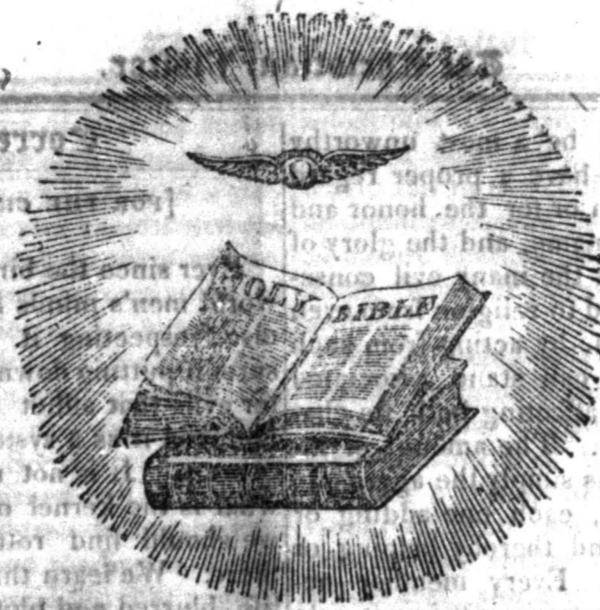


CHRISTIAN



VISITOR.

A Family Newspaper: devoted to

Religious & General Intelligence.

REV. E. D. VERY,

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

EDITOR.

Volume III.

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1850.

Number 47.

The following ode, written for the occasion by Epes Sargent, was sung, to an appropriate tune, at the celebration of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association:

The camp has had its day of song:
The sword, they bayonet, the plume,
Have crowded out of rhyme too long
The plough, the anvil, and the loom!
Oh! not upon our tented fields
Are freedom's heroes bred alone;
The training of the work-shop yields
More heroes true than War has known!

Who drives the bolt, who shapes the steel,
May with a heart as valiant, smite,
As he who sees a foeman reel
In blood before his blow of might!
The skill that conquers space and time,
That graces life, that lightens toil,
May spring from courage more sublime
Than that which makes a realm its spoil.

Let Labor, then, look up and see
His craft no pith of honor lacks;
The soldier's rifle yet shall be
Less honored than the woodman's axe!
Let Art his own appointment prize,
Nor deem that gold or outward height
Can compensate the worth that lies
In tastes that breed their own delight.

And may the time draw nearer still
When men this sacred truth shall heed,
That from the thought and from the will
Must all that raises life proceed.
Though Pride shall hold our calling low,
For us shall duty make it good;
And we from truth to truth shall go,
Till life and death are understood.

LETTER FROM ENGLAND.

Northampton—Dr. Doddridge—Ryland—Hervey—the Northamptonshire Poet—Earl Spencer's Library—Ancestors of Franklin and Washington.

Messrs. Editors.—I have lately been passing a few weeks at Northampton, and that place and its vicinity are associated with several venerated names, not less dear in America than in England, of whom it may be interesting to your readers to receive some account.

Here the theological institution of the celebrated Dr. Doddridge, was located, and here he exercised his ministry nearly the whole of his life. It is gratifying to find an able and evangelical minister in the same pulpit which he once occupied, and that the church is flourishing. In the vestry of the chapel is the chair in which he sat, and the table on which he is said to have written most of his works.

In Northampton, also, resided the Rev. John Ryland, M. A.—the father of the late excellent Dr. Ryland, of Bristol,—who was the minister of the first Baptist church for thirty years. His manuscript diary, which the writer has had the pleasure of seeing, contains many striking and original thoughts, and exhibits a mind deeply imbued with evangelical religion. As to mathematics, he was accustomed to say their use to a young minister was "to sift his ideas, fix his attention, and assist him in just reasoning and method."

He was the instructor of Robert Hall, before he entered Bristol College, who has observed, "Mr. Ryland was a most extraordinary man, and rarely, if ever, has full justice been done to his character. Mr. Ryland was the intimate friend of Dr. John Erskine, of Edinburgh, Toplady, and Rev. James Hervey, author of "Meditations among the Tombs," &c. He has written a unique and eulogistic memoir of Mr. Hervey, who was born in this neighborhood, and Rector of Weston Favel, about three miles from Northampton, where he died Dec. 25, 1768.

When at Northampton, I visited the Insane Asylum, where I saw John Clare, the Northamptonshire poet, who has been styled by Prof. Wilson, the English Burns. He is perfectly harmless, and occasionally emits some fine poetic effusions. Clare is the poet as well as the child of nature, and has exhibited her under many new and interesting aspects.—Most of his poems were composed in the fields. He was born near Peterborough, and is now about 57.

About five miles from Northampton is the village of Ecton, connected with our illustrious Benjamin Franklin. Here Dr. Franklin's ancestors had a small freehold estate for the space of at least three hundred years. About two miles distant is Castle Ashby, the seat of the Marquis of Northampton. The Marquis is an eminent patron of the arts and sciences and ranks deservedly high as a scholar. He was, until recently, President of the Royal Society. In his library is a manuscript History of England, supposed to be Caxton's; and Coverdale's Translation of the Bible, with a dedication to Henry VIII., printed in 1535.

My principal object in visiting Northamptonshire was to examine the library of Earl Spencer, which has long maintained a distinguished reputation throughout Europe. It is deposited at Althorp Park, about six miles from Northampton. Althorp has been the residence of Earl Spencer's ancestors for the last three centuries. The library occupies a suite of five apartments, extending about three hundred feet in length, and is completely filled with the best editions of the choicest authors, in superb bindings. The collection consists of about 50,000 volumes, comprehending every class of literature except law and medicine, which are restricted to standard works of reference and general utility. The theological and classical departments are considered unrivalled by any private collection in Europe. Dr. Dibdin has given an account of some of the books in this library of the 15th and 16th centuries, in 6 vols. imperial 8vo. In a rare work in this library, entitled, "A true and perfect Picture of our present Reformation, 1648," I found an allusion to Roger Williams' "Bloody Tenent."

The Picture Gallery at Althorp is one hundred and fifteen feet long, and is filled with portraits which arrest attention by their intrinsic merit as works of art, or as representations of individuals eminent for beauty, rank or talent, executed by the first masters.—Among the portraits is one of Spencer, the father of English pastoral and heroic poetry, who was allied to this illustrious house, and whose "Fairy Queen" has been styled by a celebrated historian, "the most precious jewel of their coronet."

A mile west of Althorp, is the village of Brington, and in the church in this place, are a series of splendid monuments of the Spencer family. Here, also, is a monument to the memory of Lawrence, son and heir of Robert Washington, Esq., of Sulgrave, in the county of Northampton; John, second son of the said Lawrence, emigrated to America in 1637. His great grandson was our illustrious GEO. WASHINGTON. These facts respecting the ancestors of Washington, I have derived from a copious genealogy of the family, which is contained in an admirable and elaborate History of Northamptonshire, by G. Baker, 2 vols.

About twelve miles from Northampton is another scene of great attraction, immortalised by Cowper in his Task, the villages of Olney and Weston, where we recently passed a delightful day. We had the advantage of being accompanied thither, by J. E. Ryland, Esq., a gentleman well known in America, as the talented editor of the "Life and Correspondence of John Foster," &c. E.

Cambridge, England, Sept., 1850.

(From the Times.)

Prussian and Austrian Finances.

Prussia's budget for 1849, was about £14,000,000, of which the moderate sum of £750,000, was all that was required for the interest of the national debt, then estimated at £18,500,000. For thirty years her debt has been in process of reduction, and £375,000 is yearly appropriated to a sinking fund for this purpose. Her army is estimated to cost no more than £3,100,000 for the current year, being less than a quarter of the revenue. The sum of £2,000,000 was added to the debt in 1848, and a new loan of £3,000,000 has been raised in the present year, against "the eventualities of the German question." What at first sight appears to complete a vision of finance almost Utopian to a British understanding is the circumstance that Prussia has immense State domains and Crown lands, moderately estimated at £55,000,000, which provide the interest and secure the capital of the debt. Were the finances of England in this plethoric and elastic condition, there is no doubt that we should be at war with all the nations of the earth before the twelvemonth was out, and that any new war would be hailed with cheers on the Stock Exchange, as happened once before in the days of our political innocence. But these finances, which we are compelled to take on trust, and which are enveloped, even in the best informed circles of Prussia, with a certain inscrutable mystery, must be submitted to a little analysis, and also be compared with the political and geographical circumstances of Prussia. If out of £14,000,000 only £3,100,000 be required for the army, and only £1,125,000 can be spared for the interest and the redemption of the debt, what becomes of the remaining £9,775,000? It is evident that the income must devour itself before it reaches the Exchequer.—The Crown lands, like our own, must cost as much as they yield, and the taxes must be absorbed by the collector. The figures admit of no other hypothesis, for the civil administration of the empire, exclusive of tax-gatherers, cannot honestly account for a moiety of this mysterious balance. But a war, it is evident, would make the direct havoc with the Prussian resources. She is all frontier, all rampart, all river, all road, open at every pore, with infinite breaches to defend against hostile attack and internal dilapidation. Scattered, and even heterogeneous, she would have to struggle for cohesion as well as for defence. In such a state her customs would dwindle and her rents disappear. Her expenditure would be substantial, and her revenue on paper. Her army of 220,000 men, supposing only the younger section of the Landwehr to be called out, would certainly cost while in active service as much as £10,000,000, which under the circumstances, would probably be the extent of the revenue. We have left out of the question certain contingencies. We have supposed Russia severely neutral, and France nobly unambitious. We have set nothing down to the account of Schleswig-Holstein, and only remotely alluded to the Red Republic at Berlin. Having in our view nothing more than a war with Austria, which, to say the least, is only half the danger in the Prussian horizon, we cannot set down the annual expenses of that war at less than the whole of her income, with the prospect of decreasing revenue and increasing expense.

The case of Austria is confessed. Her affairs are in such utter confusion that our correspondent, in the vain attempt to reach a terra firma, starts from a dividend of 4s. in the pound in 1811. This is only one of four bankruptcies. Not to follow our correspondent through the long series of financial embarrass-

ments and dishonest evasions, it is enough to observe that at the end of 1849 the public debt amounted to £103,500,000; there is a floating debt of £22,500,000, which the State owes to the Bank; and the paper money in circulation amounts to £34,500,000, against bullion to the amount of £3,000,000, leaving £31,500,000 of paper unprotected. Such a protection is, of course, none at all; and Austrian paper in a year of "peace," and only three years from the commencement of these troubles, is now as much depreciated as our own paper was almost after a generation of war. The Austrian expenditure in 1849 was estimated at £16,000,000, for nine months, or about £21,330,000 for the year; the army being set down at the incredibly moderate figure of £6,000,000. As that army during the Hungarian war was reckoned at 500,000 men, it is evident that part of its cost must have been out of this estimate. The interest of the Austrian debt may be guessed from the above mentioned capital; and as the expenses of collecting the taxes was not much less than £4,140,000 in 1849, it will not be less now. Yet to meet a confessed expenditure of £21,330,000, the income in 1849 was not more than £13,000,000 a year, the revenue being thus not sufficient for the expenses. Such a state of things, it must be admitted, offers some inducements to war. As Austria cannot possibly continue to maintain her standing army, though it be the rope of sand that binds her discordant dominions, it is possible that she may cherish the hope of quartering it on Federal Germany. She may catch at that straw. An active presidency in the affairs of the Federation may resuscitate that unity which has recently received such terrible shocks on the Danube and the Po. Foreign war is a very old specific for dissensions at home. These, however, are but dangerous expedients. The surest result of a war is its cost, and should Austria be once fairly embarked in a struggle for the German supremacy with her formidable rival, she must soon be reduced either to another bankruptcy or to still more dishonorable and ruinous expedients. In the face of history, we cannot indulge the hope that the prospect of insolvency will ever make Austria wise. Her late movements exhibit a reckless disregard of prudential considerations. The truth, however, must be known for the benefit of all whom it may concern. The notoriety of her insolvent condition may lead to such a "pressure from without" as shall make her attempt more by moderate councils than by formidable demonstrations. Her present course, as well as that of her great rival, tends to the subjugation of Germany, and small pity will either receive if they are both ruined in the attempt.

The English Empire.

Since the time of Charles V., what a wonderful difference there has been between the fortunes of England and of Spain. At that time England was only emerging into European importance; since then, her course has been steadily progressive, while the path of Spain has been uniformly downward. At that time the fortunes of Europe were decided by the revolutions of France and Spain; since then England and France have been the leading Powers. Yet England had great difficulties in her wonderful career. The independence of Scotland, and the perennial discontent of Ireland, (whether Protestant or Catholic,) placed great obstacles to the concentration of her power; still for three centuries her executive has been as strong (to say the least) as of any country in the world; as for the space of time her Parliament has ruled her people.—Her illustrious commoners, from the time of the Mr. Hampdens and Mr. Hydes, to the Mr.