

CORRESPONDENCE.

A DREAM OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

Not long since, I sat down at the close of a busy day in my easy chair, to peruse the Philadelphia Press. After devouring the Congressional and telegraphic news, I fell to reading an editorial entitled, "Traveling Accommodations for the Poor and Working Classes of Large Cities on Sundays."

FAIRMOUNT PARK—GREAT ATTRACTION.

Lovers of sport are invited to be present next Sunday, 24th, at Fairmount Park, where the undersigned will have a round of amusements, among which will be a chase for a soaped pig, for 'the whole hog,' a wheeling match in bags, and several foot-races.

THE ELYSIAN FIELDS

in West Philadelphia, and beside the romantic Schuylkill.—This grand resort has been fitted up with special care to minister to the pleasure and amusement of visitors. A band of music is engaged for every Sunday, and a ball room that will accommodate a thousand dancers at once.

A MASQUERADE BALL,

to end with a procession along Broad Street, (a reproduction of the Roman Carnival), will come off next Sunday two weeks. It will be a great spectacle. For particulars see posters and programmes.

MEETING OF CONSERVATIVES—To the Rescue!

Understanding that certain bigoted and Pharisaical politicians are pulling wires to control the ensuing election, (which comes off the first Sunday in October), all citizens in favor of present privileges of the people as to 'recreation,' &c., and opposed to superstition and bigotry, will meet next Sunday

evening at Concert Hall, to take such action on the crisis as seems meet. Several speakers will address the meeting.

ANNIVERSARY SUPPER.

"An anniversary supper will be held on Saturday, the 28th inst., (Paine's birth-day), at the Continental, in honor of Hume, Voltaire, and Paine. The great defender of Sunday papers and Sunday cars 'for the poor,' will be present and make a speech. Tickets, \$2."

REV. A. M. STEWART'S LETTER.

GIESBORO, D. C., Feb. 16, 1866. DEAR BROTHER MEARS:—Laborers among the Freedmen are in many respects missionary. If persons at the North expected the people lately in rebellion against the Government to give any encouragement or sympathy to preachers or teachers from the Union States among the Freedmen, they must by this time be undeceived.

COMPARISON.

About an equal number of Catholic Irishmen and Freedmen have been employed at this depot during the past year. Mingling familiarly with these different characters daily, it would have been impossible not to have made comparisons. For every element of manhood these colored men far excel these representatives from the Emerald Isle.

HARD READING.

Addressing a large class of Freedmen not long since, with respect to their prospects and consequent duties, it was mentioned that Congress was discussing a bill proposing to grant the colored men in the District of Columbia the privilege of voting, and also inserting a clause that no one should be allowed to vote who could not write his own ticket and read the Constitution of the United States.

of evenings diligently, yet with some difficulty, spelling out a few easy reading sentences in a primer, here interrupted with the earnest yet comic inquiry, "Is dat ar Constitution hard readin'?"

FACTS VERSUS THEORIES.

Before the rebellion, when serious discussion was at any time had concerning the manumission of four millions of bondmen, a large majority of the people in the free States were wont to be seriously alarmed lest the whole North should be overrun by a deluge of vice and ignorance. Freedom has been granted, yet has not the dreaded avalanche come.

LOWER DELAWARE.

Cheap Lands—Good Soil—Salubrious Climate—New Presbyterian Settlement and Church Organized. MR. EDITOR:—I had long contemplated a visit to lower Delaware, but not until quite recently did I accept the opportunity.

INNER ROME.

Distance lends enchantment to the view." Romanism derives special aid from the poetic sentiments to which it appeals. Venerable for its antiquity, rich in its historic greatness, lofty in its pretensions and claims, draping its worship with the attractions of splendid temples, impressive paintings, ravishing music, and a pompous ritual, it affects to look down proudly on the relative youth and simpler worship of other religious communities.

PURITAN SEVERITY.

Strictness and vigilance on the subject of amusements, and especially as to the demoralizing or enervating tendencies of certain dances, plays and artistic exhibitions, which always prevail with others of the same kind in themselves less exceptionable, are often said to be Puritanical. It is taken for granted that the Puritans alone set up so severe a standard of morality; that only their descendants entertain such scruples; that the great body of Christian teachers and examples has conceded all the liberty asked for in these departments; and hence that the weight of authority is for leaving the public mind to its own direction.

mostly pursued. Perhaps for twenty or thirty years they have put in, without the intermission of a season, the same crop, without applying any fertilizer whatever, and, strange to say, the lands are still producing half crops. Take the best farms in our State, and in less than five years, by such a draining mode of agriculture there would be a smaller yield of grain than here.

The timber land in that region is as heavy as any on the peninsula. It consists of woods of the most valuable character; such as white oak, used for ship timber, black gum and hickory of the best quality, which is cut and carried often to the State of Maine, for carriage manufacture—with the finest poplar, ash and yellow pine.

A large proportion of emigrants from the North into Delaware, are going to this point, and have given character to that vicinity, and land, very naturally, is on the rise. It is now held higher than it was two months ago.

But let a man come here with little capital, purchase a farm at one-fifth the price of land North, plant a peach orchard of 3000 trees, and in three or four years, at most, he will, by his enterprise and industry, have a splendid place and a handsome income from his fruit alone.

And now I have a few words for Presbyterians generally. This is the point for those of you who wish to change your homes for a warmer and more genial climate. For it is a remarkable fact that nearly all of the new settlers, (more than three-fourths, at least), are members or adherents of one or the other branches of the great Presbyterian family.

Yours truly, J. L. L. COVENTRY KNOLL, Pa., Feb. 8, 1866.

Fathers or in later times. The readers will find testimonies enough to this effect cited in William Penn's "No Cross, no Crown." Moreover, let the looser modern religionists, who make light of these things, consider that the wisest and best of the ancient Pagans set an example of similar severity. In this connection we cite a paragraph from the Letters of the late Rev. F. W. Robertson, (Vol. I. p. 309.)

INNER ROME.

BY THE REV. C. M. BUTLER, D. D.

"Distance lends enchantment to the view." Romanism derives special aid from the poetic sentiments to which it appeals. Venerable for its antiquity, rich in its historic greatness, lofty in its pretensions and claims, draping its worship with the attractions of splendid temples, impressive paintings, ravishing music, and a pompous ritual, it affects to look down proudly on the relative youth and simpler worship of other religious communities.

Dr. Butler's "Inner Rome" translated all this poetry into plain prose; and stripping off the garniture of conceit, reveals this Rome, affecting to be the purest and noblest, as about the vilest and meanest place of earth.

Dr. Butler is no fitting traveler, rehashing old tales from guide books made to order; he was no blind devotee, seeing only the sunny side of popery.

RECENT SUTTEE IN INDIA.

The Pioneer gives in the following terms the particulars of a suttee near Allahabad: "A deliberate act of suttee was perpetrated yesterday week near a village on the Jubulpore line, about twenty-five miles from Allahabad, on the borders of the Rewah territories. The subject of the sacrifice was the wife of a barber, who, on his death, declared her intention of not surviving, and on her steadily refusing to listen to the exhortations of her neighbors, they at last yielded to her importunity, and assisted at the brutal ceremony.

VALUABLE DISCOVERIES IN SYRIA.

Lovers of Biblical antiquities will rejoice to hear that the excavations now being made in Syria have resulted in the discovery, at Nadir Sarape, of a Hebrew house dating from about the second century before Christ. Some of the rooms, with their contents, are in perfect preservation, among the latter being a number of Hebrew books showing that the house belonged to a literary man.

and in pleasing the priesthood. According to the Doctor's showing, Rome is not only a dangerous place to live in, but a worse place to die in; as the sickness and death of a stranger at once wakes up a set of cormorants, who avail themselves of a death scene, as an occasion to prey on the means of surviving friends. But we will not prolong this notice. The book is discursive and fragmentary, and must be read to be appreciated. We thank Dr. Butler for writing it, and advise our friends to read it. It will have a salutary effect on some dreaming religionists, who have an itching for Rome. It shows what they will find there. They will, perhaps, agree with Dr. Butler, that "anything more dismal, dreary, degraded, dirty, dead—and if there be any other unpleasant adjective beginning with d, that, too—than a Roman town, I do not believe is anywhere to be found short of Turkey."

WHAT SHALL WE TALK ABOUT?

Conversation is a fine art. True, some people appear to have a genius for it, and talk so well and so easily, that it is a pleasure to listen to the genial flow of words. Others talk so rapidly that you are reminded of a wagon racing down hill, after a couple of runaway steeds, or a gabbling brook, brawling over a shallow and pebbly bed.

It were well that the art of conversation were studied more by people of culture. For it is not the most fluent talkers who talk best, or most profitably. What shall we not speak about? would, perhaps, be a more pertinent inquiry than the reverse. In the first place, then, let us not make our neighbors the subject of discourse. Let us cease to wonder what Miss Jones saw in Mr. Brown that she should invest him with her heart and hand; and why Mr. Llewellyn never visits with his wife.

Let us not talk about our servants. The servant question, involving as it does, so much of the comfort and peace of many American homes, may well come often to our lips; but let it not pass the roseate gateway, save to the most familiar of friends. Dismiss from the pleasures of social intercourse the misdeeds of Bridget, and the ingratitude of John, and those pleasures will be greatly enhanced.

Let us not talk about the fashions. Changeful cut of sleeve, or length of dress, preposterous hat, or insufferable bonnet; it is enough to endure the misery of an endless change, without the added torture of discussing it. The weather is a far more desirable topic, and one that can awaken no envy, and lead to the breaking of no commandments, unless one be a child or a simpleton. Fresh from the hand of God, the bright day, smiling in beauty, and veiled with the exquisite sapphire of heaven, is a fitting topic for thought and congratulation. And when the rain comes pattering down, alike on the fields of the just and the unjust, making music of its own, on roof and in tree-top, shall we not say "Amen" to the tinkle of the drops, and speak pleasantly thereof to each other?

There is plenty to talk about, friend, never fear. The wide range of literature, the new poem or book, the beauties of nature, the state of the country, the state of the Church—"lots" of subjects, if people will only wake to life in earnest, and cease to fritter it away in idle words. M. E. M.