged in a war. He had just finished his dinner, and was going up stairs, when the assassin came in, and pretended that he wished to speak to him. The Prince came to the foot of the stairs, and he shot him with a pistol about two feet long, which is still preserved for show. His last words were "God have mercy on me, and take care of these poor people!"

The lecturer then passed in his remarks to Germany and Austria. He said it is very hard to tell what Germany is. The geographers of the country call it all that portion which is represented in the German Diet. This, however, does not comprise all the people who speak the German language—the German portions of Switzerland, Russia, France, and parts of Prussia and Austria. It takes in nearly all of Prussia and a great deal of Austria, but not all. Prussia obtained a part of Poland, when that country was divided, which is called Eastern Prussia, and where the people speak Polish. It contains two and a half millions of people, whose capital is Posen, and who are not included among the Germans. Those parts of Austria which it does not include are Hungary, Galicia, Croatia and Transylvania. Germany does include one empire, Austria; four kingdoms, Prussia, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and Hanover; four free cities, which are republics, Lubec, Hamburg, Bremen, Frankfurt; and twenty-eight or nine small duchies, which lie principally in the western part of Germany, making in all thirty-eight states. This great number of states grows out of the old state of things in Germany, and their organization is extremely difficult to understand. There were at one time 356 different states represented, but they have become united into a much fewer number, and their tendency is now to fuse into one. It is a very difficult matter, but there is no doubt but that it will be done.

Take it all in all, Germany is a fine country. The northwestern parts are marshy and poor, the central parts mountainous, and the southern parts hilly. The climate, however, is good throughout. The productions and manufactures are numerous. It is rich in minerals, iron, salt, &c. The vine is cultivated to a great extent, but the wines are very different from those of France. The commerce is considerable, but it wants sea-ports. Hamburg is the most important; the other ports are Lubec and Trieste. Much of the product of this country finds its way to the sea through the Danube, which, with the Elbe and the Rhine, form the principal rivers by

which the country is watered. They form three great valleys, in which are situated the principal cities. There are a number of railroads, and the hotels being very fine, it is an excellent country to travel in. Fourteen years ago, however, there was not one railroad in Germany.

The cities in Germany are very interesting, and some of them very beautiful. I may mention Hamburg, Bremen, Magdeburg, Prague, Halle, Cologne, Munich, and many others. The scenery along the Rhine is perhaps the most beautiful in the world. Dresden, the capital of Saxony, is a strongly fortified city, and is noted for the battle fought there between Napoleon and the allies, in which Gen. Moreau, commander-in-chief of the latter was killed. The spot where he fell is marked by three oak trees, and a monument of granite.

In the northern part of Germany, situated on the small river Spree, a branch of the Elbe, is Berlin, the capital of the kingdom of Prussia. It is surrounded by a wall for municipal purposes, the people entering through the gates, where they pay a tax on produce, &c. The city has now nearly 400,000 inhabitants, and is filling up very fast. The western portions are very pretty, and it has a street, which is perhaps the most beautiful in Europe, called *Unter den linden platz*, from the fact that it has seven rows of linden trees through it. It has also a university and observatory, which are celebrated. The country around Berlin is sandy and poor.

In the southern part of Germany, we have Vienna, the capital of Austria, with 400,000 inhabitants. It is situated on the south side of the Danube, which at this place is seven miles wide. The limits of the old city are marked by ramparts and bastions running round. The ditch has been filled up, and converted into a beautiful flower garden, which is a very pleasant walk. There is also a belt of meadow land around the old city, intersected with numerous roads and planted with trees, which is much resorted to. The Prater is a beautiful walk or drive on the north side of the river, and was last year the scene of some hard fighting. There is in this city about as little religion as in any other part of Europe.

Education is very general in Germany. The school system is admirable, and especially in Prussia, is well carried out.

As to religion, there are thirty-eight millions of Germans, and twenty-two millions of them are Protestants, the rest are Catholics. The state of religion is deplorable, but I am happy to say is improving. There are some dreadful errors upheld, and a great deviation from the true principles are common—even atheism is frequently found.

Germany has produced some very able men, and even now there are a great many men of eminence in her universities. The authors are numerous, and a great number of books are published every year. The Germans are a handsome race of people, especially among their higher classes. There is a great deal among them that is very interesting. They are emphatically a smoking people, and smoke every where, as they do also in Holland. There is considerable trade in tobacco, pipes, &c. They still keep up in Germany the old trades' union, or guilds; and when a young man learns a trade, he must travel three years to perfect himself, during which time any guild to whom he applies is bound to furnish him with work. There are some advantages in them, but a great many disadvantages.

The political institutions of Germany are, as we have said before, very complex, and difficult to understand. They are somewhat explained by the history of the country, which has undergone a great many revolutions and vicissitudes in government. Previous to the