

The Press and General Review.

FRENCH CORRESPONDENCE OF NATIONAL ERA.

Paris, July 11, 1850.

On Tuesday last, I had the pleasure of hearing Victor Hugo's eloquent defence of the liberty of the press. A noble cause and a noble advocate. Had not the cause been condemned in advance, the advocate would have found it—His style of eloquence is worthy of the French Assembly, the first forum in the world. Polished and sonorous, every sentence fell from the lips of the orator as it will be transmitted to posterity. The personal appearance of Victor Hugo is highly prepossessing. Above the middle height, well formed, the outlines of his person elegant and voluptuous, rather than severe, his manner composed and graceful, he does not disappoint the anticipations of those who have admired him in his works. His blond hair and ruddy complexion do not bear the marks which half a century rarely fails to make. Like his rival, Montalembert, he seems to have bathed in the fountain of perpetual youth. A stranger would not suppose him to be older than thirty or thirty-five, although he is now between fifty and sixty. He scarcely seems older than his two grown sons, the editors of *Levenement*.

Why should I add that the eloquent appraisals of Victor Hugo were without effect? You, who are a past high master in the science of liberty, know that the law against the press was necessary the moment the law against universal suffrage was passed. The one implied the other. Class, privileges, corruption, and injustice, may be sustained so long as they are hid from a public view; as soon as they are exposed, they fly like hideous night-birds before the light of day. Convince the intelligent poor man, if you can, that he should submit to be a pariah in society, that he should be willing to intrust his fortunes and dearest interests to bankers, rich Jews, and men incensed with selfishness and corrupted by luxury. You cannot convince him, and if you persist, you must kill him, or put out the light of his intelligence. I know that there are in the United States many avaricious Christians of tender consciences, who would wish to compound for the sin of holding slaves by instructing them. This is pitiable feebleness. The Southern slaveholder and the French Reaction know that the only safe way to perpetuate oppression is to do it in the dark. The former forbids teaching the slave to read, and the latter destroys the press. This is the inexorable logic of tyranny, whether it is in Europe or America.

The institution of the jury must next be modified so as to conform to the laws on suffrage and the press. If a privileged class has alone the right to vote and to print, it must have that of judging and punishing. This is the wanting term of the proportion. The jury must go next and I would risk the favor of your readers on the prediction.

What shall I say of the new law against the press, except that it will destroy nine-tenths of the French newspapers, and place the rest at the mercy of the Ministry for the time being? Those that survive the stamp tax may be prosecuted for a dozen offences in one day, and found in one article. On each prosecution, the journal must deposit in advance one-half of the highest fine that may be imposed for the offence. As the trial may be postponed for any time, and the number of prosecutions is unlimited, the Ministry may demand a deposit of several millions from the publisher. What capitalist will risk his capital in publishing an opposition paper, on conditions so hard as these?

There are members of the legislative majority who regret deeply having entered on the high road to reaction, for they tremble for the consequences. But they cannot stop now. You remember the fable of the horse, which, to gratify his animosity against the stag, permitted the man to mount him and hunt down the stag. After his enemy was killed, he found it impossible to disembarrass himself of his rider.—This unfortunate beast is the type of that repentant fraction of the majority.

The Reaction is becoming more and more hardy. Last Monday, M. Rouher, the Minister of Justice, called the revolution of February "a veritable catastrophe," and President Dupin did not call him to order, nor did the majority disavow him. This insult to the Revolution which drew him out of obscurity was unbecoming, to say the least, in the Minister of Louis Bonaparte, the returned exile. But it indicates very surely the determination of the administration to patch up some sort of a royalty for the benefit of Louis Bonaparte. The ingratitude of the President to the Republic is only another proof that men without intellect are, almost without exception, men without heart. The next revolution will no doubt burn off a good deal of the dry stubble left standing in 1843. After crops will be much better.

Whom do you think the royalist journals blame for the passage of the law against the press? You could never guess it, if I should give you fifty trials. Listen to the *Union*, a Legitimist paper: "Cursed be those madmen, those turbulent and absurd tribunes of demagoguism, those charlatans of freedom and liberalism, to whom God has given, as a final punishment, the mission to veil in France the statue of liberty. Will they be satisfied at last,

and will they recognise that nothing is wanting to their glory, when by extravagances and follies they shall have ruined the respectable and sacred cause of the press in France?" A right hearty curse. Perhaps you suppose it is directed against the authors of the law. Not at all, but against the opposition. Just as the abolitionists are abused by Kentucky slaveholders as the cause of the continuation of slavery in that fine State.

An incident, which occurred last Friday at the gate of the Elysee National, has afforded quite a prolific theme of comment to the correspondents of London papers, but produced no sensation at Paris. A lad of seventeen, who had been pacing to and fro before the gate for an hour or two, advanced suddenly to the sentinel, and requested to be taken into custody, as he intended to kill the President. His request was complied with. A subsequent examination has proved him to be quite insane. The case is only interesting, as it shows the tendency of insanity to take its hue from the preoccupations and anxieties of the popular mind.—Self-lage at Berlin, Robert Pate at London and Walker at Paris, are diseased and purulent secretions of the social body, and thrown to the surface by a quickened circulation. It is worthy of remark, that the Governmental press does not seek to make political capital out of this caprice of insanity.

The great conspiracy of Oran, in Algiers, is now admitted by the Government journals themselves never to have existed. They announce that nearly all the prisoners have been discharged, and those retained in custody are only held to answer to a charge of having been connected with reunions not permitted by law. The whole affair was, as asserted in my letter of last week, nothing but the explosion of an old jealousy between the military and civil government of the Province of Oran. It has been pressed into service by the Minister of War, who now declares it impossible to change the military government of Algiers. That fine colony is therefore doomed to a longer term of the blighting rule of gentlemen in epaulettes.—Twenty years of this rule have resulted in the dissipation of several hundred millions, in the destruction of the whole system of education among the Arabs, the demolition of the agricultural and commercial prosperity of the country, and in the increased hostility of the natives. All the efforts of the French Government—its premiums for settlers, its donations of land, cattle, and farming utensils, its free passages from France, its supplies of provisions for a year—have succeeded in placing in Algiers a French population of less than thirty thousand, which must be protected by an army of three times that number.

The new list of voters have been made out. What the number of the eliminated may be in the departments will be known in a week or two; that at Paris is already known. The whole number of adult male citizens at Paris is about 350,000. The old electoral law, by its requirements of residence, and its disqualifications of bankruptcy and crime, left of these 244,000 voters. This number has been reduced by the new law to 74,000. Thus there are more than 550,000 citizens deprived, on one pretence or another, of the right of suffrage. In the purification of the lists, the opposition has, of course, suffered all that the Administration could make it suffer under the law. Spite of this, the Reaction party is far from being contented with the results. Some of their presses assert that the majority of the 74,000 voters on the new list are socialists. This is doubtful, but the general discontent of the royalist parties with the result show that they are by no means reassured as to the result of the next election at Paris. The strength of the Republican, or, as it is here called, the Socialist party, lies principally among the commercial and manufacturing classes, who are by principle opposed to change and a repetition of the revolution. But these are the very classes which are most steadily domiciled in the same place. The Royalists, on the contrary, have many of them their permanent residences in the country, and change their town one to suit their convenience during the winter; no inconsiderable number of them are young men, of good families, perhaps, but without professions, attached to the pleasures of the capital, but having a permanent abode nowhere. These, together with large numbers of priests and domestics, have been excluded from the lists, and represent a large loss suffered by the Royalist parties. It must be said, in honor of the mayors charged with the preparation of the list in Paris, that most of them have performed their duties with impartiality. The *Assemblée National* makes this the subject of a furious article in its last Monday's number. It says that "under pretext of a judicial execution of the text of the law, the public functionaries, the majority of whom are red or mixed, repulse with a smile on their lips all the voters of the moderate party who did not satisfy literally the conditions of the law." "Things have reached such a pass that with the new law we are in verity marching blindfold." "The great error of the present day is that, under pretext of impartiality, men strike their friends as well as their enemies.—They say that the laws, being made for all, are obligatory to all. In peaceable times this is true; but in the heat of a contest, men should philosophize less after Montesquieu's fashion,

and accomplish a little more salutary repression. When the question is to save society, the good grain must be distinguished from the bad.—This parable is as old as the Scriptures." The unblushing depravity of this article has not met with the blame of a single one of the royalist presses.

Ecclesiastical.

WESLEYAN AFFAIRS IN ENGLAND. THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

From the British Banner.

At this moment, City Road Chapel presents to the reflecting passer by a strange and most un-English spectacle. There it is! with five hundred or six hundred met to do the business of a great community, not one soul of whom is suffered to be present to either hear or see the transactions! Both Houses of the British Parliament are in effect, open; the humblest may obtain admission to hear the voice of the legislators who frame the laws; courts of justice, from the lowest to the highest, are open, and every man, of every country, whether Englishman or alien, may spend a live-long day in these sanctuaries of British justice. Not so, the great court of parliament which legislates for the realms of Methodism!

Our friends will expect us to report the events which have transpired since our last; and, with every disposition to meet their demands, we regret to say the record must be very brief. It seems that more than one journal applied to the President—and very properly so—for permission to send a reporter to the Conference meetings. For our own parts, we spared even the small modicum of trouble which would have been involved in such an application, knowing how utterly unavailing it would have been; of course, none was admitted in any capacity whatever. The People's Delegates Committee have sought an audience for a delogation, but in vain. Though Drs. Dixon and Beaumont reminded the Assembly that the applicants were still brethren, it was to no purpose. But while unconcerned about the feelings and the Jesures of it, may be, a hundred thousand persons, there was felt a yearning towards her Majesty's servants in the Post office, and hence, on Friday, the third day of the meeting, the secretary read the draft of a memorial to Government in favor of a measure for closing all business on the Lord's day. Among the deaths of the year is that of the late Rev. Richard Reece. For this good man, it seems, Dr. Beaumont preached a funeral sermon, in which he uttered something which implied, or was supposed to imply, that the deceased did not approve of some of the recent acts of the Conference. Dr. Bunting was concerned at such an idea going abroad. In explanation, Dr. Beaumont said that Mr Reece was opposed to all acts of expulsion, except such as proceeded on Scripture principles, and the expressions which were deemed exceptionable had the entire sanction of the family of the departed. Dr. Beaumont, as if anticipating difficulty and danger, said he wrote out every word of the sermon—a thing which he had never done before—and stuck to what he had written. Mr Dunn, by some casualty, tumbled into the Conference, to the deep consternation, as may well be supposed, of the President of the Assembly. The effect, according to THE WESLEYAN TIMES, was very much like "the sudden descent of a huge wasp into the midst of a picnic party of timid young ladies." The falling of a shell from a mortar could scarcely have raised a more sudden and general panic. Mr Dunn, it seems, was ejected literally by main force. The worthy minister, it appears, went to offer his subscription to the Legalized Fund, of which he considers himself still a member, and as there was no one disposed to receive it, he laid down at the door £6 6s., which the chapel keepers, it is said, put into their pockets. It was expected that Mr. Bromley would have been allowed to address the Conference in defence of himself, but it has been ruled that, because of his conduct since his suspension, he has forfeited the right of appeal. Dr. Beaumont and Mr. Macdonald, notwithstanding, asked a hearing from him, as an act of indulgence; for this amendment, however, only twenty-five hands were held up, and it is to the honor of those who held them that, under the circumstances, there was such a number. We are gratified to find that among them were W. M. Bunting, S. D. Waddy, Robert Young and other respected ministers. It seems, this year, the assembly of the City-road, like that of Paris, is on the advance in the path of persecution. Several brethren are cited to appear before the Conference, not for any immorality, but for entertaining and uttering, and in some instances publishing through the press, sentiments at variance with those of the Divan. The error of these parties is a leaning towards the Reformers. If men wish to enjoy the confidence of the ruling party, and to advance in honor and station, let them beware of liberal tendencies! THE WESLEYAN TIMES, which has done such service to the cause it so ably represents, and the community it serves, on its application for admission of a reporter, in its anxiety to remove obstacles, offered to submit his notes to Conference revision—an act of condescension to which they had no claim, and which only tends to aggravate the offence of the party who refused.

It seems now clear, that all attempts at negotiation to bring about a pacific arrangement are hopeless. The Divan is determined to enforce the despotic rule of 1835; and the tendency of such a course will only be to exasperate still further the spirit of the people. The committee of privilege appointed by the Delegate Meeting sit daily, communicating their decisions to their friends as early as possible; and in the mean time the Delegates have been summoned for the 19th inst., but THE WESLEYAN TIMES supposes they may meet a week earlier. Meetings, at the same time, are to be held in every circuit this week, for the utterance of the people's opinions on the act of the Conference, in refusing all intercourse with the committee of the delegate body. For ourselves, we are in no degree disappointed; thus far things have occurred precisely as we had anticipated and predicted; nor can we doubt that the leaders and adherents of the reform party will act a part worthy of the occasion, which is certainly great; and properly to perform the part which it involves will reflect everlasting honor upon those who shall, at every cost, and at all hazards, do it.

CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS SUPERSEDED.

We are glad to learn that many of the Circuits are so dissatisfied with the appointment of men who have "howed the knee to Baal," and distinguished themselves as the Jefferies of the Connexion, that they have determined not only "to stop the supplies," but to close the doors.—Our Holt friends have set a spirited example in this matter, as will appear from the following letter, addressed to the Rev. John Booth:— "Sir,—We have had an intimation that your name is put down for the Holt Circuit, but we wish you distinctly to understand that, unless reasonable concessions are made to the wishes of the people by the Conference, there will be neither house nor quarters for you from this circuit, as we intend to stop the supplies until our just grievances are redressed. We have deemed it right to intimate our intention to you, that you may not be taken by surprise on your arrival at Holt.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,
JOSHUA HILL,
JOSEPH COLMAN, } Circuit Stewards.

To the Rev. J. Booth."

The insult just offered by the Conference, in their refusal to receive the Memorials of the People, and in their determination to hold no intercourse with their representatives on the questions now agitating the Connexion, will, we doubt not, lead many other circuits to adopt a similar course of determined action, which the maddened policy of the Dominant Party has rendered absolutely necessary.—*Wesleyan Times*.

Religious Services, August 4th and 5th, in connection with the Conference.

Our space forbids anything more than a mere allusion to those interesting services. The pulpit in the City Road Chapel, where the Conference holds its session, was occupied in the morning by the Rev. Dr. Beecham, President of Conference, who delivered a discourse from Col., 1st chap., 12th, 13th, and 14th verses; and in the evening by the Rev. Dr. Newton, whose discourse was founded on Eph., 2nd chap., 8th and 9th. In the Great Queen-street Chapel, the Rev. F. A. West preached from Acts, 11th chap., 24th verse, in the morning, and in the evening, in the same place, the Rev. S. D. Waddy delivered a discourse from Heb., 1st chap., 1st, 2nd, and 3rd verses.

In Spitalfields Chapel, Rev. T. Capp preached from Psalm 72nd, 15th to the 20th verse, in the morning; and in the evening the Rev. R. Young, from Mat., 26th chap., 69th to the 75th verse. In Southwark Chapel, the Rev. J. H. James delivered a discourse from Eph., 2nd chap., 18th verse; and in the evening the same pulpit was occupied by the Rev. G. B. Macdonald, who discoursed from Rev., 5th chap., 5th and 6th verses.

In Lambeth Chapel, discourses were delivered in the morning by the Rev. A. Barrett, from Rom., 14th chap., 7th, 8th and 9th verses, and in the evening the Rev. J. Bowers, from Acts, 16th chap., and 31st verses.

On Monday, the 5th, the annual sermon to the Conference was delivered by the ex-President, the Rev. Thomas Jackson, at the City Road Chapel. The discourse was founded on 1st Peter, 5th chap., 1—4 verses, and was read from manuscript.

Review of Proceedings of Conference.

(Continued from page 260.)
AUGUST 5th to 10th—OR FROM 5th to 10th DAY OF THE SESSION.

The business transacted the 5th, 6th & 7th days being for the most part destitute of interest to the majority of our readers, we shall not attempt giving the particulars. The principal attention of Conference was occupied by the examination, reception, and ordination of young men, who had completed the term of their probation creditably. On Tuesday the case of the Rev. G. B. Macdonald was taken into consideration. Mr. Macdonald's