

LETTERS TO YOUNG MEN.

BY DR. WM. A. ALCOCK. ON MODELS AND MODEL CHARACTER.

In my letter on politics, I have urged upon you the study of the history and geography of your country, as the basis of that subject. Closely connected with these, however, is the study of biography. I wish this last were a fundamental branch in every public or common school.

Now, biography enables us to associate (to all practical interests and purposes) with men of all ages and all climes; with Moses, Joseph, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Homer, Confucius, Plato, Zeno, Paul, John, Franklin, Cuvier and Howard. In the language of another, we are enabled, in this way, to "shake hands across oceans and centuries."

Let me exhort every young man to select his model, and to do it in early life. The earlier the better. I do not, indeed, mean to insist upon your copying any one character, exclusively; nor in fact upon your attempting a perfect copy of anybody. Men are of many moulds, and of many degrees of excellence.

I have said that men are mere fragments of men—and that it is difficult, therefore, to find in any individual, a perfect model. There is an exception to the truth of this remark, in the man of Nazareth we find a perfect model of man.

Let no young man sneer at the idea of fixing on Jesus Christ as his model. Let him not say that men and manners in 1848, and in America differ so greatly from the men and manners of Palestine in the days of our Saviour, that such a model is no model at all; for it is not so.

If you call this preaching, so it is. How shall young men, and also old men, "hear without a preacher?" You are fond of philosophy, I suppose—common sense philosophy. Now philosophy has had much to say, the last century, about the influence of example. But who has not concluded that our Saviour's example may safely be imitated? Be philosophers, for once, and let the brightest example the world has yet seen, be more powerful than even his divine precepts.

CANADIAN ENTERPRISE.—We are happy to have another opportunity of noticing the growth of Canadian enterprise. Messrs. Crawford and Imbach, two enterprising agriculturists of the country of Haldimand, Niagara District, have recently erected a Manufactory for the preparation of Mustard from the seed, and are engaging pretty extensively in the business. It appears that the climate of this country is peculiarly suited to the growth of the Mustard plant, and we hope this will be an important addition to the productions of Canada.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE OF THE N. Y. HERALD. A FEW WEEKS IN PALESTINE.

JERUSALEM, April 19th, 1848. AFTER A Sabbath of delightful rest in Jerusalem came the excursion to the Jordan and Dead Sea, which has occupied the last three days. It was an excursion anticipated with more than usual interest, and had expected to make it alone.

The week of the old Jewish Passover, the Christian Easter, the week which even Mohammedans, as I found, make a festival in honour of Moses, had now come; and Monday morning was the time when, attended by 400 Turkish soldiers and by the Governor of Jerusalem himself, the Christian pilgrims, from 5000 to 8000 in number, were to go down to the Jordan for the annual bath. Willing or not I was compelled to join the immense throng, and to be jostled and crowded, and to have my horse held back by Turkish soldiers as the multitude passed slowly through the narrow mountain passes.

About 1 o'clock in the morning the whole camp was awakened and soon were on the move for the Jordan; it was thought necessary to start this early, the company was so large. It was tedious business to be in your saddle so early, to move on perhaps five minutes, and then to be obliged to remain motionless for half an hour, and let in that motley group there was enough to interest you. At length day dawned; and as the light increased the throng moved on faster, and finally, before the sun appeared, we were at the river.

And such a scene language cannot picture. And such a scene language cannot picture. And such a scene language cannot picture. And such a scene language cannot picture. And such a scene language cannot picture.

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to believe we shall make in that solemn hour, will be the true ones—at least, they will be far more true than those which we make while yet absorbed in the world, and blinded by its allurements and the deceitfulness of sin.—N. Y. Evangelist.

THE BRUSSELS PEACE CONGRESS. THE pressure of various duties upon me, partly arising out of the success which has attended our glorious demonstration on the Continent, compelled me to my private journal again, for the only report of the proceedings on that occasion which I can at present give to the Citizen circle.—Our friends will see at once that these daily items of experience and observation were never intended for the public eye, and are too incoherent and hasty for publication; but they may give an idea to us on the Continent.

Wednesday, Sept. 20. At half past 12, went to the Salon de la Grande Harmonie, which began to fill with delegates and visitors. After arranging the order of the proceedings, we left the Committee Room, and found ourselves in a superb hall nearly full. The spectacle presented to the eye was picturesque, novel and interesting. I had never seen such a room appropriated to a public meeting before. It seemed like an immense private parlour, most elegantly furnished with its ornamental walls hung with the flags of all nations, interspersed with pure white banners, bearing the emblems of Peace. On some of them was inscribed, "Welcome to our Friends of Peace." The English delegates presented an interesting contrast, with their ruddy cheeks and plain appearance, when compared with the French-looking continentals, with whom they were intermingled.

M. Vischers opened the proceedings with a few preliminary remarks, and we commenced the organization of the Congress. John Stobbe moved, in a short speech, that M. Vischers should be elected President, and I seconded the motion. M. A. Roussel, Professor of Law in the Royal University at Brussels, moved the election of four Vice Presidents; Count Saverin, for the Kingdom of France; Count Saverin, for the Kingdom of France; Count Saverin, for the Kingdom of France; Count Saverin, for the Kingdom of France.

He was cheered enthusiastically when he took his seat, and will be greeted and gratified that such a man was found to inaugurate the Peace movement on the Continent. After the reading of a few letters from distinguished persons who had been invited to be present, the order of the day called up the first essay upon the "Iniquity, inhumanity, and absurdity of war, as an arbiter of international differences," written by Edmund Fry, and read in French by L. A. Clémenceau, of London. M. Bouvet, of the University of Geneva, read in French, the "Discourse on the necessity and practicability of a Congress of Nations, and of the means of its success." When he left the tribune, M. Bouvet arose, and meeting him half way, shook him by the hand in the most cordial manner. This interesting incident was appreciated, to the full, by the audience.

The evening session opened at half past 7. After the President had read the first resolution, upon the iniquity, inhumanity and absurdity of war, was offered to the meeting. I shall never forget that moment. The Congress composed of about an equal number of Englishmen and Continentals, was called to decide upon the moral character of war within a few miles of Waterloo, or, as it were, to lay the basis of the cause of Peace of the Continent. We had felt some solicitude in regard to the declaration which would go out of the world from the Convention, especially as some of the members of the Belgian Committee had evinced a desire to modify all strong terms. But, on meeting in the Committee Room, just before the opening in the evening session, the following resolution was adopted: "The Congress declares, that an appeal to arms to settle international differences, is a usage condemned alike by religion, reason, justice, humanity, and by the interests of the people; that it is, therefore, a duty and a means of safety for the civilized world to adopt proper measures for bringing about the entire abolition of war."

When M. Vischers arose to put this resolution, I almost held my breath from intense interest, doubting whether a declaration of such a sweeping character could be espoused by such an assembly. His clear voice seemed to penetrate into the hearts of all present, as he read the resolution a second time, and asked all in its favor to arise. The whole assembly, with but one visible exception, arose; and after a moment's silence, as if struck with their unanimity, an enthusiastic peal of applause burst forth, especially from the English delegates, who seemed to appreciate in a lively manner the conquest of the principle. The magnificent hall was well filled with an intelligent audience, in addition to the members of the Congress, when this important resolution was passed; and all seemed to give their silent adhesion to the sentiments which it expressed.

The order of the day was taken up, and an essay, by Wm. Stokes, on the subject of arbitration, was read in French, and well received. Mr. Stobbe then read a letter from Richard Cobden to Joseph Sturge, which produced a powerful impression upon the assembly. M. Roussel, Professor in the Royal University at Brussels, addressed the tribune and delivered a beautiful address in favor of arbitration, which was followed by several other Belgian speakers on the same side. Next arose a contrary spirit, Don Roman de la Sagra, from Madrid. He seemed the very genius of controversy, and entered upon the defence of the brute force regime with acrimonious and dogmatic zeal, declaring it to be the only basis

of social order. Wars and fighting had always been a part of humanity, and could not be condemned without condemning humanity. James Silk Buckingham replied to him in French, in an admirable manner, completely refuting his arguments. Several short speeches followed from the different members on the same side, and the element of discussion thus unexpectedly thrown into the meeting by the Spanish Don, imparted vivacity and brilliancy to the proceedings of the evening.

Thursday, Sept. 21. A most beautiful and lovely morning. It seemed as if the firmament was in sympathy with our cause, and had put on its loveliest, sweetest sheen to smile its best upon the day. At 10, the morning session opened with a full house; all appearing to be deeply interested in the expected proceedings. After the reading of the process-verbal, M. Vischers proposed the following resolution, as embodying the sense of the meeting upon the subject of arbitration, discussed yesterday: "That it is of the highest importance to urge upon the different governments of Europe and America, the introduction of a clause in all international treaties, providing for the settlement of all disputes by arbitration; that war may be avoided, and the way thus effectually prepared for a permanent appeal to the great principles of justice, which will be the object of a High Court of Nations to consolidate and apply."

On being put to vote, the resolution was carried, with only two dissenting votes. The subject of a Congress of Nations was now called up. I had engaged M. Bousson, the General Secretary, to read my essay, or about half of it, as it was longer, when translated into French, than I had anticipated. He therefore mounted the tribune, and read in an impressive manner, the principal points of the proposition of a Congress of Nations. It was listened to with fixed attention, and the illustrations upon which I had bestowed some care, seemed to make a favorable impression. A short and telling letter from Mr. Bowring, was next read, and elicited much applause. A man, with long, thick, black hair, then took the tribune, and read a learned and elaborate essay upon a Congress of Nations. It was Professor Bernattini, from Turin, a distinguished jurist, who appeared deeply versed in the whole subject, especially in the details of the law, and his illustrations, authorities, dates, &c., were almost identical with those I had employed. Indeed, the coincidence was so striking, that many remarked that one essay seemed a copy of the other. In these respects, however, no incident occurred, which I felt that I had not had in view. A Congress of Nations had taken a deep hold of the thinking mind on the Continent, and that it would ere long be raised into a fixed faith, with the grateful acclamations of the people.

Henry Vincent next mounted the tribune. It was the first time he had presented himself, and the Belgians hardly knew what to expect from the short, dumpy, red-faced man who appeared before them. As he began to speak, in a low voice, and labored for expression, many persons left the hall, and the current was setting in strong for the door, when one of his high-top-clasps arrested it in a moment. By degrees his voice arose into the ruddy energy, which distinguishes him, and the whole assembly began to feel his power. Onward and upward he soared, and his unpruned thoughts flashed with dazzling brilliancy in their flight. Many seemed half raised from their seats by the power of his towering genius. It was eloquent, almost to inspiration, and when he ended with the exclamation, "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, Alleluia!" there was an explosion of applause in which every human being in the house seemed to join. James Silk Buckingham attempted to give some of the leading ideas of Vincent's speech in French. He said he feared his feeble analysis must resemble a little taper, succeeding the splendor of the sun; but the taper, however small its light, was better than complete darkness. Return de la Sagra, after a little interruption, resumed his arguments, and recapitulated his arguments of yesterday. He declared a Congress of Nations impossible, because it could not be established upon the basis of universal suffrage, which was not yet granted to all the peoples. Wm. Ewart, M. P., replied in an able manner, maintaining that universal suffrage was not absolutely necessary to establish a national law; but if it were indispensable to the convocation of a Congress of Nations, it would soon be secured; for come it ought, and come it would, ere long. Two or three Belgian speakers followed to inspiration; propositions.—Henry Clapp, Jr., of the United States, then made a happy, vigorous, and eloquent speech, which was well received.

The session was now drawing near to a close, when Francis Bouvet, the French Vice-President, arose, and in quiet remarks of Don Ramon de la Sagra, especially to the statement that there was no general opinion in France. "I ought to refrain," said he, "from entering here upon political opinions; but the general opinion in France, gentlemen, is 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity,' the motto of the Gospel." A large number of members arose instantaneously at this happy and touching return to an invidious remark, and "Vive la France!" resumed through the hall. After speaking in a felicitous strain for five or six minutes, he took leave of the Congress, as he was obliged to return to Paris to attend the discussions on the French Constitution. Kindly interchanges of sentiments passed between him and Mr. Ewart, and I said a few words in testimony to the friendly feeling entertained by the English people toward the French. Every hour was fraught with interest; the gladness of meetings of friends, the smiles on every face, and kindly words that came spontaneously to the lips of all; the spirit of peace that reigned over us, like a sweet presence, that reigned over us, like several other Belgian speakers on the same side. Next arose a contrary spirit, Don Roman de la Sagra, from Madrid. He seemed the very genius of controversy, and entered upon the defence of the brute force regime with acrimonious and dogmatic zeal, declaring it to be the only basis

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