

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

[ORIGINAL.]

European Correspondence.

Paris, Nov. 20, 1854.

MR. EDITOR,—

During the past week I have visited the most interesting places in the vicinity of Paris, beginning, of course, with Versailles.—This place is situated about twelve miles from Paris, and owing to the many attractions of its museums and gardens, is the favourite summer resort of the Parisians, who, on Sundays and fête days flock here in thousands; and of vast numbers of foreigners who visit Paris during the summer months, scarcely any neglect visiting this delightful spot. It is impossible to describe its beauties as they deserve; in no other place in the world, except perhaps the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, can so much be seen that is calculated to delight and interest. Leaving the station on my arrival at Versailles, I turned up a broad shady avenue through the park, which at length brought me to the Grand Trianon.—This is a superb mansion, built by order of Louis XIV., for one of his mistresses, Madame de Maintenon. It is elegantly fitted up, and has a most enchanting garden abounding in shady walks, refreshing fountains, and exquisite groups of statuary. Near by there is another little chateau, called the Petit Trianon, which has two gardens, one laid out in the French, the other in the English style.—There are many associations connected with this spot. It was the favorite resort of the unfortunate Queen Marie Antoinette. Here she often retired from the gaiety and magnificence of the court, and forgot that she was more than a young and amiable woman.—She caused several farm houses to be built on the shores of a small lake in the garden, in one of which she resided, and dressed in a simple white garment, with a straw hat on her head, she followed all the pursuits of peasant life, and tried to forget the cares and anxieties of royalty, in the delightful occupations of fishing, cooking, milking, taking care of chickens, cultivating flowers, and making butter. Little did she think while leading this quiet, inoffensive life, that in a few short years, those who were then so full of admiration for her virtues and benevolence, and were so ready to shout "Vive la Reine," would follow her to the guillotine with cries of execration and hatred. Leaving the Trianons, I entered the grand gardens. These magnificent grounds contain so many beauties that it would take volumes to describe them all in detail—they are a worthy monument to the magnificence of Louis XIV., and to the genius of De Notre, their designer. The fountains and water works are on the most magnificent scale. The most splendid is the Bassin de Neptune. The quantity of water this fountain spouts up from different parts is immense; there are nearly one hundred issues, which all pour forth the limpid element at the same time, crossing, mingling with, and intersecting each other in every conceivable manner. This, however, plays only occasionally, as it costs an immense sum of money to put it in motion. I wandered through the gardens for a long time, till at length, fearing I should not have time to see the paintings in the palace, which closes at an early hour, I was compelled to desist. I mounted the terrace in front of the palace, and turning round, what a magnificent view met my eyes. Directly ahead lie the Allée du Tapis vert (alley of the green carpet) bordered on both sides by statues and groups in marble, and extending in a direct line from the Bassin de Latone, and its charming parterres to the Bassin d'Apollon and the grand canal. On the right and left extended long avenues of trees with parterres, fountains and statues, the colors of which contrasted strangely with the gay dresses of the thousands of people who thronged the gardens. The view on the left terminated by the large artificial piece of water called the Swiss Lake; while on the right appeared the magnificent Bassin de Neptune, rushing and tumbling, and sending up its waters in countless drops, which, as they rose and fell, sparkled in the sunlight like so many diamonds. After gazing on the scene for a while I entered the palace.

The edifice owes its existence to a whim of Louis XIII., who, liking the situation of

the spot erected a small chateau here for a hunting seat. To his successor its site was equally agreeable, here he planted gardens, dug caves, and built the most magnificent palace in the world. The first thing that attracted my attention was the court yard, where are a number of allegorical figures, a bronze statue of Louis XIV., and the original building, which was left as a tribute of respect to Louis XIII. Beginning regularly I walked through the whole palace. The gallery of the Empire, where ten rooms are devoted to the victories of Napoleon, then through an immense series of rooms filled with paintings, representing the history and victories of the French nation; others filled with portraits of Marshals of France, many others devoted to portraits of celebrated men of other nations, among whom I noticed Washington, Franklin, etc. At the end of a long gallery I came to the chapel. This is exceedingly magnificent, and contains a very fine painting of the resurrection. Passing still through more galleries and rooms I saw the private apartments of the different monarchs who have inhabited Versailles; and finally the opera. All these rooms are magnificently fitted up, abounding in gilt and marble, and contain innumerable statues and such vast numbers of paintings, that if laid side by side they would extend nine miles in length.

(To be continued.)

Yours, truly,

OUANGONDY.

THE BIBLE UNION.

The author of the following communication cannot be aware of all that has been done in New Brunswick for the Bible Union, or he certainly would not accuse us with having taken little or no interest in that movement. We greatly err in judgment if we have not given quite as much space first and last in the columns of the *Visitor*, to the sayings and doings of the Union, as the claims of other denominational interests would justify. The venerable Dr. Maclay visited the provinces two years in succession to enlighten the people in the Christian movement and to collect funds for its support. While here he had the privilege of saying what he pleased in the columns of the *Visitor*, on the object of his agency—wherever he travelled he had free access to our pulpits, and at all our associations and denominational gatherings he received a cordial greeting, and resolutions sustaining the principle of faithful versions of the sacred Scriptures for all nations. (The English not excepted), were repeatedly adopted. Nay more, large sums of money, compared with what is being done for Missionary and other kindred objects, have been collected for the Union. We must not, therefore, be told that precious little has been said or done to aid this work. A great deal has been said and much has been done; but there is one thing which has not yet been effected—the dissensions and heart-burnings which are dividing and subdividing our denomination on the other side of the lines on this question, have not as yet been imported into the provinces, and we pray God to save us in the future from a calamity so disastrous to the best interests of truth and holiness. It would be the easiest thing imaginable so to use the denominational press as to kindle up the flame of discord in our churches to an extent that would cover us all with shame and confusion of face. We believe in a faithful version of the inspired oracles for all nations and tongues, without exception. This is a Baptist sentiment, to which every true-hearted man bearing the name will say Amen; but valued brethren amongst us, while they heartily subscribe to this principle, entertain different views in relation to the best mode of accomplishing so desirable an object. The columns of the *Visitor* are open now, and always have been, to any brother who may wish to advocate his peculiar views on this subject, whether these views be for or against the Union,

so long as he writes in a Christian spirit; but we protest, in the name of all that is sacred against using the organs of the denomination in such a spirit of over-heated zeal as shall be adapted to stir up strife among brethren.—

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

MR. EDITOR,—

Again and again have I felt and expressed disappointment and surprise as I read our denominational newspapers, printed and published in the Colonies, to observe how little interest the conductors of them appear to manifest in the success of one of the most important enterprises of any age in any day. I refer to the object and operations of the AMERICAN BIBLE UNION.

Its object, as declared, is to procure and circulate the most faithful version of the sacred Scriptures in all languages throughout the world.

A truly noble and unexceptionable object surely. This Institution is now in the fifth year of its existence, and its receipts have increased in this extraordinary and unprecedented ratio:—1st year, in round numbers, \$5,000; 2d year, \$10,000; 3d year, \$16,000; 4th year, \$23,000; and for the present, its fifth year, over \$35,000! or \$7,000 sterling. Such is the income of the Bible Union, an Institution having the centre of its operations in the city of New York, fast extending—fast certainly as its revenues increase, and yet how few, comparatively speaking, how very few persons in the Provinces know anything of the matter! And really how very little interest our denominational Periodicals manifest in its success! Why is this? Is it that Baptists take no interest in faithful translations of the Bible? It cannot be. They have been victimized, in a pecuniary point of view, once and again, because in making translations into Foreign languages, they would give faithful versions and none else.—Is it because the Baptists in the United States, with whom this Institution, already signally honored and blessed, originated, are not unanimous as to the policy of a revised English Version, that we, the Baptist population of the Provinces are to be kept in comparative ignorance on so interesting a topic? I very much fear that some questionable influence has to do with this systematic suppression, (if that be not too strong a word,) of the success of the Bible Union, and its most important operations.

What have we to do with the difficulties and differences of brethren at a distance?—If we cannot reconcile these, have nothing to do with them. But let us not ignore that cardinal principle of the most faithful versions in all languages. What I want to know is, who among us is in favour of faithful versions? Sure I am, that to increase the success of the Bible Union, it only requires, to be duly and faithfully published among us, that such an Institution is already in operation, with such a praiseworthy object in view.

But it is said, what will other people, and other denominations say if we publish a revised English Bible? Never mind what they say, unless they can truthfully say that we are unfaithful to the great principle of "most faithful versions."

We get a good deal of news, valuable, well selected news, in our religious Periodicals, about religion generally—Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Christian Biography, war—merchandise, stocks—crops—health, and what, not yet, precious little room seems to be set apart for the great Bible Union question. But then there may be persons unfavorable to it—Baptist people too! I do not see how that well can be; but I suppose there are, then the reasons, it seems to me, become stronger for fuller information, more generally disseminated, as to what those Unionists are doing. Why not republish Dr. Cone's anniversary address, or if too long, give it some condensed form? We shall have a revised English Bible before long, just so sure as the sun shines. If it be a desirable thing, help it on; if otherwise, expose the principles and working of the Union, by sound reasoning and logical disputation; but don't let it be said, that so commanding a work as this, the preparation of "most faithful versions in all languages," is being daily proceeded with, and that almost in our very midst, and yet our people comparatively uninterested upon the subject, and therefore uninterested.

Do let your readers generally know, Mr. Editor, what learned men, and Editors of Periodicals abroad, Professors and scholars of other denominations, who have examined the work of revising our English Bible, so far as accomplished, say about it. See the Bible Reporter for October, pages 45 and 6. Why not furnish a few extracts, just a few?

Again, that letter of Dr. Conant's, pages 18, 19 and 20, why should not every Baptist, at least in New Brunswick, that can read, why should he not be privileged to peruse it?

Enclose you my address. I intend to try and interest the Baptist public in this matter of versions, if you will give me leave through the medium of your newspaper. Criticise all I advance, with freedom, if you choose, only give me a hearing.

Yours truly,

FAITHFUL VERSIONS.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

DEAR BROTHER BILL,—

Please allow a few thoughts a place in your valued journal. I have been thinking of the many reasons why the *Christian Visitor* should be sustained.

1. It is as good as a quarter's schooling in the year to improve children in reading.
2. Its value is far beyond its price to Farmers and Mechanics.
3. It assists parents in training their children properly.
4. It materially assists Ministers in the discharge of their duties, as it instructs the people in what they need to know.
5. Its general reading edifies all, and furnishes those who have a taste for reading with a rich repast.

While we feel happy in reading the *Christian Visitor* in our homes, we should think of its care-worn Editor preparing matter for its columns, perhaps in the midnight hour, and of his anxieties in reference to the Printer's Bill which comes in at the close of every quarter. Suppose it should be the fourth part of \$500 or \$600. Another thought is, if every Minister, and Deacon, and member in our churches, would do all they could to advance its interests, by forwarding monies, and names of paying Subscribers, it would be only discharging a duty we owe to our Creator, to our families, to our churches, (to its Editor, and to our fellowmen.) Delinquency in this is a sin that will tell.

THOUGHTS BY A COUNTRY PASTOR IN QUEEN'S COUNTY.

November 27, 1854.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Dec. 11.

DEAR BROTHER BILL,—

I am happy to inform you we are doing well in town. The church is united and our congregations are good to what they were three months past. The other day I had the pleasure of baptizing a respectable young man and on the evening received him into the church. On a Sabbath evening the place is full of attentive hearers—and I trust the time is not far distant when others will come forward in the order of obedience to Christ. Our Chapel is well lighted with gas. The friends in this part are very kind and hospitable. My good friend Farnham will confirm this. Wishing you success in your arduous labours for the good of others and every blessing spiritual and temporal, I beg leave to subscribe myself,

Your affectionate Bro. in Christ,

CHARLES IVES BURNETT.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Sackville, Dec. 6, 1854.

DEAR BROTHER BILL,—

Observing in the *Visitor* of last week, mention is made of a Mission to Australia, the thought occurred to me that a Mission to the second Baptist Church in Sackville is quite as necessary, they not having had a pastor for nearly a year. The Salem chapel, where the Rev. W. G. Parker, (who was loved and respected by all) had a crowded audience, is now closed, and the house suffering for repairs. The inquiry is often made when shall we have preaching again, and this in a community that is able and willing to support a Minister. It is very evident that the present state of things is a serious injury to the Baptist cause in this place.

Yours,

E.