

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

DEAR SIR,—Allow me through your valuable columns to say a few words upon Shorthand—and to remark that the system I advocate requires neither the memory to be burdened nor the judgment to be perplexed—and it might easily be acquired in a few lessons.

Shorthand confers no mean pleasure on the ready practitioner, and highly deserves universal regard. By it, the unconnected and evanescent ideas may be instantly caught, and arranged at leisure; and the mind freed from the burden of retention. Beautiful conceptions, sublime sentiments, and elegant expressions, are apt to start in the breast of every one who has the least pretensions to erudition or refinement; and often men of the profoundest judgment, and lively imagination, have the most unretentive memories. To such therefore, Shorthand ought to recommend itself in the most powerful manner; to such its peculiar advantages must be obvious; but not to those alone; men of every rank and profession may be profited by the study of it. Whether critic or philosopher, whether poet or historian, whether mathematician or mechanic, a traveller or a man of contemplation; each would find the labor of its attainment fully compensated by its utility. If we can make the copious effusions of animated oratory our own; catch the soothing, the persuasive, the beautiful, or sublime, fresh from the lips of the speaker we admire. If a Patriot pleads with all the warmth of heartfelt zeal for the preservation of the rights and immunities of his country; or a counsellor, disdaining the sordid bribe, declaims against powerful iniquities, and espouses the cause of honest indignance, what a pleasing satisfaction will the ready practice of this art confer! If the quibbles of law perplex; or sophistry attempt to prevent the cause of justice, and throw a gloss of innocence over villany and oppression, by what means can we obtain so perfect an elucidation of the truth, or development of falsehood, as by having it in our power to review what was advanced, the extenuation that was offered, and the palliations that were served up? Words, at the first hearing, may have plausibility enough to impose on the keenest penetration; but if by means of Shorthand it be brought to the test of truth, the latent sophism will be discovered, and plausibility no longer deceive. To enumerate further its conveniences and advantages would be needless, as they are self-evident.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours with every good wish, truly
R. THOMSON.

May 14th, 1852.

P. S. I shall be happy to give any Lady or Gentleman an opportunity of acquiring this system during my stay in St. John.

Address Mr. Thomson, Private Teacher, Mrs. Lawrence's Boarding House, Union Street.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF THE "EUROPA" AT NEW-YORK.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

NEW YORK, May 6.—The British mail steamer Europa, arrived at this port this evening, at half-past five o'clock, bringing 52 passengers, and Liverpool dates to Saturday, 24th ult., and London dates to 23d.

The ship Futah Salaam left Madras December 3d, with two hundred and thirty four native emigrants for the Mauritius. During a gale on the 23d, the hatches were battened down, and every one perished from suffocation.

ENGLAND.—On Thursday, in the House of Commons, the subject of abolishing the stamp tax on newspapers, and the duty on advertisements came up for discussion. Milner Gibson made a long speech in favour of abolishing all taxes on knowledge, and introduced a motion to that effect. The Chancellor of the Exchequer looks on the question as one of revenue, and could not afford to lose the million and a half per annum. At his suggestion the discussion was postponed till Friday week.

Sir John Pakington, on behalf of the government, gave notice of a motion for leave to bring in a bill granting a Constitution to New Zealand; also, that it is not the intention of Government to make any alteration at present with respect to the clergy reserves in Canada.

On Friday a motion respecting a grant to the Maynooth College was adjourned. The Militia bill was read a second time and the debate thereon postponed. Mr. J. Westworth Buller, of Exeter, has written a letter to the London Times, denying that the Guano Islands of Lobs belonged to Peru, inasmuch as they were not enumerated among her possessions when she declared her independence.

The ship Brilliant had arrived in the Downs from Australia, with two and a half tons of gold, valued at £217,000. She reports that the ship Statesman was to sail in February, with 80,000 ounces of gold. The total yield for Melbourne district, up to the 20th of December, was £730,242. Twenty-one vessels, with emigrants from the adjacent colonies, were entering the harbor of Port Phillip when the Brilliant sailed. The Orestes sloop-of-war had captured a Spanish slaver in Mozambique Channel, after a desperate resistance. The cholera has again broken out in Persia.

Flax planting is going on extensively in the North of Ireland.

An advertisement appears in the English papers for 1000 labourers on the Canada West Rail Road.

It is stated that in the case of Alderman Salmons, the Jew elected to Parliament, a writ of error is being prosecuted for the purpose of obtaining the decision of the highest judicial tribunals.

FRANCE.—A remarkable statement appears in the London Times respecting the course to be pursued by Austria, Prussia and Russia, in the event of Louis Napoleon assuming the title of Emperor. The substance of the story is, that the late Prince Schwarzenberg had addressed a circular to the European Courts, expressing his conviction that Louis Napoleon was about to erect an imperial throne, adding that Austria felt no alarm in consequence, and advocating the claims of the President to the friendship and alliance of all conservative governments. Prussia answered the circular on the 18th, and Russia on the 29th of February. The tenor of both replies is, that the two powers looked upon the design of Louis Napoleon neither with favor or hostility. That they believe he is disposed to follow the foreign policy of his uncle, and is even now aiming to separate the powers in order to profit hereafter by that separation; but that the three powers acting in concert could keep him in check. Russia and Prussia, however, would recognize him as Emperor if elected to that office, but merely as an elective monarch, and not as the founder of a Napoleonic dynasty.

ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

[By Telegraph to the News Room.]

The Royal Mail Steamer Canada arrived at Halifax on Tuesday evening, with 51 passengers.—She left Liverpool on the 1st May.

The steam ship Great Britain sailed from Liverpool on the same day, for New York, with 160 passengers.

Freights were lower and also rates of passage, chiefly attributable to the numerous arrivals from sea during the week.

The House of Commons was occupied on Wednesday in discussing a measure proposing to abolish Religious Tests in the Scotch University. After a long debate, the measure was rejected by 16 majority.

The Commons on Thursday had before them a motion to regulate the revenues of the Church.—Leave was granted to bring in a bill on the subject.

On Friday, according to announcement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought forward the Budget. It proposes to repeal none of the existing taxes; says nothing of imposing new ones, except the continuation of the Income and Property Tax, for a limited time, estimates that the income of the coming year will be from present sources, £51,625,006, and the expenditure £51,163,979, leaving a surplus of £461,021.

The estimate is looked upon favourably, so far as opinion has had time to express itself.

The Halifax and Quebec Railway was also the subject of some conversation. Mr. Cobden asked the Colonial Secretary, Pakington, if he would lay the correspondence relating to that Railway before the House. Sir J. Pakington demurred, and Mr. Cobden said he would place a motion for it on the notice Book. Secretary Pakington stated in reply, that nothing had taken place between the late Government and the parties who were anxious for the construction of the lines, that could be construed into a qualified assent. The language of Earl Grey went no further than to say that the Government would be no parties to any such guarantee as that sought for, unless they were satisfied with the line. The subject, however, was now under the notice of the Government.

FROM INDIA.—A despatch, in advance of the India mail had arrived, with Bombay dates to 3d of April. The expedition against the Burmese goes on apace. A battle of three hours' duration had been fought between 2,500 British troops and a body of native Mountaineers, to the north of Peshawur. The Mountaineers were defeated.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—There are five days later advices from the Cape of Good Hope. Indecisive skirmishes were continually occurring between the troops and the Kaffirs.

FRANCE.—Louis Napoleon has referred the question of competency of the tribunal that confiscated the Orleans property to the Council of State, thus removing it from the reach of the constituted legal authorities.

The Bishop of London finds the opponents of his Puseyism multiplying. A Mr. Duffield, one of his clergy, is a particular friend of Mr. Gladstone, who rests under the Bishop's interdiction for his plainness of speech. And Mr. Duffield had invited Mr. Gladstone to preach for him. The Bishop heard of it, and issued a command to withdraw the invitation, on the ground that Mr. G. had been forbidden

to preach in the diocese. Mr. D. replied that the validity of the prohibition is now under litigation before the courts, and that Mr. G. was not to be treated as guilty, till he had been proved so. The Bishop next issued a command to Mr. D. and the church wardens, not to permit Mr. G. to preach. Mr. D. succumbed, after giving free expression of his sense of the Bishop's tyranny, and publishing the correspondence.

CONVICTION AND SENTENCE OF AN IRISH PRIEST.—Mr. Lewis, an Episcopal clergyman, of Dingle in Ireland, had long been subject to outrages instigated by one O'Sullivan, an Irish priest. He was recently riding through the town, in the evening, when he was attacked by seven men, of whom the priest O'Sullivan was one. One of them struck him a heavy blow with a stone. He dismounted and seized the priest, and held him for an arrest; but he was soon rescued by a mob, yet was afterwards arrested, and brought to trial. He was convicted and sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labor.

PROTESTANTISM IN EUROPE.—Under the arrangements of Providence, all the true interests of the nations are becoming more visibly connected with the Protestant cause. The editor of *The Edinburgh Witness* says:—

"Protestantism has bound up with it the liberties of Britain, the hopes of the world; and every other interest, however desirable in itself, is of but minor and subordinate moment. Reform is good, free trade is good, but Protestantism is better than both, because it includes both."

The British in Japan.—We learn from a late English paper, that H. M. steamer Spbyn recently visited Loochoo, an island belonging to Japan. Captain Shadwell, being commissioned to deliver a letter from Lord Palmerston to the regent, proceeded, after some little negotiation, to the royal city of Shooi, about three miles inland, and had an audience with the regent within the walls of the City. An entertainment was prepared, and every kindness and attention were shown to Captain Shadwell and to the crew of the vessel.

DR. KING.—Further intelligence than we gave in our last has been received from Dr. King, under imprisonment in Greece, for teaching that the Virgin Mary is merely a woman. The most influential newspapers in Athens censure the steps taken by their government, and especially deprecate them on account of Dr. King's official relations to the American government. *The Athens Courier* says:—

We are afflicted to be obliged to announce that the liberty of defence, and the gravity which ought to preside at the deliberations of justice, have been greatly compromised. We are especially grieved in thinking of the long echo that this trial will not fail to have in the United States, that country so great in its present, so immense in its future, and which showed itself so sympathetic, so enthusiastic even, for the cause of our independence.

The Greek papers join in attributing this act of persecution to Romish despotism brought to bear upon Greece. A letter has been received in New-York, from Dr. King since his imprisonment. He was first put into a crowded and filthy prison with the worst sort and all sorts of felons. But he was afterwards allowed to take his imprisonment in the police office, till the court of Appeals had decided his case. Whether he was then returned to the prison, does not appear. Here he was treated kindly, and his friends had free access to him. In his letter he expresses himself as very happy.—*Puritan Recorder*.

EMIGRATION OF CHINAMEN TO CALIFORNIA.—Accounts have been received in San Francisco from Hong Kong, which authorize the expectation of a large emigration of Chinamen to California. A correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* says:

"I have before me a letter from Hong Kong, dated 15th January last, in which the writer states that we may look to China for an emigration of 50,000 souls to our population within the next five years. An intelligent sea captain, just arrived from there, informs me that thousands are saving up their earnings in order to collect \$35 passage money to bring them to California. To this is to be added the expense of a little dried fish and rice, and a sip of tea, and in about 40 to 50 days they are safely landed on our shores.—In the letter from China before referred to,

the writer says: I now know of more than 600 Chinamen booked for California, for whom shipping cannot now be had, although there are now in our harbor some half-a-dozen large ships bound for San Francisco, and they will all take from two to three hundred Chinamen each."

The ship Challenge is said to be on her way to San Francisco with a thousand Chinamen passengers.

THE MAINE LIQUOR LAW AT HOME.—The late town elections in Maine turned on the question of the Liquor Law. The editor of *The Gardiner Fountain* publishes the names of the towns, with their vote on this subject. The list shows the opinion of Maine, after a year's experiment, conclusively enough to create a wish to try it elsewhere. Ninety-eight towns voted to sustain the Law, and elected officers who are pledged to see it done; seven towns were divided or equivocal on the subject; and twenty-nine towns voted against the law, none of which, except Brunswick, possess any considerable importance.

FUGITIVE SLAVE MURDERED.—Officer Ridgely, of Baltimore, in an attempt to arrest an alleged fugitive slave, in Columbia, Pa., on Thursday last, drew a pistol and shot him dead, while he was endeavoring to escape. The murder created a great excitement in the vicinity, but the officer succeeded in evading the exasperated multitude and returned to Baltimore. The alleged fugitive had resided in Columbia a year and a half, and left a wife and two children. An effort will be made to induce the Governor of Pennsylvania to demand the Baltimore officer of the Maryland authorities, as a fugitive from justice.

A Drunkard may Flog the Rumseller with Impunity.—In New-York, Mr. McDonald was brought before Justice Truman Smith on the charge of assaulting Wm. Jackson. The complainant keeps a tavern, and the other got drunk therein, when he took a notion to whip the landlord, which he did effectually. The Justice decided that McDonald having drunk himself crazy for the benefit of Jackson, the latter must endure the injuries he received at the other's hands while in such a state, and dismissed the case.

Singular Proceedings.—In New York. Wednesday night, a woman carried a child to a Catholic priest to be christened. After the ceremony, two dollars was demanded of her. Being unwilling or unable to pay this sum, the child was taken away from her, and she was thrust out of doors. Her cries attracted attention from the passers-by, who interested themselves in her behalf, but without effect; the priest refused to give up the child until she would pay.—*N. E. Farmer*.

WATERVILLE, ME.—We learn, from private sources, that the work of grace, mentioned in our last issue, as having commenced in this place, continues with increased power and interest. Something like twenty-five students were hopefully converted during the month of April. The work commenced, apparently, immediately upon the observance of the concert of prayer for Colleges, in February last, and has now many features of very great interest.—*Zion's Advocate*.

Effect of Newspapers upon the Minds of Insane Persons.—Mayor Berry, of Williamsburgh, publishes a letter on the subject of moral treatment for the insane, in which he states that he has ascertained in his last visits to the Lunatic Asylum that the reception of newspapers by that unfortunate class of patients produced a very satisfactory impression upon them, and seems decidedly to call them back, for the moment, to some degree of reason.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

Crowding to California!—The steamer Northern Light, which left New York last Wednesday, for Aspinwall, took out 950 passengers for California, via Panama. The Crescent City was also crowded with passengers for the same destination.

SIR JOHN HARVEY AND GEN. SCOTT.—A friend of ours was present when the news of the death of Sir John Harvey, late Governor of Nova Scotia, was communicated to Gen. Scott. The General expressed the strongest feelings of sorrow at learning the death of an old and valued friend. He stated that he had, a few days previous, received from Sir John his portrait, in daguerreotype, with the request of his own in return, and that he was intending at the first leisure moment to sit for the purpose.—*Cincinnati Atlas*.

The Londonderry Standard has a commercial report from Belfast, describing the wonderful progress of manufacturing enterprise in Ulster, under the operation of free trade.—About 30,000 hands are now in regular employment at the several flax mills in Ireland.