

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

University, M. C., New York, January 31st, 1854.

DEAR EDITORS,—I feel deeply indebted to you for the interest which you have from time to time manifested in my behalf, and for a copy of the "Visitor," (which I find to be a welcome visitor to me) for which I hope to be able to recompense you in due time. I feel encouraged when I look over the pages of your paper, and there see from week to week, that the "Visitor" is widely and steadily increasing in numbers, through the indefatigable exertions of you and your agents, and that Acadia is nobly endowed and well supplied with able Professors; that the Seminary at Fredericton is in a flourishing condition, and bids fair to be one of the brightest lights in the galaxy of similar institutions either at home or abroad. For all these advances and noble achievements, you have abundant reason to be thankful, and for which every true hearted lover of that cause which you so nobly advocate will in future have inscribed in large Capitals for his motto—"Upward and Onward."

At present, I don't mean to write (in my feeble way) of the prosperity or adversity of affairs in New Brunswick—though a few words I had to say to relieve my mind—but to give you a short description of some of the conflagrations and calamities since my short stay in this great metropolis.

The most frightful calamity which ever happened in this vicinity, occurred last Saturday afternoon, (January 20th) in the extensive Catridge Ball manufactory of Mr. French, at Lower Ravenswood, Long Island, New York, which blew up with a tremendous report, breaking the glass, and shaking to their foundations, every house within half a mile. This great explosion took place shortly after the hands (composed principally of young men and women whose ages ranged somewhere between 15 and 25 years) had returned from dinner.

The scene, as described by the New York papers, begs all description. Fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, were searching for missing friends who were at work in the ill-fated factory. The cries from survivors who were most horribly mangled, and of the relatives of the missing, were truly heart-rending. The ruins of the building, and lots, fences, and houses for yards around, were covered with flesh, bones, and fragments, of human bodies. I was informed by a gentleman who was present, that a distracted father drew from the ruins, the head of a little girl, which he knew to be his daughter, by a particular ribbon which she wore in her hair. The remaining portions of her body could not be found.

Yesterday, (Sunday), there were kegs and barrels heaped up with portions of flesh, hands, arms, legs, feet, &c., hardly a piece to be found larger than a hand, or part of a leg or arm—some of which they moved to a house close by, and the remainder stood in the open air, but I presume was soon cared for. The precise number of missing persons has not as yet been fairly ascertained; but it is thought there were between 14 and 18 who perished without a minutes warning, and that in the most horrible manner. Mr. French, the owner of the establishment, had only left the building about 15 or 20 minutes before the explosion, though he was close by and barely escaped with his life. This together with the different railroad and steam boat disasters since my arrival here, is horrible to contemplate, and bespeaks a people living too fast.

There have been some very terrible conflagrations in this city during the last two months—the destruction of the ship Republic, Lefarge Hotel, Harper's Establishment, City Hall, and numerous other splendid edifices; exceeds, at least, five or six million dollars. Think of this for one city in so short a time.

Rev. E. Clay, who for the last week has been quite unwell, but is now enabled to attend his daily avocation—wishes to be remembered to all kind friends.

A. ALWARD.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Work County Total Abstinence Convention.

Messrs. Editors.—I beg liberty through the medium of your paper to give a brief ac-

count of the last meeting of the Convention, hoping that it will be acceptable to you and your readers, to hear of the doings of the friends of the "good cause of Temperance," in this section of the country.

The Convention met in the Rev. Mr. Magee's Meeting House, Nashwaak, on the 1st inst., at 3 o'clock, p. m. Benjamin Goodspeed, Esq., was called to the chair, and after prayer by the Rev. Mr. Magee, the Convention proceeded to the transaction of business. A Committee of several of the brethren in that neighbourhood and its vicinity, was appointed to canvass the Parishes of St. Mary's and Stanley, for the purpose of obtaining signatures to the petition to be laid before the Legislature at the ensuing session, praying for the prohibition of the importation, manufacture, and sale, within this Province, of all intoxicating liquors. Some volunteered to travel into the woods, and from camp to camp, and obtain the signatures of these "hardy sons of the forest" who frequently suffer so severely from this destructive traffic; and doubtless, hundreds of these, who, after having worked in the depths of the wilderness during the inclemency of the winter, and who have hitherto, upon the coming down of the lumber, been inveigled into these dens of pollution, now so numerous in our country, and there lost all the hard earned fruits of their labour, will now gladly avail themselves of the opportunity to assist in the suppression and destruction of this nefarious vice. Perfect unanimity seemed to prevail in the minds of the people on the subject of the Prohibitory Liquor Law. But one opinion was expressed by all, and that was, that an entirely prohibitory law must be enacted and enforced. No half-way measures will do. The people have seen so much of the ravages of this desolating and soul-destroying evil, that they have come to the determination that it shall no longer be tolerated.

At 5 o'clock, the meeting adjourned, and was opened again at 6 o'clock, by singing and prayer, by the Rev. Robert Tweedie. The meeting house was nearly filled with a respectable and attentive audience, who were deeply interested by the entertaining and eloquent discourses which were delivered by Messrs. J. S. Conner, J. S. Beek, Rev. Messrs. Magee, and Tweedie, G. Hatheway, Esq., and Mr. Goodspeed. It would be entirely useless for me to attempt to give an outline of these speeches, as I am well aware that I could not do them justice. Suffice it to say, that they were excellent, appropriate, animating, and well-suited to stir up the minds of the people to active and energetic measures. Rarely have we seen a body of people so unanimous and determined upon any subject, as were those who attended this meeting, on the suppression of the Liquor Traffic; and without doubt, if the same spirit of union and determination is manifested by Temperance men throughout the Province, they will succeed in their praise-worthy and philanthropic endeavour.

I remain, Messrs. Editors, yours, &c., JAMES R. INCH. Keswick Ridge, Feb. 3rd 1854.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Hampton, Feb. 2, 1854.

DEAR BRETHREN,—I am sorry to inform you, that sickness and death are very prevalent in this place. Six of the children of this vicinity have been called of late to pass through the chilly waters of death to the grief of their dear parents. These children have been from the age of 3 to 10 years, all of whom have died by that fatal disease, the Scarlet Fever. Many grown persons have been attacked, but none as yet have died. Several while I write, are suffering from a consuming fever, which, if they obtain no relief, must inevitably sink into the slumbers of the tomb. Oh! most merciful God, if it can be according to thy will, turn away thy anger from them in their restoration to health, or prepare them by thy grace and spirit to reign in life eternal, and to rise at Christ's second appearing in glory, free for ever from every pain and death. But whilst the judgments of the Lord are thus abroad in the land, I think it is obvious to every discerning Christian man that at least, a proportion of the inhabitants of this place are learning righteousness. A solemn sense of death and judgement, is manifest in many of our religious meetings. Our quarterly meeting, according to previous arrangement and announcement in your valuable "Visitor," commenced on the 11th of

January, and a strong religious influence characterized our meetings from first to last— which series of meetings continued in the Meeting-house, and in the Titus Settlement for about a week.

The ministers who came to our assistance, were, Elders James Blakeney, Trimble, and G. Burns; and though we should have been glad to have had more Ministers, yet we thank the Lord for the attendance of these dear brethren, who came to us in the spirit of their Master, and laboured faithfully and earnestly for our present and eternal good. The Lord reward them for their kind, yet candid admonitions! Deacon Lockey, from St. John, Deacon Jesse Tabor, from Upham, and Deacon Joseph Bradshaw, from Kempt, Nova Scotia, were also with us and rendered us valuable assistance. Brother Snow, and Joseph Sherwood were unanimously approved, and chosen as Deacons of this Church. May the Spirit that rested upon St. Stephen, rest on these dear brethren! On the Sabbath day, we commemorated the suffering of our blessed Lord, and whilst we thus showed forth the Saviour's death till he come again, I trust we had some little sense, that the time draws very near when He will divide the heavens, and come without sin unto salvation to all that look for him with ardent love.

Yours, &c., WELLINGTON JACKSON.

Report of the Address Delivered at the Convention on the Foreign Mission.

After the reading of the Report, Rev. I. E. Bill moved a Resolution, afterwards modified and passed, to the effect that the Convention should abandon Burmah as a Missionary field, and direct our efforts towards Australia. He had penned the Resolution, he said, for the purpose of testing the feeling of the meeting. He could not tell how far it would meet the approbation of the brethren present, but doubted not that they would be willing to give it a calm and dispassionate consideration. There was no doubt that our feelings and affections had long been upon Burmah. We had commenced aiding in the cultivation of that field almost as soon as our American brethren had selected it, and our own Judson—for he had always seemed to belong to us—had gone thither with his devoted companions—to toil, to suffer, and to die,—to plant the standard of the cross in that dark land. Our contributions have flowed pretty largely to that country. Efforts have been made by the churches in these Provinces to cultivate that field by establishing an independent mission there. With this design in view our beloved Burpe went out. We all know the result. His health failed—he had to return to his native land to die. The time came, when, if we continued to cultivate that field, we must send out another missionary or two. We supposed we had a perfect right to select this field as a sphere of independent action, and that our labours would not be deemed by the Baptists of the United States, an infringement upon their rights. But it seems we were mistaken. Our brethren in that country claim Burmah and think we should not interfere with them. It has therefore come to this, that if we would preserve our independent action, and move forward in harmony with our brethren there, we must select another portion of the vast field of missionary enterprise, for our exertions.

True, we have been anxious about Burmah, and there are many hallowed associations connected with that country. But is not the field the world, and are not all parts equally dear to Him who gave himself for the redemption of all nations? Are not souls everywhere precious? And do they not need the Gospel everywhere? There is China with her teeming millions, her numerous towns and villages, where thousands and tens of thousands have never heard of the gospel of salvation. There are numerous other places, all pressing their claims, and sending to us on every breeze as it were, the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us!" There is, then, no difficulty in selecting a field. But the question comes, what country has the greatest claims upon us? and where are the greatest number of facilities, and the fewest obstacles presented. He (Mr. B.) conceived that Australia is that place. He thought it scarcely admitted of a question. Let us consider for a moment some of the reasons which most readily suggest themselves, as the ground for this opinion. First. The importance of the country, con-

sidered in every point of view. Its vast and rapidly increasing population. People are pressing thither, not only from Europe, but from all parts of the world. Victoria alone contains at this very moment not less than two hundred thousand human beings within its precincts. The annual increase is enormous. Here then is an immensely important field for our christian charities, on this very account. But many of these people are from the contiguous countries, which are immersed in heathen gloom. The flame of the gospel kindled upon the mountains and hills of Australia, would beam far and wide over the surrounding nations. A mission established there could not but act powerfully upon the heathen around.

And then, sir, there is another thought, which has some weight with my own mind, and which I think should be considered by our denomination. Other sections of the Christian Church are directing their energies thither. For instance, the Free Church of Scotland have lately sent out twenty missionaries to labor in Australia. The Independants are also upon the alert; and no doubt others are, or will be as active. All honor to them, and may the Lord crown their efforts with an abundant blessing! But while they are justly considering the magnitude of the field, and taking such energetic steps, to go up and possess the land, ought we as Baptists to slumber at our posts, and to neglect the opportunities for action, while both duty and privilege call so loudly upon us to awake and "to go over armed before our brethren."

DR. CRAWLEY. Are you sure of the correctness of the statement with reference to the Free Church of Scotland?

MR. BILL. I can only say that I have seen it in the papers. Some time ago they sent ten missionaries thither, and just lately a reinforcement have gone out. I think twenty in all. I suppose it to be true, but cannot of course vouch for it any further.

MR. BILL continued his address. Our Baptist brethren in England have their hands full, just now. There are their Indian missions, their Irish missions, &c., demanding all their resources. Our American brethren are also fully occupied. Every pound they can raise, and every missionary they can find, are at once needed to supply some vacant post, or some widening field. So that if Australia be occupied by Baptist missionaries, those of our Province must take it up.

Then we cannot forget that our own flesh and blood are there. From every part of the land the members of our churches and others are sending their own sons thither. For the past few months there has indeed been a check to this emigration, but this will probably be only temporary, and then you shall see the tide rushing on in the same way as rapidly as ever.

Here, then, comes the question. Is it not incumbent upon us to look after our own people? There are already many Baptists there,—people brought up under Baptist influences. And oh, how affecting is the thought, that notwithstanding all that is being done by other denominations, many a one is left to die alone with no minister of God, or Christian friend, to stand by his couch with words of counsel and comfort! Just imagine a case—a case alas, of too frequent an occurrence. Here is a poor fellow sick and dying of fever. He is surrounded by strangers. His father is not there—his mother is not there. No sisters gentle hand and tones of sympathy administer to his relief. No kind brother watches by his bed of pain. Alas! no! they cannot wipe the sweat from his brow, nor point him to Jesus; and there is no minister of Christ to comfort him under all this accumulated load of ills. The shadows of death fall upon him. He thinks of the land of his birth. The prayers of his pious mother, her admonitions and tears and deep anxiety for his salvation, too long it may have been neglected, come crowding over his imagination like the rush of many waters. The exhortations and prayers of his minister, too, are remembered. Oh, what would he now not give to hear once more those tones of exhortation, of direction, and consolation. God of infinite mercy save him! Almighty Saviour, hear his cries! We trust he will be saved; but alas, he must die alone! An affecting case of this kind has just been brought to the speaker's knowledge, and has tended greatly to deepen the impression of the necessity of establishing a mission in that land.

Bro. BILL concluded his address by observing that his mind had for some time been fixed upon this subject; that he had supposed