

The Provincial Wesleyan.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1854.

Christian Missions.

The evangelizing of the pagan world, through the agency of the Word of God and of Christian Missionaries, is an enterprise, second to no other in operation at the present day, whether we regard the spiritual interests involved, or the temporal advantages to be secured. This hallowed work is one of pure benevolence, originating in, and sustained by, Christian principle.

The love of Christ is the constraining motive by which its agents are actuated; the glory of God and the good of man, the objects at which they aim; the Gospel of Christ, the simple yet efficient instrumentality, by which, under the promised aid of God's eternal Spirit, these high and glorious ends are to be attained, and every moral victory, every gracious achievement won. The obligations to prosecute this noble enterprise with zeal and diligence, and on a scale of operation more commensurate with the pressing necessities of a world lying in the arms of the wicked one, have been happily recognized by the modern Church. The deep slumber of bygone ages has passed away, an awakening time has come, and throughout Christendom unkindlings and glowings of love, sacrifices of ease and comfort, pecuniary contributions small and large according to respective ability, and earnest, fervent prayers, for the salvation of heathen populations, are everywhere pleasingly manifest.

Within a few years, the Church has been blessed with copious showers with the spirit of compassion and sympathy for the spiritually destitute and perishing, and has begun practically to evince a zeal for the world's regeneration, which no floods of future persecution can quench, no obstacles or difficulties, however formidable, can abate.

"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," is an apostolic aphorism capable of being applied in a good as well as in a bad sense. It has been partially verified in the history of Christian Missions. Small in the beginning, their benign influence has extended, and every successive year has witnessed the progressive expansion of their sphere of operation, until, as at the present, not hundreds or thousands, but millions of renewed men, in all parts of the globe, are energetically engaged in giving a wider scope to the efforts of evangelizing Missions. With peculiar propriety may the command and predictive prophecy delivered to the Church by the ancient Seer, be applied to the Church of these times:—"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: stretch not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes: For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited."

To the thoughtful mind, the state of the world, in a religious aspect, is one of intense interest. This world was never in such a position as it is in at this day. In Europe, thousands are sighing not only for political freedom, but for unrestricted access to the Word of God and for the advantages of a spiritual ministry. Sooner or later a wide door and effectual way will be opened there, by the hand of God, for the entrance of His Word and the ministrations of an unadulterated Gospel. In China, containing one-third of the entire population of the world, the wall which has hitherto barred out nearly all evangelizing agencies, is about to be entirely prostrated, by one of those sudden, but stupendous changes in human affairs, which an over-ruling Providence knows how to make subvert to higher interests. The world is restless—the enemies of a pure and spiritual Christianity are active—but there is much to encourage the friends of evangelically Protestant Missions to multiply their Agents, and to send them forth, in the name of God, with the Bible in their hands, to seek the wandering souls of men "in order to gather them within the ample fold of Christ. While He that sitteth on the Throne is so palpably indicating His Will concerning the Heathen population of the world, it is the imperative duty as well as the highest privilege of the Christian Church to cooperate with Him, and, by the preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, to these desolated these distant faiths, to ministerial labour,—to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ,"—even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His servants."

We conclude this article by quoting from the *Wesleyan Notices* for February, a powerful appeal to the friends of Missions in behalf of China, with a hope that some among ourselves who read it, may be led, in addition to what they are doing for the Mission-cause generally, to contribute liberally to the special Fund for China.

WHAT IS OUR SOCIETY TO DO FOR CHINA?
By letters from different parts of the country, we find that in the minds of many earnest friends of this Society, Ministers, Local Officers, and Subscribers, an irrepressible conviction is working, that the time has come when we ought to meet the amazing events in China, by some Missionary effort of great vigour. None can have stronger feelings than have the Committee, that a crisis in the history of the greatest nation on earth, such as has never before been quite paralleled in the movements of mankind, calls upon all the servants of God to improve it, by every possible effort, for their salvation. It is but yesterday that our Society has broken ground in the Chinese Mission; yet, already, events surpassing all human foresight call for extension. Other Societies have long been in the field. The London Missionary Society, for many years, bore alone the weight of cost and discouragement. One of its honoured Secretaries, conversing with the Officers of other Societies, expresses his strong conviction that the juncture has come, when all Evangelical Bodies ought "to pour into their strength," to the aid of a Christian movement, which has yet vast powers of Heavens to combat with. The question, then, is forced upon us by events, by our own feelings, by the voice of brethren engaged in other Societies, and by numerous friends:—"Are we not to do something special for China, in circumstances so wonderful?"

Upon one thing the committee are fully decided. They cannot and will not, for any extension whatever, lay out money which they have not got. Their existing Missions need more than their regular income; out of that therefore, nothing is to be had for China. Is, then, the hope of doing anything to be abandoned? That rests not with the Committee, but with their friends. Let them give means to send out additional men, and with grateful hearts will the Committee be their almoners to the needy and perishing.

Aware of this, we find our friends devising sundry modes of raising means: One would apply a Daily Offering of a penny, additional to all former gifts, for China. Two separate proposals for organizing our Sunday-schools, on a general plan of collecting, are before us. Another friend would ask for five thousand subscribers, of a shilling

a week, for five years. Another would be willing to collect £50 a year, and forward it direct to the Mission-Office, so as not to interfere with the contributions to the General Fund. And finally, Mr. Reed, whose noble offer of £50 a year, for five years, provided other two hundred and fifty persons would give the same, did much to raise the hope of a successful effort, has since greatly enlarged his proposal. He now offers that, if the Society will at once undertake the work of sending out ten men, he will give yearly, for four years, £250, or £1,000 in all. Estimating that a special fund of £2,000 would be needed, he thinks that ought to be raised, to warrant the Committee in undertaking the work.

Such offers and suggestions, coupled with the vast opening itself, constitute an appeal, indifference to which would be sin. The Committee rejoice in the opening, and feel that the Lord is working for the welfare of a great country. They repeat it, however, that out of their regular fund no extension can yet be made. Perhaps, by the blessing of God on arrangements now in progress, a few years will liberate considerable sums, from parts of the field on which they are now expended. But this is a future thing, and even if realized, all the funds so released and more, would be required to extinguish our debt, to adjust the income and expenditure, and make the extension imperatively demanded in our Missions in the great continents of India and Africa; not to speak of the numerous unoccupied fields to which we referred in our last number. This we must embrace this moment for an effort on behalf of China, it can be done by no other means than an increase of the Special Fund, already existing for China. The Committee, though not prepared, under present circumstances, to pledge themselves to send out ten additional Missionaries, do not receive with any gratitude such contributions to the Special Fund as the friends of China may offer; and in proportion as its increase justifies them in so doing, will send out additional Missionaries. Those who are anxious to see our Chinese Mission increased, may be assured that to that specific object the Committee will apply the same contributions; and will add to their Missions in that country, whatever number they are furnished with the means of sending and maintaining, without incurring debt, or the prospect of debt. This Society seems placed by the Head of the church in a different position from some of its kindred societies, and we complain that they cannot find men. We have no doubt of finding the men, if we are only paced in circumstances to support them.

Unless the numerous friends, who address us on the subject, greatly mistake the amount of interest felt, no doubt can exist that much will be done in the coming year, for the Special Fund. We calmly cannot see the cause into His holy hand, who, by ways so unexpected, has opened China to the messengers of His own Gospel.

Spirit Rappings.
Another interesting letter from the Rev. W. Wilson, on Spirit-Rappings, appears on our first page, which will repay perusal. The first character of the system is established by quotations from the authorized publications of these invaders on scriptural morals. The unwholesome infidelity of these deluded mortals is astounding, and one can only wonder, that such presumption dwells in human heads, and that any intelligent person can give heed to those more than "old wives' fables." Our correspondent has done well to expose the true character of this boastful scheme, which has allured so many minds to the cunning craftiness of a man, who is one can only wonder, that such presumption dwells in human heads, and that any intelligent person can give heed to those more than "old wives' fables."

St. John Circuits' Missionary Anniversaries.
Rev. Sir,—Having just brought a series of Missionary meetings, connected with the St. John South, West, and North Circuits to a close, I send you this brief account respecting them, convinced, that it will be no less pleasing to yourself than gratifying to your friends and subscribers in this section of the mission field to insert them in your journal.

The annual sermons were preached on the 5th inst., by the Revs. Messrs. McNEELY, JOHNSON, SUTCLIFFE, and MARY. On these occasions the Congregations were large, and the Collections exceeding in amount those of the year preceding.

On Monday, the 6th, our first meeting was held in Carlton. The chair was occupied by His Worship the Mayor, of our rapidly thriving City, James Olive, Esq. The attendance was large and respectable, and the speeches, such as were suitable to the solemnity and importance of the occasion. The collection taken up, after the meeting was nearly double that of the former anniversary.

On Tuesday evening, at the Wesleyan Mother Church, of our City, in Germain Street, the chair was taken by our long tried, and fast friend, G. T. RAY, Esq. The Choir, mingling their voices with the rich, deep, yet mellow tones, of the fine organ, sang themselves nobly. The addresses were telling, and the attention of the large audience truly reflecting the occasion. The collection exceeding that of the year before, by some twenty-five per cent.

On the following evening we proceeded to Portland. Here appearances were against us—Just before the time of meeting, came on a snow storm, by which many who had intended to be present on the occasion, from Carlton, and the other section of the City, were prevented; the storm increased in violence. Local circumstances, too, tended to darken the prospect. The gas refused to burn; nor was it until after much coaxing and manoeuvring, consent was given to shed its lustre all around us. By these unpleasant and unwelcome events our good brother's Smithing shop was laid to rest, and all these things were against us. However we were in Portland; and there the measure of liberality is not to be adjusted, by either snow storms, or diminished congregations.

very depths of his soul. The zeal of the minister, the sympathy of the man, the love of the parent bared already in tears, at the recollection of his own dear departed one, tended to heighten the emotion,—rendered still more intense, by the buoy effort of the imagination as it brought down the cherub boy, from his abode of bliss, and placed him by the side of his deeply affected father on the missionary platform. Thus taxed, severely taxed, were the powers of the speaker, and he paid the tribute well.

Explanation here is necessary. A little boy, a very interesting child had been removed from earth, and the embrace of a fond mother, but a short time prior to our meeting. He had a missionary box, into which he had put his little gettings and savings,—and with his dying breath had requested his mother to have it sent to the missionary meeting. There was found also in the box a half sovereign; this was presumed to have been placed there by the sorrowing mother, to embalm the memory of her dear departed boy. It required no depth of penetration to see that that box, with the knowledge of its intention, was already proclaiming more than ordinary effects upon the mind of him who was soon to present it to the meeting. The time came,—and few I think, if any then present will forget, the manner in which the speaker gave utterance to the following:—"I do like to see that box. I don't like to see that box. I do like to see it, because it is an offering from a dear little boy, whose cherub spirit is now before the throne. I don't like to see it, because the mother whose hand placed there the piece of gold, is left to weep and mourn at the remembrance of her dear one, and is thereby reminded of her duty. This box is more than a table box, containing the proceeds of the board, but to the cause of missions, consecrated treasure, of his own dear departed boy. Here was the crisis, when with trembling hand, and heaving bosom, and with streaming eyes he lifted the box from the table, as containing, not the offering of another's child but his own whom he designated with an utterance and feeling, of which no one but a parent is capable, the one, whom he loved and prized above all earthly things. His whole soul seemed on the verge of breaking forth, and he said, while with a parent's offering, in his trembling hand, and to dedicate to a child's memory and the Saviour's cause, he personified his much loved boy, calling to him from heaven, and saying dear Pa, never before did I witness such an effect as was now produced. The Chairman wept, the assembly sighed, and many sobbed aloud.

The collection then was made, and the friends of our cause exceeded all the past. Their offerings were freely and liberally presented. We have not been in Germany street, the streets spreading out its golden wings over the table, but the eaglets were there as usual, from the Portland ery,—and there moreover, of the former, two representatives in value; nine pound notes,—and of dollar notes a handful; silver contributions, too, were ample,—copper, as should on such occasions be the case, was vastly in the minority. Postland, Sir, on this occasion, besides the Sabbath Collection, raised £43 11.

On the following evening we held the meeting at Cornwell. The collection at the former place was fifty per cent, and at the latter one hundred per cent, in excess of last year, and there is no room for doubt that considerably increased subscriptions will be obtained. To the Lord be the praise.—Communicated.

New York Correspondence.
The estimates for the support of our Government for the next year, were recently laid before the Senate, and its whole amount is fifty-nine millions, six hundred and twenty-seven thousand dollars. Its civil list is the largest sum, and reaches \$10,264,183,—including foreign interest, expenses of collecting the revenue, and rates of the public land, the public buildings, courts, and deficiency in the Post Office Department.

Next comes our Naval establishment requiring an appropriation of \$10,234,265,—then the Army, \$10,131,458. By the last item does not embrace the military Academy, fortifications and ordnance, costing about two millions more.

Our Mail Steam service will cost \$1,496,250 additional, with the interest on the public debt which requires \$3,145,806. Thus more than half the expenses of our Government will arise from foreign relations, and our Army and Navy. The public debt is fast diminishing.

The New York papers are speaking of a plan in England to erect Canada into a monarchy, with Prince George of Cambridge for its King. He is cousin to the Queen, and it is said that the Court entertained such an idea. Is there any truth in the report?

The New Yorkers "up town," and on high ground begin to complain of a deficiency in the supply of water, for their upper stores. Only 17 feet is the average height of the Croton in the reservoir at this time, whilst its capacity is 90 feet. This fact is creating some excitement.—The daily supply of the water now passed over the high bridge, at the present wasteful consumption, hardly supplies the wants of our city. Its delivery every day to the citizens has thirty-five and eight to each inhabitant, a daily supply of 80 or 90 gallons. What a blessing of health and comfort!

It is now contemplated to build a new and spacious reservoir not far from Haarlem, which will hold over 750,000,000 gallons. This with the other two now used will contain 320,000,000 such fountains of the blessed beverage would supply thirty million gallons every day for thirty one days' consumption.

There was lately published from the Tribune office, a work, the most of which had previously appeared in the Tribune's columns. It was from the pen of one of the editors and very "much polished." It was called a "great moral lesson," and many well meaning readers have been "taken in," as to its character and tendencies. A copy I once laid on your table, with the criticism that the sketches are of the most interesting description and "calculated to produce beneficial impressions on the minds of youth"—the farthest from such a result imaginable. It is yellow covered literature of the worst dye, and belongs to the French novelist's school, so long the scourge and source of modern corruption. It is a vile book, and a disgrace to any table or family circle. We have "taboo'd" the infamous thing here, I mean among respectable religious families of course.

There is wickedness enough at the "Five Points," without the aid of corrupt imagination in depicting its sins and low life. But the gospel has entered those dim abodes, and is elevating the inmates to a true and better being. The Christian ladies who have been the honoured instruments in this moral revolution, have just issued a work on that region.—The Old Brewery and the new Mission House at the Five Points. I know the authors, the contents are not fictitious, but truths upon piety, enlightened pens. If your readers wish to learn something about that spot, you can endorse this book. Your's, &c.
New York, February 9, 1854.

Baltimore Correspondence.
MY DEAR DOCTOR,—The gracious work of God, announced by my last, has again been commenced in Wesley Chapel, I am rejoiced to say, is still in progress. The meetings have been kept up every night; and will be continued during the present week. Thus far, sixty have been brought to realize the "witness of the Spirit," touching their pardon and adoption into the family of God. Among this number, are several heads of families, in the persons of both husband and wife, and father and mother. In several instances, seeking most penitently redemption in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. And thus far, in each case, since has attended their effort, and they have been permitted, together to go down to their house "justified." How long

coloured, needs renewing, to meet which expenditure we propose to solicit the friends at the annual Conference in just at hand. We trust in the Providence of God, that nothing may arise to impede the progress of the work.

Great and gracious as are these displays of saving love and mercy in our midst, I cannot refrain from saying to you, that my heart is not without some reason of the fact, that I am convinced, that even in highly favoured Baltimore, we are not a people, doing as we should, the work which God has committed unto us. There is existing an apathy in relation to the subject of Holiness, that is painful in the extreme. To me, and to many, it betokens the approach of the day, when God will turn from us, and commit this work to others. I see no help for us except some unforeseen combination of means, be sanctioned to bringing us back again, to the simplicity of "our high calling's glorious hope." I do not fear that we shall ever cease to exist; but do fear, that we shall fall down to the level of more formalists in the cause of God, as well as in practical and experimental religion. "Having the form of Godliness, but destitute of its power." I can clearly see, where our help lies, and what would probably be the best means, but alas! alas, the mass, do not see and feel, as they should, in order to bring about our salvation. In Baltimore, as well as in our larger cities, we do not seem to be keeping pace, with the increase of the population, and consequently, except in spots, there has been comparatively no improvement in numbers. This fact, however, serious as it is in respect, does not affect my mind so seriously as the one to which I have alluded. Sentimentality, to use a Methodist phrase, "are five and far between." Pray for my brother whilst engaged in the work of praying for the spread of Scriptural Holiness among your own people. "O Lord will thou not revive us again, that the hearts of thy people may rejoice in thee."

Wesleyan Missionary Anniversaries on the Charlestown Circuit, P. E. I.

The liberality of the members and friends of Wesleyan Missions residing on this Circuit has for many years been pleasingly apparent in the Missionary Reports. By many it was supposed that the £300, 15s. contributed last year, was the climax beyond which this Branch would not proceed. Whether that conjecture was well founded or not, the future will show. But the friends of truth and of Christian progress will rejoice in the existing probability of further advancement, as indicated by the recent doing of a devout and warm-hearted people.

On Sabbath the 5th inst., sermons preparatory to the Anniversary Services were preached in the Charlestown Chapel, by large and attentive congregations, by the Rev. George O. Huestis, and by the Lord's Spirit. On Monday evening the Anniversary Meeting of the Society was held. The Chair was very ably filled by the Hon. Jas. Hensley, who opened the business of the evening, by an address distinguished by purity and elegance of diction, by a comprehensive outline of the rise and progress of most of the leading Missionary Associations of Protestantism, and by an expansive catholicity of spirit and sentiment. An interesting Report was read by the Secretary, Mr. James Moore. The large assembly was then addressed by the Revs. J. B. Evans, J. L. Narraway, G. O. Huestis, and Dr. Evans, with Messrs. Lewis, Smith, Chas. Palmer, Capt. O'Leary, R. N. J. Thomas, and Geo. Beer, Jr., Esq. The meeting was characterized by deep seriousness, and the collections, exclusive of a Missionary Box containing £2 10s. exceeding as they did those of last year by about fifty per cent, furnished grounds of hope that the increased interest felt by the people will be commensurate with the augmented expenditure required by the extension of the work.

On Tuesday evening the Annual Meeting was held at Little York, and on Wednesday evening at Cornwall. The collection at the former place was fifty per cent, and at the latter one hundred per cent, in excess of last year, and there is no room for doubt that considerably increased subscriptions will be obtained. To the Lord be the praise.—Communicated.

Letter from the Island of Corsica.
It has fallen to the lot of your correspondent, in the prosecution of his Master's business, to reside for a short time in this interesting island. Your readers will, without doubt, be interested with such particulars as may be able to communicate concerning the state of the island, generally, and on the openings for evangelical efforts on its shores. Corsica is the third, in size, of the islands of the Mediterranean, and contains a population of nearly 200,000 souls. It is situated in almost a central position between France, Italy, Spain, Algeria, and Sardinia. This is an admirable situation, every way; and not the least so as presenting a post for evangelical missionary enterprise, without example, perhaps, in the south of Europe. In less than fifteen hours the steamer takes you to the French shores, and in six, or less, to Leghorn, and the coast of Italy.

The island is mountainous. A large range of mountains run across, from North to South, and divides the eastern from the western coast. Some of these summits are of immense height; the Monte Rotondo being 7,000 feet above the level of the sea, and the Monte d'Oro only somewhat less. From the principal chain, other and smaller ranges branch off east and west, and form a series of valleys, extending from the Cape Corse to Bonifacio.

The climate of the island is most agreeable; the heats of summer being tempered by the gentle sea-breeze, and the cold winter winds by the warm rays of a southern sun. In fact, winter is hardly known, and the verdure is almost continual. Tourists and invalids visit the south of France, Italy, and Spain, in search of the scuppernon scenery; but I doubt whether Hieres, Nice, or even Naples, afford better facilities, in all these respects, than Ajaccio or Bastia.

And now that P. E. I. worship is established in the latter place, it may be an inducement to try, at least, the results might be to Bastia. Lodgings are easily obtained, and living is at moderate prices.

An English gentleman was telling me, the other day:—"I have, as a naval officer, visited almost every portion of the globe; but never better pleased with a residence any where than I am with Bastia. The soil and productions of the island are both rich and varied. The plants of every region flourish here luxuriantly. Tobacco, and cotton would thrive. The olive, the grape, the orange and the lemon grow beautifully. In the chestnut, the apple, the pear and other fruits. Vegetables might be grown all the year round, without the precautions required in other countries. Nothing is more magnificent than the forests of chestnut and wild olive-trees which you meet with in the interior. Were proper attention paid to the cultivation of the soil, this island would become indeed a fruitful garden. I met, the other day, with a gentleman from the French continent, who made the following statement:—"Four years since, I purchased a spot of land in the plains below Bastia. I cleared the land of its underwood, and the produce of the charcoal obtained paid all my expenses. The second year the crop paid for the price of the land. Since then all is clear profit. I see no manure; but vary the crops, and let the land rest once in four or five years." It is not a rare thing to have six or eight crops of hay-clover from a field well attended to.

And yet two thirds of the land remains uncultivated. Corsica has hardly one-quarter of a million of inhabitants, while the soil can, of itself, furnish food for more than a million, independently of the mines which might be worked; and the marble quarries, and the fine forests, which would yield large revenues. The olive oil, alone, would be a source of great income. Some years since a single arondissement of the interior produced twelve millions of francs' worth of oil, exported for France.

But the Corsican peasant is idle. His forests of chestnut-trees produce what he calls his bread; the olive trees oil for his soup and his lamp; and a few patches of land, beans and potatoes for the winter season. He grows a few plants of tobacco, weaves a few cloths of coarse cloth; and such suffices. He loves to loiter in the sun, smoking his pipe, and hearing marvellous stories of the past, or the lately-imported news of the continent. He is generous, hospitable, and never injures a stranger. The Corsicans are revengeful for injuries committed among themselves; but a stranger is respected, protected, and soon becomes a favourite among the villagers. He has nothing to fear from the *Vendetta*, of which I shall have some fearful tales to tell.

The island, long subject to the Genoese, has now been for nearly eighty years almost uninterruptedly under the government of France. French, therefore, has become the official language of the country; but Italian is most generally understood; while the Corsican dialect, a sort of corrupt Italian, is universally spoken; it is so almost exclusively throughout the interior.

Education has made but little progress among the peasantry. Every village is supposed to have its schoolmaster, salaried by Government, but in many instances his residence and labors are restricted to a few

short months; for the children pass their days in the forests with their flocks. In the towns, matters are on a better footing. Establishments, as well as elementary schools, are almost everywhere in the hands of the French. *Les Docteurs*, commonly called *Professeurs*, are, in fact, a title which they generally well deserve.

Pope's is the professed religion of Corsica. A bishop resides at Ajaccio, and there are about five hundred for the whole population. Of course, there follow in the train of a number of religious houses, orders, or corporations, as in Italy. The Jesuits have lately arrived, to confirm, or rather to prove, the faith of the Corsicans, whose confidence in the tenets, and the priests of Rome, is not, it appears, satisfactory to the bishop. The arrival of these revered fathers is announced in the local papers of Bastia, as a momentous event, destined to preach the word of God. (See "The necessity of such an establishment," which is declared, "was greatly felt by all those who are interested in the progress of religion." The Jesuits are known to have always been honored in the first ranks for the propagation of the faith. They are believed in by the faithful; hated and feared by sectarians; and by other enemies of the Church. We hope, says the writer, "that this celebrated society, in obtaining on this island, that footing which it once possessed with so much distinction, will powerfully contribute to enlighten the people and reform their morals."

You will not be surprised if I express my doubt that the Jesuits are, in reality, instruments of enlightenment or morality. The contrary is the fact; and I do trust that the commencement of evangelized labors will not a little counterbalance the influence of the influence of Jesuitism in the island.

Pope's is, indeed, little held on the people. The majority take no part in the ceremonies of the Romish Church, except in certain particular circumstances; and this is done merely out of habit. Their understanding and consciences protest against the priests and their teachings.

A friend of mine was some time since on a journey from Corte to Bastia. He found in the stage-coach a priest, with whom he entered into serious conversation. The conductor of the diligence, having been driven by the rain to take refuge inside, and hearing the conversation, took much with him, and friend, although in a different spirit, turning toward the priest, he exclaimed, "You, and your fellow-priests, are the eyes that must be plucked out, and the hand that must be cut off, in order that the body may be made whole. Your lies and your superstitions corrupt the people." My reader may not, perhaps, have heard before of such an application of our Saviour's words—Matt. v.—"But this anecdote gives an idea of the opinion generally entertained among the people, with regard to the Romish clergy.

While I am writing these lines, the blue waters of the Mediterranean, as well as the lake before me; the islands of Elba and Capria rise in the distance in darkish colors of green and red; the sun shines brilliantly over the green landscape around the city of Bastia; and now my silent prayer, in which my readers join, goes to heaven, that a blessing may come down upon poor Corsica. May she also arise and shine, and may the glory of the Lord arise upon her!

Island of Corsica, on the Mediterranean, 25th November, 1853.

Legislative.
FRIDAY, February 10th.
The Hon. Mr. Johnston read to the House the correspondence which had taken place between Mr. Jackson and himself on the subject of Railways.

The House went into Committee on the Franchise Bill. Messrs. M. Wilkins, Annand, Marshall, Hon. Sec. Secretary, and Hon. J. W. Johnston spoke on the question. Committee rose, and House adjourned.

SATURDAY, February 11th.
Several petitions presented. A bill introduced to incorporate New Glasgow Steamboat Company. Read a first time. Also a Bill to divide the County of Annapolis into two School Districts. Referred to Committee. A Bill reported from Committee to incorporate Liverpool Steamboat Company.

Hon. P. Secy, by command, laid on the table Report of W. A. Henry, on the subject of Crown Lands,—also Reports from Deputy Surveyors. Referred to a Special Committee.

MONDAY, February 13th.
Mr. Holmes introduced a Bill to incorporate the congregation of Barney's River. Referred to Committee on Private Bills. Sunday Petitions presented. Mr. Fulton introduced a Bill to extend to Amherst Chap. 78 of the Revised Statutes. Mr. McQueen introduced a Bill to amend Chap. 149 of the Revised Statutes. Mr. McLellan, Messrs. Wier, Fish, Moore, Danock, McLellan, Holmes, M. Wilkins, and Hon. J. W. Johnston, addressed the Committee. After considerable discussion, the principle of Universal Suffrage was affirmed, 34 to 12. The Committee then went through the details. The Bill was left in Committee, by consent, to admit of any desired improvements.

RAILWAY.—The Hon. P. Sec. laid on the table of the House the following resolutions:—
Resolved,—That in order to provide funds for the construction of the said Railways, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to open the Savings Bank, and to issue Province Paper in such mode and to such extent, as may appear prudent and necessary,—to open Cash Accounts with any of the Provincial Banks or with any Banking House in London, and to issue Provincial Bonds or Debentures.

Resolved,—That the assignment, construction, and management of such Railways shall be confided to a Commission, to consist of six persons, to be appointed by the Governor in Council, the person first named in the Commission to be the Chairman, and to have a casting vote.

Resolved,—That the portion of the work to be first commenced shall be that which, extending in a northerly direction from the harbour of Halifax, will form a common Trunk for all the Lines.

Resolved,—That the said Commissioners shall draw upon the Receiver General for any monies required; and account to the Financial Secretary quarterly, but shall not be empowered to expend money or incur liabilities to a greater extent in any one year, than Two Hundred Thousand Pounds.

Resolved,—That should any difficulty arise, demanding such interference, the operations of the Commissioners may be restrained by an Order in Council, until the Legislature can be consulted.

TUESDAY, February 14th.
Mr. P. Smith was allowed to present a petition from Margaree for aid to a steamboat.

prominent of them. One of these boys is now at the head of the Chinese rebellion. Another is at the head of the 30,000 Chinese in California, and although not a professed Christian, he tells his countrymen, "I cannot engage in the senseless idol-worship of my country—it is so degrading." Another is a promising medical student in the University of Edinburgh, and another is a student in Yale College.

Ladies' Department.

The Ivy in the Dungeon.

BY CHARLES MACRAY.
The ivy in a dungeon grew
Unfed by rain, unwatered by dew;
Its pallid leaflets only drank
Cave moisture foul and odors dank.
But through the dungeon grating high,
There fell a sunbeam from the sky;
It slept upon the grateful floor,
In silent gladness o'erflowed.

The ivy felt a tremor shroud
Through all its fibres to the root;
It felt the light, it saw the ray,
It grew to blossom into day.
It grew, it crept it pushed, it clomb—
Long had the darkness been the home;
But well it knew though veiled in night,
The goodness and the joy of light.

Its clinging roots grew deep and strong;
Its stem expanded firm and long;
And in the currents of the air
Its tender branches flourished fair.
It reached the beam—it thrilled, it curled,
It blessed the warmth that cheers the world,
It rose towards the dungeon bars,
It looked upon the sun and stars.

It felt the life of burning spring,
It heard the happy skylark sing;
It caught the breath of morn and eve,
And drew the swallow to its leaves.

By rains and dew and sunshine fed,
O'er the outer walls it spread,
And in the day-beam waving free,
It grew into a steatit tree.
Upon that solitary place
Its verdure thrived adorning grace;
The mating birds became its guests,
And sang its praises from their nests.

Wouldst thou know the moral of the rhyme?
Behold the heavenly light and climb;
To every dungeon comes a ray
Of God's interminable day.

The Tear of Love.

"The tear of love—how eloquent!
How touching is her power!"
"It was only a tear, it is true, but oh, what a depth of meaning lay concealed in that single peevish drop—a meaning the world cannot fathom!"
It came from a loving mother's eye, as she bent o'er her sleeping infant, and gazed with fond affection on the little cherub-countenance. And as she thought, the tear "all unbidden" fell, prompted by a knowledge of the responsibility devolving upon her; it may be tender memories were brought up of the departed one of whom the little image before her was the very counterpart.

Time sped—the infant of yore was one no longer, but in its stead a manly noble-looking youth stood before his parent to receive the blessing of his mother. Charles Elton was just going forth to the world to combat in the "exciting" battle of life. His young heart beat high with noble aspirations, and as he peered into the dim future there seemed aught but bright sunshine to play around his forward path.

Then again it fell—that love-betokening tear! The mother could not but feel anxious for "her dear, her only," as he went from her sight. What if some accident should befall the child of her heart? Or worse, what if his pure soul, hitherto protected from evil, by "home, and home influences," should become contaminated by sin's dread touch!

And again! Yes, a tear moistens the cheek of the joyful, yet still anxious mother, as she peruses a letter, bearing the deepest affection from her dear loved son. Though far away, the presence of these distant faiths are fresh in his memory.—And O, how well she knows the information that the child of her prayers and her tears has been cleansed from sin by the blood of a kind Redeemer!

But as years passed along, sickness came—that fond mother was on her death-bed.—And as her spirit was about to assume its wings "for a flight to the better land," a tear glistened in the parent's eye—a "tear of love," of gratitude to the Father of Mercies, that He had given her such a noble child.

Not were maternal hopes disappointed. Charles Elton, for whom so often the "tear of love" was shed, is labouring on in his mother's cause. While the mother is chanting lily poems in the courts of Heaven, the son—a philanthropic Missionary—is devoting all his energies to the enlightenment and conversion of Africa's sable children.

Will it not be joyful, when mother and son meet in the home where there are no more "tears?"
Feb. 1854. LILLY LEE.

A Beautiful Sentiment.
BY FANNY FERN.
"The moon is a calm down when man is dying,
The ear is to him like a bell;
Flowers breathe their perfume, and the winds keep
Sighing to him as they pass;
Night seems to pause or stay."

Clasp the hands meekly over the still breast, they've no more work to do; close the weary eyes, they've no more tears to shed; part the clasp lips, there's no more pain to bear. Close the ear alike to love, kind voice, and calumny's stinging whisper—
Oh, if in that still heart you have reverently planted a thorn; if from that plating eye you have carelessly turned away; if you have planted a kindly word, and clasping hand, have come—all too late—then God forgive you! No wrong gathers on the marble brow as you gaze—no scorn curls the chiselled lip—no flush of wounded feeling mounts to the blue-veined temples.

God forgive you! for your feet, too, must shrink appalled from death's cold, numbing grasp. Your falling tones ask, "Can this be death?" your fading eye lingers lovingly on the sunny earth; your clench hand yields its last faint pressure; your sinking pulse gives its last feeble flutter.

Oh, spacious grave! what another victim for thy voiceless keeping! What a wrong of greeting from all thy household sleepers? No warm welcome from a sister