# Correspondence.

OPEN AIR MEETINGS.

BY REV. EDWARD PAYSON HAMMOND.

This country has something to learn from Great Britain with regard to the utility of open air meetings. It seems now as if this was the only way in which the Gospel can be successfully him for mercy. At once every form carried to the masses, especially in our was bowed and every knee rested upon great cities. A large proportion of the the green grass. It was a sight never population of this "enlightened" land never attend the house of God. Cannot something more be done to reach what Dr. Chalmers called the unexcavated mass than has hitherto been attempted? This is a question upon which the experience of Scotland, for the last few years, throws much light.

#### MEETING AT HUNTLEY CASTLE.

The first of a series of open air services, intended especially, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to lead the masses to Christ, was held at Huntley, in the Castle Park of the Duchess of Gordon, on the 25th and 26th of June, 1860. It was stated in the public prints that 10,000 assembled; at least a hundred of the most distinguished ministers, of different denominations, together with a large number of earnest laymen, capable of addressing the people with good effect, were gathered from all parts of Great Britain. Printed requests were sent to the churches, far and near, asking them to pray that the Holy Spirit might be poured out upon those who should be present. The great preparations for the coming meeting engrossed the attention of the good people of Huntley for weeks. A large tent, holding thousands, was erected where, in case of rain, public services might be held; and where, in any weather, those who were convinced of sin, might gath. er to be conversed and prayed with. The people of God, it was evident, expected a blessing. Early morning prayer meetings were held in the different charches, where thespirit of grace and supplication was poured upon God's remembrancers, (Isa. xliii. 26).

When the hour arrived, the large concourse of people convened in a sort of natural amphitheatre. Each speaker was allowed by General Anderson, the chairman, fifteen minutes. The addresses were interspersed with prayer and

#### THE INQUIRY MEETING.

The audience were often reminded that an inquiry meeting was in progress in the tent just at hand, and it is a suggestive fact that nearly every speaker was followed thither by those who were asking the great question, "What shall I do to be saved?" As one after another of those earnest men repeated the story of the cross. I was reminded of the first verse in the 14th chapter and I will declare to you what he hath of Acts-"And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the temple, and so spake that a great multitude, both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed." Many in Huntley also, by the Spirit's aid, "so spake that a great multitude believed." An awful solemnity settled down upon book which was widely circulated.

## TESTIMONIES.

Says the author of "The Blood of Jesus," who took an active part in the exercises, "As regards outward decorum there was nothing whatever to offend | many at once led to the Saviour, with even those with whom the secondary Paul were strengthened anew to deprecept, 'Let all things be done decent- | clare "I am not ashamed of the Gospel ly and in order,' has passed into the of Christ, for it is the power of God unto first and great commandment of the salvation to every one that believeth." law, and who so confine the ordinances between lines of iron as to render the apostolic injunction void by leaving no room for its application."

The following graphic account of these union services appeared at the time in one of the secular papers:

"At an early hour the quiet of our street was broken, and the sound of bustling feet played ceaselessly upon the principal cities and towns. At the ear. As the large iron gateway of the meetings of a similar character held in park swung open, Castle street became Glasgow a few weeks after, I should one stream of quickly moving figures, think not less than 15,000 were present dressed all neatly, some elegantly, but none flauntingly. All moved along in dense masses, eager as crowds ever are, | joining the common was purchased and but serious, as crowds seldom are. Then filled with anxious inquirers. It was mark the centre to which all were tending-the simple declaration of a truth older than our nation, more familiar than our fireside legends, more of them multitudes came who seldom, if repugnant to the unregenerate heart ever, attended the ordinary means of than any figment of the vast cycle of universal truth; but yet, when appropriately displayed, more potent to tascinate and mould than any metaphysical principles or philosophical codes; a truth more fitted to enthrall than any system of beauty and grace that can enlighten the reason, or sparkle its brilliance in the imagination of man.

It was a triumph of the unseen over the visible; a victory of the spiritual over the secular. The mute majesty of truth was divesting itself of the trappings of conventionalism. The gospel was ridding itself of the incrustations of ceremony that dulls its radiance and dims its effulgent lustre. The ornate furnishing of church or chapel were for a time disused, and men worshipped God in the temple of his own uprearing. We knelt on the velvet sward beneath the lofty archway of the sky."

THRILLING SCENES.

I can never forget the sight to which the last sentence refers. The Scotch in their public services are always accustomed to stand in the act of prayer. But at the close of a most solemn address by the well known Capt. Trotter. of the Home Guards of London, he called upon the vast audience to fall upon their knees before God and cry to to be forgotten. The mighty influences of the Holy Spirit broaded over that assembly of ten thousand souls, and what, at another time, would have seemed forced, was then only natural. Hundreds were in tears. It reminded us of the glorious scenes witnessed by Whitfield, at Cambuslang, in 1740, by the youthful Livingstone, in 1630, at the Kirk of Shotts, when, under one sermon, it was recorded that 500 were led to

Every hour of those two day's meetings increased the aepth of feeling and conviction. It was supposed that about half when first convened, were unconverted persons, and when upon the morning of the first day's meeting, crowds came pouring into the depot from the surrounding towns, not a few in their gala-day aspect, appeared as if they would sooner join in some ballad like "Maxwellton braes are bonnie," than in an ancient Scotch psalm. But at night when thousands thronged the cars, the depot, which was also filled, resounded with sacred song. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," was sung with a fullness of expression such as I had seldom heard. Those who came too late to return at night, and who could not find accommodations in the town, gathered at one of the churches and spent the whole night in prayer. The hours passed rapidly while waiting for the second day's

Rev. A. Moody Stuart, one of the few intimate friends of the sainted Robt McCheyne, with others of a kindred spirit, were among the leaders. The children occupied the attention of the speakers the first forenoon, and I have no doubt that from the thousands present, many were gathered into the fold of the Good Shepherd.

No one could estimate the number led to Jesus during those two memorable days, but there was good reason to believe that many hundred were regenerated by the Holy Ghost through faith in Christ.

## EFFECTS AROUND.

The work soon spread into the sur rounding towns. Young converts returned to their towns with the joyful words of the psalmist upon their lips, Come and hear, all ye that fear God, done for my soul." One wicked man in an adjoinig town was heard in agony to pray "Oh! thou God of Huntley, help me to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ that I may be saved!"

The whole proceedings of the meetings were carefully recorded in a little Christians returned to their homes quickened in the divine life, realizing more deeply that God would "avenge his own elect who cry day and night unto him." And ministers seeing so

## THE PLAN FOLLOWED UP.

I have been thus minute in attempt ing to describe this remarkable gathering, because it was the inauguration of a series which has been kept up now for more than four years. They have been generally held during the summer months, once in two weeks, in the most of the time. A large theatre admy privilege to attend five of these open air two days' meetings, and at all grace and always the "power of God was present to heal them." (Luke

## OUR OWN COUNTRY.

These meetings, it will be seen, are entirely different from anything that has been attempted in this country, and I have not the slightest doubt but that, if appropriate efforts were made, with the blessing of God, results similar to those in Great Britain might be witnessed in our own land. It has long been made a subject of prayer with me that something of the kind might be in augurated in the United States. If a President is to be elected, men congregate in masses and exert all their

how true, "The children of this world move with an intense nervous energy. Commission and the Tract Society, in so that the heavens and the earth are are in their generation wiser than the as if rest was impossible until the hope the army. And feeling that the great but the manifestations of his love children of light!"

The managers of the American Board large scale to interest the heathen at our own doors with regard to the salvation of their souls? How can we expect an answer to the prayer "Thy 14: 23), "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in?" Our open air service may often do much good. But if a fortified city is to be lars. captured, it is not often accomplished by one gallant onset, but a sufficient force is employed for days and weeks if necessary. In Scotland they have successfully acted on this principle in spiritual matters. Why should not we do the same?

## THE OIL REGIONS OF PENNSYL-

VANIA. In my last letter I described the approaches to Oil Creek, and closed with a description of Oil City.

OIL CREEK

Flows into the Allegheny River at Oil City. It is a rapid stream, flowing at the rate of four miles an hour, but free from rapids and cascades and therefore navigable by small barges and flat boats. These ascend the stream drawn by horses for twenty or more miles.

The valley of the creek is not more than one-third of a mile wide. The hills rising above it the height of eight hundred feet, throw over it dark shadows. But in the windings and the wanderings of the creek there are scenes of great natural beauty.

The roads running up the creek are beyond description—bad. Much of the year the mud lies on them to the depth of two and three feet, and travel on horse-back is full of peril. The number of wagons bringing down oil and bearing back empty barrels can hardly be numbered, reminding one, familiar with the army, of the long wagon trains which often block the roads for miles.

MACHINERY. When we turned into the valley of the creek from Oil City, there sprang up before us a forest of derricks. The entire bottom, the mouths of ravines. and the hill-side were bristling with those singular looking structures, lifting up their bare and naked arms to the height of forty and sixty feet. They present a spectacle seen nowhere else in

In connection with these is the en-Nine out of ten of these wells were not producing oil, but laborers were tubing, boring deeper, removing the machinery after sinking to the depths of six and eight hundred feet, in despair, and making arrangements to begin anew, a few feet removed from the old grave of

## WELLS AND VILLAGES.

The producing wells low down on the creek appeared to be few, but here and there one was pointed out as pouring out, without pump or human labor, a steady stream of oil. Around such a well were arranged great circular vessels, larger than the world-wide famous wine-tun of Heidelberg; and these, filled with oil, stimulated every specu lator, and nerved anew the arms of thousands of laborers who turned their eyes upon them every bour.

I cannot tell what a strange impression it made on the mind of one passing by, to see this stream of wealth pouring out without human hands, day and night, summer and winter, weekday and Sabbath, flowing ever like the fountains of the hills.

As we ascended the valley, the population became more numerous. The high dark hills began to retire and leave the lower steps in the ladder for gardens, villages and orchards. The number of these villages is surprising, one for every fourth of a mile, containing three and five hundred inhabitants.

Every cluster of wells has its village. The houses are small, built for a year, for no one thinks, except those born here, of living in the place longer than a few months. In consequence of this and the difficulty of crossing the creek, the inhabitants of these hamlets know little or nothing of each other. They are as widely apart in all interest and sympathy as if inhabiting separate islands of the sea.

In these villages there are schoolhouses, and but rarely a church. I think there is but one church building, (Methodist Episcopal,) from Oil City to Titusville, a distance of twenty-five miles. There is indeed a church at Plummersville, and one at Cherrytree, but both these are in villages removed man, however, to sit down at ease and

of many days and nights is realized.

One of the most valuable of the wells of Missions understand the importance is on the Tarr farm, known as the Philof continuous meetings to interest the lips well. This issaid to flow 300 barrels ship, he has offered to build a Presbyte- heart, which does not feel one "soft people in the heathen world. Why a day, and yields to the owners about rian church at his own expense, if work- affection move"-no grateful outgoings should there not be united efforts on a \$23,000 a week. The produce of the men can only be found to build it. Egbert farm, thirty-eight acres of land There are many very good men on Oil on the creek, is about 500 barrels a day, Creek who will bear with them, where and the profit to the owners of the well ever they go, the generous hand. is about three and a half millions annukingdom come," when we disobey the ally. The Noble & Delamater well, express command of our Lord, (Luke about ten miles above Oil City, is one credly. All the thousand teams are of the best, and is said to produce 500 stopped; the puffing engines are silent, barrels a day. This well is worth in the the auger is motionless, and all the market more than one million of dol- feverish, the restless, the worshippers of

#### FLOWING WELLS.

The most valuable wells are the flowing. In some instances the oil has been thrown up to the height of an hundred feet, and now, when passing calm repose of the Holy day. This was through a bent tube, is ejected with an a part of the robe of the Covenanter angry scornful dash as if muttering, which fell as an angel's smile on that makes you any wiser or happier." The flow was not that of water in a spring in every instance that came under laborer. my observation. The oil spouted forth irregularly, as if overcoming some difficulty and not always having strength for the work.

From one well that I often looked at regular intervals of about seven minutes, and when first looked at not a drop may be seen flowing from the tube, but suddenflow continues more vehement until the entire great cauldron boils, and the force of the ejection throws the oil in the vessel many feet into the air. Again it subsides, and is so quiet that one is disposed to think all the oil has return ed to its native fountains and will flow no more; but counting the seconds on your watch will bring with absolute certainty the flow at its moment. In another case-the New Jersey well on the Egbert farm, producing 350 barrels a day-the oil flows constantly, never intermitting for a second, but gushing out with vehement force every five sec onds, as if forced from beneath by some huge pumps. Doubtless in these cases the irregularity of flow is due to the pressure of the atmosphere, overcome by spells of effort. The number of flowing wells is not great, not more than one fourth, I should think, of all

the producing ones on the creek. Many of the pumping wells are amply remunerative, producing from ten to thirty barrels a day. The field of discovery is constantly widening, and new wells are found to produce oil in the most unexpected localities. As the demand for this illuminator has now begine, the windlass, the rope and augur, come world-wide, it is not to be supposed that the deposit bed is of narrow range and can be soon exhausted. In many vallies of Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Northeastern Ohio. will the precious fluid be found.

## EXCITEMENT.

It should not be a matter of surprise that there is an all-engrossing interest in a well, on the part of those experi menting, for they look around them, and the man who they saw in the morning not having sufficient to pay for the tools he was operating with, isin the evening worth One Hundred Thousand Dollars. There they meet those who but a few days since were poor, now estimated at millions. These facts most naturally stimulate those who seek in wealth the means of power, enjoyment and ease. One, as he bangs over his well of promise, is dreaming of travel in distant lands, another of pictures, of statuary, and a brilliant home; another of broad acres of flocks, herds, and the highest seat at the gate. Thus with all: they are to find here the means of gaining the supreme good of life. But I observed that those who had acquired wealth and were at ease for the future, were no happier than the toilers at the ropes.

## GOOD STEWARDS.

Some of this wealth has passed, I was most rejoiced to discover, into the hands of excellent and benevolent men. The Messrs. Phillips-four brothers-are men of spotless integrity, and their charity has kept pace with their wealth, preserving when they have become millionaires all the simplicity of manners and frugality of the days of toil. They are examples of fraternal concord and Christian beneficence. One of these is already devising the means of Fearing and endowing a home for soldiers' widows and a school for soldiers' orphans. May the horn of his plenty never be empty until the desire of his heart is accomplished!

Dr. W. Egbert is another of those whom the development of property has made very rich, and in his youth he finds himself exempted from the cares

THE SABBATH-CHURCHES. The Sabbath is remembered most sa

gold, compel themselves into quietness. There is but little travel on this day. Never was there presented a greater contrast between the wild, tumultuous. frantic struggle of the week, and the quiet, there, fools! take it, and see if it valley of noise, smoke and strife. Never was there a field whiter for the sickle and one that would sooner repay the

I heard of but two resident pastors in all that valley above Oil City to Titusville, Rev. Mr. Spence, of Plummerville, of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Mr. Burchard, of Cherrytree Church, on the Egbert farm, the oil dashed out at New School Presbyterian. The last I had the pleasure of meeting, and found him a most valuable man exerting a wide influence for the cause of his ly a powerful jet is spouted out, and the | Master. But he is almost alone-one where ten are wanted. J. J. M.

## WHAT MUST THE GOD OF THE HEAVENS

What must be his skill and wisdom to frame the curious machinery of the heavens, so that every thing moves in motions of all systems and universes. are performed with perfect exactness. triple, or multiple suns, but still all is to this church. Everything revived and perfect. There is not a jar in the vast

Bro. James Ashmore writes from Ridge machinery of the heavens, unless it is Farm, Illinois: "We have had fifteen acwhere a curse has followed the introduction of sin. All their motions are so perfectly free, regular and systematic, that | Sailing of Missionaries.—Rev. Daniel Bliss, their own inhabitants are not conscious | D. D., President of the new Syrian College of the least movement. Every thing is not only perfect, but perfectly adapted to its own place in the universe. Nocan occur. Perfection is enstamped on

His works, through all their wondrous Bear the great impress of his name.'

His knowledge, providence and care.

He knows all that is going on throughout the vast heaven of heavens. Noprovince of his empire. Every motion out universal space, and watches over in the universe and of the universe. He watches not only over the grand machinery of the heavens, but as particular. | prayers of all God's people." The most particular care as really extends to his minutest creatures, as to is so small as to be beneath his care, not object of his care. "The hairs of your head are all numbered."

What a consolation to have the God of the heavens for your Friend! He is a being possessed of every perfection and infinite in every perfection and attribute. He is infinitely able and willing to fulfil all his promises; and all his are like himself, and worthy of himself. Perfection and infinity are enstamped on

" Firm are the words his prophets give, Sweet words on which his children live, Each of them is the voice of God, Who spoke and spread the skies abroad; Each of them powerful as that sound, That bid the new made world go round, And stronger than the solid poles On which the wheel of nature rolls."

Oh, what promises you have to con sole you, and what might and faithfulness to fulfil those promises! What an Arm to rest upon! That Arm which sustains the heavens, and which whirls systems and worlds in their endless rounds! Cannot that Arm sustain you -protect, defend and save you?

There rests the earth, there roll the spheres, There nature leans and feels her prop;" and why may not you? Oh, lean on Him. There rest, and He who bears

highest admiration and strongest affections; of your trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, consider for a moment his works and can you fail to adore, and toils of a profession. He is not a admire and love Him? See goodness

behalf of their favorite candidate. Oh! ever busy in some kind of work, all have blessed many through the Sanitary the motive-power of every attribute, want of the people thrown together on every creative act an act of love; and the creek, strangers to each other and can you fail to love and adore him? unrestrained, is a place for public wor- How ungrateful and inhuman is the of heart toward the adorable One! Oh, who can neglect, despise and turn his back upon such a One?

How should the impenitent sinner tremble to think of the God of the heavens. Sinner, he who called those countless centillions of worlds into being, who gave them all their diversified motions, calls them all by their names," and can take them up as very little things, is your enemy-pledged to punish you unless you repent; for the good of his universe imperatively demands it. Think of the God of the heavens,—and are you not afraid? Think of his power,-and can you contend with it? There is no resisting it for it is infinite. There is no escaping his eye; for it is everywhere. Where will you flee? Where will you hide? Oh, why not make God your friend? He invites you by the melting love of Calvary to come, and be reconciled to himself. Why will you not come now? Why will you not cease from the unnatural and unequal contest? Are you not afraid of the day of his wrath ?--of the "day of vengence of our God?" JAMES KERR.

#### RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Cumberland Presbyterians-Revivals. -The Cumberland Presbyterian says, under date of Sept. 8: Bro. A. W. White writes to us from his charge, Windy Gap, Pa., as

"On last Saturday we closed a very pleasant meeting of two weeks continuance. to have experienced a change, and several mourners still seeking. One of the converts is worthy of special notice, being an perfect order? All the complicated aged man over whose head seventy-three winters have passed. His language now is, "I would not give my love for a kingdom." No doubts are entertained as to the genu-Solar systems may have their double, month there have been fourteen accessions ineness of his conversion. During the last

cessions to the Churches to which I am trying to preach, since I saw you at the

at Beirut, with his family; Rev. Edwin Bliss and his family, missionary of the American Board, at Constantinople; Rev. Walter H. Giles and wife, destined to the Western Turkey Mission at Cæsarea, and Miss Pond, desthing can get out of place. No mistake | tined to the Mission at Kharpoot, sailed in the steamer Edinburg, on Saturday last, on their way to their several places of labor

Hubbardston Mass.—Rev. C. H. Vinton, writes to the Zion's Herald,-"Of late God has been in the midst of our people, calling many from earth away. During the past summer I have attended twenty-one funerals in this town. They have fallen from all classes-the aged, the middle-aged and the young. In one family it was my painful thing can go wrong in the most distant | duty to attend the funerals of four of the little children, all of whom fell a prey to that fatal disease diptheria. But w of the universe is not only made right, has been visiting us with these afflictive disbut kept right. Not a wheel of nature pensations, he has also been among us with can get out of place unknown to him. the past summer the church has been bleshis awakening and saving Spirit. During He sees every particle of matter through. sedly revived, and quite a number have sought and found the Saviour. There are still quite a number thinking and feeling it continually. He sees every motion upon the subject of religion, and we are expecting a glorious work of grace. With Wesley, "The best of all is, God is with us." We solicit in our behalf an interest in the

each being was the object of his care. Board:—"Another day of special interest at Muhlenburg was Sunday, 3d of July, when the Holy Communion was enjoyed by mighty systems and worlds. Nothing were added to its membership by the ordinance of baptism. These were the following: Charles P. Krauth, John D. Martin a sparrow can fall to the ground without and wife, Martha Turner, Maria Fenner, his notice. He watches as unceasingly Grace Stephenson, Hannah Hager, and Effic over you, as though you were the only careful religious instruction ever since their reception into the mission, four years ago; and for the last few months have enjoyed special catechetical instruction by Rev. J. Kistler, the missionary pastor. There was also preaching each day for nearly a week previous to the day of communion, and others besides those received into the church were deeply impressed with the truth.

> Scarcity of the Scriptures in the Burman Missions.—A letter from Rev. E. Kincaid, Baptist missionary in Burmah, dated Pome, May 12th, 1864, acknowledges an appropriation of \$500 for printing additional copies of the New Testament in the Burman language. The books will be, he says, of great service particularly to the numerous native assistants, in traveling among the villages. He

says:
"The number of our native preachers, including pastors and evangelists, Karen and Burman, must be nearly two hundred; and, besides these, there are a large number that may be called lay preachers, who spend more or less time in the course of the year among their acquaintances and relatives, reading and teaching the things of the kingdom. All these, as well as the preachers should be supplied with a portable New Testament. Nearly all the Karen preachers read and speak Burman fluently. Many of them have often spoken to me of the great importance to them of a Burman New Testament. In view of these facts, we propose an edition of three thousand copies in the small type, and probably five or six thousand in large type.'

California .- The Evangel of San Francisco, says: "Twenty-seven of our churches in this State are supplied with pastoral labor, seven of them part of the time, and twenty up and sustains all nature, will bear up all the time. There are three or four others and sustain you. No evil can befal you. which we hope will soon be supplied with faithful pastors. Oakland, Ione, Red Bluff, He is a Being who is worthy of the and Sonora churches all need pastors. The last named, however, has an excellent stated supply."

Rev. E. E. Hall, Agent of the American and Foreign Christian Union at Florence, Italy, says an American gentleman of dis-tinguished benevolence, has placed in his hands a sum of money sufficient to publish, in and mercy through all his actions run, the Italian language an edition of 3,000 copies more than a mile from the creek. The become careless and indifferent to the and love prompting him to the perform titled, "The Evidences of Christianity," Its power to influence the popular mind in entire population are most active, for wants of others. Already his charities ance of all that he ever has done-love circulation in Italy will do good.