## Correspondence.

A VISIT TO THE OIL REGION. LETTER FROM REV. DR. MARKS.

WASHINGTON, September 10, 1864. DEAR BROTHER :-I have just returned to Washington from a visit to Northern Pennsylvania and Western New York. I went forth on a canvassing tour for the benefit of the American Tract So-

ciety. After leaving Pittsburgh the signs of improvement were everywhere manifest. I found a new railroad from New Brighton, Beaver county, to Newcastle, and thence to Greenville, in Mercer county, Pa., connecting with the great Atlantic Railroad running from New York to St. Louis.

I was glad to see so manifestly the evidences of prosperity in Newcastle. Lawrence county. It is surrounded with one of the finest coal and iron regions of the west, and now glows by night with the fire of many furnaces. The population of this place is about six thousand, and no place more loyal and patriotic can be found in the land. The town and vicinity has sent more than one regiment to the army, and no men have shown more bravery and heroism in many fields. The citizens are now taxing themselves to the utmost | imagine all smells lost in one, and the to sustain and replenish the legions in entire atmosphere saturated with oil;

the valley of the Mahoning to West puffing engine and flowing stream: Greenville. This I found one of the imagine the houses on the opposite side most flourishing towns in Northwest a little lower than the street, and hang-Pennsylvania. It contains a population | ing over the broken banks of the river of five thousand. The great Atlantic in the rear; the weather-boarding and R. R. passes through it, and it has a rail- windows in the second story covered road and canal connecting it with Lake Erie and the Ohio. The country around streams of mud lazily creeping up and it is one of the finest in the west, rich sleeping on the plank walk. in coal, iron and timber, and being on the margin of the great oil fields. There are many who have become rich by operations in connection with that wonderful discovery.

The country from Greenville to Meadville is very level, now and then diversified by a gentle swell, but many miles from the earliest dawn to the latest are passed over without any rise or fall night with traders, speculators, swind the nations! For thou hast said in from station to station.

Here and there are seen in gloomy forests of the heaviest timber, a lake of water, and often a sluggish stream. It is plain that all this country was once the bed of a lake, and not very remotely was a vast morass. The valley of French Creek to Franklin is a fertile and beautiful country, and near Meadville highly improved.

THE OIL REGION.

signs of operations for oil. The dericks friends without being known. become numerous, and clusters of mer are seen every few rods gathered around zeld, but the entire valley for miles with innumerable holes and heaps.

machinery. Its comparative value and recent discoveries have greatly increased the number of explorers and prospectors

FRANKLIN Is one of the oldest towns in Western Pennsylvania. Settlements commenced here and in the neighborhood as early great lumber trade, but as the timber was exhausted the prosperity of the place declined; but the recent oil discoveries have trebled its population, and its Even from church, and from singing streets are now full of anxious, bustling,

eager multitudes.

From this place the distance to Oil contracts and lay plans for boring tocreek is about six miles. A railroad is nearly completed. Now the scene at the depot beggars description. There is daily, when the cars arrive from and new homes and charming scenes Meadville, the wildest rush amongst the and a wide prospect of beauty. This passengers for coaches, wagors, stages town contains six thousand inhabitants, and carts. In most places the commo- has churches, banks, school houses and tion when the passengers alight is newspapers. And there are a great amongst the cab drivers, omnibus men | number satisfied with daily bread. and carriage drivers, for possession of The Presbyterian churches, under the the unfortunate travelers. But hore care of the Rev. Messrs. Moore and the elbowing out of the way, the uncere- Pinkerton, are both prosperous and monious trampling on corns, without putting up houses of worship. Mr. one look of regret or word of apology, Moore is the pastor of the Old School, the dashing you out of the way and and Mr. Pinkerton of the United Presspringing into your seat is all on the byterian church. Both are valuable other side. The pursuit of wealth makes and faithful men. The zeal demanded all flesh kin, and the gentleman under in such a community must be apostolic. the influence of this frenzy loses alike his dignity and magnanimity.

found no place for me but the top of an old broken stage. Here perched away up so that I could look into the second I was doomed to a most perilous jour to their own future. ney. Inside the stage was more than look, and now and then a few drops of wait for another letter.

rain told us what we might expect. With a miserable driver, swearing and whipping, we commenced with a pair of wind-broken, spavined and blind horses a never-to-be-forgotten journey. The mud was fabulous, and into many great chuck holes we descended with a violence that threatened to dislocate my arms, as in the spasm of desperation I grasped the sides of the creaking concern. Then we would all have to alight | March. in order to pull out.

Before we had gone more than half it lay before us like a dark chasm; but in the impenetrable gloom which followed we could see nothing, and had finally to dismount and feel our way into town. Covered with mud, weary, almost angry, we reached the long, stringy town of

"OIL CITY."

How shall I describe the place? Imagine a long, meandering river of mud, and on the left hand, hanging over, suspended on the side of an almost precipitous mountain, a line of disjointed houses; fancy from this mountain many streams constantly descending and keeping the mud in a charming fluidity; imagine here and there amid these From Newcastle, the railroad runs up scattered houses an oil well, with its with mud, and every few feet oozing

The houses are small, hastily built. not for comfort but for shelter and business. And certainly I have seen no place, not even in the far West, where housekeeping is attended with such unpleasant publicity and vexatious embarrassments. The street is crowded boatmen and teamsters are a large class gentlemen travelers and explorers. These last are often seen returning from a travel through the floods of Oil creek. and the ever recurring mud, in such a Within six or eight miles of the bespattered condition that they might mouth of French creek, we see the first meet and pass their most intimate

"Flowing well—three hundred and become partakers in its guilt. fifty barrels a day-worth \$800,000;" Gas and oil come rushing up like thunder," &c. &c. No one talks of the as 1784. It was once the centre of a state of the country; no one cheers at fighting for religion, but doubtless care the tidings of victory; no one defends very little about it. The Orangemen the administration, nor eloquently pleads the merits of General McClellan.

"A charge to keep I have," men go out to talk of wells, to make

morrow. But this is not all of Oil City. On its heights there are onchanting spots,

I preached in the hall of the United Presbyterian church on Sabbath even-Unfortunately for me, as often in the ing, and on Monday evening delivered past, I found baggage was impedimenta, a lecture on the state of the army, in for, detained at the baggage car, I the Methodist Episcopal church, which was most kindly opened for me by the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Whitely, and the trustees. Rarely have I seen congregastories of the houses, without the least tions of greater intelligence, and nearly protection, with not one thing to grasp, all evidently intensey hopeful in regard

For a full description of the oil counfull. I enjoyed the crazy, stormy height try, the wells and population, from Oil alone. The evening had a grey, heavy City to Titusville, I must ask you to J. J. M.

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

London, August 26, 1864. This place is now in its most desolate and vapid season. Little to see, less to hear, and no one to tell. Yet the weather for the last few days has not been such as to encourage country rambles, except for the strong and active. It has been quite cold, windy, and at times inclement; very much like a Philadelphia

Political matters, both here and at Paris, appear to be at a stand-still. Nathe way to Oil City the darkness of poleon is watched by his own subjects, night had come on. The road led along and by us, with great curiosity. He the banks of the Allegheny river, and has not spoken, and we cannot tell what in the growing dimness of the twilight will be the Autumn development of his policy. The rumor that the young Prince of Sardinia, Umbert or Humbert, was about to visit Paris, with the intention of arranging a match with the Princess Murat, created some sensation amongst our vivacious allies, who gave to the suggestion very grave conjectures; but now we have it from the government organ at Turin, that there is no truth in the report. It was believed that such a union would lead to closer political convention between France and Italy, and to some important action at Rome. Rome is the pulse of Europe just now.

Whatever agitates that quivers through the whole frame. Who can fathom the injury; who can measure the wrongs; who can conjecture the evil done to lib erty and truth, in Europe and through the whole world, from that nest of iniquity? With what indignant memory do we survey the past, and view the black, dead, devastating line of Roman progress; along which it has rolled through the history of mankind, like a vast Juggernaut, wherever it went leaving the ineffaceable impress of its ponderous destruction; everywhere crushing down the life and health and beauty of religion and life! How difficult it is to forbear rising to the inspired passion of the ancient prophets, as they rejoiced in pre-vision of the punishment of God's enemies. "Howart thou fallen O Lucifer! Son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken lers, oil purchasers and sellers. The thine heart, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also who in great numbers block up at upon the mount of the congregation in from the first been fully occupied. There various points the sidewalks. Hundreds the sides of the North; I will ascend of wagons and vehicles of all names above the heights of the clouds; I will crowd and jam the streets, some loaded be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt with barrels of oil, others with lumber, be brought down to hell, to the sides of others with marketing, and others with the pit!" Such was the energy of the ancient religion. It is unfashionable now: But we know that the longdelayed stroke shall come, and Babylon become the abomination of the whole earth. Let us not stay our hand against it; let us not withhold our efforts for its weakening and destruction; for it is One idea possessed all this mass of cursed of God, and blessed is he tha heaving and intensely active humanity: lifteth up his hand against it. I am one of the prospective fountains. French | " We may become fabulously rich in an | sometimes shocked at the apathy, and creek is not yet a very productive hour." At the stores, hotels, livery frightened at the complacency with stables, &c., there is but one subject of which many Christian men look upon above Franklin is dotted and scarred conversation-oil! oil! As one the signs of Papal progress in England passes along he hears ever recurring and America. No brute force; no The oil here is much more valuable expressions of this kind: "Splendid brawling mobs; no desecration of sanchan that of Oil creek, being used for show;" "Poor as a donkey yesterday, tuaries; but by all means let the worth a million to day;" "Bought a preachers thunder, and the laymen work thousand acres on speculation;" "Five and press against the lying faith lest thousand dollars and half the oil:" by winking at its follies we ourselves

> THE RIOTS IN BELFAST. Belfast has been the scene of atrocious riots between people who pretend to be were foolish enough to get up a demonstration in ridicule of the O'Connel demonstration in Dublin. I do not see why one was not as permissible as the other. The difference was, that in Dublin the Protestants made no objection : but in Belfast, when the Orangemen proceeded to burn the Liberator in effigy, and to bury his ashes, the Roman Catholic ire could not be suppressed, and both parties went to work, at first hesitatingly, but gathering courage and fervor as they went, at last came to most tragic and disgraceful battles. A large number of military and, police have succeeded in parting the combatants, but so thoroughly has five or six days' riot and fighting aroused their passions, that the most serious apprehensions are vet sustained. In the general hospital at Belfast alone were ifty cerious cases—some certain to die, others maimed for life. Schools attacked, churches "wrecked," factory girls maltreated, navvies and ship carpenters challenging each other to mortal combat; these are the scenes which religious" faction is able to evoke in the streets of a large civilized town.

PEABODY GIFT-TENEMENT HOUSES. Turn from this sad sight to a more not being dined and drunk away; but getically pushed by our chief philanthropist.

ground near Farringdon-road, Clerkenwell and voted £120,000 towards the erection of houses expressly for working men and their families; Miss Burdett Coutts has lately expended about £50,000 for a similar purpose, in the district of Bethnal-green; Lord Stanley and his co-trustees have devoted upwards of £20,000 of the munificent gift of Mr. George Peabody to the erection of a sub stantial and commodious block of houses in the heart of Spitalfields, and are building others on a much larger scale in Lower road Islington; and the company in the city, established by Mr. Alderman Waterlow, and of which Lord Stanley is chairman, has raised upwards of £30,000 for a like object. The Alderman, from his own resources some time since built several blocks of im proved dwellings in a crowded part of Fins oury, which were opened about 18 months Others are being erected at his expense in the same quarter, where they are much needed. The company with which he is connected have recently purchased sites on which to construct more; on one of which five blocks of buildings are in course o erection, each of which provides suitable accommodations for 20 families. These buildings will probably be ready for occupa tion by Christmas. The company propose to expend £3,200 in improved dwellings in Redcross street, Southwark, for 16 families with two shops and basements, at a gross rental of £440; £7,200 in Brewhouse lane, Wapping, for 60 families, at a rental of £850; £14,200 in Old St. Pancras road, for 100 families, at a rental of £1,602; and £3,230 in King's-cross-road, Bagnigge-wells, for 20 families, at a rental of £382. All the spots selected up to this time are at easy listances from the parts of the town where abor of all kinds is in most demand. Those rected at the cost of Miss Burdett Coutts a Columbia Square, Bethnal-green, afford by far the largest amount of accommodation, as they are the most imposing in appearance of any in London. They consist of four blocks, each five stories high, and form s square, with a large and commodious play-ground in the centre. There are in all 189 eparate tenements, accessible by common entrances and stairs, and inhabited at pres ent by a community of 705 persons, of whom are fitted up with every domestic conveni ence, and with a proper regard to ventila-tion and drainage. The whole square is said to have cost about £50,000 in the erection. The rents vary, according to the number of rooms, from 5s. 6d. to 2s, a-week and produce a gross annual sum of about £1,800. Of the present occupants 49 are porters and 46 laborers. The rest, in small er numbers are for the most part woodcarvers and turners, cabinetmakers, carpenters corkcutters, clerks, weavers, stonemasons harnessmakers, compositors and bookbind ers. In the centre of the playground is very handsome clock-tower with tapering spire, and surrounded by flowering plants well-tended. Flowers and creeping plants adorn most of the windows of the occupants and the whole place has an air of cheerful ness and comfort, in marked contrast with the squalor and poverty of some parts of the surrounding neighborhood. The Peabody block is situated in Commercial street, Spitalfields, and is built on precisely the same plan as those of Miss Coutts. It was opened in February of the present year, and ha as in Columbia square, some hundreds o applications have been made for apartment whenever they may happen to become vacant. The block in Commercial street gives house accommodation to 231 persons in all, including 53 men, 56 women, and 122 children; the number of rooms being 126. The site selected for the next series o buildings which the trustees of Mr. Peabody are about to erect, and which will be three times as large as that in Spitalfields, is in Greenman's lane, Lower road, Islington. This great movement has not been

commenced before it was absolutely necessary. The immense works now being carried on in the heart of the city by the different railway companies, who have destroyed miles of poor dwellings, have driven the ousted population to the ūtmost extremities; and a lady connected with the Bible-women's As sociation told me some time ago that the crowding which has been occasioned is almost beyond belief. The increase of mortality, especially in the typhoic forms of disease, is proof of the effect of over-crowding. I know of no city in the world-though I have seen manywhose mechanics are so well off as the Philadelphia artisans. The facilities of communication, the building societies (much abused and oft abusing though they were,) the wider spaces and sepa rate houses are a boon that the laboring classes of other cities may well envy.

It is rather surprising, but a Canon of York-Canon Dixon-has given vent to an opinion not much shared in certainly not pubicly declared, by his coadjutors. In a speech at York, recently, he said he believed it was the opinion of many that the time was not far distant when the Church of England would cease to be national, and the connection which had so long existed between Church and State would be dissolved. Such were the signs of the times and the tendency of legislation. A churchman must be yery bold who would say that; but very blind who did not see that the tendency is at all events that way.

The Record states that the Eucharist s administered daily in eight churches (established) in London, to people who believe they handle the very body, soul, and Godhead of Christ. Am I too earnest or severe about maintaining our Protestant faith openly, rigidly, loudly and constantly? ADELPHOS.

## A ROYAL EXAMPLE.

And a right royal one it is. Her Majesty, the Queen of England, has accepted the Presidency of the Berkshire County Female Bible Society—the county in which Windsor pleasing subject. The Peabody gift is Castle is situated. As a cotemporary truly says, "There are hundreds and thousands of women in our several counties who ought is helping materially in a great social to embark with zeal in such a work as this, revolution. The supply of good houses for the poor is now an object most ener getically pushed by our chief philanoffice, domestic and public, which she under takes; and every wife, mother and woman "The Corporation of the City of London may take lessons in active virtues from the has recently set apart a valuable plot of example of this distinguished sovereign.

INDIVIDUALISM IN THE CHURCH.

BY REV. E. H. GILLETT, D. D.

It is the privilege not only, but the duty of each local church, to seek fellowship and co-operation with others. To stand aloof, to take an isolated position, to assume even the attitude of indifference, is a violation of the spirit of the Gospel. It is inconsistent not only with the unity of the Christian body, but with the principles on which every local church is established. So thought the fathers of New England, although their substitution of State control for Presbyterial supervision displaced the legitimate organization by which the fellowship of the churches might be expressed, and left them, when the former was withdrawn, to a state of isolation or independency expressly disapproved and disavowed by the New England synods.

There is not only municipal and civi law, but there is also the law of nations A people may be independent in its own sphere, and there may be no superior visible tribunal by which it may be called to account. But its relations to other people imply mutual duties. and some of the ablest thinkers have elaborately considered these, and given us the result of their investigations in volumes that are quoted as authority in courts of law. Even against their pre sent manifest interest, nations, with fleets and armies to enforce their will, have been constrained to pay respect to the mutual obligations of different governments.

And so it is, only in a more emphatic manner, in respect to local churches. But in their case, the analogous difficulty which the nations of the world have to meet, but for which they are unable to provide, may be overcome They may have tribunals of reference and appeal, and they may have a common law to which they are voluntarily subject, and these tribunals and this law, disclaiming all resort to force, may be armed with all the moral power which the case requires.

In such circumstances, the organization and mutual relations of the churches should be well understood and defined. Cumbrous methods and mechanism are are unnecessary. The utmost simplicity consistent with the ends to be gained, should be studied. Organization for its wn sake is an impertinence and superduity. The churches need mutual protection from unwarranted teachers, arbiters to whom they can appeal in case of internal divisions, and channels for benevolent operations over which, by a common representation, they can exercise control, and thus secure and maintain the confidence necessary to nvite charitable contributions

To these ends the Presbyterian system is wisely and well adapted. It runs into neither extreme of individualsecure order and soundness in the faith. No despotic pressure is allowed, and if where state-churchism is repudiated is not far to seek. It binds the churches together, not by authority or power, but by moral forces to which they voluntarily submit. It provides against are not always of the highest order. local injustice, or defection from the faith on the part of its ministers, by a system which harmonizes with itself, and the excellence of which has been testified to by experience. It gives each church the privilege of representation, and in its methods of common benevolent effort, it gives the supervision and control into the hands to which it properly belongs.

It is true its rules are drawn up and published in printed form. They ought to be. And yet objections are sometimes made, the staple of which is prejudice against "the book." It seems to some as if a printed rule were tyrannic, when one that has grown up unwritten out of traditional usage is regarded. while just as imperative, in a very different light. But a candid examination will lead to another conclusion. Barbarous nations have no written law. Are they then more justly governed and controlled by moral influences? Is there less of hard stern coercion, or less rigidity of penalty? Written laws imply civilization, progress. They show that the mutual relations of individual States have been considered and defined. They provide against difficulties which unwritten law finds insoluble except by on the principles of mutual charity and the church must have order and system, crime. and must exercise discipline; and sometimes its judgments will carry a force and excite a terror which are not possessed by civil tribunals. Neither should it be forgotten that it is composed of weak and fallible men-men who sometimes unconsciously will be adversity.

disposed to question the wisdom of rules applicable to themselves, which the judgment of others approves, or to push the authority of which they are possessed—unless previously defined beyond due limits. Indeed, Montesquieu, in his great work Esprit des Lois, remarks that it is "invariable experience that every one who has power is tempted to abuse it, pressing it to its very limits. Who would say it? Virtue itself has need of limits." In such a case "the book" is simply the printed collection of commonly recognized principles. It fixes "limits" which it is no disrespect to virtue to say that it needs. The appeal to it is, as far as possible. the end of strife.

Nor is this all. To the ends of peace and order, it is important, if not essential, that these principles should be accessible to all, as well as clearly defined. Every man then can study them and judge of them for himself. He recognizes the fact that they are not of private interpretation, that they are not partial or designed for any special case, or any particular party. At all junctures, they are also ever at hand. and their direct tendency, as in the case of the well-known laws of any social or civil organization, is to anticipate and prevent strifes. Principles that will not bear definition, might as: well at once be discarded as objects of appeal, and when defined they are not less authoritative and sacred. The constant tendency of the most chaotic condition, whether of church or state, will ever be to organization, and that can only be wisely conducted on fixed principles that must necessarily assume the aspect of laws, and which certainly cannot suffer by being defined.

## SENSIBLE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE RIGHT QUARTER.

Those who have witnessed the charactor of the proceedings usually attendant upon camp meetings in the vicinity of our cities, will appreciate the following calm and judicious views which we take from the Christian Recorder of this city, the organ of the African M. E. church. They are more worthy of note from the fact that the camp meetings held for the colored churches have eminently suffered from the presence of a crowd of white visitants whose only object, in general, is frolic and rowdyism. The Recorder says:

We have never seen the necessity of holding camp meetings within a radius of ten miles of such large cities as Philadelphia, especially when it is considered that churches, preachers, and preaching abound within such circuit. Camp meetings within the space named, become a resort for the low, vulgar, and vicious of society. But even this might, and ought to be tolerated, when we consider that "It's sinners Jesus came to call," if professing Christians did not still pander to the depraved appetites of these sinful comers. to runs into neither extreme of individualism or of consolidation. It respects the rights of the local churches and exer-wise be effected. How far the moral cises only the control necessary to influence of the Church is compromised in the minds of those who riot in wickedness, I leave it to those judges who study the effect of influences upon the t were attempted, the remedy in aland human mind. We have seen enough to convice us, that the camp meetings of these times are not conducted with the strictest regard to morals. Whatever may be the desire of those who lead in them, the inducements to hold camps

Sometimes the circuit may be indebted to the preacher, and the members desire to have a camp in order to raise the means for paying him. Sometimes the preacher comes money-hunting, in preference to everything else; he never preaches nor prays without the ring of money in every utterance; he must have camp, if there is any prospect of money. When these things are uppermost, the means resorted to induce people to attend, and the privileges given to venders of commodities. are not the most commendable. The selling of tent privileges to unscrupulous persons, to cover camp expenses, ought never to be allowed in any Christian community; and yet it is done at our modern camps. I have known persons who owned woods and taverns contiguous, to offer woods gratis, and one or two hundred dollars, to preachers, it on condition that they should hold camp meetings; and we know that these offers have not unfrequently been accepted—the preacher lending himself to demoralize the Church and community and to make the worst possible use of camp meetings. This is especially so near large cities, where the spirit of money getting possesses in a large measure the souls of both preacher and people. The spirit to pay debts, is commendable—especially so in Christians; but to sell out to the devil to pay debts, is very like doing evil that good may come. When we consider that there are vast demoralizing influences to be appeal to force. But will it be said the counteracted and held in check, it bechurch is a voluntary organization based comes the Christian Church to tighten down and interlace the flood-gates of forbearance? This is true, but even numbers increases the facilities for

> WE remember many things we should, forget, (as injuries, disappointments, &c.) but forget what we should remember, viz: God and our souls.

> THEY that presume most in prosperity, are soonest subject to despair in