

'Twas not for fiction chose Rousseau this spot,
Peopling it with affections; but he found
It was the scene which passion must allot
To the mind's purified beings; 'twas the ground
Where early Love his Psyche's zone unbound,
And hallow'd it with loveliness; 'tis lone,
And wonderful, and deep, and hath a sound,
And sense, and sight of sweetness; here the Rhone
Hath spread himself a couch, the Alps have reared a throne.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), on coming from Italy and ascending the heights above Montreux, cried out. "How beautiful are these paths. Of all the countries I know, the most beautiful is the Canton of Vaud. If God granted a long old age, it is here I should love to live. What a lovely country! When one comes from Italy one feels almost moved to tears to see this corner of the world."

But it was long after these writers had written so eloquently of this "corner of the world" that the names of Montreux, Clarens, Chillon and Vevey became familiar to those residing in distant lands. During the last twenty years, however, they have been visited by thousands from all countries, many of whom continue to visit them yearly at certain seasons, and to make one or other of these villages their homes for some months. Montreux, I should say, is rather the name of a parish than that of a town, a parish which contains twenty villages and hamlets, with some 8,000 inhabitants, of whom at least 2,000 are foreigners. From the hotel in

CLARENS,

which has been our residence for the greater portion of the last two years, looking eastward I can see on the left the D nt de Jaman, connecting with the Rochers de Naye, which descend gradually to the hills of Caux and Sonchaux, and terminate at the Castle of Chillon in the lake. These hills, which protect Montreux, with its villages, from the north and east winds, are covered with pines, chestnuts and nut trees, wherever there is earth enough to support them, and in spring every spot is fragrant with wild flowers, while the colours of the leaves in autumn almost equal in beauty the woods of Canada at that season. The view to the south is bounded on the left by the Dent du Midi, always sprinkled with snow, while to the right rise, on the opposite shore of the lake, the lofty mountains of Valais and Savoy, the outline of which in the southern sky is ever changing in colour, and at all hours of the day, forms a rich subject of study.

In the distance to the west in clear weather stand out the soft lines of the Jura range, covered with vapour in summer and with snow in winter.

To the north, in the foreground, on different summits, are several old chateaux with picturesque turrets, whose history extends far back into the Middle Ages. And behind these rise still higher hills which shelter the villages and chalets on their slopes, as well as those on the shore of the lake, from the north winds. Such is a general outline of the frame within which are placed the group of towns and villages and villas selected as places of residence during the greater portion of the year by those who are less highly favoured in their own lands by climatal and picturesque influences.

The whole is bathed in sunshine during spring, summer and autumn, and often in winter, though some winters, like the present, are severe and trying. When spring comes those who have spent the winter months on the shore of the lake begin to move upward to Charnex, Glion or Les Avants, where are found suitable accommodation and change of air. And here the earth is covered with narcissus, gentian and other fragrant flowers, which scent the atmosphere and make it a pleasure to sit in the open air and inhale its invigorating breath.

THE CLIMATE

there may be said to be bracing, and the air dry as compared with that of Britain. These places vary from 1,200 to 3,200 feet above sea level, and consequently the air is pure and pleasant. There are cold periods, however, and snow showers which demand great care on the part of invalids. The present winter has been most trying, and has driven many to more southern latitudes, your correspondent amongst the number.

OTHER ADVANTAGES.

might be mentioned, such as the cost of living, which is not much above the half of what it is in ordinary seasons at Cannes, Nice and other places on the Riviera. The schools are good, churches for most denominations and nationalities, libraries where books in German, French and English are lent to visitors

for a small monthly fee. There is also a Kursaal, where concerts and operas are given, and reading rooms supplied with the principal journals of Europe and America. A few words may be expected about

THE CASTLE OF CHILLON

This old Gothic chateau stands on a rocky islet, and dates from the ninth century. It commands the narrow defile. Originally it consisted of a massive tower, but in the Middle Ages numerous buildings sprang up around it, their walls being flanked with turrets, provided with battlements and loop-holes, surrounding an inner court, entrance to which was formerly by a draw bridge. Beneath these buildings are subterranean vaults, hollowed out of the solid rock, and lighted by long, narrow loop-holes. These were used first for storehouses and places of refuge for the neighbouring population, and then for a political prison. It is associated with the memories of different persons who had been prisoners in it, or who have sung its praises. In barbarous ages it enclosed Count Wala who commanded the armies of Charlemagne. In feudal times Count Peter of Savoy used to hold joyous *f tes* here, when valiant knights did him homage after his victories. During the *renaissance* the name of Bonivard (1496-1570) attaches to it. Although a Savoyard and a churchman, he took part in 1530 with the citizens of Geneva in favour of reform, and in consequence incurred the hostility of the Duke of Savoy, who confined him in Chillon, where tradition says he was chained to a pillar, until released by the Bernese and Genevese forces in 1536—an incident which Byron celebrates in the well-known lines:

Chillon! thy prison is a holy place,
And thy sad floor an altar; for 'twas trod,
Until his very steps have left a trace,
Worn, as if the cold pavement were a sod,
By Bonivard! May none those marks efface,
For thy appeal from tyranny to God.

Now that the sun of liberty shines upon Chillon, it is visited by thousands of pilgrims yearly, and has become an historic sanctuary and national museum, dear to every Swiss.

THE CEMETERY OF CLARENS

is a most lovely spot. On first seeing it, some are led to exclaim that it is worth dying to be buried in this perfect "oasis," and many are buried here—Russians, Germans, Swedes, English and Irish—and all sleep quietly beneath the cypresses and other trees, however noisy and quarrelsome their living representatives may be above ground. Sweet flowers scent the air. From my window I could see the branches which wave over the tomb of Alexander Vinet, the Vaudois theologian, thinker and literary man, who died at Clarens in 1847, and now rests after a life of bodily suffering and mental labour. "As a thinker, a Christian and a man, Vinet will long remain a model and a type. Depth and purity he possessed in an eminent degree, but not properly greatness. For that, he was a little too subtle and analytical, too ingenious and refined. He lacked flame, mass and enthusiasm; but he was always the conscientious man and writer."

As illustrative of once of the many nationalities which meet in places like this, and of the unity of feeling by which all Christians are actuated, let me conclude by stating some of the various countries from which we had representatives at our weekly

BIBLE READING

at Clarens during the last two winters. Of the forty or fifty who usually attended, several were Anglo-Indians. One who took an active part had been a General in the Madras army, and others held high positions in the India Civil Service. Some performed official duties at the Russian Court. We had also Dutch, German and Swiss, with a considerable number of English, Scotch and Irish pastors and laymen, representing Episcopalian, Lutheran, Reformed and Free Churches, all understanding and speaking the English language with more or less facility. During the present winter the chairman chosen was a Canadian, who has some right to the honourable though far from euphonious *nom de plume* of "Knoxonian." Cannes, France, February, 1886. T. H.

WITHOUT a dissenting vote the United States Senate, a week ago, passed a bill to authorize President Cleveland to appoint a commission of five persons, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to investigate the liquor traffic, its evil effects, etc., and report to Congress the result of such investigation with suggestions and recommendations.

MISSIONARY WORK ON THE MOUNTAIN DIVISION OF THE C. P. R.

This work was taken up by the Presbytery of Regina last July, and carried on by their missionary until the last spike was driven in the Gold Range in November. Although considerable time has elapsed since the missionary left the field, when the C. P. R. became a connected line from ocean to ocean, no account of this work has been given to the public. By special request for an article on this field this letter is written, and if in any way it strengthen the mission work of the Church, the end in view will be accomplished. For some time this work had been completely neglected by the Protestant Church, apart from an occasional service given by representatives of different branches of the Church who passed over the road (many of them being merely on a collecting tour), thus those connected with the construction of the C. P. R. were left entirely without the advantages of a missionary's labours.

As far back, at least, as the summer of 1883 no one had permanently represented the Protestant Church on the line of the C. P. R. During this time over four thousand miles of road had been constructed and thousands who were members or adherents of the Christian religion had been for over two years entirely neglected. This created considerable feeling against the Church, if not against Christianity itself; while it left many, who might otherwise have resisted if not successfully, at least more arduously, the many temptations to enter the paths of evil and vice that are to be found in such enterprises. From this the readers are not to infer that we were entirely a multitude of ungodly and immoral men connected with the Mountain Division of the C. P. R. For although sin and vice were among us, as far as accounts from those who had been connected with the construction of the Northern Pacific go, we were comparatively free from scenes of vice and iniquity. This may be accounted for from the fact that a large number of the English-speaking men on the C. P. R. were here associated with railroad life for the first time, and from many of the best homes in our Dominion. One could soon detect the evil habits that were formed by those who were thus removed from all the influences for good that once surrounded them, and although all these influences could not follow them, yet one of them should have been given—the labour of a missionary.

But why refer now to these things? some may be ready to ask. For two reasons. To press upon the Christian Churches the necessity of occupying all such fields in the future from the very beginning to the completion of the work. Similar fields will be found in abundance in connection with the future of the western part of our Dominion. It may not be possible nor advisable that every branch of the Protestant Church should be represented, yet one missionary, at least, from some of the Churches should be constantly on the ground to minister to the spiritual necessities of those connected with these enterprises. It is when exposed to so many temptations, removed from home life and other healthy influences for good that cannot be brought to such fields, that we should especially seek to give to those thus exposed to all that the preaching of the Gospel and life of a missionary can do to aid our fellow-creatures in their struggles toward a higher and purer life. The coming spring is likely to open up this same field, as well as others where a missionary could find many to minister to in the preaching of the Word. Shall these fields be occupied? What says the Christian Church? What say the Christian homes in our Dominion that shall be there represented by friends, relatives and members? That the response may be manifested by actions more than words is the prayer of one who has tasted of the trials and joys of this sphere of missionary life.

The statements given in connection with the neglect of this field for over two years have been referred to, with still another end in view to present an idea of how it stood in the way of carrying on the work that has at length been taken up. Many have become indifferent to spiritual things, and were slow to enter into the work so long neglected; they thought a few more months (as the work on this division was to close in the fall) made little difference. Although this spirit, to some extent, passed away as the mission work was prosecuted, it may safely be said that there was not the interest taken in it by many who would have heartily supported it if a missionary had constantly followed the line of construction. On the principle of