

Correspondence.

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT. (CONCLUDED.)

LONDON April 5th. 1865.

The time for our annual gatherings draws near. They now usually begin in April and extend to June. Preparatory meetings of all auxiliary Societies are being held all over the kingdom. In our Presbyterian Churches, too, the note of preparation for the coming Synods and Assemblies is heard on every side. The Synod of the English Presbyterian Church meets this year at Liverpool, on the 17th of April. It is reported that the Rev. Robert Lundie, of Birkenhead, is to be Moderator. Mr. Lundie is comparatively a young man. He was settled in Birkenhead, near Liverpool, about fourteen years ago, as his first charge. He is a sound, pious, devoted, hard-working young minister, and the appointment, I should suppose, will meet with the general approval of the Church, which is more than can be said of many of the recent appointments. The English Presbyterian Church has this year been making good progress. We have raised a large sum for the payment of all the debts on all our churches, and also with a view to future extension on a larger scale than hitherto attempted. But I hope to be able to write you more fully on these and kindred topics by and by.

It is believed that Dr. Begg, of Edinburgh, is to be chosen Moderator of the Free Church Assembly this year. This too, is an appointment which will be received with very general acquiescence. Dr. Begg is one of our most popular ministers. He did a good stroke of work in fighting the disruption controversy. It was from his lips that I, when a youth, heard for the first time the principles on which the Free Church is now established, stated and enforced. Since that meeting, I have seen no reason to change the resolution then taken. Dr. Guthrie also spoke at the same meeting. Since then, I have had both these honored men, occasionally as guests in my house, and that memorable meeting, and its speeches, has been often enough referred to. Dr. Begg was on his way to the south of France a few weeks ago, to recruit his health, preparatory to the arduous duties of the Chair. On his way south to London, the wheel of the railway carriage, in which he was, suddenly broke, the carriage toppled over on the side, and was dragged so for more than a mile. Fortunately, the engine driver looked behind, and saw the state of matters and stopped the train, or the consequences would have been fatal. Dr. Begg escaped with a few bruises, and a nasty cut above the knee, which will keep him in his bed a few days longer. I called on him this morning, and spent the forenoon with him. He lies at the Great Northern Hotel, at the King's Cross terminus of the Great Northern Railway, here in London. He is quite well, and only suffers from the cut, which is healing rapidly. I was rejoiced to see that great massive head with so few traces of old age, and to think that one of our soundest men, both in doctrine and in the principles of our grand old Presbyterian polity, bids so fair to see many years of strength and of usefulness. In my next letter, it is probable I may have something to say on the great questions now before us, the question of Union, and that other of "Innovations," which is likely to be discussed soon.

A question before Parliament excites considerable attention at present. It is proposed to greatly modify and alter the oath at present taken by the Popish members of Parliament, as settled by what is called "The Catholic Emancipation Act." The oath, it appears, galls honorable members of that persuasion. It binds them, among other things, not to attack the Established Church of this country and of Ireland. They do attack it with all the virulence possible, and the oath stands slightly in their way. So they mean to thrust the oath to one side. And I have no doubt they will accomplish their desire. They will get all they ask in this country, bit by bit, and little by little. As constantly and as surely as the incoming tide are they rising and flowing on. Even when they seem to lose ground and recede, it is simply a gathering of impetus by which they rise to a point yet further on and up. The abrogation of the peculiar oath is their latest demand. So soon as that is conceded, they have another. I attended last night a very large and influential meeting held in the West End of London, to discuss this question. The meeting took place in a very curious place. The present Duke of Wellington is a very peculiar man. He built large and costly stables, not far from his father's dwelling-house at Hyde Park corner. Attached to these stables and forming part of them, indeed, is a very large and lofty riding-school. It is elegantly fitted up and furnished, but as a riding-school, and is used by his grace, I believe, for exercise taking in wet or wintry weather. It is lighted by three large gas lustres from the roof, containing thirty burners each. There, in a building whose area would have held from ten to fifteen thousand, was gathered about two thousand people, presided over by J. C. Colquhoun, Esq., an old member of Parliament, a Scotchman, and a man of sterling Protestant principle. The meeting was addressed by Sir William Verner, M. P., the Marquis of Westmeath, the Earl of Cavan, and last, not least, by the Rev. Hobart Seymour,

of Bath. This latter gentleman is known as the author of several able works on modern Romanism, and he knows the papacy and its workings better than most of our modern divines. He spoke on the subject of convents and nunneries, for more than an hour, and made a most withering expose of the whole system. The Earl of Cavan, who also spoke, is a nobleman of the real sort. He is an evangelical Christian of the truest, gentlest, and most genuine type. Wherever he goes, whatever he does, Christ is with him, first and last, beginning and ending. I know him well, and have often been with him at little meetings where I have heard him preach Christ, and him crucified, with all fervor, and also with all power. I am glad to say he does not stand alone in the upper walks of life. Many of the nobility now profess and preach Christ with all simplicity and earnestness. God hasten the day when all shall know Him, from the very least even to the very greatest. Amen.

PRESBYTERY OF MONTROSE.

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of Montrose was held on the 11th and 12th inst., at Dunmore, Pa. This is one of the villages which have sprung up in the valley of the Lackawanna since the opening of the coal beds which have attracted thither a numerous and diversified population. For several years, Rev. T. R. Townsend has occupied Dunmore as a field of labor, doing his work patiently and successfully. The Presbytery consists of thirty ministers, and has under its care thirty-three churches, covering a large territory. The churches are mostly in a prosperous condition, though quite a number of them are feeble. Within the year past, most of them have shared in the tokens of the Holy Spirit's presence. The work of grace at Honesdale has been one of great power and happy results. Some Sabbaths ago, nearly fifty united with the church on profession of their faith. Carbondale has also been blessed with an interesting season of refreshing. It has been our sad office to make record of the decease of Rev. Edwin E. Merriam, who was ordained and installed pastor of the congregation in Salem, last summer. He brought to his work a mind well stored with discriminating and comprehensive knowledge of the system of Divine truth. He had gained largely the esteem and confidence of the people from whom his Master has called him to so early a departure. The congregation at Montrose had been left vacant through the failing health of Rev. H. A. Riley, after his long and successful pastorate, commencing in 1839. Within the year they have been furnished with a pastor, by the installation of Rev. Jacob G. Miller. Rev. Oliver Crane has been installed pastor of the congregation at Carbondale, made vacant by the death of that eminently devoted servant of Christ, Rev. Thomas S. Ward. We were also called to dissolve the pastoral relations which, since 1833, had existed between Rev. James B. McCreary and the congregation at Great Bend. He had relinquished his charge by reason of ill health.

As is customary with us, much of the forenoon of Wednesday was devoted to reports of the state of the churches. The season is always interesting and profitable. In the afternoon the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered. Rev. Dr. Hickok, of the Luzerne Presbytery, (O. S.) had pastor of the church in Scranton, participated in the administration. Beyond question, our communion was as cordial and as truly Christian, as if we were members of bodies ecclesiastically united.

On Wednesday evening a sermon was preached by Rev. Oliver Crane from Rev. xix. 6. The text and topics were suggested by the recent wonderful success which God has given to our national armies in their efforts to suppress the rebellion. We then knew only patriotic joy and gratitude. Sorrow had not filled our hearts; the hour of the nation's great bereavement had not come. April-19, 1865. A. M.

Resolutions on the state of the country, adopted by the Presbytery of Montrose, April 20, 1865. WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God, the Lord of Hosts, to give to the armies of the United States recent great and decisive victories over the armed hosts of rebellion; and recognizing our obligations to acknowledge the overruling providence of God in these events; it is therefore Resolved, That with devout thanksgiving to the Sovereign disposer of all events, we hail the recent victories, and the fall of the capital of the rebellion, as the harbinger of Peace based upon the eternal principles of justice and right, and that shall speedily restore all our territory to the rightful authority of the Government, and that shall be equally a blessing to the North and the South.

Resolved, That while we accord to the noble defenders of our country, both officers and soldiers, the honor that is due them, and the sincere gratitude of our hearts for the suffering and toil and privations they have so nobly endured, yet we deeply feel that as a nation, we should acknowledge God as having given us the victory.

Resolved, That in view of the terrible resolutions that this war has made, in the fearful sacrifice of human life, we tender to the sorrowing and bereaved households and hearts of our country, our sincere sympathy in their bereavements, and feel our obligations to do what we can in the several communities where God has cast our lot, that no family of our fallen heroes, in the service of their country, shall be left to suffer in loneliness and poverty, without our substantial aid and comfort in their afflictions.

Resolved, That we view with adoring gratitude to God, his hand in guiding us as a nation during the years of this fearful struggle, and that infinite wisdom that has made the wrath of man to praise Him, in causing a war commended for the purpose of extending and perpetuating the curse of human bondage, to work out its own final overthrow; and we re-

cognize the obligation resting upon the churches of our land to meet the spiritual wants of the millions so soon to be released from bondage, by furnishing them the means adapted to raise them in the scale of being, as well as to furnish them with a living Gospel. Resolved, That in the peace which we believe so near at hand, we hear the voice of the Master calling the churches of our land to renewed consecration to His service—to increased zeal and devotion on the part of ministers, elders, and members in cultivating the new fields that shall be opened to the influences of the Gospel, and in every possible way to extend the glorious kingdom of the Prince of Peace.

REV. EDWIN E. MERRIAM. The following resolutions relative to the death of Rev. Edwin E. Merriam, were adopted by the Presbytery of Montrose, April 12, 1865.

WHEREAS, It has pleased our Heavenly Father, to remove from his earthly tabernacle Rev. Edwin E. Merriam, who at the time of his death was pastor of the congregation in Salem, and a member of this Presbytery; therefore Resolved, That we regard our departed brother's youth, his natural and acquired talents, his devotion to his chosen work, his meek and humble spirit, as a noble and great promise of usefulness to our world, and his early departure.

Resolved, That we recognize the sovereignty of God in this affliction, and submit to Him who doeth all things well, and in His removal of our dear brother, His testimony to the power of the Gospel of Christ, in the life of our brother, as fully separated to God; and in his death, so welcome as entrance to joys of a higher sphere of service in God's upper kingdom.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the church who have lost a beloved and faithful pastor; and with all those who have lost the loss of a dear and valued member of the church. Resolved, That we regard his death as a second among our number, and especially his removal at the outset of his ministerial course, as a heavy admonition of greater fidelity in our Master's cause.

CHURCH ERECTION AND CHANCEL ASSEMBLY. I.

EDITOR OF AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN:—The subject of church erections has been increasing in interest for several years. It will doubtless come before the next Assembly for careful consideration. But even in this case, comparatively few of our church members will know the needed. Probably not one in a thousand or members ever read the "plan" of church erection, and not one in two hundred our ministers. Believing that this subject should be as clearly understood as possible, we propose to summarize thoughts for the consideration of the Church.

The "plan for the proper and efficient management of the Church in the Fund" was "adopted by the General Assembly of 1854." There is a feeling on the part of some that it is deficient. Various suggestions have been made as to its change. Nothing became so strong in 1854, as that a special committee be appointed to inquire into changes are desirable, and to report at the next Assembly. This special report was accepted at Dayton. This was referred to the Standing Committee on Church Erection, who reported to that Assembly (Minutes) as follows:—"We feel it to be greatly desirable that a special committee be appointed to inquire into changes are desirable, and to report at the next Assembly. This special report was accepted at Dayton. 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