

The Christian Visitor.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER: DEVOTED TO RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

REV. I. E. BILL, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward Men." MR. JAMES DE MILL, ASSISTANT EDITOR

EO. W. DAY, Printer. SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1855. VOL. 8.—NO. 13.

Doctry.

The Everlasting Song.

Now death thy storms are overblown,
Thy waves are hushed in endless rest;
Angels transport my spirit home,
To dwell upon my Saviour's breast.
Thou hast redeemed me from all iniquity,
Is on resplendent world your home?
This light which breaks upon my eyes,
Does this from God's own presence come?
Captures warm my heart and tune my tongue,
Begin with me, my harp, the everlasting song.

When were these robes of light put on,
Which scarce immortal eyes can bear?
Who must as such eclipse the sun,
As he outshines each twinkling star.
"Lift up your heads ye gates!" I'll cast
This princely crown before his throne;
The diadem from first to last,
With all its honours, is his own.
Hark! I welcome me, that glorious throng,
Begin with me, my harp, the everlasting song.

Jesus, thou sovereign of my heart!
Who didst this world of wonders leave
Beneath the Roman scourge to smart,
To bleed and die that I might live—
Thou who hast ever borne my sighs
Accepted to the Father's ear,
And whilst I dwell below the skies,
Thou wilt my kind forerunner here.
Thee! To Thee! Eternal thanks belong,
Begin with me, my harp, the everlasting song.

The South East of Europe.

MODERN TURKEY.

Among the lower orders of the people, there is considerable simplicity and loyalty of character, and a fair disposition to be obliging and friendly. Among those who emerge from the mass, and have the opportunities of helping themselves to the good things of the world, the exceptions from thorough-paced corruption and extortion are more rare; and the whole conduct of public business and routine of official life, under much apparent courtesy and undeviating good breeding, a spirit of servility, detraction, and vindictiveness appears constantly at work. The bulk of the people is incredibly uninformed and ignorant: I am told that now they fully believe that the French and English fleets have come in the pay of the Sultan; and when an Austrian special mission of the Count Siningen arrived in the early part of this year, and led, by the way, to much of what has since occurred, they were persuaded that its object was to obtain the permission of the Sultan for the young emperor to wear his crown. Upon the state of morals I debar myself from entering. Perhaps the most fatal, if not the most faulty bar to national progress, is the curable indolence which pervades every lassalike, from the Pasha, puffing his perambulator in his latticed kiosks on the osphorus, to the man in the ragged turban who sits cross-legged with his unadorned chibouque in front of a mouldy coffee-shop in the meanest village. In fact, the conversation of every man whom I meet, who is well-informed on the state of the population, with very few exceptions, might be taken upon as an illustration, often very unconsciously on their part, of the sense usually assigned to the prediction in the Apocalypse, of the waters of the Euphrates being dried up. On the continent, in the islands, it is the Greek peasant who works, and rises; the Turk reclines, smokes his pipe, and decays. The Greek village increases its population, and seems with children; in the Turkish village you find roofless walls and crumbling mosques. Statesmen who do not see these matters with their own eyes, if told of the rotten state of the Ottoman Empire, are apt to say, they do not at all perceive that this Pasha-General inspected their army the other day, and was highly pleased with its efficiency; this English Captain went on board their fleet, and saw them work their guns, and said that it could not be better done in any English ship. Their military hospitals are perfect models of arrangement and good order. I believe all this to be true, and I can well conceive that in one or two campaigns, on a first great outbreak, the Turks might be victorious over their Russian opponents; but when you leave the partial splendours of the capital and the great state establishments, what is it you find over the broad surface of a land which nature and climate have favoured beyond all others, once the home of all art and all civilization? Look yourself—ask those who live there—deserted villages, uncultivated plains, banditti-haunted mountains, torpid laws, a corrupt administration, a disappearing people.—Lord Carlisle.

MODERN GREECE.

I may, however, most truthfully sum up, from all that I have seen, or read, or heard, among persons of different nations, stations, and principles, that the present government of Greece seems to be about the most inefficient, corrupt, and, above all, contemptible, with which a nation was ever cursed. The constitution is so worked as to be constantly and flagrantly evaded or violated; the liberty of election is shamefully infringed; and where no overt bribery or intimidation are employed—changes from which we Englishmen can, I fear, by no means make out an exemption,—the absence of the voters, who regard the whole process as a mockery, is compensated by the electoral boxes being filled with voting-papers by the gendarmes,—a height of impudence to which we have not yet soared. Persons the most discredited by their characters and antecedents are forced on the reluctant consciences, and are even occasionally advanced to places of high

trust and dignity. The absence of legislative checks is not atoned for by the vigour of the executive in promoting public improvements. Agriculture stagnates; manufactures do not exist; the communications, except in the immediate neighbourhood of the capital, where they are good, are deplorable; the provinces—and here I can hardly except the neighbourhood of the capital—teem with robbers. The navy, for which the aptitude of the people is remarkable, consists of one vessel; the public debt is not paid: an offer by a company of respectable individuals to institute a steam navigation, for which the seas and shores of Greece offer such innumerable facilities, was declined at the very period of my visit, because it was apprehended that it would be unpalatable to Austria. Bitter, indeed, is the disappointment of those who formed bright auguries for the future career of regenerate Greece, and made generous sacrifices in her once august and honoured cause. Yet the feeling so natural to them, so difficult to avoid for us all, should still stop far short of despair.

Lord Carlisle.

THE FORTRESS OF SEBASTOPOL.

Not longer than sixty years ago Sebastopol was a miserable Tartar village; but, about that time, a Frenchman, who was travelling in the Crimea, was struck with the natural advantages of a position, which he at once saw might be made, if properly fortified, one of the first naval stations in the world. His observations to this effect, on his return to St. Petersburg, reached the ears of the Empress Catherine, who dispatched engineers to visit the spot, and their report corroborating that of the Frenchman, fortifications were commenced, which have been gradually increasing almost ever since, until it has become capable of bidding defiance to any but the most powerful armaments. Its main advantages may be thus described. The principal harbour, called the Roads, stretching inland to a length of more than four miles, is so capacious, and the anchorage so good, that the fleets of nations might ride in it safe from every wind, and such is the great depth of water that a man-of-war of the largest size can lie within a cable's length of the shore. Besides this there are five other small bays, branching off in various directions, equally commodious, and, singular enough, the great harbour, together with the small bays, are all lined by a continuation of capes, strong and easily defended, as if formed by nature expressly for a naval station.

WESTERN EUROPE.

With its superabundant population of active, intelligent men, requires an outlet in her own hemisphere; and why should she seek to people a new world, when a railway carriage or a steam boat will convey her children, after a pleasant journey of a few days or weeks, to some of the most fertile, beautiful, and salubrious countries in the world? If this project were carried into execution, and the settlers assured of safety, protection, and freedom, in a very few years we should people the Turkish wilderness with a population of intelligent agriculturists, enterprising merchants, and active traders; men of the world, who would add by their industry, not only to the resources of the Turkish empire, but by their example infuse a portion of their own life and vigour into the few remaining inhabitants. We should then hear no more of a Slavo-Tartar protectorate.

THE CAUCASUS.

Much of the pleasing and hopeful descriptions, both physical and moral, which are given of Circassia, apply also to the wider regions of the Caucasus. To the achievement of the conquest of both these important regions Russia has devoted many years of unsparring but unavailing effort. It will scarcely be believed that the hostilities conducted against the inhabitants of the Caucasus alone cost the Russian empire an annual loss of thirty thousand lives! Of these countries we may say, as of the Crimea, that the declaration of their independence, coupled with an honourable alliance with the western powers and Turkey, would almost confine the operation of the unprincipled barbarity of the Czar to the unfortunate subjects of his own immediate dominions. It would interpose an impassable barrier between Russia and the East; thus not only protecting Persia and the other intervening countries, but constituting the strongest safeguard to the immense dependencies of Great Britain, which, with their teeming millions, stretch beyond them. And better still; the cultivation of friendly relations, based on hospitable intercourse, and a reciprocity of material interests with the inhabitants of these countries, would open a new field, verging with promise and enriched with the choicest gifts of nature, to the commercial, scientific, and evangelistic enterprise of our country. In a region in many respects resembling that selected by Divine wisdom for the use of that religion which must regenerate the world, is it too much to suppose that we may hereafter see a focus from which the English language, literature, commerce, civilization, and religion, shall permanently radiate through the promising twilight of the east, and that the elegant motto of the Asiatic Society, *Ex oriente lux*, shall brighten from a conceit into a prophecy, pregnant with the glorious destiny of millions yet unborn?

THE CRIMEA.

The Crimea, which is a portion of the Russian empire, and at the present moment the seat of the Russo-Turkish war, is a peninsula, lying between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azof. It contains nine principal towns, with an aggregate population of 90,395.—Sebastopol, the capital, has 41,135 inhabitants. The amount of wealth at Sebastopol is computed to be twenty million pounds. The fortifications have cost not less than seven million pounds, and the military and naval stores are of prodigious value.

INKERMANN, sometimes called the City of Caverns, is a Russian built city, in whose vicinity the white rocks are cut into caverns of an extraordinary character, in some instances into chapels, monasteries, and tombs. These caverns, overlooking the bay of Akbar, are by some supposed to have been the retreat of early Christians. The town was founded about 1790, and is now in ruins.

ANCIENT ANTIQUITIES.—Niveh was 15 miles long, and 40 round, with walls 100 feet high, and thick enough for three chariots.—Babylon was 60 miles within the walls, which were 75 feet thick and 300 high, with 100 brazen gates. The Temple of Diana at Ephesus was 425 feet high; it was 200 years in building. The largest of the pyramids is 481 feet high, and 761 feet on the sides; its base covers 13 acres; the stones are about 30 feet in length, and the layers are 205; 100,000 men were employed in its erection.—About the 1590th part of the Great Pyramid of Egypt is occupied by chambers and passages; all the rest is solid masonry. The labyrinth of Egypt contains 3000 chambers and 12 halls. Thebes, in Egypt, presents ruins 27 miles round; it has 100 gates. Carthage was 25 miles round. Athens was 25 miles round, and contained 25,000 citizens and 400,000 slaves. The Temple of Delphos was so rich in donations, that it was once plundered of £10,000, and Nero carried from it 500 statues. The walls of Rome were 13 miles in extent.

had determined to go there and be free. He told about his sufferings in body and mind while in slavery, and spoke of his sorrow when he was led back after his escape. The address was listened to with attention and profound interest.

One thing surprises me, and that is a certain feeling about the Union. I was told yesterday, by an intelligent Baptist minister, that there is throughout the North a feeling which leads many to enquire whether after all the Union is really worth all the disgrace and trouble and expense which its present inseparable connection with slavery presents upon it. This feeling of disunion is growing stronger, and is becoming alarmingly prevalent.—High-minded New England men are disgusted and sick at heart at the present state of things, and are becoming ready to do anything so as to separate themselves from the curse of slavery, and by becoming free from the influence of the fugitive slave law make their country thoroughly free.

Slavery and the Fugitive Slave Law excites of course very much attention, but not so much after all as the great question of Native Americanism. The Native American question is the most engrossing and important in the country. The party which professes this principle and seeks to promulgate it throughout the country is daily growing stronger and stronger. Newspapers and periodicals of every size and style are springing up in every quarter, whose object is to maintain the Native American principles and spread them.—All sorts of enterprises are started by them which have for their object the increasing of the power and influence of their party. The old political parties which for many years have attracted the attention of the whole country, now sink back into powerlessness before the all-conquering march of this new and mighty union. There is something in the success of this party which baffles all calculation and forethought, and makes one enquire where it will end. This continuance of success does not abate but goes on. It was only to-day that I read of the complete triumph of the American party in New Hampshire, where the Democrats who for many years have completely ruled, were thoroughly defeated. What will be the result of this new appearance in the political horizon only will tell.

Communications.

United States Correspondence.

BOSTON, March 13, 1855.

MA. EDITOR.—For the past week the weather in Boston and the vicinity has been exceedingly pleasant. The mild temperature, the warm sun, the rivers free from ice, and the roads forsaken by the frost, seemed sure signs of the departure of winter. These signs, however, I am sorry to say, were not reliable, for the weather last Monday grew much colder, and to-day as I write, the appearance of the snow and tempest which reign outside, give me no bad idea of my own home in St. John. Talking of the weather reminds me of the ice-cutting and packing which I was fortunate enough to witness a fortnight ago. The different ice companies in Boston get their material from a place called "Fresh Pond," a few miles out of town. Two companies have put up large establishments around the shores of this beautiful lake, and when the season of packing has arrived it would be difficult to find a more lively or attractive scene, than that which is presented here. Horses are ploughing the ice, crowds of men are cutting off the blocks, other crowds are directing them along narrow channels to the warehouses. Steam engines turn complicated machinery, by means of which the blocks are drawn up inclined planes cut, scraped, cleaned and sized, on their journey up; and finally by a beautiful contrivance they are sent spinning along slippery rails, and deposited in their places within the warehouse. Sometimes as many as five hundred men are at work in one establishment.

Written for the Christian Visitor.

Karen Missions.

BY X.—

Sec. 3.—Progress of Karen Missions between 1840—1854.

THE SANDWAY MISSION.

We now turn to another portion of the interesting field under consideration. In the southern part of Arracan we notice the gospel of Christ progressing with a rapidly unequalled in the history of modern missions. Early in 1840, Messrs. Abbot and Kincaid, found themselves unable to continue their labours in Rangoon, on account of the determined opposition of the government to their operations. They then came to Arracan, expecting to return to their former field of labor, as soon as circumstances would warrant. With this expectation they strove to keep a constant intercourse with the converts, Burman, and Karens, whom they had left behind.

Mr. Kincaid shortly after his arrival, went to Akyab. Mr. Abbot in order that he might labor for the Karens, proceeded to Sandway. He immediately sent two of his assistants over the mountains, which separated Arracan from Pegu, to announce his arrival to the disciples. The news was received with enthusiasm, and from the neighboring jungles—from Maut and Pantannu, and even from the neighborhood of Rangoon; numbers came to Sandway to welcome their teacher.

A flourishing school was soon in operation, and fifty pupils, the greater part of whom were studying for the ministry, availed themselves of its advantages. In January 1841, Mr. Abbot left Sandway to visit the Karens who lived along the eastern borders of Arracan. During his tour, he learned with inexpressible satisfaction, that the gospel was still exhibiting its power among the Karens of Pegu. Though exposed to ceaseless annoyances, the disciples still remained firm in the faith, while numbers, undeterred by fear of persecution, were turning to Christ and entering his church.

During this tour, Mr. Abbot baptized fifty-seven converts, and by the close of his first years residence in Sandway, he had seen one hundred and eighty-four enter the portals of the Christian church. Churches were formed at Magegin, Oung Kioung, and Siannah, chapels were erected, and the converts by their constant attendance on the services of the sanctuary, proved how well they loved the religion which they had embraced. In 1842, Mr. Abbot again visited the Karens in their jungles. He was absent about a month, and in that time, appointed pastors over the above-mentioned churches; not and counselled a number of preachers from Pegu, and baptized on a satisfactory profession of their faith in Christ two hundred and seventy-nine converts.

CONDITION OF THE KAREN CONVERTS IN PEGU.

But while the gospel was thus progressing in Arracan, a virulent persecution was raging in the Burman province adjoining. The Christian Karens groaned under their burdens. They were beaten, dragged from their families to distant prisons, and kept in close confinement until they could satisfy the avarice or cruelty of their oppressors. At length unable to endure, or to resist, and unwilling to surrender their faith, many of the

disciples fled from their homes, and sought a refuge in Arracan. Though closely watched, large numbers succeeded in escaping over the mountains into a land of liberty.

During the early part of 1843, upwards of two hundred families fled for shelter to Arracan. They were destined to be tried in a furnace of affliction. At first they suffered for want of the necessities of life. They had left their fields just before harvest time, and now in a strange land were utterly destitute. Mr. Abbot, and Captain Phayru, the assistant commissioner of the province, made every exertion to supply the wants of the poor sufferers.

Now another enemy appeared. The Karens had left their homes, and the produce of their fields, for Christ's sake, and had sought in a soilless genial than their own, "freedom to worship God." But scarcely had they begun to breathe after their flight—scarcely had their first necessities been supplied, when the cholera appeared. Hundreds of these unfortunate were destroyed by this dreadful scourge. Many, terror-stricken, hurried across the mountains to the homes they had so recently left; and many perished alone in the wild jungle.

Letter from an Indian.

NEWCASTLE, Miramichi, }
March 12, 1855. }

DEAR BROTHER,—If it meet with your approbation please insert the following letter in the *Visitor*. It is from an interesting "Son of the Forest," some 21 years of age, who called at my house when residing in Charlestown, P. E. Island, about three years ago. I conversed freely with him upon the salvation of his soul. He requested me to give him a New Testament; and finding that he could read, though but indifferently, I gave him one the next time he called, on his promising that he would not sell it, or allow any one to take it from him, but read it as much as possible. A little more than a year afterwards I met him at Pugwash, N. S., where I was attending an Association anniversary. He showed me his Testament and read some portions of it to me, and afterwards appeared at the preaching as well dressed as most of the white people. From that time I heard nothing of him until I received this letter:

Yours truly,
Rev. I. E. Bill.

AMHERST, Jan. 13th, 1855.

DEAR FRIEND,—I take the opportunity to send these few lines, which I hope you will have no objection about hearing my conversation. Dear friend, if I would know where you was, I use to enquire about you several times, last I heard about you you was in New Brunswick therefore I could write to you, but one night I was reading my almanac of 1855, and there I found your name and where you resides, and in same time I take my pen to write you these few lines. Dear friend, I often remember about you since I saw you last, and I often remember the instructions you use give me, and thine dear Mrs. also.—I often pray for you and for thine dear Mrs. For all I know I am only wicked sinner and I am only dust in this world and in dust my body shall return, and I know God he is the hearer of those cry of the humble and never disregarded them. But however my desires is get good instructions from the good people, because I am only ignorant man. My desires to get guiding to true salvation through Jesus Christ. I know he came to redeem us but I know we have to work hard for our souls before we will get safe in to eternity happiness. Therefore dear my namesake I beg of thee, to pray for me for I may truly be converted and be child of God. O pray pray for me for my eyes may be opened and see the understanding. I remain, truly yours,
BENJAMIN CHRISTMAS

* I am of the same given name.—B. S.

PRACTICAL PRAYER.—In the vicinity of B— lived a poor but industrious man, depending for support upon his daily labour. His wife fell sick, and not being able to hire a nurse, he was obliged to confine himself to the sick bed and the family. His means of support being thus cut off, he soon found himself in need. Having a wealthy neighbor near, he determined to go and ask for two bushels of wheat, with a promise to pay as soon as his wife became so much better that he could leave her and return to his work. Accordingly he took his bag, went to his neighbor's, and arrived while the family were at morning prayers. As he sat on the doorstep he heard the man pray very earnestly that "God would clothe the naked, feed the hungry, relieve the distressed, and comfort all that mourn. The prayer concluded, the poor man stepped in and made known his business, promising to pay with the avails of his first labors. The farmer was very sorry he could not accommodate him, but he had promised to lend a large sum of money, and had depended upon his wheat to make it out; but he presumed neighbor— would let him have it.

With a tearful eye and a sad heart, the poor man turned away. As soon as he left the house the farmer's little son stepped up and said, "Father did you not pray that God would clothe the naked, feed the hungry, relieve the distressed, and comfort mourners?" "Yes; why?" "Because, father, if I had your wheat I would answer that prayer?"

It is needless to add that the Christian father called back his suffering neighbor, and gave him as much as he needed.

Now, Christian readers, do you thus answer your own prayers?—N. Y. Evangelist.

The Theatre,

BY REV. W. W. EVERTS, D. D.

The theatre, it is believed, does not promote, but rather restricts popular education. At its origin, in the absence of all other facilities for instruction, assembling the people to listen to the traditions of ancestors, the counsels of age, the recitation of epic and heroic poems, and to the allegorical representation of private and public virtues, the theatre engrossed nearly all the available modes of social, intellectual, and moral culture. At a later period, before the freedom of the press, the rostrum, and the pulpit, it may have contributed to foster genius, disseminate learning, and rebuke ignorance, bigotry and vice. But by the introduction of the art of printing, the universal circulation of periodical publications and books, and the establishment of primary and professional schools and higher seminaries of learning, a system of popular education has been progressively developed, that has at length superseded the theatre in every department of human knowledge, by more specific and legitimate modes of instruction. And now it appears not to sustain even the remotest auxiliary relation to that system, and exhibits scarcely more affinities with schools, lyceums, and libraries, than do club-houses, saloons, or bowling-alleys. It is not visited for the purpose of pursuing investigations of science, settling questions of historical erudition, solving mathematical problems, or of gaining any professional or practical knowledge. Of the unscrupulous patrons of the stage, those most eminent for talents and learning least frequently attend and soonest tire of its performances, while its devotees are more superficial in their attainments, and of lower social and moral standing.

In its general bearing, therefore, the theatre is greatly prejudicial to popular and professional education. Lord-Chief-Justice Hale informs us that when at college, he became so much diverted from his classical pursuits by attending the theatre, that for several months he almost entirely forgot his books, and was saved only by forming a purpose never to see a play again. A young man lately visiting the city to pursue professional studies, becoming interested in the theatre, he absented himself from a great part of the lectures of the prescribed course. Scores of young men every year miscarry in their plans, and multitudes of others fall of intellectual distinction from the same cause.

As appropriating the time allowed from industrial callings to mental cultivation and the acquisition of knowledge, absorbing the means that could scarcely be spared from an economical mode of life to defray the expenses of a small library and other means of improvement—as interrupting any system or habits of study, fostering intellectual indolence, repressing severe application, lofty purpose, and indomitable perseverance—the theatre, instead of being an invitation of popular education, is a stronghold of popular ignorance, always flourishing most where there is most of the superficial refinement, of ignorance and of the dissipation of thoughtlessness. Falling into disuse in respect to what was perhaps its original and best intention, it is like an old castle deserted by its former tenants, and left to the habitation of bats and owls, unclean beasts and poisonous reptiles. Or, it is like a highway from which the general travel has been diverted by some more direct thoroughfare or more expeditious mode of conveyance, still left open with its deceptive guid-boards, to decoy unsuspecting travellers, and beset along its circuitous route by concealed dangers, and banditti of robbers.

2. The stage does not, for the most part, exhibit true and useful, but romantic and corrupting views of the world. In an earlier period of civilization, when the theatre to a great extent engrossed in its spontaneous and informal associations the intercourse of communities, it may have incidentally inculcated just, comprehensive, and practical views of human life. But through multiplied and more diversified associations of business, friendship, recreation, and the detailed records of universal history, human nature is so variously disclosed in its conditions, attributes, and passions, that the world is full of its original and written exhibitions, and no pretext remains for a public and expensive institution for its illustration by imperfect imitations. Being superfluous in regard to any useful purpose, the theatre to gain patronage is driven to the strange and anomalous, to caricatures and counterfeits.

Traits of common life are seldom introduced, or kept so far in the background, as to indicate that they are not an element of interest on the stage. A large portion of its authentic exhibitions of character are representations of the most depraved classes, which are at once exciting and corrupting, as memorials of corrupt courts, prisons, or houses of ill-fame. While those characters not directly vicious are so overwrought, or so extraordinary and anomalous, as to be demanded by the sarge taste that is pleased with the extravagance of buffoonery, the grotesque images of the phantasmagoria, or the caricature prints that stare from the windows of a toyshop.—Advancing into such engrossing prominence the depraved and the extraordinary traits of human nature, its teaching might possibly convey some practical lessons, available hints, and rules of etiquette, to those who expect to pass their lives in a land of ghosts and enchantments, of knights and baggys, of idle dukes, vicious nobles, and obsequious dependants, oppressive aristocracies and oppressed slaves; but it can have no more relevancy to the circumstances, habits and morals of an intelligent, industrious, and religious people, than if its scenes were laid in the moon, or its characters selected from *Dæmons*. *Le diables*

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