

[Continued from page 67.]

especially one who has professed to "have passed from death unto life," to have unpaid bills for a RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPER standing against him year after year without ever offering to arrange the matter. I sometimes meet with such instances, and I am glad, Messrs. Editors, that you must know who the parties are.) I hope if any such happen to notice these remarks they will consider the disreputable light in which they place themselves, and the injustice they do you, and make up their minds to remove the cause at once, and not place you, Messrs. Editors, under the painful necessity to demand so just an account.

With the strictest care to the interests of the Visitor, I remain, dear brethren, yours truly,  
March 26, 1853. AN AGENT.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

MIRAMICHI, March 30.

DEAR BRETHREN.—We beg to inform you that in pursuing the Mission assigned us by the Board, having visited Buctouche, Black River, and the Little Southwest, we are now labouring with the Church at North Esk, where we have found the Brethren in a low spiritual state, but we have the pleasure to inform you that since we came among them the brethren are more united, and the community are anxious to hear the word of God. Six have been converted since we have been here, and have put on Christ by baptism. The prospects here are such that we do not feel justified in leaving at present. Brethren pray for us, that the word of the Lord run and be glorified. Yours in the Gospel.

JAMES BLEAKNEY,  
D. McPHAIL.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

April 2, 1853.

DEAR EDITORS.—How few know the meaning of "as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing,"—a worm in an apple makes it mellow and full of good tastes. Thus, the worm or sorrow in the heart of man makes it full of gentle feelings, chastens his turbulent soul, and gives him the spirit of a Christian man. Blessed are the uses of moderate griefs. A fair ratio of the troubles of life, with its legitimate pleasures, is what constitutes the true maximum of well-being. C. D.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

## LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA.

Alexander Gold Fields, Nov. 20, 1852.

MY DEAR FATHER,—You will be a little surprised and perhaps uneasy at our long delay in writing, especially as we were so certain before we left home, to inform you of our safe arrival in Australia by first opportunity. This we should have been happy to have done long before this had it been in our power. But the uncertainty of having letters passed through the Post Office here, owing to the irregular transmission of the Mails by the inland route to Sidney, combined with many other causes, has till now rendered it entirely out of our power to write. When we arrived at Melbourne, it was with the greatest difficulty that we could get a night's lodging, indeed so crowded was the city at that time that we were very glad to find a sleeping place upon the floor of some hut, when with some fifty or a hundred others, some gentlemen and some villains, we could find a shelter till the next morning. In such a state of things as this, you will not be surprised at our short stay in a place so completely crowded as Melbourne. And although the accounts from the "diggings" were of an unsatisfactory nature, owing to the recent floods, we at once determined to try our fortune at Mount Alexander, a distance of 80 miles. So after making such arrangements with our baggage as we could, in company with fifty or sixty others, from the same ship, with knapsacks on our backs, we marched "off to the diggings." We performed the journey in four days, and with the exception of eight or ten who tired out on the way, all got in safe and well. Brother and I stood the jaunt well; a circumstance which will convince you of the happy change which has taken place in regard to my own health from the time I left home. And now after a month's experience in the life of a gold digger, I must give you a short sketch of the hardships and privations, as well as the different stages of success to which he is subjected—merely to show you that gold is not to be picked up in the grass here any more than in New

Brunswick, and that the man that makes money here, does it by the sweat of his brow. True, there are some whose fortune is made in a day, but these instances are rare, and form the exception, not the rule. Our party consists of four—two young men from Halifax and ourselves—we rise at daylight in the morning, take our breakfast before sunrise, consisting of beef, damper and tea, and off to our work, where we stay till nearly sun-set, and return to our tent, wrap our blankets around us, to enjoy the tired fellow's repose. Such is the routine of life to which we have by this time become quite accustomed. We could not have come to the "diggings" in a more unfavorable season of the year than in October. Every thing in the shape of provisions was up to famine prices. For instance—Flour, £15 per barrel; a loaf of bread which at home would cost 3d., we have had to pay six shillings; beef, 6d. per lb.; mutton, 5s. per quarter; pork, 3s. 6d. per lb.; cheese, 4s. 6d. per lb.; sugar, 2s. 6d. per lb.; salt, 1s. per lb., and all other articles in the same proportion; and this just at a season when the gold was not obtainable, owing to the recent floods, so you may know our situation was not so very enviable. But determined not to be thwarted in our object, we went to work, and worked hard day after day, without even so much as earning our salt. For the first three weeks we sank 13 holes, ranging from 10 feet to 20, and found them blanks, but in the fourteenth we hit upon the precious ore, and are now repaid for all our three weeks of lost time. There is no business into which a man can enter where his perseverance and energy are more brought to the test than in gold digging; consequently not more than one out of every hundred who come to the mines remain long enough to give them a fair trial. The difficulties are so great as sometimes to baffle the strongest hearted. Out of the fifty or sixty who came up with us from the "Chebucto," only six remained, the rest have gone back disheartened, some of them even without touching the spade or pick. Such is the life of a gold digger, some are fortunate, and others are unfortunate.

You will be happy to learn that our prospects for success are brightening every day, as new places of great richness are now being found out. Last night we sold the hole we were working for a good sum, and to-morrow we intend to take a tramp of some eight or ten miles to work in new gullies that have lately been opened. A large sheep station has been found to be very rich in gold deposits, and Government has given orders to have it thrown open to the diggers. Thousands are on the grounds already, waiting till the 25th, and mounted police are patrolling the place to keep intruders off. The greatest order and quietness prevail throughout the diggings, and English law here is observed with as much promptitude as in the best regulated towns and cities in England. It is true, that robberies and murders take place now and then, but it must naturally be supposed that among a body of 80,000 or 100,000 men, some lawless subjects will be found, but the laws are very strict, and the police regulations are good. The Sunday is strictly observed by a large proportion of the diggers, and meetings are held every Sunday morning by all denominations. The Clergymen are supported by Government at a salary of £300 per annum.

By this time, dear Father, you will be able to judge of the sort of life your sons have in the wilds of Australia. We intend remaining here till the rainy season sets in, which is in August, when we intend visiting Sidney to spend our winter. By that time we shall be able to give you something more definite. As far as I have seen of Australia and its advantages—my expectations are fully realized. Its climate is probably unrivalled by any other country in the world, and the air is pure and delicious. Its soil produces almost spontaneously the finest fruits and in ample variety, and man can live here with a superfluity of abundance, that is found in no other country. But still, like all other countries it has its drawbacks, and fearful ones too. The want of water here in the summer time is felt most acutely both by man and beast: and in the greater part of the country, I believe, pure springs are unknown. I have not tasted one cup of good water, since I came to the country, and would give an ounce of gold to-day for one drink of Nova Scotia spring water. Then there is the convict system that has been carried on here for so long a time, now acting as a blighting curse upon all classes of society. But Australia has all the elements of

being a mighty country, and probably before long society will have found its own level, and things having become more settled, it will hoist its own banner, and be known to the world under the name of the *Australian Republic*.

The population of the country is increasing very rapidly, as you must know. Thousands are arriving weekly, and the tide seems on the increase, but there is plenty of room here for millions, and plenty to do—and any quantity of provisions—and with the exception of the mines, at very moderate charges. So, dear Mother need not fear of her sons suffering starvation. Already America is sending over flour, and it is expected that before the summer has gone, that article will be obtained as cheap as ever. Upon the whole, both I—m and myself are much pleased and very contented with a gold digger's life. I suppose because it is so healthy, for one reason: and withal its privations and hardships, I don't hesitate to say it is the most honorable, the most independent, and therefore the most happy way in which a young man can spend two or three years of his life. One thing I forgot to say, no grog shops or gambling houses are allowed on the diggings. Wherever they are found, the police are authorised to burn them down. A good regulation, and one that is enforced most strictly. Oh! what would I give for one short letter from home to-day; we have been expecting letters ever since we landed, and as every new mail comes in, we anxiously look for letters from home, but as yet we have watched in vain. What can be the reason? surely you must have written and the letters are mislaid—but we can only be contented and wait the result of time. One of our party is going down to Melbourne to make arrangements for a safe transmission of letters through the Post Office. If the "Great Britain," which arrived a few days since has brought us news from home, we shall be happy. We have just heard that the Royal Mail Steamer "Sidney" has also arrived, so most likely one of them has letters for us. The "Australia" from St. John has not yet arrived, probably it will be Christmas before she does. We came out in good style on board the "Chebucto," had a magnificent time of it, though a long passage of 96 days, owing to calms and light winds. Capt. Beech did every thing in his power to make us comfortable and happy—he is a man in every sense of the word. There is some talk of his taking command of the "Great Britain." Very few of the ships that come into port are able to get away, desertion is so frequent among the crews. There are now lying in Port Phillip over 100 ships of the first class, besides a great quantity of smaller shipping. The "Chebucto" is among the number. \* \* \* \* \*

Your affectionate son,

E. M. B.

Rev. I. E. B.

## General Intelligence.

## FOUR DAYS LATER FROM ENGLAND.

The Collins' steamer *Arctic* arrived at New York on Tuesday last, with Liverpool dates to the 23d ult. On the 29th, the *Arctic* passed the Africa from New York for Liverpool.

The Flour market was steady. Cotton market quiet. Beef heavy and nominal. Pork declined 2s 6d. to 5s. The London Money market had been somewhat depressed, but closed firm.

Parliament had adjourned for the Easter holidays.

A letter from M. Bucos, the French Minister of Marine, in reply to one addressed him by Mr. Ewart, M. P., is published in the English papers. It gives assurances of the most pacific intentions of the French Government and considers that any serious misunderstanding between the two nations would be one of the greatest misfortunes.

A fire took place on the 19th ultimo, in the Prince of Wales Tower, in Windsor Castle.—Several rooms in the occupation of the Royal family were badly burned, and at one time the whole edifice was in danger of total destruction.

Continual strikes of mechanics and the working classes are becoming frequent, and an advance of wages was being obtained in various trades.

The Lady Franklin steamer was to sail for Behring's Straits on the 29th.

FRANCE.—Rumours are current that the coronation would take place at Rheims.

The War Steamer *Napoleon*, was to be superbly fitted up and despatched to convey the Pope to France.

GERMANY.—Emigration this season is expected to be limited, owing to the scarcity of means among the lower classes.

AUSTRIA.—The British Ambassador has presented an official note to the Austrian Minister from the English Government stating their intention to vigorously suppress any conspiracy planned

by foreign refugees in England against the Continental powers.

GREAT JUBILEE MEETING.—The first great public meeting, in connexion with the Jubilee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, was held on Tuesday at Exeter Hall, which was completely filled long before the hour specified for the commencement of the proceedings. The platform, which was also crowded, was devoted exclusively to the chief friends and supporters of the society. The Earl of Shaftesbury, as President of the Society, occupied the chair.—After several speeches nearly £10,000 were subscribed.

Yesterday, the Archbishop of Canterbury preached a sermon commemorative of the formation of the Bible Society, in Saint Paul's Cathedral. This, we believe, is the first time that the cause of this great Institution has been pleaded in a pulpit heretofore exclusively devoted, in matters of religious benevolence, to the advocacy of institutions avowedly connected with the Established Church, and limited to the promotion of its own objects.

A large meeting was held in London a few days ago, in connection with the London Missionary Society, for the purpose of raising a fund to send several Missionaries and a printer to Madagascar, where there is said to be a good opening at present for the promulgation of Christianity, the reigning Prince being in favour of the Missionary cause. £2,300 was subscribed; and the required sum (£5000) was expected soon to be raised.

APPEARANCE OF A SUNKEN WRECK.—The plate in the *Queen Victoria's* cabin has been saved by a diver; but the man protests that nothing in the world could induce him to go down a second time, as the scene in the cabin was the most horrible he had ever witnessed. He thought he had entered a wax-work exhibition, the corpses never having moved from their positions since the vessel went down. There were some eighteen or twenty persons in the cabin, one and all of whom seemed to be holding conversation with each other; and the general appearance of the whole scene was so lifelike that he was almost inclined to believe that some were yet living.—*London paper*.

Explosion of a Railway Engine and Loss of Life.—A terrible accident occurred yesterday morning at Longsight, near Manchester, by the explosion of a railway locomotive belonging to the London and North Western Railway Company. Longsight is a depot for engines. The engines in question was in a large shed with other locomotives, and the steam was up. About nine o'clock, the boiler burst with a terrific explosion, which was heard for miles, tearing the part over the fire-box into three separate pieces, hurling each to a distance of six or seven yards, destroying five of the pillars supporting the structure, and blowing off and tearing away upwards of 1,500 square feet of the slated roof. In this shed from 60 to 80 workmen were at breakfast, dispersed in groups about all parts of it, and hence a shocking loss of life, four men being killed on the instant, in addition to some ten or a dozen carried away, more or less severely hurt.

AUSTRALIA.—The advices from Australia are nearly a month later than were before received. They show that there was no material abatement of the yield of the mines, though the reception of gold at Sydney had been diminished by accidental causes. The following amounts were brought to Melbourne in the last six months:—

July,	-	-	297,941	ounces.
August,	-	-	268,676	"
September,	-	-	211,814	"
October,	-	-	348,511	"
November,	-	-	349,185	"
December, (from 1st to 25th)	-	-	185,526	"

1,661,653 ounces.

Amounting to over \$30,000,000.

Emigrants from Ragged Schools.—A lad who had been a scholar in the Wapping Ragged School, and who emigrated to Port Philip in 1850, has just sent his aged mother the sum of fifty pounds, having been "a little successful" at the diggings.

DEPARTURE OF DR. LAYARD FOR THE EAST.—Dr. Layard has just issued an address to his constituents, the electors of Aylesbury, announcing his immediate departure for Constantinople, with her Majesty's ambassador, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. This is not the first time that Dr. Layard has been associated with Lord Stratford de Redcliffe in Eastern Diplomatic service. He was attached to the embassy at Constantinople when he resolved to attempt the recovery of Assyrian remains, and accomplished the task which has made his name celebrated, under the auspices of Sir Stratford Canning.—*Daily News*.

The Doctor's new book, entitled "Discoveries in the Ruins of Nineveh and Babylon," is just issued, and is described as very interesting. The *Athenaeum* says, "However high may have been the anticipations of the public, they will be amply realized in this production—the subject matter of which is full of most valuable and suggestive materials."

Three executions took place at Mantua on the 3d instant. The names of the victims were Count Speri, of Brescia, a very young man; Count Montamara, of Verona; and the Arch-priest Mitre, of Rovere, aged seventy. Some twenty have been condemned to imprisonment with irons, for terms varying from ten to twenty years; and upwards of a hundred remain in prison.