Correspondence.

OUR SPECIAL EUROPEAN CORRESPON-DENT.

Paris, Aug. 8, 1867.

DEAR EDITOR: There are so many interesting give a fair sketch of them all without writing a of each in general terms would be unsatisfactory, so bear in mind that I can give you but a glimpse, here and there, of what passes before me.

VERSAILLES.

Twelve miles westward from Paris, on one of their great lines of railway, is the most beautiful place in France. It is an old Palace, built some two hundred years ago, and is surrounded by | length. On this floor the brilliant balls of the magnificent grounds. They are laid off in flower gardens so beautiful that they bewilder you-forests so dense, so varied, so beautifully trimmed, that the avenues amongst them make up a fairy land: while around the Palace are the finest and largest set of fountains in the world. Inside the building is the largest gallery of paintings anywhere to be found. Fifteen miles of paintings. most of them illustrating the brilliant events in French history, are enough for three or four days of study. Here there are gorgeous saloons, and chambers of historic interest, not to be surpassed anywhere. One should spend a week at Versailles, to know much about it.

The Palace was built by Louis XIII. and his successors, and inhabited last by Louis XVI., prior to the Revolution. In 1789 Marie Antoinette fled from it never to return. Her room is shown, with the little door through which she fled to the king's apartments when the mob from Paris invaded the Palace.

The balcony upon which she and her children stood, trying to appease the mob, is still there: but the mob would not be appeased. They carried her to Paris where the guillotine ended her days. One of her children died; but the life of the other is a mystery. No one can tell what became of the heir to the throne.

The paintings are the most interesting we have seen anywhere in Europe. They are nearly all of immense size, covering the whole side of the room in which they are placed. Large paintings are hung on three sides of the apartment, and the light coming in at the fourth; this is the general plan; with smaller paintings in odd places. The early history of France is illustrated by fine large paintings of the battles, treaties, capitulations, &c., under Hugh Capet, Clovis, Pepin, and Charlemagne. Then follow seven rooms filled with illustrations of the Crusaders: Peter the Hermit's preaching, and the great battles in the Holy Land, all in large pictures fifteen feet long and ten or twelve feet high at least. The later events, down to the close of the last century, come next; after which follow not less than twenty rooms filled with grand scenes from Napoleon Bonaparte's wars. They are so grand, so full of little finger. Through this opening a beam of life and action, the events are so recent and so fresh in Europe's memory, that they form a most interesting group. We noticed the outbreak at Cairo, a wonderful painting, showing out the bloody energy of Napoleon when aroused by the massacre of his men. The army before the Pyramids, when Napoleon told them that forty centuries looked down upon them; their own and his enthusiasm, splendidly portrayed. The terrible battle of Eylan where the wounded soldiers froze to death by hundreds in the snow. The battle of Wagram-and in fact so many battles that it was like reading the life of Napoleon over again to look at the paintings. We saw, by the way, where Abbott got some of his fine illustrations. Napoleon's coronation occupies a space not less than thirty feet long and twenty-five feet high. Many of the paintings are by Horace Vernet, an artist of Herculean labors. His immense pictures blaze in every gallery in Paris. The surprise of Abd El Kader's camp by the French is a world's wonder. It was painted in eight months, is sixty-five feet long and twenty-two feet high, containing hundreds of figures of life size and in the freshest and most brilliant coloring, all action and life like. Here are the Arabs, men and women, soldiers and camp followers, all starting in precipitous flight; horses, oxen, and camels, all in entanglement; soldiers, seizing their arms, and picking up valuable camp equipage to fly with; a dozen frightened cattle rushing pell-mell over a whole family of women and children on the ground. Here are half a dozen women hurrying to mount into their saddles, enclosed with bowshaped curtains, on the camels' backs. The French army, however, quick, active, furious, advances upon them like an avalanche. There are other fine paintings by the hundred. The later wars under Napoleon III., are all carefully portrayed: - Solferino and Magenta, and the Crimea, and all that France did there. They have perpetuated upon canvass, also, the retaking of remember that in days of which we have been Rome in 1848, by a handsome painting. Then there are some eight or nine rooms filled with fine portraits of the marshals of France. Another set of rooms with portraits of the constables of France. Then another set with the generals. while the monarchs, from the earliest days to the latest, are all displayed in portraits, many of which are drawn, in a great degree, from the im-

The royal apartments of Louis XIV. are quite

agination.

loons or parlors in all the world: the Grand Gal- away in safe places, but when Napoleon I. came lery of Glass, nearly two hundred and fifty feet into power it was very much dilapidated. long, some thirty-five feet wide, and about twentylaid-out Palace garden, full of flowers of endless variety. Opposite each window on the other side of the room, is a large mirror on the wall; beplaces to visit about Paris, that it is impossible to | tween each of the windows and of the mirrors are | had the immense galleries of paintings filled up splendid gilding and fresco painting, while the by orders and purchases in great profusion. large volume instead of a limited letter. To speak | arched ceiling is laid off in gorgeous style, all the circles, arches, and corners being filled with fine life of the great monarch, Louis XIV. The dipolished oak, laid off in squares and diamonds, no one board being over three or four feet in gay courts of Louis XIV, and XV, were held. Here the courtiers of those days of abandonment to pleasure and luxury, held high carnival. No He showed us just which representation of the painter's art nor poet's lay can ever fully describe | Emperor was a good one, and had many little inthe brilliant scenes that these silent walls have cidents of his life that were very interesting. looked down upon.

> In this room, too, the king had his throne brought, on great occasions. Here, in recent days, Queen Victoria danced with Napoleon III. at a ball given in honor of her visit some twelve years since, reviving, as she danced, some of the gaiety of the old halls.

We pass to the royal chamber where Louis XV. died. Here stands the bed with the crimson satin curtains and covers, just as that Emperor left it. He died of small pox and was completely deserted by everybody in his last hours. So great was the consternation among his servants and courtiers that not one could be found who would remain with him, and, monarch as he was, he died all alone, though surrounded with wealth, splendor, and luxury. The bed-room has been unoccupied ever since, though it is a cheerful, suony room, looking out upon the grand avenue between the trees a mile long, with the lake a is about one hundred feet above the ground. The mile in length beyond it.

Near this room is a saloon which was used as waiting room for the courtiers of Louis XIV. It was a famous place for intrigue and villainy. Just beyond it is one of the most beautiful corner rooms of the Palace, with sunshine streaming in at the windows, while the look-out combined a view of fountain, forest, and flower-beds, the most varied and beautiful imaginable. Here the kings and their courtiers drank their wines or sipped their tea around the gambling tables, night after night, often keeping up the games until daylight. Here millions of dollars have been lost and won, and many a heart has ached over their fall from wealth to ruin. It is said that one of the ladies of the court once lost here a million of dollars in a single night.

We pass on to the apartments of Louis XVI. At the side of one of the south windows is fastened an iron plate a foot square, with a small hole in the centre large enough to admit your sunlight marked its way across the floor of the room. Along the floor is a brass plate an inch wide and five or six yards long, screwed down exactly on the meridian line. The iron plate outside the window and the brass one on the floor were put there by Louis' own hands. He had quite a turn for mechanical pursuits, and kept a work-bench, a vice, hammers, chisels, files, and other machinists' tools, with which he amused himself through many idle days. We saw the vice and tools in the Museum of the Louvre in Paris. preserved with great care in a glass case, and not far from Napoleon Bonaparte's chapeau and old gray over-coat, sword, pistols, saddle, camp bedstead, &c. Louis XVI. appears to have had a liking for astronomical investigations on a small scale. On the grounds not far from the Palace, is a little dairy farm, in which Marie Antoinette, Louis' wife, amused herself in attending, like a peasant, to farm labor-feeding chickens, milking cows, and churning butter A little Swiss cottage, a diminutive lake, and a small vegetable garden are among the scenes in which she spent much of her time.

Is it any wonder that the mighty throes of the French Revolution put an end to the rule of such a race of monarchs, as those who flourished in this grand old Palace? They seemed to have no idea that the chief business of their lives was the management of the affairs of a great nation, but passed their time in revelry, gambling and voluntuousness, surrounded by a crowd of flatterers, harpies, and vampires, more debased than themselves; or like Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette. allowed the nation to take care of itself, while they like children, amused themselves playing the mechanic, or shepherdess, or dairy maid.

We cannot now speak of the gorgeous chapel in the Palace. We are struck with its size, but we see the necessity of so large a place, when we speaking there were no less than three thousand living here as ministers and advisers, relatives and courtiers, servants and waiters, footmen and pages, butlers and cooks, gardeners and grooms. The stables, which are now used as barracks of cavalry, had stalls for one thousand horses.

This Palace was sacked by the mob in 1789, when they dragged Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette to Paris. Much of the furniture was interesting. We enter one of the handsomest sa- off. Some of the precious articles were hidden Simon ever saw the building now shown as having assails us on these topics.

Louis Philippe brought it to its present perfecfive feet high. On all sides the windows look out | tion, designing it to be a museum of French hison a most brilliant prospect: the handsomely tory and glory. He spent upon it five millions of dollars, much of which, it is said, came from his own private purse. He brought the waterworks and fountains to their present perfection,

Our guide through Versailles was an old man over eighty years of age, quite sprightly and infresh fresco paintings, all commemorating the telligent, named Marchand. He had been body servant to Napoleon from 1804 to 1812; had travans and sofas along each side of the saloon are velled everywhere with him, had waited on him covered with scarlet damask. The floor is of and his officers at table, and knew each officer whose portrait appeared in the pictures; told us ting in the regions of darkness far beyond the ago; and depend upon it, like results will follow which were likenesses and which were not. He | sea. had often carried the little King of Rome about, and in fact had eaten from the same dish with him, as his wife was the nurse of the little fellow. His presence certainly helped to make our day at Versailles one of the most pleasant and memorable we have spent in Europe. G. W. M.

LETTER FROM PALESTINE. XIII.

BY REV. EDWARD PAYSON HAMMOND.

On our way from Jerusalem to Joppa, we stopped for the night at Ramleh with the monks in their convent. After our long ten hours' ride, we were glad of even the poorest accommodations -our tents would have been far preferable. It was only the appearance of rain that drove us to the convent. Yet no doubt many are pleased to find a shelter at these places. In the morning we ascended the lofty tower near Ramleh which overlooks the whole country. By one hundred and twenty-six steps we reached the top, which church, of which this tower is by many supposed to have been the campanile, has been thrown down by repeated earthquakes, but this solid tower remains without a rent. It was a glorious morning. Before us lay the whole Plain of Sharon, stretching from the sea to the mountains of Judea, and from the base of Mt. Carmel away to the south as far as the eye could reach. What a garden it must have been when Solomon ruled in "the city of the great King," and sang of the rose of Sharon."

While upon that lofty eminence we turned our eyes away to the northeast to Lydda, now called Ludd, surrounded by its olive groves. We thought of visiting it, as it was but two or three miles distant, but we fancied that, with the clear light of the bright sun, and with the help of our glass, from that high tower, we had a sufficiently good prospect of it. We had often found in Palestine that "distance lends enchantment to the view." read the last part of the ninth chapter of the earnest in what they are about. Acts with new pleasure as we looked down on da and Sharon saw and turned to the Lord." Would that God's servants everywhere, in all times, might go with something of the same confidence to sin-sick, dying souls, and with unwavering faith say to them, "Jesus Christ maketh thee whole." Would not such faith be almost contagious? or at least might not God use such confidence to inspire faith in the perishing to "believe in the Lord Jesus Christ" to their salvation? O for more boldness such as Peter possessed! May the Lord grant it to you and to me, my dear reader.

Lvdda is about ten miles from Joppa, and our way that morning must have been much in the same line as that taken by Peter when hastening to the house of Dorcas. While on the road we fell in with a Russian princess on horseback, who could speak English very well. She seemed pleased to enter into conversation with us. Though a Greek Catholic, she had much love for the Saviour. The loss of her mother had led her apparently to think of her Saviour, and to trust in him. We were pleased to find that she and her brother were to take the same steamer with us at

Suddenly our conversation was interrupted by shout from Michael: "Look, look, there goes a gazelle!" My horse was ready for a chase, and away we flew like the wind. We gained rapidly till we came to a marshy place, where the light bounding gazelle had the advantage, and we had to abandon the idea of capturing the beautiful creature. It resembled a small deer very much. Michael told us that he often shot them for food, and found them very delicate eating.

As we drew near to Joppa, we entered the finest orange groves we had ever seen. O what luscious oranges! How tempting they were! Acres of them in all directions! I could not resist the temptation of reaching up my hand and plucking some, and after our ten miles' ride they were most refreshing.

once belonged to him. It seemed too far up from the sea, and its appearance was too modern. Some shrewd money-making man has evidently Nehemiah vi. 3. taken this house to show to travellers. The vifact. As we stood upon that house-top we knew that before us lay the same sea that Peter gazed upon when he was taught that "God hath also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life." Acts xii. 18. It seemed fitting that Peter should

THE JOPPA COLONY.

That afternoon we paid a visit to the Ameri- "hot water" again. can colony at Joppa. I must say that the sight of a plow and reaping machine gladdened my the councils of our O. S. brethren, at least to a heart. All over Palestine we had seen men scratching the earth with something not much | ble for the division, and I cannot see what we better than a stick, drawn by a sad looking don- have to gain by a re-union under present circumkey or stunted oxen-or cows which looked like stances. Our Church machinery, Boards, &c., starved calves. Was it strange, therefore, that have but just begun to operate and are operating we were glad to see a plow and improved imple- well. Why disturb them, unless with at least the ments of industry? I might write a long letter prospect of something as good or better in return about what we saw and heard while visiting the American colonists at Joppa, but I have only time now for a quotation from Mr. Adams' sermon a few weeks before our arrival. I copy the sketch from a private letter:-

Yesterday afternoon I went to the American service, which they hold in a wooden house erected on their plot of ground, and which will be their school-house. There were several officers from an English man-of-war present, and several of the residents in the town, and I suppose Mr. Adams, the leader of the sect, took the opportunity to explain his motives for coming here. He said the time had come when there would be great revolutions on the earth, that the last dread. ful struggle would soon take place, and then would come universal peace. We have, he said, come here in fulfilment of prophecy. We have not come out of political motives, we have not come as missionaries, we have not come to interfere with other religions, but we will hold forth the pure, the beautiful, the glorious truth of Jesus the Messiah. He said also: Soon will this land be teeming with fertility, soon will these barren plains be covered with wheat, barley, etc., etc., as people come in to till the soil. America, and England the mother country, were to be an important manufacturing centre. The town chiefly instrumental in bringing about this happy state of things.

What has this groaning earth been longing and praying for, in all ages, but peace? What has sheltered. When it is added that we have here been the prayer of the Church for thousands of a vigorous church, ministered to by our widely years? What has for centuries been the prayer of all Christian denominations - Protestant, Greek, Roman Catholic-but Thy kingdom come? and soon will that prayer be answered. The last of the mighty kingdoms of this earth is passing away, and on its ruins will be set up the everlasting kingdom of the Messiah.

I suppose he does not always preach in this style—it is only for the benefit of strangers who are present. There are some nice people amongst Especially was this the case with Jerusalem. We them, and one thing is certain, they seem very

Lydda. We thought of what a joy it must have must be admitted, who seem truly to love the Leonard, some \$14,000 have been secured, mainly been to Peter's heart, when, as he thus spake to | Lord Jesus. No doubt some of them have been | in the immediate vicinity, in subscriptions to its the palsied man, "Ænæas, Jesus Christ maketh disappointed in Palestine, yet I can but feel that thee whole, arise," to see that "he arose immedi- they will in many ways do good. One of their ately." No wonder that "all that dwelt at Lyd- | chief objects is to teach the natives, by example, the way to cultivate the land, and when those wretched inhabitants see that with proper implements one man can accomplish more than ten of them, it will certainly prove a valuable lesson to sion of the beginning of a large endowment. A them. If truly converted men and women, with | fine brick edifice, designed as a beginning only, the love of Christ in their souls, would colonize is in process of erection, and the Rev. Alvah among the heathen and teach them the practical Goodale and Mrs. Goodale, late missionaries of value of Christianity, their attention would soon | the American Board in Turkey, and respectively be arrested, and they would thus be led to listen to the story of the death and sufferings of Christ to save a guilty world from punishment due to their sin. "Truth is the daughter of time." History will therefore show whether Mr. Adams has intentionally deceived these Christian people in inducing them to leave their homes in America. However that may be, I was pleased to see them, and most of them told us they were con-

A WESTERN LAYMAN ON RE-UNION.

BROTHER MEARS: We do not need two eyes to see that the same state of feeling exists now in both branches of the Presbyterian Church that existed in 1836-7-8. Then the Old School charged the New School with bad faith and heterodox principles. Now, see Dr. Hodge in the Princeton Review. Such charges against the New School body ought to be correctly understood and appreciated, but I regret that our good friends of the Evangelist should go into a labored reply. Thus it was thirty years ago-assertions and charges from the same side, and column after column of defence on the other.

The papers of the "other branch" I do not see, and therefore know nothing of their contents except what is reflected through our own organs From them I learn that we are thus assailed, and I wish to ask if we are always to be on the defensive? Are we to spend precious time in defending "our branch" against outrageous charges emanating from Princeton, or any other quarter? For one, I say No, most emphatically. Our time Our tents were soon pitched on a beautiful spot is too precious to be thus employed. Our line zeal has been manifested. 'The activity of the not far from "the house of Simon the tanner." of duty does not lie in that direction, and if my One of the first excursions we made was to that voice could reach our entire communion I would thrown out of the windows, destroyed and carried house. We could not see any evidences that ask all our brethren not to reply to any one who Such a record, in coming years, ought to be sim-

We have a great work to do. Why should the work cease while we come down to you? See

If a public record of thirty years and the en. sion, however, seemed to us none the less a real dorsement of the blessed Spirit's sacred influence in very many instances is not sufficient to establish our Presbyterianism, then, and in that case. let it go.

Allow me to inquire, what prospect have we of the right kind of union, when a number of have been shown this vision on the shores of the | Presbyteries and a large minority of our O. S. boundless sea. He might thus have been re- brethren oppose it? We all know what a power minded that the glad tidings of salvation were there is in an active minority, when aided by not to be confined to the narrow strip of land be- learning and talents of a high order. It was just tween him and the desert, but that they were to such an active and talented minority who brought be sounded abroad to the millions who were sit- about the passage of the excision act thirty years a re-union with a small minority in active opposition. To put it in two words, we shall be in

> We can afford to wait until unanimity marks greater extent than now. We are not responsi--a union of heart and soul, and which shall not carry with it an important disturbing element.

FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.

PARSONS' SEMINARY.

Mention was made in a previous letter of this institution. It deserves a more extensive notice. in view of its prospective importance to our denominational interests, as well as to those of Christian education and sound learning in Iowa.

Parsons' Seminary is located at the thriving and attractive young city of Cedar Rapids, an important point on the C. & N. W. R. R., 81 miles west of the Mississippi river. The place has also a railroad communication with Dubuque, and will soon be supplied with other advantages of the same sort. Its location upon "the Cedar," furnishes it with a superabundance of fine water power, already utilized for flouring, paper, and other mills, and doubtless is destined to make it is also an unusually attractive one from the beauty of its location and the "timber" by which it is sheltered. When it is added that we have here and well known brother, Rev. James Knox, and that a noble church edifice of stone, both costly and beautiful, is now nearly ready for its roof, enough will have been said to mark its fitness as the site of an important institution of learning, such as this Seminary aspires to become

Through the liberality of a former resident of the place, eighty acres of finely wooded, elevated ground, in the very border of the city, has been donated to its use; while through the indefatiga-There are among those people, numbers, it ble labors of its financial agent, Rev. G. E. W. funds. It also entertains the hope of receiving a very large bequest, made by the late Mr. Parsons, of Keokuk, to be applied to educational purposes in the State, in connection with the Synod of our Church. Should this bequest be assigned to the Seminary, it be will be in possesgraduates of Amherst College and Mount Holyoke Seminary, have been employed to open a school in a building secured temporarily for the purpose. This whole enterprise is under the auspices of our own denomination, and should be fostered and encouraged as one to us of great prospective value. Hitherto we have been far behind all others in the matter of educational facilities in this State. The successful inauguration of this Seminary, and that for young ladies at Lyons, will mark the dawn of a better day. And both are earnestly commended to the favor of those at the East who are willing to aid in undertakings of so great promise of good.

DES MOINES, IA., Sept. 23, 1867.

CHINA.—From Dr. Treat's eloquent and able argument for enlarged zeal and enterprise for the conversion of China presented to the American Board at Buffalo, we extract the following:-"The Man of Sin is there, and will be there, whoever else is absent. His concern for the Chinese began far back in the past. Five hundred and sixty years ago he placed an Archbishop at Peking, with seven suffragans. Though the door seemed to be shut against him for a time, his labors for the last three hundred years have scarcely been suspended. The extremest threats have been made and executed; but they have only verified the maxim, 'Rome never yields.' The prize is great, even the conquest of one-third of our race; and the sacrifices made to gain it will be great. Recently an extraordinary Romish Church in China, says Sir John Davis, ply impossible."