Correspondence.

CHAPLAIN STEWART'S LETTER.

James River, Va., near Charles City Court House, June 16th, 1804. DEAR BRO. MEARS.—Copernicus was not mad, nor Sir Isaac Newton a focl The world notwithstanding any plausi. ble cavils, does move in circles. At least if sluggish earth, the matter on which we tread, does-not, individual humanity as well as great armies often do. Two years ago after a series of bloody battles, the last of which was at Malvern Hill—the most decided victory to the Union arms of the war, we were huddled together at Harrison Landing like a flock of sheep in a rather small pen for forty-seven days. We retreated as quietly and as fast as we could past this old Charles City Court House, in order to try our chances against the rebels in other localities and perchance better auspices. What an interval! Since last here we have met the rebels in deadly conflict at Manassas and Bull Run-at South Mountain and Antietam, twice at Fredericksburgh-at Salem Heights and Chancellorsville-at Gettysburgh-at Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford, and lately for two days in the Wilderness-for a week's death struggle in the slaughter pens of Spotsylvania-on the North Anna and Pamunkey-for a week in the region of Cold Harbor, and now we are here. A large circle complete. Two years to make it. Thirty miles yet from Richmond. If only the veterans who left Harrison Landing on the 18th of August, 1862, constituted the army which has now returned, how insignificant were the number. Melted away in that score of dreadful conflicts. Brave heroes of the former Peninsula army, you have not fought and died in vain! Almost a new army is here; greater in numbers, in prowess and determination to take Richmond, and, as all believe, with a greater General to lead the enterprise.

PROPERTY ABANDONED BY THE WAY.

along our strangely winding course from | tinct sections of the city to unite their | opinions of the great philosopher. From Brandy Station to the James River, what efforts for the salvation of souls. The a scene of interest to retrace the journey. north, south, and west sides are seem-If the way the Syrian host fled from the ingly further separated than Brooklyn the precise language Dr. L. has emsound of imaginary chariot wheels was traced by the messengers sent out, and by draw bridges, which on account of returning with the declaration, that, " all the way from Samaria to Jordan was moving up and down, are rendered full of garments and vessels which the much of the time impassable. Mr Syrians had cast away in their haste," much more could our broad, tortuous course from the Rapid Anne to the James be retraced by things cast away. Starting early in the season and from winter-quarters, nearly all the soldiers menced his labors with a Children's commenced the campaign with their Meeting in Rev. Dr. Patterson's Presbyblankets and overcoats. At present we terian church, on the west side. Rev. matter to find a soldier in the whole viously spent a few days in preparing army in possession of these two articles, the way for Mr. Hammond's labors. It very few having either. It will be safe to assert that seventy five thousand overcoats and as many good blankets lie strewn between this and Brandy Station. As the weather increased in warmth and battles in fierceness, away went overcoat first, then another effort and away would go blanket; soldiors manded thee of God." Dr. Parker preferring to take the rains, the damps having long been known as one of the and the chills by night, to a burdensome load on the march and battle-field. In his words in regard to the genuineness our early advances, as the heat of day of the work which the Lord used Mr. arose, a delicate footed person might Hammond to accomplish in Newark, have walked for miles along the wayside was received with much credence. on blankets, overcoats and other garments. On the wide extended battlefields which in our late campaign have generally been in the woods, one must witness in order to have any conception of what war equipments, human apparel and appendages lie scattered in every the very commencement of the childirection. Guns, bayonets and their scabbards; cartouch and cap boxes; straps, bolts, and buckles; blankets, overcoats, shirts, drawers, socks, hats, and shoes; haversacks full and empty, with knapsacks, tin cups, coffee boilers, little frying pans, note books, portfolios -nothing that goes to make up the necessities of a healthful camp life that | for two weeks were afterwards held in has not been vilely cast away, carelessly abandoned, or fallen from the shoulders byterian) church, and in several others guilty of "contempt of majesty." and hands of killed and wounded sol-How truthfully and feelingly did

death of Saul and Jonathan on Gilbon, "There the shield of the mighty is vilely | ing the anxious to Jesus, but in awakenit had not been anointed with oil-the weapons of war have perished."

Our track is also marked by the rotting carcasses of perhaps ten thousand government horses, and as many mules killed in the service or worn out, abandoned and as generally done, shot. Many a rude mound of earth two feet | One little girl, almost nine years of wide and six long called a grave, with age, was found weeping bitterly, and bleaching bones unburied both of friend when asked what was the matter, with and foe help to make our desolating sobs replied, "My brother will not come pathway. A track like the course of to Jesus." some resistless harricane, whose force no opposing obstacle was able to resist.

Having no change of apparel, the

cessant, rugged service, by night as well as day; through swamp and wilderness, sanshine; fighting battles with long marches, have proved more than a match for the endurance of government shoes, pants and blouses. Many of our brave fellows would certainly make a rather the enemy.

BATTLE-FIELD NEAR PETERSBURG, Va., June 20th. so many days should elapse after beginning a letter ere it be finished. Only a across the James River on a long ponthree days and nights-not in Peterswounded to care for-portfolio not opened for four days-"a time," says Solomon, "for every purpose."

Had a refreshing visit yesterday from my dear friend and brother Rev. A. G. McAuley and son, from Philadelphia. We sought a quiet place, cooked a cup and camp. "Iron sharpeneth iron." Up and with mutual "God bless you," each turned where duty called. A. M. STEWART.

REVIVAL IN CHICAGO IN CONNECTION WITH MR. HAMMOND'S LABORS.

The readers of the AMERICAN PRESBY-TERIAN will rejoice to hear that the Lord is pouring out his Holy Spirit in the city of Chicago. The obstacles to a general work of absorbing interest have been very great. Chicago is in reality three cities, and it has always been Were things to remain just as left found a difficult matter to get these disand N. York. They are connected only ployed.] the many vessels that are constantly Hammond was invited here by the Young Men's Christian Association, thirty superintendents of the leading Sabbath-schools of the city. He comfeel confident it would be a very difficult | Dr. Joel Parker, from Newark, had pre is believed he did much to induce the earnest working Christians of our city to receive Mr. H. in a kindly spirit, and not a few were thus enabled to use the words of Cornelius to Peter, "Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are comconservative New York city ministers,

It was found that the recital of the great work in Newark did much to encourage Christians to expect a similar blessing here, and thus earnest prayer was offered for the immediate conversion of both old and young. And at dren's meetings the Holy Spirit was manifestly present. At the second meeting over one hundred remained for conversation. Ministers and Christians were actively engaged pointing the anxious to the Saviour. From that time the work among the children rappidly increased. Children's meetings the Rev. Dr. Patterson's (Second Presin the city. At these meetings hundreds were in tears, seeking the Saviour, who a few days after were rejoicing in his David sing after the defeat of Israel and love. Those who labored in the inquiry meetings were blessed not only in pointcast away, the shield of Saul as though | ing the careless. After the children's general exercises often hundreds of the litile ones who felt they had found Je-us would gather themselves together for a prayer-meeting. No one, after listening to their prayers, could doubt but that children from six to twelve years of age might intelligently be led to the Saviour.

Mr. Hammond, while carrying on these meetings, has preached about four weeks to adulta. Subbath evenings the estimation of the literati of China wardrobe of our soldiers is becoming Bryan Hall has been packed with more may be seen by a few testimonials from the time I could command to my pulpit

have lived in Chicago since it has increased from a vilage to a city of 170,cutting and dragging timber, digging 000, testify that they have never witditches, lying in the dust, mud, rain and nessed meetings of such deep and abnessed meetings of such deep and absorbing interest. Mr. H. has seemed far from being satisfied, and often urges Christians to more earnest, united prayer and efforts, that thousands in place of hundreds may be led to Christ. ludicrous appearance in present costume | But Chicago is a hard city to move, in a home circle. One thing however multitudes are here from all parts of the is certain though they might feel some- world, with the fixed determination to what abashed in a company fashionably get rich at all hazards, and even those dressed, yet are they disturbed by no who professed religion at the east seem feeling of this kind when in presence of to have left religion behind them. Besides, Mr. H. has found himself much worn down with the heat and excessive Have no surprise, dear reader, that fatigue. Nothing but the power of God sustains him. A notice was in the Evangelist that he was to labor in Cinhalt at Charles City Court House—then | cinnati, but he has not thought of it, he must have a long rest. Dr. Patterson, toon-on, on all night through clouds of of the Second Pres. Ch., was absent dust until morning light reveals the at the commencement of the union spires of Petersburg-then canonading meetings, but on his return has entered also on the nourishment of the Passion rifle practice—fighting, fighting for heartly with other ministers into the nature. In these two respects his merit burg yet-dead to bury-hospitals of attended, he said he rejoiced to find that vice to the world by his teaching the many for whom he had long been praying, gave hopeful evidence of a change Sabbath to an attentive audience. Cautious persons who know most of the of tea and with crackers had a camp to ten hundred of different ages, have their nature, and recover their lost feast-talked of home, church, friends, been led to the Saviour, and we hear of heart. When he discourses of benevothe work going forward in other church- lence, righteousness, propriety, and es, where Mr. H. has not been laboring. knowledge, he refers to the principles Long will Chicago have occasion to remember this "time of refreshing."

Chicago, June 20, 1864. J. K.

CORRESPONDENCE IN CHINA

The Influence and Opinions of Mencius.

[In Dr. Legge's Prolegomena, introductory to his second volume of the Chinese Classics, devoted to Mencius, about forty pages are taken up with an elaborate estimate of the influence and this mass of material the writer culls the following brief account, using chiefly

Confucius had hardly passed off the stage of life before his merits began to be acknowledged. During the lifetime of his disciples, public sacrifices were offered to him, and for about two thousand years he has been the man whom seconded by about a dozen ministers and the sovereigns and people of China have delighted to honor.

The memory of Mencius was not so distinguished. Several centuries elapsed before his works were authoritatively added: "I also wish to rectify men's admitted among the Classics along with hearts, and to put an end to those perthe Analects of Confucius, by the order of an emperor of the Sung Dynasty. sided actions, and banish away their In the year A. D. 1083, the Emperor licentious expressions; and thus to carry Shin-tsung issued a patent, constituting on the work of the three sages." Mencius "Dake of the kingdom of Tsow," and ordered a temple to be Mencius. Like Confucius, he was simpy erected to his honor on the spot where the preserver of the monuments of authe philosopher was interred. In the tiquity and the exemplifier and exfollowing year it was enacted that he pounder of the maxims of the golden should have a place in the Temple of Confucius. In A. D. 1330, the Emperor liarities of his natural character were Wan-tsung, of the Yuen Dynasty, added the words "Inferior sage" to his former title. This continued till the rise of the Ming Dynasty, the founder of which-Hung-woo-had his indignation excited in 1372 by one of Mencius' conversations with King Senen. The philosopher had said: "When the prince regards his ministers as his bands and feet, the ministers regard their prince as their belly and heart; when he regards them as his dogs and horses, they regard him as any other man; when he regards them as ground and as grass they regard him as a robber and an enemy." To apply such names as robber and enemy, in any case, to sovereigns, seemed to the Imperial leader an unpardonable outrage, and he ordered Mencius to be degraded from his place in the temple of Confucius, declaring that if any one remonstrated on the

proceeding be should be dealt with as Undeterred by the imperial threat, a certain president of the Board of Punishments himself presented a remonstrance, saying, " I will die for Mencius and my death will be crowned with q ory." The Emperor was moved by his earnestness, and allowed him to go scathless. In the following year, moreover, examination and reflection produced a change of mind in the Emperor, and he issued a proclamation, restoring Mencius to his place in the Confucian Temple, and affirming that he, by exposing hereical doctrines and overthrowing the principles of Confucius. In 1530 his title was changed by the ruling Emperor into " The Philosopher Mang, Inferior Saye," and so it continues to

the present day. The place which Mencius occupics in

ighteousness, to esteem the true sovereign and despise the mere pretender. Had it not been for him we should have been buttoning the lappets of our coats | found that the fresher preparation proon the left side, and our discourse would | duced the best effect, and that the more have been all confused and indistinct." The philosopher Ching, in reply to the question whether Mencius might be found it. pronounced to be a sage, said: "I do not dare to say altogether that he was my preparations, and the excitement of a sage, but his learning had reached the extremest point." The same scholar The rest of the day dragged heavily. said: "The merit of Moneius in regard The sermon I had prepared three or to the doctrine of the sages is more than four days before had lost its freshness. can be told. Confucius only spoke of benevolence, but as soon as Mencius opens his mouth, we hear of benevolence and righteousness. Confucius only spoke of the will or mind, but Mencius enlarged work. At the first prayer meeting he was great." "Mencius did great ser goodness of human nature." Another great scholar, who lived in the Sung of heart. Mr. H. preached for him last Dynasty, and whose tablet has a place in the temples of Confucius, says: "The great object of Mencius in his writings work, without any "numbering of the is to rectify men's hearts, teaching them people," can but believe that from eight to preserve their heart and nourish

"It is owing to his words that learners

now-a-days still know how to revere

feeling shame, and dislike, affected with modesty and complaisance, approving and disapproving." An eminent commentator on the Chinese Classics, Choohi, says: "Mencius, when compared with Confacius, always appears to speak in too lofty a style, but when we hear him proclaiming the goodness of man's nature, and celebrating Yaou and Shun, then we likewise perceive the solidity of his discourses." The philosopher, Mencius' own estisaid: "When sages shall rise up again, they will not change my words." Eviof Confucius had fallen upon him. A work was to be done in his generation, and he felt himself able to undertake it.

and yet he seemed to start with astonishment when one of his disciples was disposed to rank bim as a sage. After describing, on one occasion, what had been accomplished by the great Su, by Chowkung, and by Confucius, he verse doctrines: to oppose their one

We are not to look for new truths in age of China. Nevertheless, the pecumore striking than those of his master. Confucius. There was an element of the "heroical" about him. He was a dialectician. Moreover, if he did not himself a master of the art. An inge- to pri nuity and subtlety, which we cannot but enjoy, often mark his reasonings We have more sympathy with him than with Confucius. He comes closer to us. He is not so awe-ful, but he is more admirable. The doctrines of the sages take a tinge from his mind while passing through it, and it is with that Mencian character about them that they are now held by the cultivated classes and by readers generally.

The Rev. Jacob Sechler,

Well known and much respected among the German population in this country, makes the following statement to the benefit of the afflicted.

Dear Sirs:—Having realized in my family important benefits from the use of your valuable preparation—one of my daughters seemed to be in a decline, and like hopes of her recovery were entertained. I then procured a bottle of your excellent halsam, and before and by readers generally.

JACOB SECHLER. We have more sympathy with him than

WHEN TO PREPARE SERMONS.

Many ministers break down strong constitutions, and contract dyspeptic or nervous diseases, simply by crowding too much brain-work into the last hours of the week, and coming to the Sabbath labors with a jaded body and a mind over-strained. A contributor to the Independent gives an instructive leaf from the labors with perfect safety by the most delicate in the labors with a jaded body and a mind for about fifteen years, and having realized its beneficial results in my family, it affords me great pleasure in recommending it to the public as a valuable remedy in cases of weak lungs, colds. coughs. &c. and a remedy which I consider to be entirely innocent, and may be taken with perfect safety by the most delicate in from his own experience:

A fact so universal as blue Monday among ministers can only be accounted for by admitting a cause adequate to its production. As I have had a double experience on the subject of blue Mon days, with your permission I will give your readers a chapter from each.

I entered upon the duties of the ministry immediately after a course of pard study, extending through about seven years. My church was in a city perverse speakings, had clearly set forth and occupied a prominent position. was preceded in the pulpit by two men of scholarly attainments, one of whom. on retiring, took the place of head pro lessor of one of our highest schools of theology; the other took the presidency of a college in an Eastern State. I felt called upon to do what lay in my power to fill with credit the place they had filled with honor. I devoted a

rather dilapidated. Forty-five days in than two thousand people. Those who distinguished writers. One says: "If preparations, often consuming considerwe wish to study the doctrines of the able portions of Saturday night over sages, we must begin with Mencius." my sermons, and always occupying all the time I could command between the Coffee! Coffee! Coffee! services on the Sabbath, in the same way. The sermon prepared in the early Confucius, to honor benevolence and part of the week I always preached last, deeming it the most thoroughly prepared; while the sermon prepared on East India Coffee Co., Friday or Saturday I regularly preached on the Sabbath morning. I uniformly thorough preparation of the after part of the day fell flat upon listless cars. I asked myself the reason for this, and

I had exhausted myself thoroughly in

the morning used up completely the

little vitality which remained to me.

It was correctly, but formally delivered to an audience whose enthusiasm had been excited and exhausted by the morning's sermon. Sunday night was restless, and Monday dawned as blue as the mists which were brought in upon our city from the ocean. The day was spent without interest, and without effort. I saw the cause, and I roused myself to apply the remedy. I abandoned everything which could either stimulate or exhaust artificially the nervous system. I had always been strictly temperate. I never used tobacco in any form. I abandoned the use of coffee, drinking only water or weak black tea.

got a good number of sermons prepared in advance of my preaching-for I had no old stock to fall back uponand for years I kept them so. On Monday morning I began work, and on Saturday noon I laid down my pen, and on no account would I touch pen, or book, or even newspaper, till Monday of these in the heart, commiscrating, morning. The whole of Saturday afternoon I devoted to recreation. I roved over the fields back of the city. I walked down upon the shores of the harbor. I stopped where gangs of men were working and amused myself with their toil. I dropped my line for fish off the projecting rocks of the harbor did anything but think. Returning at nightfall, I took a light supper and went early to bed.

The first effect of this course was, I went through both discourses on Sunday with equal interest, and felt no exhaustion at the close. I recovered entirely from my previous attacks of mate of himself was high, and yet he dyspepsia. I was greatly relieved from was modest in expressing his views of incipient ministerial sore throat. I himself. On one occasion, however, he never was worried on Saturday to know what I was to preach on Sunday, and I never had a blue Monday afterwards. My best hour for commencing a new dently he was of opinion that the mantle sermon was after the services of the Sabbath were over, and the freshest day of the week, except Sunday, was Mon-

Moral - Make Saturday your day of rest, and Sunday your first day of labor for the week, instead of the last, and blue Mondays will disappear.

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