

# The Wesleyan

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No. 12

## OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

PERVERTS TO ROMAN.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:

In your issue of February 15th, a letter appears from "M" in which the writer challenges the conclusions I have drawn in relation to the perversion to Romanism, which are at present being so prominently brought before the public. Your correspondent before advancing the arguments upon which he relies, endeavours to strengthen his case by weakening the value of my testimony. He refers to newspaper paragraphs who seize upon half of the facts of the case for sensational purposes, and accuses me of inattention to the whole of the facts and perversion of the truth. I am happily conscious that none of these reprehensible practices are applicable to the case in point, or to the conduct of your English correspondent. I am in a position to read extensively very much that bears upon this, and the other great controversies of the time, and take good care to verify the statements made in my letters. I am compelled to study brevity and have to compress facts relating to many important events in one short communication. I have the courage of my convictions, and have never shrunk from clearly avowing them. It was not necessary for "M." to turn aside from his arguments to indulge in hasty and unfair criticism upon correspondents who for many years have contributed to your columns.

Again I regret that he has quoted partially and adroitly from my letter. Why did he not admit that I had expressed satisfaction that Romanism was not gaining in the midst of our brave, intelligent working men; and there it was by emigration from Ireland its strength was being augmented?

In reference to Mr. Gladstone's able and conclusive paper, I need only say, that I have carefully read it, and that it, together with the extraordinary list of Perverts to Romanism, were before me when I wrote the letter in question.

Your correspondent has quoted sufficient from that article for my vindication and I might confidently leave the issue to be decided by that extract. It refers to the fact that a new lodge has been made in the body of the aristocracy, and further that the secessions have multiplied at least five-fold the stock of educated ability and learning available for all its purposes. The aggregate additions might perhaps claim to be equivalent in force to the entire body of honor men at Oxford or Cambridge for several years. The question is now narrowed down to a clear case. From whence have all these gone to Rome; and from whence come the many who at present are joining that communion?

I assert unhesitatingly that it is the Church of England which furnishes an overwhelming proportion of these apostates from Protestantism, and that the way is made easy, is paved for them by the teaching to which they listen and by practices to which they are being constantly familiarized. A few facts in refutation of this statement will be a relief to me, and to the earnest godly readers of this paper.

The side issues raised by "M." will not avail him much. I am persuaded that we Non-conformists win as many from Romanism as our brethren of the Evangelical section of the English Church. The reports of our Missionary brethren in Ireland will be decisive on this point, but the whole number is painfully small and will not compare with the results which are reported on the other side. The statistics of conversions from Romanism to Anglicanism quoted by your correspondent are incomplete, and limited but to one Diocese, which is not named. Yet his conclusion from such very unreliable data is that there are more conversions in one year than there have been perversions from the English Church during the half century.

This is all mere assertion and incapable of proof. At least, I may be permitted to say that in the whole of my residence in England, and in contact with very many earnest clergymen of the Evangelical section, and numbers of private members of the Church, have not heard of results in any degree correspondent with the statements put forth by "M." and must be pardoned for avowing my persuasion, that they are incorrect and misleading.

I am disinclined to notice criticism upon statements made in my letters, but in this instance the question is one of wide importance, and if I am mistaken in my estimate of the state of affairs in the English Church, a very great number of writers are also in error, and it is high time they were put right.

Your endorsement, Mr. Editor of the style of the contribution, and of the weight of the arguments, have also contributed to the importance which may possibly be attached to it by some who are not in possession of a full mastery of the facts.

March 1st, 1879. B.

NOTE.—We referred simply to the fact that the communication referred to would betray its origin, as coming from a professional quarter, while we threw reasonable doubt upon the arguments drawn from Gladstone. It never entered any one's mind to throw discredit upon our English correspondent, excepting perhaps, the mind of an Episcopalian here and there.—EDITOR.

## BRO. LANE REPLIES.

MIDDLE MUSQUODOBIT,  
March 10, 1879.

DEAR BRO. NICOLSON.—We had no idea that our last letter would have drawn such a volume of matter from you in reference to financial affairs, and we half resolved not to write again lest we should be charged with a desire for controversy, but an explanation is needed, a few questions require answering, and as some misapprehensions are to be removed, we decide to write finally, and in all good faith, our views in this matter.

In the first place, the purport of our last communication has evidently been misunderstood. It referred not to doctrinal but to financial systems solely; and instead of arguing against the advance of Methodism, as implied in your closing remarks of paragraphs 6-7, the letter was written especially to prove the permanent stability of her institutions, and we still hold to the statements of our last letter, as per paragraph 6, viz: "but we fail to see other systems are so much better than our own," etc., etc.

Our reason is—  
"That is the best system which yields the best results."

The principle is seen and more readily discovered in the average of individual liberality throughout our churches. If liberality is the result of system, the natural conclusion of acknowledging and appreciating as we do the liberality of our churches, is that paragraph 1 of your letter is a prima facie acknowledgment of the success of the system as applied to Methodism, and plainly sustains the position we hold.

If, however, as you state, part of that system has been annulled, of course we can no longer press our remarks upon that particular point; still, if a system which has proved itself valuable be removed or annulled, and non-success follows, the fault lies not with the system but with its rejection.

We will, however, endeavour to prove that still our position holds good.

In answering your question requiring a definition of our financial system seen in paragraph 3, we refer you to the "Discipline of the Methodist Church of Canada," page 113, part 5, entitled, "Temporal Economy," and there we have arranged before us the financial system of our church, there is no need to reproduce it here, but simply to state that the salaries of ministers are distinctly stated, but it is left with Circuit Stewards to do their duty in this respect, as stated on page 81, chap. 3, and who, no doubt, use the very best system available adapted especially to local requirements.

Section 2 refers to the Children's Fund, which is an adjunct to aforesaid salaries, we believe, possessed by no other branch of the Christian Church outside Methodism.

Section IV. refers to Contingent Fund, the object of which is to relieve cases of special affliction, etc.

Section II., the order of which we have here inverted, provides an allowance for aged ministers on their retirement, which places them above want.

With these remarks, we ask you to kindly shew us any other system possessing these features intended to cover every exigency in connection with ministerial support, and we willingly sit at your feet.

Yours very truly,  
W. G. LANE.

The Discipline prescribes no system of Finance. It defines the amounts of salaries, merely, and leaves each Circuit to use its own methods of raising them.—EDITOR.

## RELIGIOUS ITEMS.

The Japanese Government have authorized the issue, by a Japanese publisher, of an edition of the book of Genesis in Chinese. This is the first portion of the Scriptures the publication of which in Japan has been authorized by Government.

The bazaar opened by Mr. Spurgeon's friends in London to raise money for a memorial to the Pastor of the Tabernacle, has been very successful. The receipts for four days reached \$13,500, and at the close of the bazaar the gross receipts were found to amount to \$32,000.

BRANTFORD, Feb. 28.—At a largely attended meeting of the registered voters of Grace Church, held this evening, the present rector, Rev. Reginald H. Starr, tendered his resignation. The meeting, by an overwhelming majority, declined to accept the resignation, and the rector still pressing it, passed another resolution expressing regret that he could not see his way to alter his determination.

Two disbelievers in the doctrine of eternal punishment applied for admission to the Congregational Church in Henniker, N.H. They were exemplary persons and desirable as members. The church voted almost unanimously to admit them, and to omit, on the occasion of their reception, the word "everlasting" in reading the confession of faith. The pastor warmly defends the course taken, but is censured by many leading New England congregationalists.

A sermon in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Green was preached in the Metropolitan Church last Sunday morning by Rev. Dr. Byerson. The congregation was very large and attentive. The venerable preacher took as the basis of his discourse Philippians 1:21. "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." He showed the necessity of a knowledge of the character and divine attributes of Christ and the full reception of him as our Saviour from sin and death. Upon this foundation, the departed rested his faith, on this rock he stood firm. He was an example of living to Christ and dying to gain. He had labored in the Church for half a century and his faith had never been shaken.—Guardian.

The Thanksgiving Fund now being raised by our British Wesleyan Methodist brethren, promises to exceed the expectations of the most hopeful among its friends. It was thought that a quarter of a million of dollars could be raised as a special gift by the Churches in Great Britain. More than that has already been contributed by the two London districts alone—one twelfth of the whole number of districts. The most sanguine did not place the estimate beyond a half million of dollars; it is now certain that the amount will reach one and a quarter million of dollars, and may double that sum! And all this in the midst of a panic in several of the most important industrial departments. We heartily congratulate our brethren across the water.

Mr. Sankey is meeting with fine success in his singing work in Great Britain. He was at Newcastle, England, in January He sang, sermons were preached by resident ministers of various denominations—and the buildings, not simply the room in which Mr. Sankey was, were crowded. The Circus-building was opened on Sabbath for services, and every available room was filled, about 4000 persons being present, mainly young men and working men. The rooms were filled sometime before the hour of service. In the evening hundreds were compelled to turn away, for there was not even standing room for them. Frequently during the week over 2000 were in attendance, and overflow meetings were constantly necessary.

A letter from the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon at Mentone, in France, has been received by his congregation. He writes:—"Beloved friends, by the tender kindness of God, the journey hither was made without excessive fatigue, and now I trust that genial weather will bring with it rapid restoration. This place has participated in the severe weather which has swept over the continent, so that I miss just now the bright sunshine to which I have been formerly accustomed, yet it is comparatively warm, and so far is beneficial to an invalid. Rest is the main thing, and rest I hope to find, that I may come back to you strengthened for sacred service. It is at the request of many that I write these few lines, otherwise I should be better content to say nothing about myself. Tottoring on my staff to-day in weakness, I look forward hopefully to the time when I shall stand among you in fullness of vigor. God grant that mental and above all spiritual, strength may be given me for the preaching of the word in your midst, and that my long bodily affliction may assist to that end! I trust I shall not be forgotten in your prayers when it is well with you. I hope, also, that the various enterprises, such as the College and orphanage, will not be allowed to languish because their president is ill. Peace be to you all!"

## GENERAL ITEMS.

There were some cases of sickness at St. Thomas which were reported to be Yellow Fever. In consequence of this the steamer Beta brought no passengers.

The plague is thought to be advancing westward, and there is great alarm at Constantinople in consequence. The United States Government has taken precautionary measures to prevent the introduction of the disease by means of vessels coming from infected districts.

Reports from Zululand continue to be all favorable to the British, but the latest news from Afghanistan is to the effect that the British troops have sustained a severe defeat. This unpleasant news comes from Afghan sources, but may prove too true.

The British steamer *Severn*, from London for Quebec, ran down off Dungeness, a pilot cutter having on board 12 pilots and a crew of 8 men; 10 of the pilots and 5 of the crew were drowned. The *Severn* is expected shortly at Southampton with the survivors. Two pilots and three of the crew were saved.

It is said that Mr. Gladstone is a fine pianist, and possesses a sweet powerful voice. No matter at what hour of the morning he arrived home when he was Prime Minister, he was never too tired to sit down to the piano, and with some simple strain shake off the soil of party strife. He prefers sacred and ballad music, Scotch airs and Moore's melodies being his special favorites.

Col. Pearson was attacked at Ekowe by a large force of Zulus. The latter were defeated with an enormous loss, and pursued to Entamede, one of the Zulu military kraals. Colonel Wood reported he had captured a large number of cattle. The health of the troops is good. The attitude of the native troops in Transvaal is disquieting, and it is feared that the chiefs have formed a league against the British. The men-of-war *Boadicea* and *Flora* are at Simon's Bay. They have twenty-seven cases of small-pox on board.

NUPTIALS OF PRINCE ARTHUR AND THE PRINCESS MARGARET.—WINDSOR, G. B., March 13.—The marriage of the Duke of Connaught to Princess Louise Margaret of Prussia, took place to-day at St. George's Chapel, at Windsor, with all the ceremony of State. The Archbishop of Canterbury performed the service. The bride was given away by her father. At the conclusion, the choir sang the Hallelujah Chorus, and Mendelssohn's wedding march pealed forth as the bride and bridegroom left the Chapel, while a salute of guns announced the termination of the ceremonies. The Royal Family and guests then left the chapel.

A London despatch reports that an immense quantity of wedding presents have been sent to Princess Margaret.

A despatch from New Haven states that Hon. Elihu Burritt, the distinguished philanthropist, reformer and philologist died at his residence in New Britain, Conn., at 12 o'clock on Thursday night. Mr. Burritt was born in New Britain Dec. 8, 1811. He received only an ordinary education till he was 18, when he was apprenticed as a blacksmith. Notwithstanding all his disadvantages he gained a considerable knowledge of Latin, French, Spanish, Greek, Hebrew, German, Italian, Portuguese, Flemish, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic, Welsh, Celtic and Russian. He attained also celebrity as a public lecturer, advocating temperance and other reforms. In 1856 Mr. Burritt left the United States for Great Britain. While in London, in 1848, he published a little work entitled "Sparks from the Anvil," and later in 1853, "Olive Leaves." Several other works appeared also from his pen. He resided in England for nearly 25 years, being for a time U. S. Consul at Birmingham.

An imperial Act became operative on the 2d January last which is of decided importance to persons in this or other colonies who may, through the representation of "agents" or so-called lawyers, have been tempted into advancing money to secure valuable estates in Britain. By the act in question no person can bring action and recover lands or rents after 12 years from the date at which the right of action occurred. There are exceptions in cases of infancy or lunacy, when 18 years are allowed in which to bring suit. The period of grace formerly allowed to persons living beyond the limits of the kingdom is entirely abolished. If a man mortgages his land and permits the mortgagee to retain possession of it for 12 years, it will become at the end of that period absolutely the property of the mortgagee, and this can be avoided only by the written obligation of the latter. Under no circumstances can any one be disturbed in the possession of estates which he has held for 30 years. After the lapse of that time not even the grossest fraud will be allowed to militate against the right, on the ground that such fraud, might, could or should have been discovered before.

TAKING THE CENTS US IN SIBERIA.—"In Siberia," says the *New York Herald* "you can buy beef for two cents a lb., a goose for 12 cents, a chicken for four cents, and 351 lbs. of corn for six cents." What a cents-ible place to be sure! Our comment on that, "But," adds the *N. Y. H.* "you have to shoot the bears out of your parlour window." Ah, that, now, is not cents-ible; it's unbearable!

The lost colors of the 24th Regiment have, it appears, been found on the field of battle or its vicinity. But thereby hangs a tale not fully told—a tale fitted to thrill with admiration and pride every brave British heart of the world over. As it is, the story runs that Lieutenants Melville and Coghill, numbered after the battle at Isandusana among the missing had tried to save the colors, and the noble fellows succeeded in their gallant attempt, though they perished in the effort. Their bodies have been found, and with them the lost and lamented colors. It is to be hoped that the details of the case are known. It appears that a Missionary by this time probably in England witnessed the disastrous fight. His recital will be heard and read with the deepest interest.

In the Commons, on Friday night, Sir Stafford Northcote, in reply to an inquiry why troops were sent to British Burmah, received the following telegram from Lord Lytton, Viceroy to India, dated March 8th.—"The British garrison has been reinforced on the urgent recommendation of the Chief Commissioner, and the strong advice of the Lieutenant-Governor. Egan, the British resident at Mandalay, has reported that warlike preparations are making; that the Burmese have strengthened river forts. There are rumors of disturbance and dangers threatening foreigners. The warning comes from well informed quarters that early mischief is intended and, altogether the condition of affairs is precarious. The garrison in Burmah is on a peace footing and is too weak for protection in the event of disturbance on the frontier. News of the reinforcement will support our resident at Mandalay."

Some extraordinary things happened in the New York Post Office. Recently a letter arrived at that institution addressed to "My Mother, New York, America." The Irish are an intuitive sort of people, who have great faith in dreams. Mrs. McCarthy dreamt the night before that her "boy" in Ireland had written to her, and early next morning, whilst an official of the Post Office was amusing himself with the vague superscription, an elderly woman with a decided Munster brogue put in an appearance at the general delivery window and asked for a letter from "her son." The coincidence attracted the attention of the individual in charge of the deciphering department, and upon inquiry it was found that the name of the woman lived in the town the name of which was post-marked on the letter. Having established her identity the "Mother" in New York received the letter from "her son" in Ireland.

A despatch from Szegiden, Hungary, on Monday night, says, two of the Dan's for protecting the town from an overflow of the Theiss river, have burst. Many villages have been swept away. Five thousand men are working on the remaining one. Eighty thousand people are here, including refugees from the country. A state of siege has been declared, everybody is summoned and are obliged to work on pain of death. The wind is rising, and the water is rushing under the embankment, and wants but a few inches to master us. We await the worst.

The *Observer's* Vienna despatch states that it is thought that 6,000 persons have been drowned.

A correspondent at Szegiden telegraphs that on Thursday thousands of people were starving.

A correspondent in one of the relief boats states 4,000 persons had taken refuge in a church. The boat was unable to afford any help. Hardly any serviceable boats available. On a school house 1500 persons had taken refuge and were without food. Large numbers of boats which were proceeding to aid the submerged city had been stopped by the storm, which had cut off communication by the river. The authorities at Szentes, Vasarhely and Csaszrad, containing an aggregate population of 80,000, telegraphed to Pesth for aid. The dykes protecting them are threatened. Sickness has broken out among the refugees encamped on the dykes at Szegiden.

A despatch from Szegedin, dated Friday, says the fearful storm is still raging. A vast lake is around the remains of the town, tossing like a sea. Inhabitants who are not yet taken away are crowded in a few houses, and in railway wagons. These people are provided with provisions, but thousands are encamped on the dykes, and with these it is impossible to communicate. 400 corpses were recovered in the village of Szegedin.

A number of railway trains took to Temesvar about 5,000 fugitives, while 500 people went by steamer to Szentes. The Emperor has contributed a further sum of 10,000 florins.

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