

Correspondence.

[FROM THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Wilmot, N. S., April 13, 1854.

DEAR BRO. BILL,—I embrace the present opportunity of communicating what I am well persuaded will be highly gratifying to you. I refer to the refreshing season now enjoyed by God's thirsty heritage in this place. After many dark, misty days, in which the church groped on and on, still more and more astray, unshod, unarmed, distracted by doubts, assailed by unbelief,—most of its members stumbled at length upon the "enchanted ground," and quietly fell asleep; and their slumber was so profound, that even the loud thunder rolling over their heads, failed to awaken them. They slept so long and so late, that the "suns" bright rays had penetrated the dark clouds ere they awoke; and many like Jacob at Bethel, were forced to exclaim, "The Lord is in this place and I knew it not."

As you have probably ere this, received full details of the good work at Nictaux and Aylesford, I shall merely refer to what the Lord is doing in the immediate vicinity of my own residence. Last Sabbath, 5 male candidates were baptized here, my eldest brother being one of them, and can you credit it, our old neighbour of the Hill, Mr. M., another—also two of Mr. B's sons. My dear companion has also been led to obey the Savior, she dates her first awakening back to other days—to the days when you, my dear brother, preached the word on Gates' Mount in the Meeting House.

The good work appears to be moving on gloriously, and although it has not much of the earthquake and the storm, it has, I am convinced the "still small voice."

I am sorry to say that my dear mother does not enjoy good health of body, yet notwithstanding, she is fast descending the deep declivity of life, she feels to lean for strength on the arm of him who is mighty; and her hope, that hope which she obtained more than forty years ago, when in the dark valley of conviction, still supports her, and will, I doubt not, stand by her until she is safe over Jordan. She wishes me to convey to you her kindest Christian regards, regards springing from unwavering esteem, from undying love, from that love which knows no decay; but which will bloom in all its freshness when earth shall have passed away.

I would like to know how Zion prospers in your city, among the busy thousands who throng the streets, darting like meteors to and fro, as if to arrest the lingering moments ere they fly forever. How many have their steps directed towards the Celestial city? How many are there, who, while diligent in their business, are fervent in spirit, serving the Lord?

I was much impressed last autumn when approaching your city. Such a large number of church steeples, (in proportion to the size of the place), appeared rising upwards, glittering in the morning rays. Surely thought I, the inhabitants of yonder city ought to be a God-fearing people. An on Sabbath morning, as the various congregations were assembling at their respective places of worship—while the different bells tolled the hour of prayer, I thought how exalted to heaven in point of privileges the people of St. John were, above thousands even in our own so highly favoured Province. And yet, I was led to believe, before the day had closed, that thousands even within hearing of the "church going bell" were posting the downward road. And, before I left the city, I plainly perceived that the road to "death" is no narrower. No less shelving there than elsewhere; and that the "wicked one" is just as much interested in forwarding his work in the Christian City, as he was in ancient Athens, which was wholly given to idolatry. The enemy of righteousness is quiet willing to have churches built and dedicated, providing he can only keep the mass of the people from going there. He cares not how many Bibles are distributed, if they are never read—would just as soon the sinner should go to hell with a Bible in his possession as a pack of cards. He cares not how many Bethel services are held on board the ships, if the seamen can only be kept away. He cares not how many church doors are open on Sabbath, if only access can be had at the same time to twice as many grogeries. He is even willing that people should be religious on Sabbath, if they serve him

faithfully through the week. Is just as willing a man should pray as swear, providing he does not "watch" at the same time. He is perfectly willing a man should be at meeting so far as his body is concerned, providing his soul is in his counting-house or attending to his worldly business.

But enough of this—you feel no doubt my dear brother, the immense importance of the position you at present occupy; and I doubt not have entered upon the mighty work which called you away from more quiet scenes, with all that energy, perseverance, and soul-subduing earnestness, which distinguished your labours in this place;—more lasting memorials of which remain, than triumphal arches or sculptured marble—monuments which will exist when the Pyramids of Egypt shall have crumbled to dust, and all the relics of earthly grandeur shall have passed away.

I remain dear brother,

Yours, affectionately,

INGLIS PHINNEY.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

The late Father Harris Harding.

DEAR BRETHREN,—At our last church meeting, held April 1st, the following resolution was passed in regard to the venerable man whose name stands at the head of my communication. It was ordered at the same time, that it be forwarded for insertion in your columns, and in those of the Messenger. Please print it in your next issue, and gratify the church and its pastor, who remain,

Yours in the grand cause,

J. DAVIS.

Yarmouth, April 15th, 1854.

Resolved, That the church, in view of the removal of our late Senior Pastor, the Rev. HARRIS HARDING, takes occasion to express the following sentiments:—

1. Gratitude to the God who gave him, and made him so eminently useful among us during his career of more than sixty years. In reviving the interests of religion generally in Western Nova Scotia. In founding and forming this church, and the various Baptist churches throughout this district. And in preaching the gospel with signal success, both in the pulpit and out of it, in the parts round about Yarmouth.

2. Sympathy with the bereaved widow of our late Pastor, as also with his family;—a sympathy which, so far as the widow is concerned, will lead us to care for her earthly wants as long as it shall please God to lengthen out her pilgrimage.

3. Joy on account of the peaceful and happy end of the aged saint, accompanied with encouragement to follow him who "through faith and patience now inherits the promises."

4. Prayer, that God would strengthen the hands of our Pastor whom he is yet pleased to continue to us; and raise up a succession of Ministers, who shall carry forward his cause until the second coming of his Son from heaven.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Yarmouth, April 15th, 1853.

DEAR BRETHREN,—The telegraph brings us news of the formal declaration of war against Russia by England and France. What will be the end? The Rev. W. Wilson, our Wesleyan Minister, gave us a notable lecture on this subject on Thursday. He finds the whole story in the Prophecy against Gog—Ezek. xxxviii. and xxxix. According to his view, Russia will be driven back from the Danube to the great valley of the Don and Volga, to the East of the Black Sea, the grand thoroughfare of European Russia—"the valley of the passengers on the East of the sea." There Gog is to make his last stand, to receive his decisive defeat, and to be robbed of his power to spoil the nations, or to interfere with the progress of the gospel. The whole affair was vastly ingenious, and full of striking coincidences. I wish I had time to send you a full outline, as I have to the Messenger. There, however, you will see it in due time. The Lord defend the right, take care of his cause, and "overturn, overturn, overturn" until he come whose right it is.

Yours ever,

J. D.

General Intelligence.

Latest from England.

War Declared by England and France against Russia!

The steamship America, with Liverpool dates to the 1st instant, arrived at Halifax on Friday last.

The Liverpool Flour market had been much excited, and had rallied from the extreme depression of the previous week. Western Canal was quoted at 38s. to 38s. 6d; Philadelphia, Canada, &c., at 38s. 6d. to 39s. Wheat and flour closed in good demand.

THE WAR.

The Hermann, via Southampton, carried out the formal declaration of War of England and France against Russia! She also carried a notification that no letters of Marque will be issued. That Russian produce, except contraband of war, will be respected under neutral flags, and that Russian merchant ships are exempt from capture until the 10th of May.

The following declaration of war is published in the London Gazette:—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, having been compelled to take up arms in support of an ally, is desirous of rendering the war as little onerous as possible to the powers with whom she remains at peace. To preserve the commerce of neutrals from all unnecessary obstruction, her Majesty is willing, for the present, to waive a part of the belligerent rights appertaining to her by the law of nations.

It is impossible for her Majesty to forego the exercise of her right of seizing articles contraband of war, and of preventing neutrals from bearing the enemy's despatches, and she must maintain the right of a belligerent to prevent neutrals from breaking any effective blockade which may be established with an adequate force against the enemy's forts, harbours, or coasts.

But her Majesty will waive the right of seizing enemy's property laden on board a neutral vessel, unless it be contraband of war.

It is not her Majesty's intention to claim the confiscation of neutral property, not being contraband of war, found on board enemy's ships, and her Majesty further declares that, being anxious to lessen as much as possible the evils of war, and to restrict its operations to the regularly organized forces of the country, it is not her present intention to issue letters of marque for the commissioning of privateers.

Westminster, March 28, 1854.

The war is to be in strict accordance with a treaty between the Porte, France and Great Britain which was signed on the 9th of March, embracing the following articles:—1st. England and France engage to support Turkey by force of arms until the conclusion of a peace that shall secure the independence and integrity of the Sultan's dominions. 2d. The Porte shall not conclude peace without consent of Allies. 3d. The Allies shall evacuate the Turkish territory after the war. 4th. This treaty to remain open for the adhesion of the other powers of Europe. 5th. Turkey guarantees to all the subjects of the Porte, without distinction of creed, perfect equality in law. Several protocols are attached regulating the details.

Meanwhile the campaign has begun in earnest. It is confirmed that the Russians have crossed the Danube in great force, the object being to strike a decisive blow before the arrival of the Anglo-French force. On the 23d, a Russian detachment under Gortschakoff, forced the passage of the Danube above Tuliska, captured 11 guns, and took 150 prisoners, and occupied Tuliska and several forts on the right bank. General Luders crossed with the main body of the army from Galatz without much loss. Not less than 60,000 Russians are now on the Turkish bank. On the 24th Luders began preparations for the siege of Matschin. On the 23d the Russians attempted to cross the Danube at Oltenitza, when a desperate battle ensued, and the Russians were repulsed. The carnage was dreadful. The Russians lost 3000 men, and the Turks themselves were so badly cut up that they had to retire to their entrenchments. It will be seen, however, that the Russians have effected a passage at three points. On the very day, the 22d, when the Russians commenced to cross the Danube, Omar had intended to attack the Russian head quarters at Pojana. The plan of battle was drawn up and the entire force put under command of the French Colonel Dieu, but the Russian movement disconcerted the plan. A despatch from Omar Pasha dated the 5th, says that the Russians have lost all desire of attacking Kalafat, and propose crossing the Danube at other points.

The news from Circassia is important. Reports by telegraph that the Russians were abandoning their forts on the East coast of the Black Sea.—Souchum Kale was in flames, and the Circassians were plundering it!

The British frigate Retribution found the Sulina mouth of the Danube, impassable.

Admiral Napier's fleet at the last accounts, the 29th, was again under weigh, supposed destination to seize the Island of Aland.

The Russians are making strong preparations for hostilities in the Baltic.

The Greek insurrection was reviving, but the Turks hold the fortresses, and have 8000 troops in Epirus. An Anglo-French occupation of the country was not improbable.

Fifteen thousand French troops have already

embarked, and the remainder of the army of 50,000 men will be in Turkey by May 1st.

It was reported that the British land force would be increased 30,000 more.

The first division of the expeditionary force is being rapidly forwarded from Malta to Constantinople. The English Cavalry Regiments are to march through France from Boulogne to Marseilles thence by steam to Gallipoli.

It was rumoured in England that Lord Aberdeen would resign, but the Globe, a government paper, contradicts the report. The London papers are full of proclamations, &c., regulating the details. Some further official documents of the Russian series are published, but show little news.

Parliament had moved an address to the Queen in answer to the declaration of war, assuring Her of the Nation's determination to co-operate in vigorous resistance to the projects of Russia, whose further aggrandisement would be dangerous to the peace of Europe.

The parliamentary debate on the address to the Queen on last evening occupied 29 columns.

War was formally declared at the Royal Exchange on Friday, in presence of the civic authorities.

A Bill to double the Income tax had passed the House of Commons.

A banquet is to be given to the Earl of Elgin by persons connected with Canada; Lord John Russell will preside.

Lord Bloomfield, British Minister at Berlin, telegraphed to Napier the declaration of war, with instructions to commence hostilities.

A letter from St. Petersburg gives some details, not without interest, of the measures of defence taken by the Russians at Cronstadt and in the Gulf of Finland. At Cronstadt the inhabitants have been invited to leave the town; and the houses have been fortified and converted into a species of forts, so that after the fortifications were forced, these houses if attacked, would have to be taken street by street, as was the case at Saragossa.—The houses not susceptible of being thus fortified are to be destroyed. The proprietors and inhabitants have received notice that they will be indemnified by the Russian Government. In the Gulf of Finland, where it is known that if line-of-battle ships can enter they have barely water enough to navigate, a great number of large blocks of stone have been transported on the ice, so that when the weather becomes milder, and the ice melts, these blocks will sink to the bottom and impede the navigation to such an extent as to render it almost impassable, except for the Russians, who will be aware of the places where they have let these blocks down. The inhabitants of the towns along the coasts were withdrawing to the interior. At St. Petersburg, where great enthusiasm was displayed, the inhabitants narrated with great delight the following phrase as having been uttered by the Czar in his last interview with the French and English Ambassadors:—"It is, then, war that is wanted. Well they shall have it. I will begin it with a million of soldiers; I will have two, if I am only forced a little; and three, if driven to any extremity!"

FRANCE.—The French Government makes similar announcement with British respecting commerce of neutrals. She also will not at present issue letters of marque. The Minister of Finance reports that 90,000 persons have subscribed to the loan subscriptions, amounting to four hundred and sixty-seven millions of francs, twice as much as he wanted. The Minister of Marine has addressed a Circular to the Chambers of Commerce, highly applauding the United States for refusing letters of Marque. Greatest activity prevailed in fitting out expeditionary army.

SPAIN gallantly offers to join with the allied powers and contribute a corps d'armee of 12,000.

GLASGOW TIMBER MARKET.—Extracts from the monthly Circular of Messrs. EDMISTON & MITCHELL, dated Glasgow, 31st March, 1854:

The arrivals into Clyde during the month, from British North America, have been by two vessels, registering 376 tons, comprising one from St. John, N. B., and one from Nova Scotia. For the corresponding period last year the tonnage employed was 1,301.

The Imports this month, compared with 1853, are—

1854.	Deals and Battens,	9,774 Pieces.
1853.	Do.	35,354 Do.

White Pine.—Several parcels of Quebec, 60 feet average, have changed hands at 22d to 22½d. and 80 feet average at 3s. 6d. per foot. Two cargoes of St. John have been sold by auction, one of 18 inches average at 2s. 5½d. and one of 19 ins. at 2s. 5½d., and a cargo of Bay Chaleur averaged 23½d. per foot on parcels.

Birch.—A parcel of St. John brought 2s. 6½d. per foot at auction.

Deals and Battens.—St. John Spruce Deals and Scantling averaged 16½d. per cubic foot; and Battens, 7 by 2½, 2½d. per lineal foot. A cargo of inferior St. John Deals brought 13½d. per cubic foot, at auction, in Glasgow.

Spars.—Good St. John Spruce are bringing 19d. to 20d. per foot.

Freights.—Glasgow to St. John, N. B., 25s.

Four Days Later from Europe.

CONTINUAL FIGHTING ON THE DANUBE!

The steamship Arctic arrived at New York on Sunday, with Liverpool dates to the 5th inst.

Wheat had advanced 2d. and Flour 6d. since

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