

UNITED STATES.

DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA. (From the New York Churchman.)

Rev. and Dear Brother,—Having just arrived from California, and having been on the homeward way a witness and partaker of the scenes, that made our voyage from San Francisco to Panama the most disastrous yet known on either ocean since the flood of emigration began to pour toward that distant land, I shall not apologize to the readers of the Churchman if you choose to give this letter a place in its columns.

This year for the first time, the pestilence that walketh in darkness and giveth no account of itself to any, has crossed the continent, making its way from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico, and thence to Acapulco on the Pacific shore. It was in the land-locked harbour of Acapulco, where nature has gathered all her more admired features into a most charming miniature, and we could see nothing but beauty, that we were boarded by the stealthy step of the destroyer. On the second day from Acapulco, a passenger died, and the next day another; and the third day the cases so multiplied that what had been the whispered secret of the few, could be kept no longer, and became now the anxious topic with the many, that the cholera of a malignant type was actually upon us. The details from this time I need not describe; the consternation I cannot. Captain Wood, who commanded the U. S. Steamer Massachusetts, while employed in conveying our sick troops from Vera Cruz to New Orleans during the Mexican war, and General Riley who had encountered the same pestilence in the camp, and was present in every battle from Vera Cruz to Mexico, and some twenty sea-captains including the Commander of the ship himself, who had been before in scenes of distress, declared to me repeatedly that the scene in our ship was without parallel in the whole course of their experience. Thus things grew worse until the last day at sea, when a universal consternation overspread the ship. In the beginning of our troubles the sick were attended, their last requests were heard, and their effects were committed to proper hands; and the dead were buried with the decent rites of the Church. But toward the last the alarm became so great, that the sick were neglected, and where they fell sick there they lay down and died, and the dead as a prudential measure, were cast without delay into the sea. How many perished, will in this world never be known. I computed the number as far as thirty-four or five, and lost the reckoning. The last dismal night we were on board, there was more than a death an hour and fourteen bodies, it is believed, were thrown over the sides of the ship. But that which seemed most of all to aggravate the panic was the fact that every man that sickened died. Several died who were not known to have been sick. Several were stricken down with their baggage in hand, as they ascended the gangway to get into the boats, after we had anchored. One died soon after landing; five others the next night in the hospital on shore; and three or four by the wayside as we crossed the Isthmus; and one after reaching the Atlantic side. I suppose some forty or fifty men or nearly twenty per cent of our passengers died, which in proportion to the population of New York city would have been at the rate of seventy thousand per week or ten thousand a day. Although we first communicated with the shore at Panama at nearly midnight, yet by three o'clock the ship was almost entirely deserted by all who were able to leave her. The party of General Riley, (late Governor of California), and Major Hill of the army, with several other gentlemen and ladies, and children, under their care, together with myself whom they had kindly invited to join them for the homeward journey, making fourteen in all, left the ship at two o'clock in the night and reached land at four, having been the last to leave the ship. Had we not landed in the night while the authorities slept, it is said we should not have been permitted to land at all; an alternative that our passengers were too desperate to entertain, as the apprehension was well-founded that the havoc would have ceased in two or three days more for want of victims. Certainly it was a dismal scene; yet amidst the consternation and dismay, I can truly say, my dear brother, that my heart never for one moment cowered, or regretted for an instant, that I had at such peril carried the Church's standard to our furthest shore, and planted it in the sight of "all Asia." It was the purest act of my life, a sin offering to God through Jesus Christ for his rod with which I had been visited, and a thank-offering for the holy and happy death and life of a most precious child. Thus I was able to praise and give thanks in the ship where we were all prisoners and the pestilence alone was free, while I heard others with their lips cursing the idol of gold which they had compassed sea and land to worship.

But I detain you too long from what I had intended to make the burden of this letter, as it is the burden of my own heart much more than the memories of a pestilence, that except by those who witnessed it will share the fate of all human events, and be forgotten with the hour.

And as I cannot expect that you will allow me space this week for all that I would say, I beg that you will make room for the following documents.—The first is an acknowledgement which I am rejoiced to assure your readers is not less warm and sincere than was the expression of Christian charity which has called it forth. The second is a Memorial, originally intended to be presented to the House of Bishops, by the laity of California, and which had begun to be circulated, and to gather signatures (it was intended to obtain five thousand), when it was resolved as the better way of proceeding, to organize the Diocese; in consequence of which the memorial was withdrawn. It was prepared by prominent laymen in San Francisco, and I now suggest its publication only for the information it contains, and as an evidence of the earnest feeling of many of our laity on the important subjects it embraces. The third document you may publish if you think proper, not so much for the heartfelt and well tried kindness it breathes toward a pastor, and the over-estimate it makes of his sacrifices and successes, as for the better reason that it may serve to convince men and clergymen here, that new ties in Christ bring new rewards, and fresh self denials ensure fresh consolations, and that among our laity on the far Pacific there are hearts whose pulses beat high with the hopes and fears of the Church; ready to kindle and warm toward the Pastors who shall come among them. This address from the Vestry was handed me at our parting, and I can never forget that in a community where business is the urgent and all-absorbing thing, and in the midst of business hours, the Wardens and Vestry with one heart accompanied me to the steamer, a mile from the landing, where we separated with mutual benedictions and not without tears.

New York, Sept. 17.

F. S. M.

I. The Wardens and Vestry of the Church of the Holy Trinity, in San Francisco, avail themselves of this mode of expressing their warmest acknowledgements to those gentlemen in New York and its vicinity, who in their liberal and Christian spirit, provided the means of sending the Rev. Flavel S. Mines, to California, with the view of here establishing the Protestant Episcopal Church, and also for a donation of books, a bell, a surplice, and a service of plate for the Altar of this Church.

By order of the Wardens and Vestry, CHAS. GILMAN, Acting Clerk. San Francisco, Aug. 1, 1850.

II. To the Right Reverend the Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in Convention to be assembled in the city of Cincinnati, State of Ohio, in October A. D. 1850.

Right Rev. Fathers,—We the undersigned citizens of California, and members and friends of the Protestant Episcopal Church, beg leave most respectfully to represent:

That the population of California, for the present year, may be safely estimated at 250,000, of whom at least 150,000 are males, arrived at the years of manhood, and speaking the English language:

That the presence and pursuits of these men in a country so remote and inaccessible, justify the presumption that they are, for the most part, men of indomitable resolution and of bold and daring energies, manifestly fraught with elements of good or evil of no common magnitude:

That a very considerable portion of this population are sincerely attached to the Protestant Episcopal Church, and facts have convinced us that there is on the part of others also, a remarkable readiness to encourage and accept the ministrations of her sanctuary:

That, (by way of showing what may be accomplished by God's blessing upon well-directed efforts, if immediately set on foot) sites for church edifices, and for other parochial uses, in many of our more important cities and towns, have been readily granted or offered through the liberality of the laity; while we regret to say that on the other hand the church has already suffered irreparable pecuniary loss, besides appearing to great moral disadvantage, from the entire absence of ministrations in places of importance and increasing interest:

That the geographical position of California—her present mineral wealth—her future agricultural resources—her already active traffic with the countries of the vast Pacific—her possession of the key to the commerce of Asia, already indicated in the hundreds of Chinese and other Asiatics who swarm our streets—all seem to give this country an importance which the statesman, the philanthropist, or the Christian, capable of grasping or admiring the intentions of Providence in planting a free Christian empire on these shores, just at the moment when the wants of the world so much required it, will be hardly able to exaggerate:

Like the disciples scattered abroad on the persecution at Jerusalem, and by permission of the same wonderful working Providence, your laity, Right Reverend Fathers, are to be found, not only in mountain and wilderness, but in towns and cities, waiting for the sympathies and action of our brethren in the beloved Jerusalem we have left behind us. The crisis, we think, has come, and will soon be past, when these scattered coals from the hearths and altars of a distant home must expire, or else be encouraged as at Antioch, into a blaze that the Gentiles shall delight in, and centuries shall not extinguish.

For ourselves—for our adopted land—for islands and continents now brought to our door to beg the Bread of Life—for the honor of the Master whose name we bear—for the credit of our Zion which we would rescue from reproach—under all the aspects of the case at once so multifarious and so overwhelming to a thoughtful mind, we confess that we feel a godly jealousy, that the Church, which He left as His body on the earth to fill up that which is behind of His labours and sufferings, should be promptly, in this glorious field, equipped and girded, and thrust in her sickle and gather the clusters of a vine whose grapes are so fully ripe. And in a crisis so pregnant with fear and hope, we cannot conceal from ourselves, or from you, Right Reverend Fathers our apprehension, that a delay of months may cause the regrets and upbraids of centuries.

As we humbly desire to learn wisdom from the past, where our Church has not been seasonably in the field, but has been doomed, like another Ruth, to glean behind all other reapers.

We pray, Right Reverend Fathers, that you will extend to us the privileges we so much desire as a portion of Christ's flock, by sending to us one to whom we may look up as our Shepherd and Guide, on whose sympathies we may rely, who may immediately assume the oversight of this most interesting field, and who may come to us with at least six or eight more chosen Presbyters, well-adapted to our condition, to take charge of our waiting parishes.

Permit us, moreover, Right Reverend Fathers, to say that we feel a pride, which we trust that you will not condemn, in desiring our Bishop and his clergy to be entirely independent of all eleemosynary support and control, and that, therefore, we most respectfully pray, should it accord with your own better judgment, that every hindrance to the accomplishment of this desire, which may exist in the present Canons, may be so modified or removed, that our Church, after the example of our State, may spring from its birth into vigorous and independent life.

Looking to the Great Head of the Church for guidance and blessing on the deliberations of your venerable body, on this and on all other subjects pertaining to that kingdom whereof He hath given you the keys, we humbly lay this, our petition, Right Reverend Fathers, at your feet.

III. REV. AND DEAR SIR,—In knowledge of the fact that you are about to leave California for a distant land, and for a considerable length of time, we, the Wardens and Vestry of the "Church of the Holy Trinity," in San Francisco, cannot consent that you should depart without some expression of that love and respect which we entertain for you as our pastor, our friend, and our brother.

With no promise of earthly gain—with no assurance of reward, save that which is accorded to the faithful minister of the gospel who "shall endure to the end"—you left your home, and all the comforts and endearments of domestic life, to promulgate the pure principles of the Christian religion, and to establish the true Church-Catholic upon these distant shores. And you came at a time when every thing, civil, political, and

* There are in California at this moment one hundred and twenty dissenting ministers! The Clergy of the Church are only seven!—Note by F. S. M.

religious, was in chaos and confusion. No established officers of civil government capable of controlling the evil passions of men—no known laws to guide those who should wish to improve the then condition of things—no religious organization, no places of public worship where the seekers of truth might congregate and supply that link in the chain of human society without which civilization can hardly be maintained. Under all these adverse circumstances you voluntarily came—and you have submitted yourself to toil, and hardship, and privation, for the spiritual benefit of your fellow-men. And by your energy and perseverance you succeeded in organizing the first parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church upon the Pacific coast. Around this are now clustering others; and at this very time, there is in session, in this City, a Convention of clerical and lay delegates from the several parishes to organize a Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church for the State of California. Such rapid progress as this, under such disadvantageous circumstances, no where else, in our time, has the Church ever known. It has pleased the Almighty disposer of all things to make you the agent and instrument of His power to bring about this, His own work; and with the record of these proceedings your name must remain conspicuous through succeeding time.

In view of all these things, we cannot but feel that your absence from our midst, though for the present indispensable, will be a great privation; and we assure you that your return will be looked for, not only by us, but by your parishioners generally, and by your other numerous friends in California, with deep solicitude.

You carry with you our kindest wishes and our prayers for your safe and speedy arrival in the midst of your family, and among your distant friends; and our hopes for your return in due time. Commending you to the protecting care of the great Head of the Church, we remain,

Most affectionately your friends and parishioners. E. D. KEYS, C. V. GILLESPIE, CHARLES GILMAN, J. D. STEVENSON, CHARLES D. JUDAH, P. H. PERRY, JOSEPH HOBSON, J. J. STURKEY. Rev. Flavel S. Mines, Rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, in San Francisco, California. San Francisco, Aug. 1st, 1850.

HASTE IN CALIFORNIA.—A new Diocese has been formed in California, and Bishop Southgate elected its Bishop. "This," says The Churchman, "is invalid, for two reasons: 1. The ineligibility of the Bishop by the 10th Article of the Constitution of the Church; 2. The want of a sufficient number of Presbyters (6) canonically resident one year, with a settled pastoral charge.—Canon II.—1844."—Protestant Churchman.

Communication.

[We deem it necessary to follow the example of the London Church periodicals, and to apprise our readers that we are not responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.—Ed. Ch.]

To the Editor of the Church.

NOTES OF A WINTER'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON.

MR. EDITOR,—I was struck whilst at Philadelphia with the fact, that I saw so few gentlemen wearing broad brims, or ladies with those neat rich bonnets that mark our sisters amongst the "friends." The truth, however, I believe, is, that the peculiar tenets of the Quakers do not find that favour in the eyes of the present generation that they found in those of former ones. Mrs. Don told me that Dr. Don had baptized large numbers since his settlement in Philadelphia. First the young people came in; and, in the course of a few years, the parents' prejudices gave way, and they too, after careful and thorough examination, seek the holy ordinance of baptism. The experience of the clergymen in the city of William Penn is, I doubt not, the same; and this may account for the fact of which I have taken notice above. There appears to have been in Philadelphia, as in others of the cities and large towns of the United States, a general inquiry pervading the community regarding the Church, which has always resulted in a large increase to her members. Even numbers of the Rev. Albert Barnes' people have left his communion and entered the true fold. Every controversy on the claims of the Church has had this result, and proved the truth and shrewdness of the remarks of the late Dr. Witherspoon, an old Scotch President of Princeton College:—"I never like to stir the question of Episcopacy: for the more it is stirred, the worse it is for us." Even the painful trial of the Bishop of New York has had this result. The Church was brought prominently forward, and many began to inquire about her, who had never thought much about her before. Very fortunately, books on the subject of her claims upon the community abound in the present day, and the inquiry is most easily made; so that nobody need be at any loss who desires to make the inquiry. I have heard from many quarters, that, notwithstanding the result of the Bishop's trial, and the inconvenience felt by his immense Diocese from being for so many years without any head, yet the increase of the Church in his Diocese has exceeded that of its increase for a similar period at any former time. In the neighbourhood of Philadelphia is a large and handsome edifice erected in conformity with the will of the late Stephen Girard, the richest man at the time of his death in the United States, called "Girard College." Here orphan boys are received, supported and educated, according as their talents appear to indicate the business or profession to which they should devote themselves; and from this college they are sent out into the world. As, however, the foundation on which all this superstructure rests, is faulty, being, like the University of Toronto, "Godless"—we can expect that it will, ere long, fall, and that great will be the fall thereof. The Skunk-kill water-works are admirable specimens of the height to which the science of construction was brought some years ago; and, previous to the supply of water for the City of New York by the Croton water-works, exceeded any thing of the kind in the Union. At the unseasonable hour of half-past 10, P. M., we left the city of Philadelphia for Baltimore; but as the moon was full and bright, I had an opportunity of seeing something of that part of it through which the cars passed. From the depot to the outskirts of the city, the cars were drawn by horses, which were certainly admirable specimens of the noble Pennsylvania-Dutch horse,—strong, well-knit, and weighty. About five o'clock in the morning we reached Baltimore, and left again at six. Of course, I could see but little of the city except the houses along the streets through which we passed, drawn, as in Philadelphia, by noble horses. Soon after leaving the city, we were able to see the plantations through which we passed, and the difference between what we saw about Philadelphia on the previous day, and the dilapidated condition of most we saw in Maryland, was great indeed. The plantations are large; and on each of them is one large house, sometimes in a pretty good state of repair, but more

frequently in a sad state. These houses give evidence by their style of having been built in the last century. Their roofs are very high, their chimneys are large, numerous, and lofty; and their windows are low and small. Around the planter's house are clustered a number of log cabins for the house servants; whilst scattered over the plantation, in the different fields, are seen the huts of the out-door slaves. Though these are generally whitewashed, yet they present a very comfortless appearance, and give a stranger a sad idea of living even in its best phase. The large comfortable barns and sheds found amongst us, and seen to some degree about Philadelphia, were utterly wanting here. Their fences were poor, weak, and utterly unfit to restrain such cattle as graze in our northern clime, but seem amply sufficient for keeping within due bounds the poor cattle found within them. Indian Corn appears to be the chief production of this State, though I believe that wheat is raised to a considerable extent. Many fields that we passed gave proof of the slovenly cultivation of Maryland; for their "lands" were anything but straight, and their corn stacks were still out in the fields exposed to the rain, snow, and sleet of winter. Near a station where we stopped for water was a cluster of trees, and under them a few rude benches of very irregular length, height, and order, with a strange stand made of boards, which presented a very rickety appearance. I could hardly guess what it was; and in answer to an inquiry, I was informed that it was "a Maryland Church!" As we approached Washington we passed near a cotton manufactory, which presented a neat and thriving appearance; and here I saw for the first time a team of six fine-sleek, well-looking mules. These are much used in the South, being strong, hardy, and capable of living and thriving on the coarsest food. They sell at a high price and are found exceedingly useful for slow work, though sometimes they can trot off at a good round pace. The cars land their passengers at a depot immediately on Jefferson Avenue, the chief street of Washington. Whilst stepping out of the cars, a respectable lad presented me with a card of a lady in the immediate neighbourhood, who kept a boarding-house. Here I found comfortable quarters, and reasonable charges. The servants were all coloured, some of them slaves hired for the winter season, and others free negroes. Arriving about eight, and having travelled all the night, it seemed so strange to me to find the good people of Washington just making their first appearance for the day; and I could hardly realize the fact that the meal to which we soon afterwards sat down was breakfast. Determining to make the best of my time whilst in Washington, I sallied out to present my letters of introduction, and to begin business. Much to my disappointment, I was told that, it being Saturday, there was no Session of Congress, and that it would be difficult to find any body at their posts. This I found to be the case; for I could find only one out of the four gentlemen, to whom I had letters of introduction; this was the Rev. Smith Pyne, D. D., the able and respected Rector of St. John's Church. I found him; but, it being Saturday, and a very painful case requiring his attention at the time, I made a short call, and thence went to visit and examine the Patent Office. This is a large building of dark freestone, of two lofty stories, above the basement; with a handsome portico and lofty pillars.

The government are adding wings of white marble to this building with the most questionable taste; for, however well these different stones may appear in separate buildings, a main body of dark freestone and wings of white marble form an unseemly combination. In the patent office itself, models of all patents taken out since 1836 are deposited. Some of those taken out before that year (when the Patent Office was burnt, with all its contents) have been renewed, where the patents were found to be of any use; though the patentees of the far greater number did not conceive that their profit was worth the pains. But the building is crowded enough for the most curious, from bridge, or a steam engine, down to a toy. They are arranged in large glass cases long by five feet wide and nine feet high, and are marked with the name of the Patentee. When the patent was taken out, and the State to whom it belongs, and the purpose for which the machine was invented. They are arranged in cases according to their uses and natures; and to those who have a turn for the mechanical arts, must afford a very extensive feast. I must acknowledge, however, that I was rather disappointed with them; for, not considering that I had any claim to the privilege of having the cases opened, which is, I believe, accorded to those who desire to take out a patent for the purpose of ascertaining whether anything resembling their own invention had been already patented, I could not understand them as well as I expected. Many of them too are piled one upon another, in the utmost conceivable state of confusion and disorder.

But, I doubt not, that the knowledge possessed by every ingenious man or woman in the Union, that he can take out, at a slight expense, a patent for any invention which he may be the author, which, if it prove useful, will bring him a fortune, sets many a one to work; and, though nine patents are found to be of little value, yet the tenth may be of great service—not only to the patentee, but to the world at large. Thus talent is drawn forth, and the community benefited.—The great majority of the patents taken out are the work of Yankees, or New Englanders; though the inhabitants of the State of New York are fast overtaking their more eastern neighbours. In the second story of the Patent office is a large collection of natural curiosities, from all parts of the world, though the great majority of them were brought from the Pacific by the late exploring expedition, sent out under the authority of the American Government.

At the extreme southern end of the office is seen the identical printing-press, upon which Benjamin Franklin wrought, whilst a journeyman printer in London. In one of the glass cases is shown the original declaration of Independence, as it was signed at Philadelphia, July 4th, 1776. And the attention of visitors is specially called to the cap, coat, and some pantaloons worn by General Washington, when laying down his authority after the revolution. The recent war with Mexico has added largely to the many strange things in this collection: amongst which are the enormous helmets of brass swords of iron, and steel spurs, five inches long, and heavy enough to ride elephants with, though by no means remarkable for their sharpness. On Sunday, I attended Divine Service in the morning at St. John's Church, and preached in the same at afternoon Service. It is rather an inferior building, but in a good state of repair. It is cruciform, and will accommodate a great many people. It is situated nearly opposite the President's house and is attended by His Excellency, and all the members of his Cabinet who are Churchmen. Like the other Churches that I attended in the States during this trip, I found it decorated with evergreens, amongst which were box, laurel, and other plants unknown to our northern clime. The wreaths that hung in the most graceful manner from the four corners of the nave and