

CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

When one gets away from his native air and sees new sights and strange faces the mind is naturally led to a comparison between things at home and things abroad. Such has been the case with me during the past several days, and on the whole I have concluded that Canada, her provinces and her people is not in the least behind her friends across the border, relatively that is of course.

October is a delightful season for a tour through the American cities. The journey by rail from New York to Washington abounds with pleasing features. Planters are just now ploughing and sowing for the summer's second crop. As one passes through the great corn fields, brown unto the harvest, and acres glowing with ripened tomatoes, and luxuriant land plots purple for the vintage, trooping back to memory come the slave tales of youth, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and the "Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp," with a score of others.

Then you look about half expecting to see among the tall rows of corn or among the reeds of the lagoon, dusky toilers and fugitives of by-gone days. But the traveller will scarcely observe a single negro at work about the plantations until he gets within the bounds of old Virginia. There indeed are multitudes of negro men and women, but they are not popular, especially the latter, among the American people who require hired labor. The negro regiments are filled with fine strong men who delight greatly in the show and excitement of military life. These men are said to make a finer display upon the review ground than their white comrades. The African has a wonderful sense of rhythm, hence the beauty and perfection of their dances in the field. When I inquired this evening upon my arrival for the chief points of interest at Washington for a stranger, so as to have a good start for tomorrow morning, "O, you ought to have come in December when Congress sits." But I expect to see and learn a good deal about the great capital, though the national assembly is not in session. And if there is any truth in the remark of the grumbling Englishman who said he could not discover anything surprising among the Americans until he got as far south as Washington and heard the Congressmen talk, and that was surprising, perhaps it is better to be here in October. So far I have only seen the capital by moonlight, and will therefore leave Washington for the present and return to my visit in New York, the greatest city of the United States, and probably the third greatest in the world.

Boston impresses the man coming down for the first time from the Provinces with its magnitude, but although first in literary refinement Boston dwindles infinitely in comparison with the style and magnificence of New York, the queen of American cities. The tourist need not confine himself to the day time in looking around the west of New York, for the electric light by night takes the place of the sun by day, and casts over the broad avenues and beautiful squares an exquisite radiance, while Central Park with Coney Island presents the ravishing aspect of fabled fairy land. At the time of my visit much of the beauty of Coney Island had been laid waste by the recent equinoctial storms. Many thousands of dollars will be required to repair the damage. But the proprietors are quite able for that. Vanderbilt, the elder, is the great man of New York, but not a popular citizen. He has many dollars but very few friends. His railroads, his street cars, and palatial mansions represent the sweat and blood of thousands among the poorer classes. With him men are nothing, money is everything. It is not Vanderbilt the prince, the benevolent, but Vanderbilt the monied tyrant who grinds the poor unrelentingly beneath an iron heel, and forces his employees to labor hard sixteen hours out of the twenty-four, and they hate him. Surely the rust of his treasure shall eat into his flesh as it were fire.

The Christian man on entering New York is at first struck most painfully with the seemingly widespread forgetfulness of God and right throughout the city. As there he asks, the servants of the Most High? This thought came to me again and again until the Sunday, and then my heart was rejoiced in the congregation of the saints. I was so fortunate as to hear Mr. Beecher in the Plymouth Church upon the first Sunday after his return from the usual three months summer vacation. He took for his text the passage, "Whatsoever things are true, etc." Mr. Beecher is undoubtedly a great man, but his deplorable habit of preaching from a pulpit like his such a loose gospel. He said, "I like to be popular, and I pride myself upon being free from orthodoxy—relatively that is." Surely here is Mr. Beecher's deep error. He may be right in his own heart, he may doubtless? He may understand what he means, but many of his people do not. And when he indiscriminately declines *ad argumentum ignominiam* against the schools of orthodoxy, many of his hearers, not knowing much about the matter, are led to content those bulwarks and defences which Christ through his Church has built about the Faith. I noticed this fact particularly while conversing among the Plymouth Church congregation. Mr. Beecher in con-

cluding said, "Many reports have been flying about me in the newspapers during my vacation. They have had me an atheist, a materialist, a spiritualist, and dear know what not, but I stand before you the same as ever. I believe in Jesus Christ. He is my Saviour." In view of the suspicion lately prevailing that Mr. Beecher has gone over to Unitarianism, he should have made a broader confession of Jesus Christ. Especially so, when just before he had referred to the rise of Unitarianism, and had taken occasion to remark, these men made two errors: first of all they only addressed themselves to the educated, ignoring the multitude; secondly, they failed to love their ministry with a flame of love. These were their only errors, according to the pastor of Plymouth Church. Is then Mr. Beecher a Unitarian in doctrine so far as a man can be who ignores doctrine? I have quoted all together from memory.

On Sunday night I heard Mr. Talma, who took for his subject, the flight and fate of Jonah, and preached like an old-time Methodist. The sermon was charged with originality and fire. He believed everybody in the Tabernacle would be converted that night. The congregational singing was magnificent. At the special service held afterwards at least fifty persons stood up to be prayed for. I noticed many tearful eyes, while some were sobbing for their sins. The sermon did me good. It gave me a fresh determination to cry aloud and spare not.

I am reminded that my letter is lengthening out. I hope to give some account of other aspects of this visit at a future time. Your travelled readers will pardon the minuteness of that with which they are quite familiar and pass it over to those who are not. D. D. M. Washington, D. C., Oct. 2, 1882.

FROM CIRCUITS.

COBOURG ROAD—HALIFAX.

Cobourg Road Church is but little known outside the South Halifax circuit. Work has been carried on quietly and good has resulted both from ministerial work and Sabbath School labor.

The church is very unpretending nothing esthetic. There is none of the decorative art deemed so essential by some to devout worship of the Great Creator; but the pure Gospel has been and is preached in all its simplicity and sublimity.

The congregations attending here for the past few months have been favoured with the ministrations of Rev. J. Pike and a marked result has been observed in increased numbers and deeper interest and it is to be deeply regretted that the Rev. gentleman has been forced by impaired health to relinquish his care of the church and seek a sunnier clime. It is sincerely desired by all that the balmy air of the South may bring him improved health and lasting strength, and enable him to continue the work he loves so well and for which he is so well fitted by Divine Grace.

Rev. Mr. Batty enters upon the field with encouraging prospects. It is earnestly prayed that the Great Head of the Church will own his labors and crown his efforts with great success.

The Sabbath School in connection with the Church is most encouraging. The numbers are increasing, regular attendance is remarkably regular, showing that the services of the teachers are highly appreciated by the little ones.

An effort is about to be made to render the accommodation more comfortable by the introduction of improved seats. This we trust will be effected by the liberality of the friends at the South end, who will be privileged to help on the good work. May they respond—as they usually do—and we have no doubt of it. The work deserves encouragement; and while Grant St. contributes so nobly to Foreign missions we are led to feel that this little Home Mission will obtain not only prayers and good wishes but substantial help.

The old Bible of the church having become worse for wear, one of the trustees, Mr. G. N. Brown, kindly presented a very handsome new one for the desk.

COM.

INGONISH, C. B.

Every heart knoweth his own trials and there is no exception to the rule in this isolated place. Perhaps however, what seems loneliness to the writer would be rare pleasure to one whose temperament is different. We often sit and gaze across the waters of our beautiful bay, upon the rugged outline of Cape Smoky, which rises about one thousand feet above the sea level, forming a huge barrier between us and the outside world. Were it not that our work demands every moment of our time the months would pass wearily indeed. Thus shut up to our own sphere of labor, we can imagine, better than my pen can describe, the pleasure with which we welcome any who come to cheer us in our work. We shall never forget the visit which was paid us by our ex-Chairman, dear Bro. Coffin, about a year ago. Right well he enjoyed the visit, climbing the mountains, and rowing, etc. and when he left us, although his departure caused a feeling of loneliness, the days seemed brighter when we thought of his visit.

This year we were cheered by a visit from Bro. Giles, who spent two Sabbaths with us. The first was at Ingonish, where he preached morning and evening. We feel here, very much, the want of a comfortable place for worship which we hope ere long we shall have. The new church, which has been twice blown down, is now in a fair way to be finished. Though we cannot hope to worship in it this year, if all is well we expect before the close of another to have a neat little Methodist church completed on this part of the circuit. We tender our thanks to some Halifax friends who have so generously aided us in this work.

Sabbath, Sept. 10th, we spent at Cape North. Here we have a church which is a credit to those by whose untiring efforts it was erected. It was built within two years, and when completed was entirely free from debt. Although the day was most unfavorable we were gratified to see, morning and evening, a well filled church. In the evening three persons were received into full connection with our church, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered. It was a time which will be long remembered by the writer, as well as by others who were present. This was the first time our people received the emblems of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus from the hands of their own minister. The presence of the Master was with us and many could say "It was good to be there."

On Monday morning Bro. Giles started over the mountain on his return home, leaving your correspondent to pursue his labors alone. Earnestly praying for showers of blessing upon the remainder of the year, he resolved to make himself less lonely by making himself more useful.

G. W. W.

Ingonish, C. B., Sept. 26th, 1882.

SAMBRO.

I am desirous of expressing my hearty thanks to the Halifax friends for their kindly help at our recent concert. The Charles Street choir promptly responded to my request, and gave us a really excellent musical and literary entertainment. All did well. The solo, duet, and full choir singing were all that could be desired. Owing to chilly easterly winds, many probably were deterred from going, but, as the day proved so fine, it was a pity that more of our city friends did not enjoy the breeze, and thus help and encourage us. Of course it was not a great financial success. We fondly hoped and labored to clear off the debt upon the parsonage, and to put the much needed home comforts in the house, but we shall in this be disappointed.

The highly prized gifts of three Halifax gentlemen we thankfully acknowledge and devote as desired, and with the net proceeds pay our debts as far as we are able. We were favored and cheered by the presence and practical utterances of the brethren Pickles, Shepherdson, and Buttrock, the latter a fellow Yorkshireman, but I would infer, from a lively Yorkshire Methodist Society.

I am sure the gathering was a success, not in vast numbers or financial result perhaps, but in the beneficial effects produced. We hope at some future and not too distant day when calmer weather prevails, to enjoy a similar treat. In the meantime, we work on and pray that on this rocky spot the cause of our gracious Redeemer may greatly flourish. J.

RIVER PHILIP.

A few days ago when visiting the River Philip circuit I had the pleasure of attending an entertainment got up by R. v. A. D. Morton to pay off the debt on the beautiful parsonage built since his appointment to that circuit. Although the day was very unfavorable a large number of persons came from almost every part of his field of toil, and gave such tangible expressions of their sympathy for the object in hand as would not fail to cheer and encourage the heart of their faithful pastor. After a most excellent tea was disposed of, which by the way the ladies of River Philip circuit are second to none in providing, and Revs. Messrs. Dunn and Gatz had delivered short addresses, Bro. Morton in a style worthy of him and his cause appealed to his people for subscriptions to wipe off a debt of \$300. A stranger could see at once he had hold of the heart strings and purse strings of his people. Men, women, and children came forth with their offerings ranging from ten cents up to forty dollars and I am informed the result will nearly if not altogether meet the hopes of all concerned.

CANTERBURY.

Our missionary meetings have been held—good speeches were made by Bro. M. R. Knight, the deputation. Fair congregations assembled, good collections were taken up and the amount already paid is in excess of last year, with one collector still to hear from, and the proceeds of our monthly missionary prayer-meetings. It has always seemed to me that it was both possible and best to hold these meetings earlier in the Fall and take up subscriptions immediately after, instead of simply requesting people to sign the Missionary list and take six or nine months to meditate upon their offering and

carry it round in their wallets, while it is urgently needed in the missionary treasury. The results of our early efforts have fully justified the steps taken. The monthly missionary prayer-meetings are a new feature in this circuit's work but likely to prove beneficial and help to augment to some extent the financial returns. As soon as the missionary meetings were over we commenced special services at Skiff Lake, where we were greeted by large and attentive congregations who heard the word with gladness, and we trust with permanent benefit also.

Yours truly,
W. R. PEPPER.
Canterbury, N. B., Oct. 9, 1882.

GILCHRIST SCHOLARSHIPS.

In the year 1879 there was born in Scotland a child afterwards known as John Burtwick Gilchrist. On reaching maturity he became an army doctor, and spent most of his time in British India, dying in 1881. He was a man of fervid, impetuous temperament, greatly addicted to getting himself into all manner of scrapes. On one occasion, in a speculative freak he purchased, at a very low rate, a large tract of land in Australia. At his death he left this tract to be devoted by them to furthering the cause of education in whatever manner they might see fit. For a quarter of a century after his death the income was used partially or wholly in providing educational lectures in different parts of Great Britain. By this time the property had increased immensely in value and the trustees felt themselves warranted in putting Dr. Gilchrist's beneficence into a more definite and comprehensive shape. They accordingly founded the series of princely scholarships which will ever keep green the memory of the old doctor who builded so much "more wisely than he knew." Two were to be competed for annually in British India, one in Mauritius and the Cape of Good Hope, one in Australia and one in Canada. These were of the annual value of one hundred pounds sterling, and were tenable for three years, all save those for India, which were held for five. Then there were 2 scholarships of fifty pounds to be competed for annually in England and Scotland and a special one of the same value allotted to University College, Bristol. In addition to all this, lectureships for the benefit of working-men have been established in different parts of England and Scotland. Lastly, whatever surplus funds are left the trustees devote to miscellaneous expenditures in the cause of education, lending a helping hand to both persons and institutions that are at once meritorious and necessitous. To Dr. Carpenter, the eminent physiologist, who is Registrar of London University and the Gilchrist Funds, is very largely due the successful arrangement and working of the scheme depicted.

Every year about the 20th of June the matriculation papers of the London University are forwarded to deputy examiners in the various Provinces of the Dominion. These papers, nine in number, cover the subjects of Latin, Greek, one modern language, a Sanscrit, English Language, English History and Geography, Chemistry, Arithmetic and Algebra. The examinations last for nearly an entire week, and are very severe. To the candidate making the highest marks is awarded the scholarship and his matriculation admits him either to London University or to Edinburgh.

BREVITIES.

When death, the great conciliator, has come, it is never our tenderness that we repent of, but our severity. —George Eliot.

A little boy, disputing with his sister recently, exclaimed: "The true, for ma says so; and if ma says so it's so it ain't so."

Few first-honor men come to distinction after they have left college. Why? They have reached the *ultima thule*, and can go no farther. The mind recoils at farther effort when there is nothing beyond.

It isn't often that a couple is married in three languages, but at a wedding in Cleveland, O., one day lately the justice performed the ceremony in English and German, and the groom answered in German.

The following words of wisdom are from Josh Billings: "When a man wants to me for advice, I find out the kind of advice he wants, and I give it to him. This *savvy* him that he and I are two as smart men as there is living."

It is stated that the Rev. Dr. Atticus G. Haygood, president of Emory College, at Oxford, Ga., when a lad, subscribed \$20 toward the construction of Trinity Church, Atlanta, Ga., which he subsequently paid in carrying the brick and mortar required on the new structure.

"Hygiology" is the latest invention in words. It is meant to indicate an excessive devotion to one's health, watchfulness of varying symptoms, and inspection of the weather and all semi-valeudinarian customs and habits which make men as disagreeable as any other form of human selfishness.

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