## Correspondence.

CONCLUSION OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES V.—1550-55.

FROM THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION IN THE NETHERLANDS.

BY N. M. S.

If the establishment of the inquisition caused tumults and insurrections in countries as abject as Italy and Spain, and even in Rome itself, what wonder that the free people of the Low Countries rose against this last and most hateful exhibition of religious tyranny. Already they had suffered incalculable woes from the virtual establishment of the institution among them. Four years before a Venetian Envoy had put the number of victims of Charles's persecuting rage, in the northern half of the territory only, at thirty thousand. If, even under some measure of restraint, this inquisition had wrought such bloodshed and misery, what could they expect but utter destruction from its open establishment and unrestricted operation? Some of the cities, indeed, not perceiving in the placard of 1550, any substantial change in the policy of the Emperor, and perhaps believing the case already about as bad as possible, made no resistance, but published the placard as they were bidden. But Antwerp, the most flourishing commercial town in the Netherlands, the New York or Liverpool | and the security of the Roman Catholic of that age and country, frightened by religion had been the leading objects of the disastrous effect which such an his life. He claimed that true affection true that a large population in our land odious policy immediately produced upon | for his subjects required one unfitted, as | its trade and all its interests, was aroused to a resistance which it never ceased to make. The great merchants packed up their goods and prepared to be gone; all trade was at a stand: there was neither buying nor selling nor correspondence with other parts, except to inquire for a place of refuge. Rents fell; handicrafts decayed; mechanics and laborers could get neither work nor pay. The magistrates took sworn testimony from the principal citizens, and laid the whole matter before the Emperor's sister Mary, who was acting as seemingly from generous regard for the Regent of the provinces, begging her intercession with her brother. She was a woman of great natural kindness, and the thought of the myriads of murdered she took so much interest in the petition of the alarmed people, that she went to Augsburg in Germany, where the Emperor was holding the German Diet, and represented to him the great damage inflicted by his last placard upon the interests of the country.

It is difficult to see that she gained any concession from her barbarous and tyrannical brother, although he consented | purposes,—all, all the work of this prince, to issue a new placard, with a slight whose tender farewell expressions were modification of the old. This modifica- mingled with the sighs and sobs of his tion consisted in requiring a civil judge from the Emperor's courts to sit with morse here, where, from strange infatuathe inquisitors and superintend the proceedings against any suspected persons. But as the judge was to be selected by single phantom have risen from one of inquisitors, and from those of the Emper- the many thousand graves, where human placard was particular in repealing, as the Emperor amid all that piteous weepprivileges of the towns which stood in the man who asked his hearers to be aged or infirm people, not able to attend heretics and suspected persons. The fended them, that there was a world named, it is doubtful if, in the best confied as before. Not until the Chancellor ture, strangle, burn and drown one's innot be saddled with the Inquisition in seemed no sense of such coming justice any form whatever, did they consent to in any breast. the publication of the placards in their city; and then they accompanied it with | that Charles was not driven into retirea solemn written instrument, in which ment by remorse, is found in the spirit any derogation.

The bloody work of the Inquisition. however, went on, and so the years much admired and praised by historians. and ranked as one of the world's heroes,

into the hands of his son Philip. position, and pass the remainder of his cluded routine of a Spanish convent, is a question which has been much debated that he might retire from all active life. sons. The Catholics say that he was uneasy in conscience for various acts of is stated by this writer to be, the failure hostility to the Pope, whom he once took of many of his great projects in the prisoner. But if a disturbed conscience latter part of his life, the combination of

tries, and his purpose to set up the bloody morseful state of mind. To have rest- action would but expose him to mortifi- too often to one place; some half the seems so interwoven into the frameperson slain under a cruel edict, with no And so, being warned, as he thought, to twenty times in a year. accusation against him but that he while lingering at Brussels, by the apsought to follow Christ more closely pearance of a comet, he shrunk away to but poor stuff often, or commonly. It than the priest, and regarded the word of man; to know that only one person three years afterward, he died. had been put to death by the most agonizing torture, although of innocent life and a faithful, loyal subject; to allow one man, in a wide empire, to be deprived of life without any protection from the forms of law, ought to be enough to burn the awful consciousness of murder into the ruler's soul. But Charles had upon his soul the guilt of fifty thousand such murders-and we might well believe them enough to drive him from a loftier throne to a far deeper voluntary debasement.

But we cannot affirm that he abdicated under any such feelings. On the contrary, the scene upon his withdrawal from the government of the Netherlands was like that of an indulgent father when leaving the circle of the family which he had long sustained and protected. He assured the dignitaries of the people assembled in honor of the occasion, that the welfare of his people for active duty, to give place to a younger and more vigorous ruler. With deep emotion, he begged pardon for his errors and offences, and assured them that he should unceasingly remember them in his every prayer to that Being, to whom the remainder of his life was to be dedicated.

Tears and sobs were heard through

every part of the hall. Brave men were melted at the strange spectacle of greatness humbling and renouncing itself, good of others. Far distant from this magnificent assembly of courtiers, seemed Protestants, burned, drowned, buried alive and tortured to death in a thousand nameless ways; far distant the remembrance of the venerable free institutions of towns and States swept away like cobwebs; far distant the remembrance of the introduction of the inquisition, and the publication of placards black with the most tyrannical and cruel principal subjects. There was no retion under the spell of power, there seemed no sense of wrong. Could a or's employment, the difference consisted | beings had been thrust alive by his depretty much in adding another inquisitor | cree, perhaps there might have been an to those already on the bench. The answer to the question propounded by occasion. before, the operation of all rights and ing. Perhaps it might have been told proportion are small children the way of the summary execution of forgiven, if he had ever unwittingly of worship. So that, from these causes burghers of Antwerp were as ill satis- where it was deemed an offence to torof Brabant assured them that they should | nocent fellow-creatures. But now there | one Sabbath; and, taking congregations

Another proof, if proof were needed,

they declared that, notwithstanding the he manifested in the place of his retreat. threatening words at the close of the There he became a greater bigot and his word to Luther at the Diet of Worms. he refused to betray him and put him in of victims; until Charles, its author, predecessor Sigismund had done in the case of John Huss, a hundred years beof the most dangerous enemies that his word with Luther, and had omitted ever civil or religious liberty had, re- to put to death the man whom he resigned his imperial crown and put the garded as the cause of all the mischief the rate at which his successor labored much above fifty years old, could be led | thundered fierce instructions from his reto resign all the pomp and glory of his treat to the inquisitors to hasten the exlife as a mere monk, in the quiet and se- larly his own former friends. He even sent furious exhortations to his son Philip—as if Philip needed a prompter and variously answered. Some regard | in such a work—that he should set himthe act as a proof of plety, of greatness | self to "cutting out the root of heresy of soul, of a becoming sense of the ne | with rigor and rude chastisement." Little On being asked by the Emperor what pies, pickled partridges, fat capons, induced him to take so strange a resolu- quince syrups, iced beer and flagons tion, he answered, that there ought to of Rhenish wine; relieved by copious intervene some space between the hurry draughts of rhubarb and senna, to which of life and the day of one's death. This his horror-stricken physician doomed saying seems to have made a deep im- him, as he ate. Such, says Motley, is pression on Charles, as he was often the true portrait of the cloistered Charles; heard to quote it afterward; and some and not that romantic picture of philosee in his own conduct the proof of a sophic retirement, of profound and pious similar regard for the interests of his contemplation, on which former writers soul. Others give very different real lavished their powers of embellishment. And the true cause of his retirement

### LETTER FROM "AMBROSE."

STATISTICS OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE. DEAR PRESBYTERIAN: -- We notice vaious paragraphs on their rounds in the papers, going to show the great failure of our people to attend church on the Sabbath. The statistics are made in this way: On a given Sabbath, in a city like Chicago, for instance, the occupants of all the churches will be counted. The city consists, say of 200,000 people. In all the churches together there are found present, say 40,000; and the inference is drawn that all the other 160,000 are not in any sense church-goers, but absolute heathen. Some do not press the inference so far; but lighten the picture with certain ameliorating considerations.

And yet, in the way in which such statistics are usually given, I have never say, in advance, that it is limentably do not hear the Gospel, either as a habit he professed to be, by bodily infirmity or with any frequency. But I do not believe that the worst heathenism is found where it is usually located—in the cities. I believe it to be, on the other hand, in the rural districts; and often in the older States, instead of the Western destitutions. I had a letter from a rural district in Massachusetts, the other day. The writer temarks: "I have never seen heathenism, pure and absolute, as here. People do not pretend to keep the Sabbath or to go to church. Nor do they break it for smusement; or as if from temptation or inadvertence; but from pure, sordid calculation. They keep on their work just as other days."

> In the cities, on the other hand, there are so many churches, so convenient, that people, through various motives, do sometimes attend, though not habitual church-goers.

gives you scarcely a proximate basis of calculation. In the first place, of the families belonging to a congregation, were in arears. only a proportion are present on any one day. Some families—commonly a considerable proportion—will be wholly absent on the pleasantest day. One is out of town; one has sickness; and another, some other cause of absence. there at once. A fifth or a third of the the thing omitted. church-goers will be out one Sabbath, to exchange places with others the next

gregations, you can count on more than half of your people being present on any

these absentees as non-church-goers. much mention made; but which I know, they become, that thereby the most introduced; its sterling wisdom is so from personal examination, to be very placard, they insisted upon their rights showed a more cruel and unscrupulous large. They are not members of any and privileges, laws, customs and usages, temper even than before. It has been church, though hundreds, yes, thousands connected with any congregation. They are not identified anywhere. But they the hands of the blood-thirsty emissaries are floaters. Many of them change rolled by, with their fresh accumulation of the Pope as they desired, and as his their residences every quarter; and some church, nevertheless. They float around mers, and even the explosive powder, fore. But, now in the convent, Charles | the city, some of them visiting every | may be needful agents for removing the but worthy of everlasting infamy as one uttered bitter regrets that he had kept church in it. Many of them go even- hillock or the massive rock from the ings. when a shabby dress is not observ- course where the steam engine is des- tion or versification, these poems give able; and they slide in and slide out unknown. I once made it my endeavor thirty miles per hour. control of the Netherlands and of Spain of the age. He was not satisfied with for some years to identify and fix these How the great Emperor, when not in suppressing the Reformation, but succeeded. But, as a general thing, and more practical paths for human experience; they are all interesting and they do not wish to be identified, or progress are opened by the shock of instructive, and stimulating to every ecution of all heretics, including particu- come to the city to hide. Or, in the has been wont to breathe easier and them successfully essay a loftier veincannot dress as they think they ought, sions. to be recognized as members of society. cessity of preparing for the eternal proof of self-reproach did the author of Or, their homes are poor, shabby, and creasing number of earnest, honest, world. These persons tell of one of such explosions of savage bigotry give, out of the way-up stairs, perhaps, or eloquent men and women talked, rea-Charles's old generals, who asked to be mingling them with exhibitions of re- in some alley; and are ill-provided, etc., soned, pleaded, prayed, printed and dismissed from his position in the army volting gluttony, with surfeits of sardine etc. Now, to go to a church and be preached against human oppression with omelettes, Estramadura sausages, eel recognized, is to go into society, for its cognate evils; yet, in proud defiance. houses. And that they shrink from.

they cannot think of it. By-and-by all siderable amount of violence. sade against religious and civil liberty, the defeats he had given it. Disap enough of wild oats, settle down to sober ligerent attitude of the rebels manifests boards, etc.

Of course, such church attendance is blood. all, hear the Gospel. They are not such desired and lasting peace. heathen as they are often taken to be. bers. But I count them many more cruel and vindictive, let the caviller contion of a hundred or two, are unnoticed. and there be abundance of peace so long | portant field. Yet five different persons, for fifty Sab | as the moon endureth: He, Christ, shall baths each, are two hundred and fifty break in pieces the oppressor." And LABOULAYE'S FAIRY BOOK. Fairy Tales of in a year; ten each Sabbath, are five this, as is His wont, by taking two hundred; twenty are a thousand; thirty potsherds, nations, and dashing them are fifteen hundred, and fifty are twenty- violently together, until one or both are five hundred.

Of course, these people do not exhaust the city. There are still Germans who are infidels—to say nothing of infidels guard against misapprehenspn, I will not Germans; at stables, saloons, beergardens, etc., etc.; not forgetting novelpure and simple. The facts modify, but do not obliterate, the statistics.

#### SALARIES, ETC.

The newspapers are at their annual and kindly work of stirring up the churches to the paying of adequate salaries, presents, etc.; all of which is doubtless called for. All I wish to say is, as to one point. I think, were you to collect all the ministers together and get their complaints, while you would find many speaking of inadequate salaries, you would hear of many more complaining of ill-paid salaries. A salary to a minister does not seem to be like an ordinary debt to anybody else. It is paid by many, if and when convenient to themselves, and often not as the wish or intention of the congregation; but simply by the remissness of those to whom the duty of it is committed. And congregations often show their good will to a minister by giving him presents, But to our statistics. Counting the while their agents wholly neglect to pay people in a church, especially in a city, him his salary. I have known very munificent presents to a man, when five hundred dollars of his annual twelve

Now, I think that nearly every charge" to a congregation, on installing a pastor, ought to enforce the duty of promptly paying salaries. Yet I have known a charge to dwell on the giving of presents, and say no word about pay-Then, of the families present, all are not ing; while the very danger was as to

AMBROSE. Yours.

SONAGE. III.

equilibrium as the sunshine, the heat its purest and best forms.

people in church, and, in a few cases, of a highway for the nations. Plainer and of the better phases of Christian fixed in a church. Perhaps they have contending armies. The human race good and noble purpose, and some of city for work or business, they do not make more rapid progress after each as "The Golden Age in the Present." care to be known as members of a great war struggle. Such pre-eminently The introduction, addressed to "Our congregation, from various motives; have been the results which have fol- American Cousins," is in a fine spirit of of instructing and entertaining them. some—many—that they are poor, and lowed our late grand national convul- conciliation. The publisher has issued The scenes are laid in South Africa, and

For an entire generation, a still inpared. It is to bring the minister and the and yearly became more arrogant. elders, perhaps—if you have elders who Jeshurun-like, it waxed fat and kicked will do anything beyond meeting in The great heart of the nation was averse to bear a share of its burdens. Money had been fastening down for ages, were will be wanted; or duty-worse yet; and not to be torn up without a very con-

the Reformation in that and other countates mortgaged, all his affairs in confu- have driven dozens of such families mercy, a sufficent number of the oppression; failing in mental powers, with a from my church by simply visiting nem! sors and leaders in the revolt were not Inquisition among them, partially carried | constitution hopelessly shattered, he felt | Yet such people go to church, some tol- | destroyed in the conflict of arms. Treaout, would amply explain such a re- that to remain behind on the stage of erably steady, yet taking care not to go son against God and his ordinances ing upon one's soul the blood of one cation and perhaps utter overthrow. time; and some occasionally, from once work of Southern solliety as not to be purged out without a large flow of sufferings endured by loyal men in the

Judicial blindness may again drive the monastery of St. Juste, on the is mixed with attendance at the theatre, those discontented agitators into new contains "Lucy Lee; or, All Things for of God of higher authority than the word | borders of Placentia, in Spain, where, | museum, and minstrel and other concerts. | acts of treason and violence, when, as a | Christ." It allows a man to do what he likes, merciful result, the remaining plotters without too much observation. He can and abettors thereof will perish in a tur- story, describing with much skill and be at the saloon and billiard-room as he moil of blood. The land would then, dramatic power the calamitous results likes, without question. But such, after and most likely not till then, enjoy her

broken to pieces.

The evangelical prophet also notices the same introductory to a lasting peace. Ere the good time coming, when the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, readers, sleepers, strollers; and heathen, Jesus shall smite the earth with the rod laid under contribution for the materials of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked." God is full of compassion and tender mercy, yet just and righteous in all His A. M. STEWART. ways-

FRAZER, CHESTER COUNTY, PA.

# Editor's Cable.

. M. W. DODD'S BOOKS.

SCHENBERG COTTA." The Draytons and the Davenants; A Story of the English Civil Wars. By the author of "The Schemberg-Cotta Family." 12mo., pp. 509.

There could scarcely be a more stirring period selected in all English history than the one in which the plot of this story is laid. Great events were transpiring; deep, conflicting passions were being stirred among the people; religious and denominational questions were vehemently discussed. Charles I. and Cromwell, Pym, Hampden, Prince Rupert and other characters of the highest interest and importance in history, are introduced. Much that we, alas! as a nation, are too familiar with, seems to reappear on these pages, and it must add not a little to the interest of the volume in this country, that it shows America of the present day as the true successor of Great Britain of the times of Cromwell, and reproduces so many of the features of a great struggle for justice and liberty between contending masses of the same nation.

The two families named in the title represent the two great parties into And then, of the whole population, a LETTERS FROM A COUNTRY PAR- which England at that time was divided: and the well-known skill of the thor is employed in illustrating the working of these principles in private life, on In the government of this rebellious different tempers and characters, and on world by the Redeemer, war may be the social relations of families thus together, I doubt if more than a third. prove the only adequate power to over- healthful and noble; its sympathies so Here in our cities, especially, there is sives. Bayonets and Minnie bullets are tered along its pages like the purest a population of whom I have never seen radical arguments. So convincing may pearls, are so daintily, yet so naturally Many a tightly-drawn knot, beside the joice to see it displace the unwholesome

> Cotta Family." 16mo., pp. 275. \$1.75, Without remarkable brilliancy, or high power of, poetic genius in concep- and living experience of the Church. tined to snort along with a velocity of proof of high Christian taste and feeling; they present many specimens of clear line, and the binding is exceedingly neat War, in like manner, is a breaker-up and deep understanding of Scripture, and appropriate. For sale by J. B. the book in excellent style as to paper, typography and binding.

Miss Manning. The Faire Gospeller; Being Passages in the Life of Anne Askew.

16mo., pp. 237. \$1.75. A story of English domestic life in the time of the Reformation, in the engagwhich they do not feel themselves pre- even in disdain of all this, the evil grew ing form of autobiography, and in the quaint style of those times. The interest turns upon an ill-advised marriage, submitted to by the heroine out of regard, session and voting-or even the elders' to war, and beat strongly for peace at for the authority of her parent, and leadwives, and perhaps other ladies, into almost anyprice. Few expected war, ing to grievous persecutions for righttheir dirty, ill-provided or unfurnished and none on a grand scale; yet did it cousness' sake. The travels of some of come, stern, relentless, bloody, and on a the parties give occasion for mentioning Others are swayed by a different mo- scale almost without a parallel. The many of the great cities of Europe, in tive. If they get recognized as members planks, bars, bolts and screws, which which their peculiarities are described. of a congregation, they will be expected avarice, cruelty, pride and despotism and the men of note and great historical occurrences are introduced. The book is one of deep interest, and of the most wholesome tendency. It is published these people intend to do differently. General Grant is reported to have in a style uniform with "The Maiden prisoner. But it a distituted considered factor and Protestant and Catholic that They will be better off, get better houses, said, and if not, he evidently should have and Married Life of Mary Powell," and his crown a burden and public life intol- was rising to crush him, the rise and better furniture, dress better, or feel able said: "That the late rebellion ended a "Cherry and Violet," also issued by M. erable, doubtless his long and bitter cru- progress of the Reformation, in spite of to pay; and having sown, as they think, year too soon." The present semi-bel- W. Dodd, on tinted paper, in bevelled

his murderous placards against the Ne- pointed in his schemes, broken in for- therlanders, his persevering efforts to stifle tunes, with his income anticipated, estable the Reformation in that and other countable tates mortgaged, all his affairs in confusions of and driven deriven deri

Mrs. Ellis, author of "The Women of England. etc. 16mo., tinted illustrations.

The first of these is a thrilling story of the rebellion, bringing to view the South. The scenes are laid on the borders of Georgia and Florida. It also

Mrs. Ellis's is a powerful temperance to the neighborhood, and to the brewer's own family, of one of those manufacto-Should a spurious charity and mock ries of malt liquor, under the manage-Perhaps you think I overrate their num- | philanthropy charge such sentiments as | ment of a benevolent Christian man. The vain efforts of the brewer's good than the regular attendants at the chur- sult the oracles of God with respect to daughter to elevate and reform the famiches. If you will canvass carefully the the manner in which Christ is to be in- lies which her father's business was deattendants of the churches, you will find augurated as Prince of Peace The moralizing, give a peculiar force and from five to a hundred, and even two son of Jesse, in his jubilee hymn of piquancy to the story. The friends of hundred on extra occasions, of such peace, sings with emphatic distinctness, reform will welcome the appearance of people. Five persons, in a congrega- that ere "The righteous shall flourish, such a writer as Mrs. Ellis on this im-

#### HARPER & BROTHERS.

All Nations. By Edward Laboulaye, member of the Institute of France. Translated by Mary L. Booth. With Engravings. New York: Harper & Brothers. 12mo., pp. 363. Bevelled edges, \$1.75.

A delightful collection of tales, drawn with much research and discrimination from the most varied sources. Naples, Brittany, Bohemia, Hungary, Dalmatia, Spain and, of course, Arabia, have been of this collection. The author, a man of learning and distinction in the literary world, has shown a commendable readiness and ability to devote his powers to the entertainment of the voung. It is dedicated to his granddaughter, two years old, and is offered to the children of America in a graceful preface by the author, whose sympathy with the loyal people in the late struggle is gratefully

remembered The illustrations are exquisitely done and the whole volume is a fine specimen of work. A taste of it may be found in Harper's Magazine for January. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

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ing. The power of the Gospel upon rugged natures and in trying situations and relations is admirably exhibited. There is too great, and sometimes a tedious, parade of motives and of inward experience upon comparatively unimportant occasions. The work has appeared as a serial in Guthrie's Sunday Magazine. For sale as above.

## TICKNOR & CO.

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