

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE LIFE.

However we may be affected by the change that passes upon us in death, there is no reason to think that it will impair in their action, much less destroy any of those affections that may justly be considered as constituent parts of our being. From infancy to old age we pass through many changes in this life, but the consciousness of sameness is not affected thereby. Is it not the proof that we have within us a substance that is not weakened or wasted by material change? And is it not in this that the social and benevolent affections reside? These affections will accompany us then into the future world. They cannot be taken from us without our ceasing to be what we are. They are essential and distinguishing elements of our spiritual nature. How then can they cease to act so long as that nature exists? But what does their pleasurable and happy activity demand? Why the presence of those we have known and loved on earth. That venerable father who loved and served God with all his house. That sainted mother, whose virtues and piety acted with such telling power upon her children. The absence of those and others might cause the vast assemblage of glorified spirits, to give but a more deep and distinct sense of solitude and loneliness. And is it not reasonable to suppose, that their own spiritual peculiarities would become the means by which they would reveal themselves to our consciousness? That these would form points of joyous contact and blessed communion? So that while our social and benevolent affections, would embrace in their limitless range, the whole assembly of the redeemed, they would act with a peculiar force and directness towards the objects of our previous knowledge and love. Just as a man may have proper regards towards all mankind, yet have peculiar attachments towards the beings composing his own family. We think that as these affections are an important and an essential part of our nature, and as the sameness of that nature requires their activity, and consequently the presence of their objects, it is but rational to conclude that they will have means of revealing themselves to our consciousness, and of renewing their unforgetten intercourse, under the reign of perfection and blessedness.

This seems to be quite accordant with the goodness of God. What is it that has spread desolation over the verdure of life? What is it that has inflicted the deepest wounds, and the most difficult to be healed? Is it not accordant with the Divine goodness that this verdure should be renewed? That these wounds should be healed? And that this should be done by the restoration of the objects of our knowledge and love? Such recognition will afford scope for the exercise of the benevolent affections. Joy will be experienced from witnessing the happiness of others. Hence it is well observed "the understanding shall live there with a clear and supreme wisdom, the will with an obedient love, the memory with an eternal representation of the good that is past, the senses with a continual delectation in their objects." Finally, all that is man, shall live in a perpetual joy, comfort and blessedness.

"Seneca said that the possession of what good soever, was not pleasing without a partner. The possession then of the chief good must be much more delightful with the society of excellent companions. If a man were to remain alone for many years in some beautiful palace, it would not please him so well as a desert with company; but the city of God is full of most noble citizens, who are all sharers of the same blessedness. This conversation, also, being with wise and holy personages, shall much increase their joy; for if one of the greatest troubles of human life be, to suffer the ill-conditions, follies, and impertinences of rude and ill-bred people, and the greatest content to converse with sweet, pious and learned friends; what shall that Divine conversation be in Heaven, where there is none ill-conditioned, none impious, none froward, but at peace, piety, love and sweetness? Every one shall then rejoice as much in the felicity of another, as in his own ineffable joy; and shall possess as many joys as he shall find companions. Where God is, nothing is wanting; all there know God without error, behold him without end, praise him without weariness, love him without tediousness, and in this love repose themselves in God. Besides all this, the security which the will shall have, in the

eternal possession of this felicity, is an unspeakable joy. The fear that the good things we enjoy are to an end, or at least may end, mingles wormwood with our joys, and pleasures do not relish where there is danger; but this celestial happiness being eternal, neither shall nor can end, diminish, nor be endangered; but with this security, adds a new joy unto those others of the saints." All this accords with the Divine goodness and is expressive thereof.

We add to these thoughts the following beautiful lines:—

"Blest be the hour when friends shall meet,
Shall meet to part no more,
And with celestial welcome greet,
On an immortal shore.

The parent eyes his long-lost child;
Brothers on brothers gaze;
The tear of resignation mild
Is changed to joy and praise.

Congenial minds, arrayed in light,
High thoughts shall interchange;
Nor cease, with ever new delight,
On wings of love to range."

J. D. C.

ENGLISH NEWS.

Summary of Latest News, abridged from the Liverpool Mercury of April 26th.

The report of the proximate dissolution of the present ministry only disturbed the profound tranquillity of our political atmosphere for a very brief period.

We intimated on Tuesday that Sir Robert Peel's alleged interview with her Majesty and Prince Albert must have been, if not apocryphal, non-political; and the *Times* of the same day took the same view, winding up with the declaration that there is as much prospect at the present time of Sir Robert Peel becoming Prime Minister as there is of his becoming the Grand Lama of Thibet. The *Morning Herald*, however, is not satisfied with the ridicule and banter of the *Times*: it wants a distinct denial of the rumour that the ex-Premier had a long interview with royalty. Without such a denial, the Protectionist journal will not part with its lingering hope.

In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, Mr. James Heywood, one of the members for North Lancashire, brought forward his motion for the appointment of a special committee to inquire into and report upon the state of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin, with a view to the adaption of those institutions to the requirements of modern times, by improving the system of education and permitting the admission of dissenters. A long debate ensued. The motion was opposed by Lord J. Russell, who said that the admission of dissenters was a question of principle for the decision of parliament.

DEATH OF THE POET LAUREATE.—Died, at Rydal Mount, on St. George's Day, (Tuesday last,) a few days after completing his eightieth year, William Wordsworth, Esq., Poet Laureate. This eminent character, up to the middle of last month, was in the enjoyment of a serene and green old age, when, unfortunately for his friends, in a walk to his favorite Grasmere, during the severe weather of last March, he caught a cold, which brought on a pleuritic attack, from the effect of which he never recovered.

IRELAND.—Mr. John O'Connell's threat of dissolving the Repeal Association has had the effect of swelling the last week's receipts to £37, and though this is a paltry amount, viewed as a national contribution, it is sufficiently large to have induced the hon. gentleman to abandon his idea of abandoning repeal, at least for the present.

Sales of land in Dublin, by the Encumbered Estates Commissioners, are now of frequent occurrence. As these sales render it impossible to raise money on an Irish estate in the ordinary way, a number of members of parliament have made a request that the provisions of the measure may be extended, so that owners of unencumbered or partially encumbered estates may have the power of raising money on land debentures.

ROME.—The Pope is in the Vatican. The Holy Father returned on the afternoon of the 12th instant to his subjugated, if not repentant, people; but the most trustworthy accounts do not lead us to suppose that his arrival in Rome had given birth to much honest enthusiasm. The citizens rushed to see the magnificent spectacle in the streets and the gorgeous and imposing services in St. Peter's; flowers were strewn on the path of Pio Nono; men uttered acclamations, and ladies waved their handkerchiefs; but there are half-concealed and mysterious intimations of conspiracies and many arrests—of an attempt to set fire to the Quir-

inal, of petards being discharged behind the Palazzo Chigi, and of a small infernal machine having exploded near the Palazzo Teodoli.

GERMANY.—The two chambers of the Erfurt Parliament have completed their revision of the constitution of the Prusso-Germanic League, although the drama has proceeded thus far, there are still many who look upon it as a royal farce. The Prussian Government are said to be divided in opinion as to whether they shall stop the performance or play out the play; and one authority declares that, if the parliament proceed to the formation of a cabinet, serious demonstrations, which may result in hostilities, will at once be made by Austria and the other allied powers.

GREECE.—The melancholy accounts from Athens, to the effect that the French arbitrator had altogether failed to effect a compromise, and that the negotiations had been broken off, have been doubted and contradicted. The *Times* of Wednesday, however, asserts its entire confidence in the accuracy of the intelligence, and characterises as "a lie of official magnitude" the assertion of the organ of the Foreign-office, that Baron Gros was at the date of the last despatches "prosecuting with diligence and with every prospect of success the good offices which France had tendered, and which England had accepted."

TURKEY.—In the final settlement of the "fugitive question," no term has been fixed, it is said, for the confinement of the refugees; but we are told that the Turkish Government has engaged that they shall be detained as long as it shall be considered necessary for the security of Austria. The Sultan has written autograph letters to Queen Victoria and Louis Napoleon acknowledging the great service which the English and French fleets rendered in the settlement of a question which once caused such lively apprehension and sympathy in Europe.

FRANCE.—From France we have no news possessing any novelty. The election in Paris of a representative for the department of the Seine still causes much excitement. The votes of the army are in course of being taken, and the *National* gives the following as the result of the ballot of the 24th and 27th regiments of the line, in garrison at Orleans:—Eugene Sue, 65; Leclerc, 10; blank tickets, 3. According to an authentic list in the *Moniteur*, there were 187 soldiers killed and 59 wounded by the falling of the suspension bridge at Angers, and there are still 36 men missing.

The days of the Russell Ministry, it is clear, are drawing to a close, and it seems somewhat problematical whether they will weather the session; the Ministry has been thrice defeated since Monday.

Her Majesty's accouchement, it is expected, will take place in about a fortnight.

Trade in the manufacturing districts was rather more satisfactory, and in some articles an advance in prices had taken place. In the woollen districts a fair amount of business is going forward.

THE NEW STEAM SHIP ASIA.—The last and greatest of the splendid fleet of steamers which carry the mails between Liverpool and America, the Asia, will arrive here from the Clyde on the 25th inst. The Asia, which is the last, is also the finest of this line, and will take her departure for the Western world in the course of the following month. Every triumph of mechanical skill and ingenuity lessens the distance between us and our enterprising cousins on the American continent.

It is the intention of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company henceforth to sail their ships upon the temperance principle. No spirits are to be served out except in cases of emergency. The wages are to be advanced 5s. per month.

The Pope entered Rome on the 12th inst. at four o'clock in the afternoon. The telegraphic despatch announces that he was received with acclamations by all ranks of the people, vast numbers of whom went out to meet him. It is rumoured that His Holiness will shortly make a tour through his States.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE HIGHLAND SOLDIER.—Under this head the *Stirling Observer* states that Mr. Home, M. P., has expressed his willingness to bring before the House of Commons the propriety of abolishing the kilt in the army, upon the presentation of a petition, which is now in course of preparation, and which will be forwarded in a few days.

PRESENTS FOR HER MAJESTY.—The Rosamond steam-vessel, which arrived at Plymouth from Tangier on Saturday, has landed some native African animals and birds, sent as presents from the Emperor of Morocco to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain. They consist of a lion, lioness, tiger, five gazelles, and two pair of ostriches. None of the animals are arrived at maturity. The ostriches, when erect, carry their heads nearly seven feet high. Two intelligent Arab keepers, who speak Spanish, have come to England in the Rosamond. They approach without fear the lion, lioness, and tiger; and these ferocious beasts allow their swarthy attendants to fondle them and to handle with impunity their formidable teeth and powerful jaws.

The Late Sacrilege in the Westminster Family's Vault at Eccleston.—On the 18th ult. there came to Eccleston three well-dressed women, who inquired for the parish clerk, and told him that they had a great wish to see through the interior of the beautiful little church. The clerk complied with their wishes, and they seemed to admire it much, being very particular in their inquiries about the vault, and how it was opened, and if the coffins were highly decorated with silver plate, &c., to which the clerk gave them satisfactory answers. The ladies rewarded him for his trouble, and left. These ladies, it is supposed, were men in women's apparel; for, as we have described before, the church was broken open and the vault entered and completely ransacked. The coffins were all stripped of the plate and thrown in a heap. Some of the corpses were on their faces, some on their heads, and some on their feet. It is supposed the villains were in the vault three hours. The Marquis of Westminster has offered a hundred pounds reward.—*Chester Chronicle*.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT IN FRANCE.—Three Hundred Lives Lost.—The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes as follows on Wednesday:

"A frightful catastrophe has occurred at Angers, which was lately the scene of tumult and disorganisation. The third battalion of the 11th regiment, were marching across the suspension bridge which leads into the town; the staff had reached the left pier, close to the chateau, when suddenly the chains were heard to crash; and with a sudden swerve and oscillation the bridge broke down, and upwards of 600 men, armed with bayonets and sabres, were plunged into the river, swollen to twice its usual size by the recent heavy rains. The harrowing scene which followed surpassed all description. An eye-witness of the horrible occurrence, who came post to Paris with the news, has just recounted to me the horrors of the scene. The chains of the left pier continued to hold, and the remainder of the regiment, including the last file of the Voltigeurs, sprung with distraction to the pier and clung to the chains, which happily did not fall. The rain was falling in torrents, and the swollen and muddy stream, which rushes by "Black Angers," as our King John called this city, carried away with it scores and scores of struggling soldiers.

"Meantime, as the troops had their bayonets fixed, several of the men inflicted frightful wounds on their sinking comrades, until at last the river became completely ensanguined from the blood which streamed from their wounds, thus unconsciously inflicted. As the rain still continued to pour, the occurrence was not witnessed by many persons; but the alarm was quickly given, and all the boatmen and fishermen of the Loire and Maine came up with drags, &c., and several dying and half-drowned men were saved from a watery grave. You may perhaps remember that Black Angers stands on a ship of land forming an angle, or delta, at which the Lower Maine joins the Loire, some distance below the town. During heavy rains the stream becomes swollen into a 'revolutionary torrent,' as it was called by Carrier, in the good old days of the Noyades. Unhappily, the water was in this state at this dreadful moment; and never since the same waters closed over the corpses of the murdered priests and children at Nantes, in '93, have they witnessed so hideous a scene.

"There were five companies, of 117 men each, marching over the bridge, exclusive of the regimental band, and the many groups of laughing children and women, who are ever to be seen greeting the arrival of a new regiment. These were all precipitated into the dark and angry waters, and upwards of 300 are known to have perished. About twenty corpses have been picked up, and several wounded men have been dragged ashore still alive. Amongst them is the lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, who is, however, in a dangerous state."

In the Assembly, on Wednesday evening, General d'Hautpoul stated the iron bridge at Angers had broken down while four companies of the 11th Legers were passing, and that 300 had been drowned. He added, "The government, on its side, intends to submit to your deliberation a project of law, with a view to allay the grief of some disconsolate mothers." ("Immediately," cried several members.)—M. Leon Faucher said that he was sure of being the interpreter of the sentiments of the Assembly in declaring that it shared the emotion of the Minister of War.

THE MINES OF GREAT BRITAIN.—A late number of the *Edinburgh Review* contains a very interesting article on this source of national industry. There are employed in the mining operations 193,000 persons, and in the metallic arts and manufactures 142,000. The annual profit is \$20,000,000. The yearly produce of copper is 15,000 tons; of lead 50,000 tons; of tin 5,000 tons. The produce of iron is 2,200,000 tons. The produce of coal in 1846 was 37,754,750 tons. In 1837 the annual produce of the mines of Great Britain was valued at \$100,000,000; since then it has greatly increased.

ALMSGIVING.—The Committee of the London Mendicity Society have compiled tables which prove, on the best authority, that of the vast sums given by benevolent individuals for the relief of alleged distress, the really deserving cases average only three in a hundred. The visitors to the British Museum are