

Correspondence.

FROM OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC FAVOR.
When Rev. Dr. Tying, of New York, was presiding, only three years since, at one of the great anniversaries in that city, he gracefully perpetrated the following hit of pleasantry. Rising to introduce one of the speakers, he remarked that one of the pleasures of presiding on such an occasion was the opportunity it gave to say a good word for a worthy man to whom the audience were about to listen, or to encourage modest talent, or bring forward rising genius, and it gave him peculiar pleasure, he said, at that time, to introduce to the audience a young friend of modest but genuine worth, one who would yet make his mark in the world if his life was spared—whereupon he gravely announced

JOHN B. GOUGH, ESQ.

Of course, after that, the well-known and eloquent orator was received with uproarious applause, a considerable part of which was intended for the accomplished presiding officer. We do not ourselves expect the applause, and yet we beg leave in like manner, strange as it may seem, to introduce to our readers John B. Gough, Esq. Wonderful man! He has lectured in this city twice this winter. The first time our great Corinthian Hall, which will seat 1500 persons, was so crowded, that after that number were seated, aisles and areas being all filled, hundreds more still pressed inside the doors, forming such a mass of human beings as greatly to incommodate all present, while other hundreds unable even to find standing places returned to their homes without hearing the lecture.

Complaints was at once made. Somebody, it was said, was at fault, in selling tickets for a larger number of persons than the hall would accommodate. This week Mr. Gough appeared again, and it was published beforehand that the number of tickets to be sold should be limited to the capacity of the house. Many would have declined to buy if this had not been announced. But still many seemed to think they must go early, if they would get good seats. The doors were to be open at 6 o'clock; lecture to commence at 7. A wild winter storm was raging. Old boxes howled around the corners, and the driving snow filled the air.

We thought—How many people would go to a prayer-meeting on such a night as this?

And yet we must hear Gough, and we must be in good season; we will be the very first on hand when the door opens; and get a seat where we can hear every word, and see every look. So we are at the door before half-past six. No, not at the door; for we could not get within a hundred feet of it. Five hundred or a thousand had thought just as we had, only a little more so, and were there before us. We stood clear out in the street, on the outer verge of a dense mass of human beings, all eager to be first inside the Hall of enchantment, as it was to be that evening. And when the doors flew open, such a rush! such crowding, pushing, squeezing; such a crushing of crinolines, and the like, as the whole mass tried to press at once into the narrow entrance. All were good-natured indeed; but all wanted to get in.

But after some fifteen or twenty minutes of merciless squeezing we are inside the hall, which is soon filled to its utmost capacity, 1500 persons present, all seated, and the doors are shut. After patiently waiting for near an hour, the lecture begins, of which we need say nothing, only that it was over two hours long, and one of Gough's best efforts, on his own peculiar theme, *temperance*.

And so he passes through the land. A similar scene was enacted on the previous evening in Lockport. The succeeding evening he was to be in Canandaigua, then Elmira; then Penn Yan, Geneva, Auburn, Oswego, Onondaga, Utica; and so he is engaged on every evening until the middle of May, when he stops to rest for the summer. In like manner he has already been employed ever since the middle of October; and so he has been at work, we may add, for twenty years! having spoken upon the subject of temperance alone more than 4,800 times.

Wonderful man! How he endures so much toil; why the physical and mental machinery does not give way under such prodigious efforts as he is making night after night, is more than we can tell. But his health never seemed firmer, his voice never better, his mingling pathos, word painting, invective wit, and drollery never more enchanting. Almost breathless we all hung upon his lips, for the entire two hours, and only wished we could hear

him two more. Truly, he has made his mark; he is a power in the earth; millions have felt the touch of his magic wand, and have been made better by it. But we wonder if the millions know how unselfish, how noble his life is. We have heard him denounced freely, by some niggardly spirits, who never gave much of anything in charity themselves, for "taking a hundred dollars a night for a temperance lecture."

But suppose he leaves \$200—on the same night, of his own hard earnings, to some charitable object—is there anything very mean in that? And those who thus censure his course seem to forget that he has heavy travelling expenses to pay, for himself and for some one whom he always takes with him as a companion or helper. His agent must also be paid, who makes all his arrangements. And then it is well known that he is always sustaining a troop of friends and dependents. Two years ago he had no less than six young men in colleges, more or less dependent on his aid in prosecuting their studies. There is also, it is well-known, the entire family of his former benefactor in Worcester, for whose support he became responsible a few years since.

And it may not be known to all that he first consecrates one-tenth of all his income to the Lord; that so much is regarded from the first as sacred to religious uses; so that he is accustomed to give his hundred dollars at a time to some at least of the great benevolent institutions of the land. He makes his thousands—near a score of them, perhaps—every year; and yet he hoards nothing; he gives almost all away; he is not rich.

Surely, if these facts were known, no one could find fault with him for taking one hundred dollars for a temperance lecture; and all would bid him God-speed, in his arduous, useful, glorious work.

A MATCH FOR HUMORIST.

What tales many of our soldiers can tell; what sights they have seen. Ridding a few days since in the cars with one of Uncle Sam's men, we fell into conversation. He was in the seven day's fight before Richmond, and went out with others after one of their most sanguinary engagements, to gather up the wounded, and do what they could for the dying. They found their comrades in all imaginable conditions of mutilation and suffering; and among others, was a man stone dead, leaning in a sitting posture against a fence, where he had evidently crawled whilst strength remained to do so. With one cold hand he was still clasping his gun, and in the other, extended at arm's length, there rested a fair daguerreotype of what was supposed to be a daughter; and his leaden eye balls were still turned in that direction, as though he were gazing upon the precious face and form.

Our informant was himself a father, and a noble specimen of a soldier. He said the sight was, for a few moments, too much for him. His own loved ones came so vividly before him, and the idea that he had just escaped mercifully from a like separation forever from them, overpowered him, and unbidden tears fell like rain. But there was not much time for tears. He gently removed the cherished picture from the dead hand, and put it in the way of reaching the surviving relatives; and a precious relic in some home circle that must be; prized indeed it should ever be, by the one whose face and form were evidently such a comfort to a husband and a father, whilst dying for his country.

GENESEE.

Rochester, Feb. 19th, 1864.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

RELIGIOUS INTEREST IN THE ARMY.

Since I last wrote to you, I have spent some days in the army; and am happy to say that the religious interest of which you have often heard, is a blessed reality.

I preached last Sabbath morning at the Headquarters of the 3d Division of the 2d Corps. The morning was fair, but windy, a large congregation assembled—I suppose three thousand men. It was arranged that the men should be marched to the place of public worship in regiments, with their officers at their head, and from the hills, there streamed down, the veterans of an hundred battles; and there gathered under my eye men from every country of Europe. In the eight or more regiments present, there were representatives of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Indiana and West Virginia. In all these, the impression is in the army that the religious interest is uncommon and marked. The chaplains of the 4th and 8th Ohio, the Rev. Messrs. Stone and Millar, were more than ever encouraged in their work.

In the afternoon of the Sabbath, I preached in the New Jersey Brigade of the 3d corps, and found here a Brigade Chapel, neatly finished and furnished

and most attractive to soldier. I was glad to learn that there was a manifest increase of religious feelings. Meetings have been held in this chapel every night for weeks, and several cases of hopeful conversion are reported.

At night I preached in a Brigade Tent erected in the Excelsior Brigade of the 3d corps. Here I found working with the most fervent zeal for the salvation of men, that remarkable man, "Uncle John Vassar," who has been for a long time in the employ of the American Tract Society of New York. He possesses, in the highest degree, the love and confidence of the soldiers, and with an earnestness almost apostolic, he never tires of the work of winning souls. I have met few men in the army or elsewhere, more awake to the interests of another life than this man. In charge of this chapel and its services is the Rev. Mr. Eastman, a son of Mr. Eastman of the Tract Society, New York. This young brother has collected a small library for the soldiers, and fitted up tables and chairs in the chapel for the soldiers to write, read and study. The chapel could not contain one-half that crowded to its doors. Some officers remained for prayer after the services had ended.

On Monday I went to the 1st Division of the 3d Corps, and preached in the evening in the Tent of the Christian Commission. I found here the Rev. Mr. Whitney and Rev. Mr. Holmes, from Maine; both of these brethren were among the voluntary laborers sent or rather aided by the Christian Commission to reach the army. Their labors here are most gratefully appreciated and blessed with the richest fruit. They hold a meeting every night, and a prayer meeting each morning. The Tent, the night I spent here, was one of the most hallowed and sacred spots.

But few of the regiments in this division have chaplains, and hence there is the greater necessity for just such efforts as those put forth by the agents of the Christian Commission. Wherever the Commission has erected a large tent for public worship, the good doers thereby cannot be told. It has made divine services a certainty, for, whatever the storminess of the heavens, men could assemble to sing and pray. It soon has been invested with all the solemnity and awe of the most sacred spot on earth. Hundreds of soldiers now find their greatest joy in those places of worship, and spend hours here in reading, singing and devotion. Thus they gird themselves for the toil and sacrifice of the future.

DESSERTERS FROM THE REBELS.

On the morning of my return, I saw standing on the platform at Brandy Station, waiting for the train, more than forty rebel deserters. They were clothed in the heterogeneous and uncouth garments which invest the southern soldiers. I was surprised to see these men so comfortable. They had indeed the look of men to whom water was a strange luxury, and of whom their officers were careless, and they indifferent to their fate; but at the same time they had not the wretched, haggard look of men fed on half rations. They had fled to us simply because tired of the war, and hopeless of the future. They had read the President's Amnesty Proclamation.

The number of these escaping rebels is about thirty a day.

THE OFFICERS ESCAPED FROM LIBBY PRISON.

Quite a sensation has been produced here by the presence of several of the officers of our army who have escaped from Richmond during the last few days.

Their first plan of escape, as they represent, was to dig and undermine walls to the sewer leading from the prison to the canal; but when they reached the sewer the air was so foul that they could not breathe it five minutes and live. This plan was then abandoned, and they turned to tunnel under Carey street, opposite the prison. After burrowing under the wall several feet, they came to a firmly set row of piles made of the wood of the largest trees. These they chipped away with pen knives, and a small chisel. At length this obstruction yielded, and after four weeks of incessant toil, they found themselves near the point of promised egress. The earth, as it was dug out, was dragged back in a spittoon to which a rope was attached, and the excavated earth was concealed under a pile of refuse straw, in a cellar.

The point of egress was in a wagon or lumber yard opposite the prison. Here, sheltered from the eye of the guard by a high board fence, the entire number in the plot one hundred and twenty-nine, made their way to the open air; many, no doubt, to be retaken, but the majority to escape. Two of these officers are now lying in Douglass Hospital, with frost-bitten feet. Their story is that soon after escaping out of

Richmond, they separated into small bands of three and four. Another, with the two mentioned, found their way to the banks of the Chickahominy, to the right of the York River Railroad, and when skirting along the bank to find a place of crossing, they heard behind them the baying of blood hounds. They concealed themselves in a clump of bushes; the hounds came nearer, and it was evident the dogs were on their scent. One of the officers arose and hastened away. The howl of the animals came nearer; the other two arose and followed in their companions track, and advancing a few rods, suddenly sprang to the right, and lay down again. In a moment, the dogs rushed past them, and their companion was seized. The two escaped, wandered still further down the river, and at length entirely exhausted with hunger, and despairing of finding a way, they called to a negro man who came near to them. He advised them to remain concealed until night, and he would then come to their aid. As soon as it was dark, the good negro brought to them a bucket of corn bread and bacon. Strengthened and warmed by this, their black friend led them several miles down the river to the hut of a friendly colored man. He took them into a small boat, and rowed them down the stream many miles until daylight, and brought them far on their way to Williamsburg. Their dangers were now nearly ended. The next day they were found by our cavalry, sent out by Gen. Butler to pick up and help in such as might be near.

All these escaped officers speak in the warmest terms of gratitude of the kindness of negroes, who guided and fed them.

May all escape! Out of this adventure will come one of the most interesting chapters of the future history of sacrifices and adventures undergone in the rebellion.

Washington, Feb. 20, 1864.

A CHURCH NEEDED

FOR THE COLORED POPULATION OF THE WESTERN PART OF THE CITY.

In this time of pressing appeals, when the claims of the needy abroad are calling to the Christian and the philanthropist and are receiving a commendable degree of attention, is there not some danger lest the needy who are immediately among us may be overlooked and their wants neglected?

On several occasions the wants of the colored people of Philadelphia have been noticed in these columns. The writer would now call the attention of Christians and of the benevolent to some facts in regard to the religious condition and wants of this class of our people, which are calculated to arouse our sympathies and to summon us to action.

There are in the city of Philadelphia about 23,000 colored people. A large majority of them are sober, industrious, and intelligent, sustaining themselves by labor in various ways; many of them in the capacity of servants, scattered promiscuously over the city. These people have eighteen churches of their own, with an average capacity of 300. Sixteen of those churches are located between Ninth St. and the Delaware; two of them (which are Baptist) are located between Ninth and Eleventh Sts. It will be seen from this that there is not a place of worship for the colored people from Eleventh St. west to the Schuylkill.

When we reflect that our city is spreading out rapidly westward, it is not hard to perceive the growing and pressing want of a place of worship for those people in that quarter. Other facts may be mentioned to show the need of greater accommodations of a religious character for the colored population.

Of these 23,000 people, there are 4,000 in communion with these eighteen churches. Those worshipping in Roman Catholic churches do not amount to more than two hundred, which is the extreme number. The sum total of those who are in church communion, and of those not members who attend worship on Sabbath does not exceed 7000.

Where then are the 16,000 people who do not attend any place of worship? To reach a portion of these people and to provide for the old and children, and many who are at service in the western part of the city, should not something be done by Christians at this time?

CALLS.—The First Church of Brooklyn, E. D., have called Rev. J. H. Robinson, of Troy, N. Y., a brother of Rev. C. S. Robinson, of the First Church, Brooklyn. Dr. McLane, says the *Evangelist*, is laid aside by sickness.—The North Church, N. Y., formerly under the care of the Rev. Dr. Hatfield, has extended a unanimous call to the Rev. Dr. Sunderland, of Washington, District of Columbia, at a salary of four thousand dollars.

HELP FOR THE CHEROKEES.

It is a sad fact that the feeble Christian nation for whom, thirty years ago, Jeremiah Evarts in the press, and Theodore Frelinghuysen in the Senate so eloquently appealed, is again suffering from wrongs of white men. The only loyal Indian nation, and persecuted and starving as a result of traitor malice, they look to their Christian brethren for aid. The case is urgent. A communication from John Ross, Esq., their loyal chief to Rev. Dr. Brainerd, of this city, has appeared, which explains the matter. We give the substance of it below. Dr. Brainerd will receive and forward any contributions from individuals or churches. Articles will also be received by Mrs. Grier, at the Rooms of the Sanitary Commission, Chestnut, above 12th sts. Read and act.

The communications of Chief Ross show, that after a brief and enforced subjection to rebel rule, at the outbreak of the rebellion, the Cherokees hailed the first advance of the national forces into their territory, as the signal of deliverance, and rushed by scores and by hundreds to the standard of the Union, showing an alacrity in volunteering surpassed by none of the loyal States. To this standard they have since been faithful and have rendered efficient service to our cause.

A retrograde movement of our forces however, in July, 1861, again threw open the territory to the forces of the rebels, and the consequence was that great numbers of the people were compelled to leave their homes and fly northward. The condition of these fugitives, composed mainly of women, children, the aged and infirm, was one of great destitution and suffering, resulting in much sickness and death. In December 1862, an improvement was made in their condition, by removing them to Neosho, Mo. Here they were well cared for by the Government authorities, and they enjoyed religious privileges under the instructions of the chaplain of the 2d Indian Regiment.

Last April they were taken back to the Nation and commenced work, but it was soon found that the rebels on the south of the Arkansas had been largely reinforced, and that the small force, under the command of Col. W. A. Phillips, was insufficient to protect the country from murderous raids, while putting in and cultivating their crops. The three regiments composing the most part in fortifying Fort Gibson and guarding trains, and the laborers on the farms were virtually abandoned to their fate. The enemy made frequent raids for murder and plunder; and though they have been repulsed and defeated, and whipped in every battle, the force under Col. Phillips was quite inadequate to afford protection to the people at their homes, and the result is that scarcely anything was raised the past season, and the supplies are so scanty that intense suffering prevails among the people, and still greater is anticipated.

A letter written to the Chief from Fort Gibson, January 11th, 1864, describes the suffering among the women, children and soldiers from the extreme cold then prevailing, the mercury having gone several degrees below zero, on New Year's Day. The writer continues:

Short rations, scant clothing, no houses, or shelter amid these furious winds and pelting storms have been fearfully distressing, and at a meeting of some of the leading men the other day, I could not restrain giving expression to feelings of pity and indignation. The contrast between the past and present was too overwhelming to be longer borne in silence. Then we were more than twenty thousand strong, with a government and laws of our own; the sun shone upon our happy homes, upon our productive fields, upon our grazing herds—now all was changed, our children no longer wended their way to school, the fire had ceased to burn on the domestic hearths, the voices of prattling children were not heard around them; hundreds of stout men, tender women and feeble children now rest beneath these icy clouds; not one head throughout the length and breadth of the land was pillowed in peace; respectable females, who had not known want, were now seen shivering under the agent's office mendicants for a pair of shoes and a yard of domestic, without a morsel of bread to eat, while our cattle that grazed upon a thousand hills have disappeared, our cornell fires were extinguished, and we had the forms but not the substance of freemen, everything being in the hands of rulers not of their own choice; they had submitted long enough to empty promises from contractors for supplying them with bread, and should know of the contractor when supplies would be delivered.

The commander here I believe has done, and will do, all he can to relieve the wants of the people. I attach no blame to him, but there is culpability somewhere, and, in my opinion, it rests with contractors. There have been no issues of flour here for some time to many persons, and there is not only actual destitution but positive suffering.

While Wattie was about Park Hill his party killed nine or ten men on that raid, including two pickets near him—William C. Ross, at Park Hill, old Charles Manning and others. In the fight at Shelton's place he was whipped by our men, and had some of his party killed.

Among the victims of violence I regret to add the name of David Vann. He was at home; a party of six men rode up to his house, just at dark, called him out on the porch, and shot him through the head, just above the left eye. He died instantly. His wife and daughter

were present. The latter walked alone that night to Mrs. William's, from ten to fifteen miles, to obtain help to bury him. The deed is charged upon six white men supposed to be Texans or Missourians.

Editorial Items.

HONORABLE DEALING.

Subscribers who have allowed several weeks of a new year to pass before announcing their intention to discontinue the paper, and who then think it merely necessary to return the paper, or to inform the Post-master of the fact, must not think it strange if we pay no attention to such notices, and hold them responsible, as we may fairly and legally do, for the entire year's subscription. There may be good reasons on the part of subscribers for thus withdrawing from a contract; if so, let them be communicated to us by writing and they will receive due attention.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Our readers will find a large amount of concurrent testimony in behalf of this great enterprise in our columns of this week. Our correspondent writing from Knoxville and Chattanooga, our Washington Correspondent, a friend writing from Camp Convalescent, and our valued contributor to the Children's Department, "M. E. M.," severally have an emphatic word for the cause. It is a fact worth noticing, however, that this testimony is all unsought on our part, and its concurrence in this week's paper altogether unpremeditated. It is a voluntary, and so much the more significant tribute to the extraordinary power, extent, and excellence of the workings of the Commission. Good men in and out of the army, in public and in private stations, chaplains and laborers in every sphere for the welfare of our soldiers, are recognizing, as they have never before done, the fitness of this great instrumentality for the blessed and patriotic object it has in view, and the wisdom, purity, and efficiency of its administration. We have no hesitation in commending it as deserving of the first place, in the sympathies of all Christian people, desiring to contribute to the bodily and spiritual welfare of our brave soldiers. Let us daily remember its officers and agents in our prayers and liberal offerings.

REVIVALS.

CENTRAL CHURCH, WILMINGTON.—We are glad to learn that a very extensive, though quiet, work of grace has been going on in this church for the past few weeks, under the regular ministrations of the word. As many as sixty or seventy persons have been in attendance at an inquiry meeting, and it is hoped that from thirty-five to fifty have experienced a saving change.

REVIVAL.—The pastor of Hanover St. Church, Wilmington, writes:

"God has given us a special and very blessed visitation of his Spirit in our church. The church has been revived, and sinners have been led to Christ. Some forty are hoping that they have found Him, and the work goes on."

SABBATH SCHOOL ROOM OPENED.

The beautiful and commodious Sabbath School Room of the North Broad St. Church, has just been completed, and was, on last Sabbath afternoon, opened with interesting exercises. The children of both the larger and the infant schools sang a number of delightful hymns, including one written for the occasion, and addresses were delivered by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Adams—whom all were happy to see thus, by the good hand of God, able to be present and take a part,—by Rev. Dr. Eddy, of Tabernacle Baptist church, and by Mr. Wells, of New York. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. F. Graves.

The congregation of North Broad St. Church celebrated the opening of the rooms by a thronged and delightful social gathering on Monday evening.

CONCERT OF PRAYER FOR COLLEGES.

The Annual Concert of Prayer for Colleges, and other Institutions of Learning, will be held on this Thursday, (25th inst.) as follows:

Third Presbyterian Church, Pine and 4th Streets, at 11 o'clock, A. M.
Western Presbyterian Church, 17th and Filbert Streets, at 4 o'clock, P. M.
Central N. L. Presbyterian Church, Coates below 4th Street, at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

Addresses may be expected by Dr. Goertner, Rev. Messrs. Barnes, March, Robbins, and others.

INSTALLATION.—The Presbytery of Ontario installed Rev. Levi G. March pastor of the church of Nunda, N. Y., Feb. 9th. Messrs. A. H. Parmelee, L. Parsons Jr., J. R. Page and others, took part in the services, which were of unusual interest.