

CORRESPONDENCE.

A BRIEF LIFE.

It was our sad duty to-day to lay in the grave the mortal remains of Bradford M. P., only son of Rev. W. and Mrs. Brown, of the Lunenburg circuit; a remarkably fine child of three years and five months. A more precocious and promising child of that age I have seldom seen, or ever met. It is not therefore, to be wondered at that his parents cherished high hopes in regard to him, that they found their affections clinging fast around him, and that their disappointment and sorrow are all but overwhelming. But we are glad to say our greatly afflicted brother and sister evidence no disposition to question the wisdom or goodness of God in this painful providence, but are exercising Christian submission to the Divine will. They are also comforted and sustained by the kindness and sympathy of the friends, who gladly minister to them in this time of great sorrow, as well as by the presence of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter. May He continue to be their support and comfort until life's work are ended, and they are permitted to go to him who cannot come to them.

C. LOCKHART.

Malone Bay, Nov. 6, 1883.

A HINT WORTH TAKING.

Before the shadows grow long behind me, let me say that many a pleasant many a weary day I spent at Mount Allison. The remembrance of lovely faces and genial smiles, many forms and sagely wise advice, many a "sound of revelry by night," many boyish tricks and foolish exploits, help to while away a shadowed hour. The other day, while I sat reading "Tom Sawyer," the remembrance of one of those weary days came upon me, and I purpose by your permission to quote to your readers Mark Twain's words on "Original Composition by Young Ladies," in the hope they may meet the eye and heart of the young ladies who shall write the compositions at the old Seminary this year, and be the means of making a revolution. If any word of mine could help to mould the minds of these ladies into a groove of independent characteristic expression, it would be willingly given, but the words of my author are so incisive, so earnest, and withal so in harmony with the thought of to-day, that I refrain from more than saying that I had a sister who was to be an essayist last year, and that I brought her to drop the sermon to redeem the day by being a woman, but whether my entreaties caused her to read in a voice that could be heard, or to drop the sermon, I cannot say. I did not hear her, I have not seen her since. Let me say before quoting that I have long held the opinions here expressed so elegantly by Mr. Clements, and hope they may at least help to an end earnestly longed for.

"Each in her turn stepped forward to the edge of the platform, cleared her throat, held up her manuscript, (tied with dainty ribbon), and proceeded to read with labored attention to 'expression' and punctuation. The theories were the same that had been illuminated upon similar occasions by their mothers before them, their grandmothers, and doubtless all their ancestors in the female line clear to the Crusades. 'Friendship' was one; 'Memories of other Days'; 'Religion in History'; 'Dream Land'; 'The Advantages of Culture'; 'Forms of Political Government Compared and Contrasted'; 'Melancholy'; 'Filial Love'; 'Heart Longings'; &c. &c.

"A prevalent feature in the compositions was a nursed and petted melancholy; another was a wasteful and opulent gush of fine language; another was a tendency to lug in by the ears particularly prized words and phrases, until they were worn entirely out, and a peculiarity that conspicuously marked and marred them, was the inveterate and intolerant sermon that waggled its crippled tail at the end of each and every one of them. No matter what the subject might be, a brain-racking effort was made to squirm it into some aspect or other that the moral and religious mind could contemplate with edification. The glaring insincerity of these sermons was not sufficient to compass banishment of the fashion from the schools, and it is not sufficient to day, it never will be sufficient while the world stands, perhaps. There is no school in all our land where the young ladies do not feel obliged to close their compositions with a sermon, and you will find that the sermon of the most frivolous and least religious girl in the school is always the longest and the most relentlessly pious."

ROMANISM AND DIVORCE.

The Romanists vaunt their immunity from divorce, as if the superior virtue of their adherents were proved by their compulsory observance of the marriage bond. Doubtless some degree of the prevalence of divorce, latterly, in this country, is due to the enlarged freedom of women, and to the agitation of the woman's rights movement. For such

degree of it, here and elsewhere, as is due to unbelief, or infidelity to religious belief, the Papists are more largely responsible than the Protestants; for infidelity is rankest and strongest in the countries longest ruled by papal superstition; witness France, papal Germany, Italy. Russia, where a church similarly superstitious and corrupt has borne sway for a thousand years, is second only to France in wide-spread and extreme infidelity. For one fundamental cause of divorce—infidelity to the conjugal bond—and for one prevailing social vice—licentiousness—papal countries bear the inevitable palm. The statistics of illegitimacy may be taken to represent one-half of the crimes included under the term licentiousness; and bearing this in mind the figures of the papal countries are appalling. In the intensely, universally papal country of Bavaria, the proportion of illegitimate births is 22.64 per cent.—the highest of any country in Christendom. In the intensely, universally papal capital, Vienna, it is nearly 55 per cent.—the highest per centage given in Christendom. More than every second citizen the traveler meets in the gay promenade of that city, is bastard. France, ruled for a thousand years by Romanism, and now divided between it and infidelity, returns 16 per cent. of illegitimate births; and Paris, with her 33 per cent., ranks next to Vienna in this social corruption. Papal Austria shows 13.5 per cent.; Italy 10.57 in her large towns, and 5.65 in her rural regions. Rome, the headquarters of the Papacy, returns 17 per cent. of bastards. More than 30,000 children yearly are abandoned by their parents in that priest-ridden, Pope-cursed country, Italy. The method of procuring similar statistics in Spain is untrustworthy; but of the most Catholic city of Madrid, about 15 per cent, is illegitimate. These, as compared with the statistics of illegitimacy in other countries, are fearfully high. In the rank next to these, we find Sweden, notably Stockholm, and Denmark; but we must remember that the State Churches in those countries are quite as dead as the Papal Church. They have no restraining power over the populace.

In this boast of the Romanists, no cognizance is taken of the rights of the various Reformed churches to expel those members who may have become divorced for insufficient or unjustifiable reasons. The truth of the whole matter may be stated thus: In Protestant countries divorce is permitted for conjugal infidelity. In papal countries conjugal infidelity and all other licentiousness are permitted with impunity. No notice is taken of this class of crimes. The adulteress and the libertine, not less than the brigand, are born in the church, numbered to their lives' end among the faithful, buy indulgences and receive absolution on equal terms with the most virtuous of their communion. Is it no time that this audacious boast of Romish social purity was silenced?—Zion's Herald.

THE TELEGRAPH IN CHINA.—Owing to the peculiarity of the Chinese characters, each of which represents a word, not a letter, as in our western tongues, the Danish Telegraph Company (the Great Northern) working the new Chinese lines have adopted the following device: There are from 5,000 to 6,000 characters or words in ordinary Chinese language, and the company have provided a wooden block of type for each of these. On one end of this block the character is cut or stamped out, and on the other end is a number representing the character. The clerk receives a message in numbers and takes the block of each number transmitted and stamps with the opposite end the proper Chinese character on the message form. Thus a Chinese message sent in figures is translated in Chinese characters again and forwarded to its destination. The sending clerk, of course, requires to know the numerical equivalent of the characters or have them found for him.

SINCE THEN.—Since Luther declared his freedom from the bondage of Rome and took his stand boldly on New Testament doctrines there has been a wonderful change in the religious condition of the world. The figures are significant. When the reformation began eighty of the one hundred millions who owed allegiance to Christian rulers were under papal rule. The remainder was chiefly under the patriarch of the Greek Church. In 1700 the Roman Catholic people had increased to 90,000,000, the Eastern Christians to 33,000,000 while those off Protestant faith numbered 32,000,000, or about one-fifth of the nominal Christian people. In 1890 there were under Protestant government 749,000,000; under papal, 134,000,000; under government owning the Greek Church, 60,000,000. In 1876 the record stands as follows: Under governments professedly Roman Catholic, 181,000,000; Greek Church 96,000,000; and under rule professedly Protestant, 408,000,000.

TAKE CARE OF PARSONAGES.

Every pastoral charge ought to have a parsonage, and every parsonage ought to be furnished. A comfortable and well-furnished parsonage adds largely to the desirability of an appointment, and no appointment is complete until it is supplied with such a home for the pastor. A good charge is often deprived of the services of a good preacher and an efficient pastor by not having a home for the preacher and his family; and a second-class appointment often gets a first-class man by having a comfortable home for him. The watchword of every Conference should be, "a parsonage for every pastoral charge." And a word to those who occupy these parsonages we think is needed. Many of the preachers and their families do all they can to keep and leave the parsonage in good condition. They plant fruit and shade trees where they are needed, and then take care of those that have been planted by their predecessors. They see that the yard and garden fencing is kept in good condition. They also take as good, if not better, care of the furniture than they would do of their own. But there are some, we are sorry to say, who do not give much attention to the parsonage or to the furniture. This has had much to do with the indifference manifested by many of our members in reference to our parsonages. To see the house neglected and the furniture abused by the pastor and his family, not only discourages the members, but irritates them no little. Now, such conduct on the part of ministers and their families results in great inconvenience, and often neglect, on the part of the membership toward their successors.

A little time, and a very small outlay of means, would leave every parsonage in good condition.—Raigh Ad.

SEVERE, BUT JUST.—A druggist in Paris, having been convicted of adulterating sulphate of quinine, has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment at hard labor. In addition he is to pay a fine of a thousand francs, his name and crime are to be published in twelve political and twelve professional papers, and should he ever reopen his store, to the door thereof is to be affixed a sign: "Sentenced for adulterating sulphate of quinine." This is severe punishment; far more severe, probably, than would be regarded as just in this country. But the crime was an infamous one. It was stealing from the sick man his only hope of recovery. And the incident is one which druggists, law-makers, and the public here would do well to take to heart. Complaints are not unfrequently heard in this city of various drugs being poor in quality. Physicians are forced to direct their prescriptions to be filled at certain stores, that they may be sure of the strength of the ingredients. Some druggists seem to be running a race to see who can sell quinine pills at the lowest price per dozen, and they advertise each competing reduction with great flourish of trumpets. But while the price goes down, does the quality remain at proof? Or would universal and rigid examination of drugs of all kinds show that many dealers deserve to share the Frenchman's fate?—N. Y. Paper.

JAPANESE PATENT MEDICINES.—The Japanese have patent medicines analyzed at a public laboratory before they will allow them to be sold. A patent medicine man must submit samples for analysis, with the name of all the ingredients and the directions for use, and with explanations of the supposed effects of the remedy. During last year nearly 12,000 applications were made to sell over 148,000 patent and secret medicines, and only 58,638 of the remedies were allowed to be sold. The majority of this number were useless, but their sale was not prohibited as they were innocuous.

STEEL PENS.—Truly, "the pen is mightier than the sword." The number of steel pens manufactured weekly in this country and Europe is not less than 22,000,000. Of this number about two-thirds come from Birmingham, England. There are a few manufacturing in France, one in Germany and one in Austria. Besides these there are none other in Europe. The leading places in this country where pens are made are Philadelphia, Meriden, Ct., and Camden, N. J., and there are, at least, a thousand different styles. Steel pens have been in use a little more than half a century.—U. S. Paper.

A monument to Sir Francis Drake was on Sept. 7th unveiled at Tavistock, Devon, near to which place he was born. The monument was presented by the Duke of Bedford, who owns all Tavistock and a great deal around, the estate having formerly been abbey land given to his ancestor. The Drake family has long been extinct in the male line, but is represented in the female line, which holds the hereditary estates and heirlooms.

BREVITIES.

Young men should pattern after pianos—be square, upright, grand.

You can't get anything out of nature's workshop at half-price.—Dr. Eaton.

When a man has not got a good reason for doing a thing, he has one good reason for leaving it alone.

Somebody once said that Gladstone was the only man in Parliament who could talk in italics.—Justin McCarthy.

Longfellow said, "In the world a man must be either anvil or hammer." He was wrong, however. Lots of men are nothing but bells.

Oscar Wilde says that "dust is the bloom of time." Let Oscar come to our office, then, and we will show him a conservatory full of bloom.

Not that which goes into the mouth desecrates a man, but that which comes out of it, such as sarcasms, bitter jests, mocks and taunts, and ill-natured observations.—Charles Lamb.

A firm faith is the best divinity; a good life is the best philosophy; a clear conscience is the best law; honesty is the best policy; and temperance the best physic.

A book, however valuable, purchased for the admiration of others, and consigned to its shelf, is the most lifeless piece of furniture to which we can give a place.—Rev. S. P. Herron.

Too many men, conscious of ability, look for success in the world without corresponding effort, and when they fail, as all such men do fail, they condemn the world for its lack of appreciation.

The boys and girls of to-day are no worse than the boys and girls of a century back of us; but the demands of society take from woman the time and strength which the old time mothers used in home-making.

When a lady living in Chelsea sent to London for a doctor, she apologized for asking him to come such a distance. "Don't speak of it," answered the M.D. "I happen to have another patient in the neighborhood, and can thus kill two birds with one stone."

Pastor: "The resources of our church are all dried up." Deacon: "Yes, we've got a good dryer in the pulpit." We implore all our friends, who are pastors to be very guarded in their remarks when the deacons are about.—Religious Herald.

The Richmond State claimed that a colored man never took out a patent. The Critic says this is not a fact, and it gives a list of seven colored men who took out patents between the years 1875 and 1883. The inventions were a screw propeller, a ladder scaffold support, a printing press and other useful articles.

Herbert Spencer says Americans are so driven by business cares that they never stop to leisurely examine anything. Guess he never saw five or six hundred busy Americans standing around for two hours watching three men raising an office safe to a fourth-story window.—Philadelphia News.

Always pretend to great gentility yourself, and ridicule people who came up from a modest beginning. If you can't say that your ancestors belonged to some notable family, make a strong point of being acquainted with a great many distinguished people yourself, and constantly refer to the time when you were in college.

A successful strike occurred when the Richmond night express train struck a Negro walking on the track, who got a glimpse of the locomotive's headlights just before being landed in the woods a dozen or two yards from the road line. His first conscious words were: "Burr de dash cake, boss, who frow dat lantern at me?"

From various little scraps of intelligence, scattered through the ancient writings, it appears certain, as it was reasonable to conclude, that the notes now used by birds, and the voices of animals, are the same as uttered by their earliest progenitors. With civilized man everything is progressive; with animals, where there is no mind, all is stationary.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, weddings among persons of the lower classes were always published, and the bride and bridegroom were accompanied to the church by their friends and neighbors, a band of music playing before them, and a troop of young maidens following, crowned with flowers, and bearing large bride-cakes, to distribute among the crowd.

A bishop ordained a rather brilliant young gentleman as deacon, and the very next day sent for the excellent clergyman who had recommended him. "What may your lordship want with me?" "I wish, sir, to speak about that young man." "What young man, your lordship?" "The young man, sir, whom I ordained. I want you to keep him in check. I had great difficulty in keeping him from examining me."

A little boy in one of the city German schools, while engaged in the delightful exercise of defining words a few days since, made a mistake which was not all a mistake. He said: "A demagogue is a vessel that holds beer, wine, gin, whiskey, or any other kind of intoxicating liquor." He was probably thinking of "demijohn," but he hit the truth just the same.

The duties of the genuine dred-in-the-wool, simon-pure editor, are multifarious and multitudinous. His work is not only "to do a little writing" as is sometimes supposed, but to cull, to clean, to select, to discriminate, to decide, to force, to observe, to grasp, to explain, to elucidate, to imitate, to boil down, "to be, to do, and to suffer," and several hundred other verbs, with a large number of districts yet to heat from.

At some of the Western fairs a "great secret" is sold in sealed envelopes at ten cents apiece. Here is the secret: "Never buy an article before examining it. If you had known this before, you would not have paid ten cents for a worthless envelope when you could have had a dozen good ones for the same price."

Ayer's Sarsaparilla works directly and promptly, to purify and enrich the blood, improve the appetite, strengthen the nerves, and braces up the system. It is in the truest sense an alterative medicine. Every invalid should give it a trial.

Cremation is now compulsory in Portugal, though as a concession to popular prejudice the dead may be temporarily committed to the earth, but at the end of five years all bodies so buried will be exhumed and reduced to ashes.

If people troubled with colds, would take Ayer's Pectoral before going to church or places of entertainment, they would avoid coughing, greatly to the comfort of both speakers and hearers. Public speakers and singers find that the Pectoral wonderfully increases the power and flexibility of the voice.

Tom Edison quaintly remarks: "It requires just as much ingenuity to make money out of an invention as to make the invention."

No family in the broad land should undertake to keep house without Johnson's Anodyne Liniment, many have tried to but failed. It is worth more to a family than a whole medicine chest.

The most contemptible fraud that has been practiced upon farmers and others in the last few years is the selling of immense packs of worthless horse and cattle powders. There is only one kind now known in this country that is unadulterated and those are Sheridan's.

ROBERT THOMPSON, 320 Munro St., New York. "Graham's Pain Eradicator is the best remedy I have ever found for Pain in the Chest, Croup, &c. One of my children had been treated by a physician for croup and was so bad the Dr. said he could not live three hours, when Graham's Pain Eradicator was tried, it gave immediate relief, and he was quite well next day. I would not be without this medicine if it cost \$10, a bottle."

The streets of Louisville are being paved with stone blocks 6 inches by 4, and 4 inches deep, the interstices being filled with pitch and gravel.

A QUERY ANSWERED.—People often ask when is the best time to take a blood purifier? We answer the best time is now. Berdock Blood Bitters does its work of purifying, regulating, and toning the system at all times and all seasons. Purity in all things is always in order when required.

They are driving piles for a wharf 1,000 feet in length just north of Town Neck, in Sandwich, Mass., for the Cape Cod Canal. Between 800 and 400 laborers are kept busy night and day, the purpose being to save the company's charter by having \$25,000 worth of work done on the canal this year.

CARD.—Being in possession of a valuable remedy for asthma, hay fever, phthisis, bronchitis, and all difficulty in breathing, I have consented, after numerous solicitations, to make it known. Any individual so suffering can get valuable information by addressing Rev. G. BRAD. DAY, Musquodoboit Harb., N.S. may 4-ly

The receipts of the Halifax Custom House for October amounted to \$180,000, an increase over the same month last year of \$67,000.

The big diamond recently found in South Africa, though weighing nearly six ounces, is not estimated as worth more than \$10,000, the color being bad. However, a bath of acid has improved it.

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Dr. Chas. S. Robinson, New York, says: "I have been reading 'The History of the Cross.' I like it altogether. I have not finished it, but I mean to do so. There are only bright denials with important subjects to be found, and so I do not believe there is a dull line in it."

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