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LETTER FROM MONTREAL.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—In my last reference was made to the great dissatisfaction felt by many here with the proceedings of the Quebec ministry. It was not generally known when that was written that

HIS HONOR THE LIEUT. GOVERNOR was more dissatisfied therewith than any other person. This has since transpired. The proof is that he dismissed the cabinet and entrusted the formation of a new one to Mr. Joly the leader of the late opposition. Mr. Joly is a Protestant, an able man, and most highly esteemed. But it is grievous to many French Canadians that a Protestant should be first minister in the Province of Quebec. The chief grounds assigned by the Governor for his course towards his late ministers are—that they withheld from his knowledge memorials addressed to him concerning the policy of his Government; that the gravest matters of legislation were promoted without his permission being either given or asked; and that he believes some of these if not unconstitutional, would be injurious to the best interests of the Province. A new election has been ordered. This appeal to the country can hardly be expected to result in a permanent majority of supporters of Mr. Joly, on general policy, but it may enable him to redress the grievances of which the country was complaining—to economise the public funds, and to bring this Province more into harmony with the sister provinces of the Dominion than has of late existed. If these benefits can be secured the present crisis will not have been in vain.

SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENTS here are very numerous in the winter. They consist, generally, of select readings, choral performances, and very brief addresses. Suffer a few words on the evening entertainment lately given by

THE DOUGLAS LITERARY SOCIETY. It was held in the spacious lecture room of the Dorchester St. Methodist church, in the class rooms of which the students of the Wesleyan Theological College prosecute their studies. This was the initial annual conversation, and if those which shall follow in the years to come prove equally excellent, they will occupy the first place in affairs of this kind. The hall with flags, lamps, pictures, flowers and wreaths, presented an aspect of beauty such as had never before been there displayed. In illuminated letters the names of Reformers and Divines met the eye in every direction. Over the pulpit hung a large banner bearing the inscription, "Wesleyan Theological College founded 1873," and its motto "Christus mundus et mundus Christo." On the wall directly opposite was an oil painting of the late Rev. George McDougall. Hundreds were present by invitation representing friends of the College. The first exercises were devotional. Then followed a speech by Dr. Douglas. The music and singing were admirable. The refreshments were delicious, and served out with elegance. Nothing else created so much delight, and was so fraught with suggestions of the wonderful works of God, as the use of powerful microscopes exhibited by Mr. J. Ferrier, Jr. Through these various specimens of animalculæ were clearly beheld, full of life, incessantly active, of various shapes, and all finding ample room in a single drop of water. One of the microscopes it was said, has no superior, being made by the best maker in London, and being one of his best instruments. It cost thirteen hundred dollars. The society may well be congratulated on the entire success of its first social entertainment.

THE LECTURE SEASON has been well improved by the valuable labours of a host of learned eloquent men,

too numerous to be all here named. They have come from the east, the west, and the south. Your readers may be interested by a mention of a few of them. The Rev. Mr. Lucas is the agent for the college in Stanstead. His avocation this year is to raise funds for this Wesleyan Institution which is for the higher education of both sexes. Mr. Lucas admitted to his prelections gratis, and took a collection at the close. In the same interest the Rev. Dr. Fowler, editor of the "Christian Advocate," New York, delivered a lecture in St. James St. church, on "The great deeds of great men." His audience was not very large. The chairman thought people must have made a mistake, and had taken the Dr. Fowler present, for another of the same name, a phrenologist. He assured them however that this was not Doctor Fowler the head-feeler but Dr. Fowler the head-filler. He spoke for nearly two hours without making use of notes. He deduced his illustrations from all history, sacred, classical and modern. He ended with a brilliant eulogium upon Lincoln, whom the Doctor styled (presumably on his own authority only) "God's greatest secular prophet." The lecture was not financially much of a success.

The Rev. Dr. Burns, of Halifax, lectured on the "Restoration and annihilation theories regarding the future life of impenitent sinners." A subject of serious import. It is now receiving both in America and in Europe more general and earnest attention than formerly. Every one may feel sure that the Doctor holds firmly to the doctrine on this awful matter found in the Confession of Faith of the Church of Scotland. He defined the new theories which oppose the old beliefs—argued strongly against them, and conferred his reasoning by many pertinent passages of Scripture. He pointed out their force to subvert the foundations on which the holders of the opposing theories build, and concluded by showing the demoralising, degrading results that would follow were the annihilation and the restoration doctrines to become prevalent in society. A gentleman who conducts worship on the Sabbath in a hall in the city advertised that he would reply to Dr. Burns in a public lecture. He has probably done so. But it is not said that he detected any fallacy in the Doctor's logic, or that he proved him in error in the interpretation he gave to the words of the Apostles and Prophets, or the repeating of awakening and alarming teaching of the Lord Jesus.

A WEATHER PROPHECY announced himself in a newspaper some time since. His name has often of late been mentioned with a smile in connection with any observation made concerning the weather. Mr. Vennor is well and favourably known, and from his profession, not to mention his almanack, cannot but be a man of intelligence. His forecast early in last year was to the effect that the winter of 1877-78 would on the whole be open and mild. Had he been contented with this, as it has turned out, he might have rightly claimed credit for being really weather-wise. But he went into details. His particular vaticinations have proved incorrect. To omit the mention of his untrue predictions for the earlier months of the winter those for February and March may be adduced. His forecast was that February would be one of the coldest on record, with heavy falls of snow—followed by great drifts over a wide area. He wished to have railway superintendents notified to have their snow-ploughs ready as they would be required soon after the first of the month. But the weather was in every way and day by day fair, only moderately cold, and with much less snow fall than usual. Notwithstanding—Mr. Vennor again foretold a storm on the 24th of February which would be severe on the day following. But these predictions utterly failed. Again he said early in the present month that his impression was that St. Patrick's day or its immediate neighborhood, will furnish us, (meaning the dwellers in the valleys of the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa) a considerable snow fall, and consequently prolonged sleighing. Alas for his sagacity. The weather here for days previous to, and on, and subsequent to St. Patrick's day were dry, bright and mild. Every one was saying "what remarkably

fine weather we have." The total failure of these weather prophecies led some one to suggest that to Mr. Vennor should be given a medal to wear on his watch guard, having the form of a snow plough, encircled with the word February. An improvement of this may now be made, by placing on the reverse the pattern of a Shamrock—surmounted by the word March—and, no doubt the artist could make the figure green. The unsuccess of these weather predictions will confirm many in the belief that the laws of meteorology, are yet so far concealed even from natural philosophers, that no one can certainly tell a little space beforehand what will be on any future day of the season, whether it will be wet or dry, hot or cold, above or below the average.

THE SEVENTEENTH INSTANT was waited for here with mingled feelings of hope and fear. The mutual respect of many of the Irish Catholics, and many of the Irish Protestants has not increased since the murder of the protestant Hackett in the street on the 12th of July last. It was feared his party would seek revenge on St. Patrick's day, or that being Sunday, on the day following. Pistols in great numbers have been sold in Montreal of late. A sad use is made of some of them. Quite lately several young men of both factions have been shot and wounded, but not killed. Pistol firing is so often heard in the streets at night as to make people people afraid to be abroad in some quarters. Hope was cherished that the procession on the Irish national day would not take place this year. This was the conclusion arrived at by one section of the Irish, out of respect to the recently deceased Pops. Another section who say they were not represented in the council which so decided determined to have their annual turn out as usual. And they had, to the number of several hundreds. They encountered no opposition. Except some pistol firing which hurt no one, and the ruffianly assaulting of two men no damage was done. But even this is too much to be quietly endured. The Corporation are considering how to put an end to these horrid party disturbances. The increase of constables, and even a mounted police are spoken of. If it be possible, by any human means the streets are to be made safe to walk in at any time, and by any person. This will be a difficult and costly achievement. If the clergy would earnestly support the magistracy something effectual might soon be accomplished. But alas! it may be feared, that the time is yet distant when all these children of the green isles shall love as brethren, and towards each other be both pitiful and courteous.

Yours truly,
March, 1878. E. B.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

DEAR MR. EDITOR: The Rev. Mr. Prince and Allan are in our city at present. No doubt you are aware of their Mission to the United States—to raise money to assist in rebuilding the Churches destroyed by the late fire in St. John, N.B. Just how far they have been successful I do not know. But one thing I do know. They have made every effort within their power and as far as I can learn they have met with very little success or encouragement. This is not because the people are not willing to give, but owing to the financial embarrassment of the country. Our citizens are taxed to the utmost to support the poor and our churches are heavily in debt, many of them struggling hard to pay their pastors. And as much as the people would like to assist their neighbors who are in need, of course they feel their duty is to their own first. I think those gentlemen deserve great credit for the strenuous efforts they have made. And I am satisfied had they the tongues of men and of angels it would not avail them anything, or help them in the least to raise money in this county, in its present extremely depressed condition. I feel it is only due those gentlemen, that the people in St. John should know that it is not through any fault of theirs that they have not been more successful. Mr. Prince has preached in several of our principle churches here, and Mr. Allan in some of the churches in Baltimore.

Mar. 18, 1878. D. P. WOLLAUPT.

A WOMAN'S APPEAL.

On the last day of January, a memorial was presented to the United States Congress by the Woman's Temperance Union, praying for radical amendments to the license laws. The petition was about 1000 feet long, and contained over 35,000 signatures. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee of the House, and a deputation of women were heard before the committee. We give below some extracts from the address of Mrs. Wittenmyr, of Philadelphia:

"All this petition asks is a law requiring the signatures of a majority of legal voters and a majority of women over 18 years old, to petitions for license, before license to sell is granted in each ward or precinct. This would put it in the power of the women to withhold their names as a defensive measure.

"You may claim that the traffic is a source of public revenue, and that such action would result in financial loss to the Government. If time would allow, I am sure I could bring forward facts and figures of an official character that would convince you that the liquor traffic is an unprofitable investment.

"The amount expended for drink runs a tax upon the people of \$15 per capita for every man, woman and child, while the revenue received by the Government is only \$1.80; and out of that she is forced to sustain officers, gungers and detectives, and take care of the papers and criminals produced by the traffic.

"There are a million of men to day in this country who ought to be producers and bread winners, who are consumers and tramps, because of intemperance. All the wisdom and statesmanship in these legislative halls, will not solve the great problem of tramps and riots and crime and pauperism while the liquor traffic is fostered as a source of revenue.

"But the bitterest thing of all is that our boys are sold to the liquor oligarchy to raise the public revenues. It is a solemn fact that for every \$1,000 that goes into the United States Treasury from this source, somebody's boy goes to a drunkard's grave. Only \$1,000 each for boys worth their weight in diamonds to us. Ask that mother who presses her white-souled child to her heart, what she will take for her boy, and see him sacrificed on this altar of sin; and she will tell you that all the money in yonder National Treasury House would not buy the one little dimpled arm about her neck. No we have never consented to the sale of our boys for revenue. We have been robbed by a pitiless foe, and we appeal to you for protection.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

SECOND QUARTER: STUDIES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH.

B. C. 641. LESSON I. JOSIAH'S EARLY PIETY: or, A Noble childhood. 2 Chron. 34, 1-8. April 7th.

EXPLANATORY.

VERSES 1, 2. JOSIAH. Though living in a degenerate age, he was the most zealous for God of all the descendants of David. In completeness of consecration he surpassed Jehoshaphat, and in thoroughness of reform he exceeded Hezekiah. Eight years. Even in early childhood character is often revealed, and destiny foreshadowed. Napoleon led his school-fellows in snow-ball wars; and a Roman dictator said of Julius Caesar when a boy, "This child will be greater than many Mariuses." One and thirty. After a noble life, he fell in battle on the plain of Megiddo, while endeavouring to defend his borders against Pharaoh-necho, king of Egypt; and with him perished the last hope for the reformation of Judah. Right. The nobles around him, and the people beneath him, were thoroughly corrupt; his immediate ancestors were wicked; he possessed no examples of godliness to copy; the fiery blood of youth was coursing through his veins; the responsibilities of a kingdom pressed upon his young shoulders. Yet throughout his reign he was fully consecrated to God and loyal to the right. [Teacher, show your scholars how much more easy it will be for them to serve the Lord than it was for Josiah.] Walked in the ways. Even a youth must choose his own path for life. David. He turned away from the evil memories of his nearer fathers to the better days of the saintly David. If good exemplars are not at hand, we must seek them out. Declined neither. There had been flaws

in the metal of even the best of Judah's kings: Uzziah had been sacrilegious, Jehoshaphat had mingled the holy seed with idolaters, Hezekiah's vanity had received rebuke, but this youth was blameless in his fidelity.

3. EIGHTH YEAR. At the age of sixteen, when his minority ceased, and the scepter was placed fully in his hands, yet young. The time to begin God's service is in youth. It is an easy task while the habits are yet unformed; it will give a happy life; it will afford a fortunate escape, from many dangers; and it will develop the noblest manhood. Follow the command of the GOLDEN TEXT. Twelfth year. He who is serving God cannot rest while around him others are serving Satan. The first impulse of the saved soul is to save others. A boy rescued from a burning ship, as he stood on the shore, cried out, "Let me help to save somebody!" Josiah used his royal power for the good of his people. Every young man, as a king, wields a scepter of influence: let him employ it to make the world better. Purge Judah. A mighty task, when we consider 1, the accumulations of more than four hundred years of idolatry, secret and open. 2 The depraved condition of the people, who had no hearty desire for godliness; and 3, The undercurrent of opposition from the nobility, who were wedded to worldliness and idols. Yet this young man ventured to enter upon the work of reform. "You have the world against you," said a scoffer to Athanasius the reformer. "No, it is Athanasius against the world!" was the response.

4, 5, 6. IN HIS PRESENCE. He showed his interest in the work by giving it his personal attention and direction. Whatever a man wishes done thoroughly, let him do it himself. Made dust. Ground them to powder, that they might never be repaired and restored. Upon the graves. He dealt with the graves as he would have dealt with their occupants, had they been living. Burnt the bones. Thus would he show no compromise with sin, and nothing but contempt for those who had committed it. Cleansed Judah. By his vigorous measures the realm was brought into outward conformity. But in their hearts the people were still idolatrous, and too degenerate to be permanently reformed. The fire must consume the branches which the pruning knife could not reclaim. [Teacher, impress the thought that repentance and godliness must be within the heart, as well as on the outward life; and that a period of life will come when the character will be too firmly fixed to be changed. In youth it may be moulded, in manhood it can only be broken.] Manasseh and Ephraim. Provinces on the north of Judah, then lying waste, most of their inhabitants having been carried into captivity by the Assyrians eighty years before. Simeon. South-west of Judah, but formerly a part of the kingdom of Israel. Mattocks. The margin reads "mauls," hammers for destruction. But the most recent scholars translate the clause "in their ruins," referring to the deserted condition of those tribes.

7, 8. WHEN HE HAD. He travelled throughout his kingdom, giving to the destruction of the idols his own supervision; partly from the energy of his character, partly because he could not fully trust his officers, who were infected with the prevailing evils. Shephhan. Called elsewhere the scribe; probably the prime-minister, and a prominent worker in the reforms. He belonged to a godly family, which for three generations maintained their integrity and their influence during those dark days. Repair the house. Though many times prostrated, and deserted, the temple had received no general renovation since the time of Josiah, two hundred years before. God leaves His house in the hands of men, as a test to their reverence; and that they may be honoured by labour in his behalf.

GOLDEN TEXT: Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them. Eccles. 12, 1.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION: Fullness of consecration.

The next lesson is 2 Chron. 34, 14-23.

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