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OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

REPUBLICAN VICTORY.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—The recent elections in France have been most disastrous for Marshal MacMahon and the plotters monarchical and clerical, in whose interests he has been so indefatigably working since the famous dissolution of the Assembly in May last. Their plottings and prosecutions have wofully failed. A strong and united Republican majority has been elected, and loud has the wail been at the Vatican and elsewhere at the unmistakable defeat of the plot to undo the great work of liberty in France. The struggle is not over, for the Marsha is obstinate and powerful. He has declared his intention of remaining in office, and may possibly attempt some new invasion of power over the newly elected Representatives. Yet the will of the nation has been plainly expressed under circumstances of very great difficulty and repression, and it is evident that the people of France intend to retain and preserve their freedom from kings and clerical despotism.

THE BARNARDO ARBITRATION

has been a very lengthened affair, and one that has occasioned great sorrow to a large circle of earnest Christian workers. Dr. Barnardo has for some length of time been most indefatigable in the work of rescuing poor children and providing homes in his orphanages and other institutions. Very large sums of money have been committed to him, and the whole undertaking has been one of overwhelming care and responsibility for one man. His administration of this very important trust has been severely criticised, grave charges have been persistently urged, and at length an investigation was entered upon, and it has been dragging on for long weary months. The prosecution as it may be termed, has been pushed to an extreme which bordered on apparent rancor and revenge, and the Doctor in his defence has made some mistakes which have been not a little grievous to his friends. The decisions of the arbitrators has at length been published, and it is, on all of the more grave and serious charges, a full vindication of the Doctor. The work in which he is engaged is pronounced to be good, and his institutions are spoken of as "real and valuable charities." They entirely acquit him of dishonest management, malversation, fraudulent attempts to obtain money and ill treatment of the children. There has been errors of judgment and far too much irresponsible power in the hands of one man, but it is a great relief to find that this is the gravest accusation that can be brought against a prominent and able man, foremost in works of active benevolence, and whose labors have been productive of much good.

CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE

so called, has been one of the leading subjects of talk and anxiety during the last fortnight. This famous Egyptian Obelisk which has laid neglected and despised, almost buried and lost to view, has been placed within a craft specially constructed for the purpose, and was being towed to England, when the tidings came of its loss during a storm in the Bay of Biscay. The lives of six men were sacrificed in the fierceness of the storm and the attempt to recover the vessel, which contained the famous Obelisk. In a very short time tidings came that the Needle had been recovered, and had been towed into a Spanish port, where for the present it remains waiting a calmer season when the attempt to bring it to England will again be ventured upon. Meanwhile there is a protracted controversy as to the best site for the Obelisk. Wooden models have been set up to try the effect, and after many experiments the public opinion is widely divided and no decision has been reached. The ex-

pense of the removal to England is being borne by a private gentleman, and a most costly undertaking it is proving.

THE LEADS ANNIVERSARY

so often reported in your columns, year after year, has again been held, and retained all the fine joyousness and splendid liberality of the past. The President of the Conference has taken a leading part in these meetings, and given ample proof of his power as a speaker and his fitness to be at the head of a great Missionary Church, as ours has ever proved itself to be. If under the Divine blessing, the anniversaries throughout the kingdom shall prove as successful, the needs of our great society for the current year will be met by the enlarged contributions of our people.

THE WAR

is still being carried on with fierceness and undiminished determination on both sides. The Russians have of late won two or more considerable victories, and the tide of battle has turned in their favor. They manifest a dogged resolve to maintain their footing on Turkish territory and to keep at it until the enemy shall be thoroughly humiliated. They are well capable of this, and consequently there is no prospect of peace. The approach of winter does not appear to disturb them, and the Powers of Europe have no disposition to interfere actively for the termination of the great struggle.

UNITED STATES LETTER.

The Rev. Joseph Cook still attracts crowds to his Monday noon lectures in Boston. This is the third season in which he has lectured at the same place and time, and still the great Temple is crowded to hear him. His audience are of the most refined, cultured class, such as seldom if ever, are assembled to listen to any other lecturer. His lectures are logical, critical, and some of them scientific and metaphysical, yet there is a great desire to hear them. He deals hard blows on the skeptical and free-thinking class, but they would hear every word he says. His abstract definitions and most profound processes of reasoning are got off with witty, incisive strokes, and bits of poetry, and what from most other men would be dry and uninteresting, is listened to from him with the deepest interest. His power over an audience is wonderful. He is accomplishing a great work for Christianity, and he should have the prayers of the universal Church of Christ for his success. His lectures are published in whole or in part by a large number of papers, secular and religious, and are read by more people than any others ever delivered in this country.

Messrs. Moody and Sanky are moving on in their work. They propose to visit the principal cities and towns of New England, and spent the month of October in that State; November is to be given to New Hampshire, and then the other States will be visited as time and opportunity permit. Thus far their labors have been attended with great success. An influence goes out from them that is felt widely, producing a deep, earnest religious interest.

The International Bible Lessons are largely instrumental in bringing about a change of Sabbath services in our churches. Many of our churches now devote the forenoon to the Sunday school and Bible study, the pastor taking a prominent part in the service. The sermon for the day is in the afternoon, and in the evening a social meeting is held under the direction of the pastor, but the time to be improved principally by the members of the church. There is now a strong tendency in the churches to this arrangement, but to make it successful much depends on the interest taken in it by the pastor. At present we regard it as an experiment; what the result will be remains to be seen.

The General Board of Missions of the M. E. Church has been in session for some time in New York. This Board consisting of clergymen and laymen, have the general oversight of the missions of the Church, fixing the amount to be received by each mission, and apportioning the amount to the general Churches. The Missionary Society it represents is at present considerably in debt, and some think

the best policy is to retrench until the debt is paid, while others think that the quickest and surest way to pay is to hold fast whereunto we have attained, and advance as the providence of God indicates. The latter policy we trust will prevail. That the great M. E. Church should retrench in her missionary work, is a thought we cannot allow ourselves to entertain.

This is a very busy season for our publishing interest. The Methodist Book Concern is doing a great and good work for the Church. Its publications are excellent, meeting the wants and necessities of our people. It is very important to the Church's prosperity that it should have a sound, instructive, appropriate literature. Some of their recent publications are of special interest. "Home in my Life," by Mark Trafton, D.D., is an entertaining, instructive, and spicy volume, that will find many readers. The author is a member of the New England Conference, and has been nearly fifty years in the ministry. This volume contains many interesting and thrilling incidents and scenes which came under his observation. His life like descriptions will be greatly enjoyed. "All for Christ," by Thomas Carter, D.D., is a book that should be read by all Christians. It shows how the Christian may obtain renewed consecration of his heart, the fullness of joy referred to by the Saviour just previous to the crucifixion. Its illustrations from the lives of those who have made this consecration, are exceedingly instructive. "The People's Commentary," by the Rev. Amos Binney, is passing through the press. It is in one volume and contains brief notes on the New Testament with copious references to parallel illustrations, passages designed to assist students and common readers to understand the meaning of the inspired Word. The author has a world-wide fame as the author of the "Theological Compend."

The Messrs. Harpers announce a new work on Egypt, entitled, "The Khedive's Egypt; or the Old House of Bondage under new masters," by Edwin De Leon. It will be fully illustrated, and contains a large amount of information as to a people and country respecting which there is considerable interest at the present time. "The Origin of the World, according to Revelation and Science," by J. W. Dawson, LL.D., F. R. S., F. G. S., will attract more than ordinary attention for its great ability, vast research, and convincing arguments. It treats on a subject of great importance and is a most valuable contribution to the cause of science and religion. They have issued the first number of the fifty-sixth volume of their Monthly Magazine, and if I should say it was improving still, I should not go beyond the truth. For the number of its illustrations, ability, and the wide range of topics discussed, it is without a rival. Its circulation exceeds largely that of any other monthly of the country, and is increasing in popularity. The article entitled, "The Methodist Newspaper," is worth twice the amount charged for the work for a year.

Messrs. H. O. Houghton & Co., of the Riverside Press, are issuing a number of valuable works, among which are the "Poetic Interpretation of Nature," by J. C. Sharp, at present the Professor of Poetry at Oxford. This is a charming work, beautiful in style, admirable in design, rich in matter, pure and elevating in spirit. "Studies in Poetry and Philosophy," consisting of essays upon Coleridge, Keble, and Wadsworth, and whoever reads it once will want to read it the second time. Their edition of the "British Poets," is most welcome to all readers of poetry—most beautiful in mechanical execution. Their *Atlantic Monthly* is the leading literary monthly of the country, and is filled with articles of great value, and from the ablest writers of the times.

The *Eclectic Magazine*, consisting of the best articles from the foreign periodicals, is a monthly of great value, and has become one of the monthly Magazines of the country. Its articles are wisely selected and generally read. Few, if any, of the Magazines, are so rich and instructive as the *Eclectic*. You get in it the pith and largely the substance of the English periodical literature. Rev. W. H. Bidwell, long its editor, greatly excels in his tact and wisdom in selecting

from the vast amount of British periodical literature. In it you have a view of foreign thought, which seems to place you in the company of the most distinguished writers and scholars of the old world.

GREENSPOND, BONAVISTA BAY,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

October, 20th 1877.

FINANCIAL.

The prospects are very gloomy, as the fishery has been a failure in this part of the Bay. It is generally thought that the approaching winter will be very trying to the poor people, who have nothing provided for the long, dreary winter.

SPIRITUAL.

There are cheering signs in some settlements of a good work. Our congregations are gradually on the increase, and the people appear very attentive. We are having an open door and success, where formerly our predecessors had but little. We hear the Macedonian cry—"Come over and help us." There is one settlement where our missionaries have never preached the gospel; like the eunuch, they are inquiring for the light, they read, but cannot comprehend its meaning. They have for many years attended to certain rites and ceremonies, but sin remains. We purpose visiting them as early as possible.

CHURCH ERECTION.

On account of the poor times, we have not been able to make that progress with Church erection which we had anticipated. We expect to open the church at Cape French next spring, though it will not be quite completed. We have still a debt on the Greenspond Church. The sum of forty pounds has been paid for that purpose since I came here. We purpose building during the winter.

EDUCATIONAL.

Until recently little was done in this respect. Mr. Milligan visited several of our day schools during the month of July, and prompted the people to help on the interests of general education. During that time, we had rather a small attendance, as many of the boys and girls were called away to assist in the fishery. The school house and outbuildings at Greenspond have been completed. Three school houses are in course of erection on the circuit, and two are to be erected as early as possible. We trust, in course of time, this very extensive circuit will have a supply of churches and school houses in which the children may be taught secular and religious knowledge, and the gospel preached to the increasing population.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Five Sunday-schools have been kept up during the summer. In some places there is a lack of teachers and accommodation. The Sunday-school at Greenspond is well attended. We have the names of 130 children on the books, and we expect an increase of teachers and scholars during the winter. A children's service has been held regularly once a quarter, when a sermon was preached and a collection taken up in behalf of the school funds.

A few weeks ago, Mr. Bemister, of Harbor Grace, who has been Superintendent of Sunday schools 42 years) visited the above school and delivered a very suitable and interesting address. The children were delighted with such a distinguished visit by the Sheriff.

ACCIDENTS AND DEATHS.

We have had some very startling visitations during the past few weeks. Bro. John Bowman, who was a consistent member of society, was drowned.

He lived a life of faith in the Son of God, and we trust he died a happy death. His funeral was largely attended by members of different religious sects.

Oct. 17th, a boy 7 years of age was drowned at Greenspond, and on the 20th inst., a youth, nearly 16 years of age, named Martin David Bidout, of Cape French, was shot by his cousin while from home hunting birds. His sufferings were short but very severe. He prayed earnestly that Jesus might wash his sins away. He had received a religious training, and had often been the subject of divine convictions. It was a great comfort to his afflicted and bereaved father to know that his dear son prayed so earnestly, before death. He was buried the following day, by the writer. It was a very distressing sight and a time of great sorrow and lamentation.

Yours, affectionately,
C. MYERS.

MINISTERIAL PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

The substance of "A Charge," delivered at the ordination of the Rev. Messrs. Freeman and Pratt, in the Methodist Church, Carbonear, Newfoundland, on the 19th June, 1877. By Rev. C. Stewart, D. D.

DEAR BRETHREN,—In common with the fathers and brethren around me, I congratulate you upon attaining the position which you now occupy. Many events in your life, all tending to the solemnities of the present occasion, must anew excite your devout gratitude to Almighty God. Your conviction of sin, and your conversion to Christ; your earlier efforts in preaching the gospel, and your continued labors during the time of your probation, together with such success as has been granted to you in this work, demand from you, and from us, expressions of praise to Christ the Lord. But especially we rejoice that you have been enabled to witness a good confession before many to-night that you are purposed to give yourselves wholly to the Ministry of the Gospel; and that in token of our belief in your call to this office, and qualification for it, you have now been ordained and set apart by prayer and the imposition of hands.

As, however, privilege is always attended by corresponding responsibility, I am now called to remind you of the obligations which have come upon you, and of the service required of you by the Head of the Church. For this purpose I crave your attention to the impressive words contained in Acts xx. 28: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood."

As these words were originally addressed to experienced pastors, and were needful to quicken their sense of duties and dangers with which already they must have been familiar, you cannot but perceive with how much more force they must apply to those who, like yourselves, are just entering upon this great work. If suitable to those who were accustomed to the full discharge of the duties of the Christian Ministry, and who had been favored with Apostolic guidance, a great deal more must they be necessary for you, who, without such supervision, are being entrusted with the care of souls, the success of the Christian religion, and the glory of Christ! Look at your relation to the Church of Christ, as it is defined here and elsewhere in the Holy Scriptures.

Holding, as I do, that every word of God is pure, and that there is a meaning and an emphasis in the very terms employed on this subject—a meaning which should engage our attention, and to which our ultimate appeal should be made—I make my appeal to "the words which the Holy Ghost teacheth," in connection with the passage before us.

St. Paul called for "the elders of the church." This designation is one of a personal character, and forms the basis of another which is purely official. Primarily, it conveys the idea of age, and of the experience which age brings with it, and which together qualify men for a place of authority in the Church of God. There were "elders" chosen in the time of Moses, and the institution, with more or less adaptation to the circumstances of the Jewish people, continued to the time of our Lord. From the synagogue to the Christian assembly the transition was easy and natural; and so we find in the Acts of the Apostles that there were elders, or presbyters of the Church, just as in the Gospels we find that there were elders, or presbyters of the Jews. The term then denotes those who were appointed to care for the Church of Christ—those whose duty it was to administer the doctrine and discipline of the Lord.

But in the text these officers were addressed as Overseers, contrast with the former, word, and is probably true. It describes duties, which embrace inspection, guardianship of all those who, the Saviour, were unit of His Church.