

Correspondence.

OUR WEEKLY.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

DEAR SIR,—I see that you recently had something to say about the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT in its new form; and your last number contains a special offer in the shape of a twenty-five cent trial-trip. Allow me to tender my congratulations to the editors and publishers on the success which already has attended the new departure. The paper is handsomely printed; its size and shape are neat and convenient; the selections of family reading leave nothing to be desired in that regard; the department of "News of the Churches" is well-pruned and racy; while the editorial matter is generally fresh, strong and progressive.

There is one temptation against which I hope all concerned will resolutely set their faces. I mean the temptation to any premature enlargement of the paper. By keeping size and price as at present, for at least a couple of years, there is no reason why the INDEPENDENT should not reach a substantial and paying basis. The paper is large enough. Were it larger it might, and probably would, lose much of that enforced brevity, compactness and point which are now included among its agreeable and attractive features. Very truly yours,

JOHN CAMERON.

London, April 19th, 1879.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

May I request the Alumni, who have not yet attended to the subject of my former communication in reference to records and photographs, to do so without delay. Only a month now remains for their work and mine. I am ashamed to say how few have as yet responded.

K. M. FENWICK.

Montreal, 25th April, 1879.

MISSION WORK IN TURKEY.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

I have copied for the benefit of our Canadian brethren the following letter, as it has been flitting from house to house among us, assured that it will have for you all something of that thrilling interest which I have felt in it myself. "Blessed are the peacemakers!"

We are very much pleased with our old friend, the INDEPENDENT, not only re-dressed but reconverted as we think; our kindest greetings and best wishes. Yours very truly,

C. H. BROOKS.

Constantinople, Mar. 13th, 1879.

"I trust you will be interested in a little episode in our mission life.

"The city of Zatoon, with its 10,000 nominal Christians, is in open rebellion. Its people have long submitted to the extortion of their Turkish governor with incredible patience, while with little thought of mercy or justice he has wrung from them an annual tax of nearly 30,000 dollars, while he has spent scarcely a dollar of it for the good of the people. And he has thrust whomsoever he chose into a loathsome dungeon, rejecting with scorn every remonstrance and petition. At last a hundred men driven to desperation by this intolerable taxation, and in fear of the dungeon, fled to the caves of the mountains, and in defiance of the government have supported themselves by raids upon Moslem villages and passing caravans. They do not seem to be robbers by deliberate intention, but rather under the plea of necessity to escape starvation, though the step is very brief from such a life to lawless brigandage. A few weeks ago they entered the city in a body, destroyed the prison where men were dying in a dark, damp cellar, and in a sharp fight with a large police force sent from Marash to repair the prison and put them into it, they killed and wounded a dozen or more, and disarming the rest, sent them home, and then quietly returning to their houses are still waiting with weapons in hand ready at a moment's warning to rally in mutual defence. During these raids the treasury was robbed and the local government prudently retired from the scene. Troops are hurrying to Marash from all directions, and a formidable army is awaiting orders to march at once to Zatoon and destroy the town. The government in its chagrin seeks not the cause of the disturbance, while it seems to know but one remedy. The horrors of another Eski Zaghra seemed inevitable, but a kind Providence has averted the calamity in an unexpected manner. Saturday evening Jan. 11th, I was surprised by a telegram from the English consul and the Turkish governor-general at Aleppo, inviting me to go to Zatoon and seek to adjust the difficulties there without the aid of soldiers, promising that the army should not move till the result could be reported. The obstacle in the way seemed almost insurmountable, but I soon decided to go. Zatoon is thirty-six miles distant among the wild peaks of the upper Taurus. Half of the road is infested with Circassian tramps and robbers from the Moslem villages, the other half is in the hands of the Zatoon rebels. I took with me two native friends, and the government furnished me with armed guards as far as the Zatoon territory, when I sent them back, for it seemed better to meet the Zatoon people alone. As we threaded our way through the defiles of the mountains we frequently saw the heads of Moslem robbers and the gleam of their weapons peering down upon us from the crags above, but we passed them all in safety and entered the town just after dark. We spent a week in earnest conference with large bodies of influential men, and held several meetings at night with this band of outlaws. We were received by all parties with kindness and confidence. We listened to the sad story of their wrongs, advised unqualified submission to the government, while we gave hope that English influence would protect them from a repetition of past oppressions. They gave us a paper containing apologies for their misdeeds, strong assurances of loyalty in future, and a petition that a suitable governor be sent to them as soon as practicable. This paper was signed and sealed without a dissenting voice, and then as a proof of their sincerity they collected the arms they had taken from the policemen and sent them by us to Marash. The robbers even gave us the pledge that if they could be saved from the vengeance of the Turk, they would at once deliver up their arms and become obedient citizens. With many a 'God bless you!' from Armenian, Catholic, Protestant, and robber-chief, we returned to Marash on Saturday evening, the 18th inst. We found the army impatient to advance at once, and heard everywhere among the Moslems the cry for vengeance upon the Christians of Zatoon. There was imminent danger that by some mixture of things the order to advance should actually be given before we could get our report to the governor-general and English consul, at Aleppo. Six hours the next day the telegraph operator by one pretext and another deferred our message, and when at last he began to check off the words, the wire suddenly broke and could not be repaired till evening! Those 10,000 lives must be saved! Two hours later, just at dark, Mr. Christie and a native brother were in their saddles, and with our report in hand were clattering down the street toward Aleppo with a wild ride of 130 miles before them. By changing horses they hoped to be there in twenty-four hours. He went with Sherman 'to the sea' and is usually ready in emergencies! Monday we delivered to the government forty-four rifles, nineteen swords, a captain's horse, and various smaller articles we had taken from the rebels. And on Tuesday we visited the prisons and distributed the money and clothes the friends of the prisoners had sent to them. There are 160 Zatoon men confined in Marash prisons, many of whom are not even accused of any crime. Soldiers may destroy Zatoon, slaughter its people, drive the robbers back to the mountains, and shut up some of them to waste their lives in dungeons, but we have pleaded earnestly for a policy of conciliation and justice, by which the wrongs of the people may be righted and the government honoured for its mercy and wisdom. We rejoice greatly that an English consul sits beside the Turkish governor-general at Aleppo, and that he has been able thus far to stand between the poor Christians of Zatoon and the arm that is lifted to destroy them. This Zatoon affair furnishes perhaps the first good opportunity for the English government to try its hand at the promised re-

formation of the Turk, and the efficient manner in which Mr. Henderson (the consul) has taken hold of the matter gives hope that a bright day for the oppressed Christians of Turkey is in the near future. On Wednesday a telegram in cipher assures us that our report is favourably received by the authorities at Aleppo. The telegraph operator is summarily dismissed from his office because the wires broke when he was sending our message! The governor of Marash, instead of leading an army against Zatoon as he had fondly hoped, is himself summoned to Aleppo to answer for his own misrule. A Christian man is appointed government agent in Zatoon till a suitable governor can be found. And plans for a new system of taxation, the release of the political prisoners, and a general amnesty to the rebels, are under consideration. And later there comes both from the English consul and from the Turkish governor-general an official vote of thanks for service rendered in the interest of peace. Zatoon is saved!

HENRY MARDEN.

Marash, Turkey, Jan. 28th, 1879.

Official Notices.

CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE OF B. N. A.—The following ministers have kindly consented to visit the churches on behalf of the college, in addition to Professor Fenwick who purposes to visit early the churches west of Belleville. He will make his own announcements. Rev. Dr. Jackson will take Lanark and Middleville on Sunday, May 11th; Cobourg and Cold Springs, Sunday, May 18th; Belleville, Wednesday, May 21st. Rev. John Wood will attend to Ottawa and Athol and neighbourhood. Rev. W. W. Smith will seek the assistance of Eaton, Waterville and stations. Fitch Bay and Stanstead. Rev. J. G. Sanderson will ask help at Quebec, Danville, Melbourne and Durham. It is hoped that they will be well received and their appeals generously responded to. Rev. R. K. Black will later proceed to the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland on the same mission.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION, ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

Churches intending to send delegates to the Union assembling in Kingston, June 4th, are respectfully requested to appoint them at their next church meeting, say on or before the 30th of April, in order that their names, together with the names of the pastors who propose being present, may be sent to the committee in charge of their entertainment, a month previous to the assembling of the Union. Every effort will be made to secure proper accommodation for all who may come. But pastors and delegates neglecting to give an early intimation of their coming must be responsible for the consequences. Such communications, stating P. O. address of the sender, should be made to Thomas Hendry, Esq., Kingston, Ont.

SAMUEL W. JACKSON,

Pastor First Congregational Church.

Kingston, April 16th, 1879.

Religious News.

THE receipts of the London Missionary Society, last year, were larger than ever before.

THE Congregational Conference of Ohio is to meet in Cincinnati, with the Vine Street Church, on the 6th of May.

THE General Association of Massachusetts is to meet at the Salem Street Church, Worcester, June 17.

THE Karen Baptist Mission in India, begun fifty years ago, now comprises 394 churches with 19,915 members.

THE King of Siam has published a proclamation in which he declares that any one of his subjects may profess Christianity.

YALE COLLEGE receives \$10,000 for the support of poor students, by the will of the late Dr. Charles Ives, of New Haven.

WE see that Dr. Howard Crosby is to preach in the Central Presbyterian Church, Toronto, in May. And while in Toronto he is to speak on temperance.

REV. C. H. A. DALL, a Unitarian missionary in Calcutta, says that there are over 700,000 converts to Christianity in India. So missions to the heathen are not a failure.

DR. E. P. TERHUNE—known as the husband of "Marion Harland"—was to have been installed pastor of one of the Congregational churches in Springfield, Mass., on the 30th ult.

DR. WILLIAM M. BARBOUR, who has been pastor of Yale College Church for some time, has been added to the corps of instructors in the theological seminary. He will lecture to the senior class on "Missions and evangelical work."