

Correspondence.

FROM OUR TRAVELLING CORRESPONDENT IN THE WEST.

CHICAGO, DEC. 9, 1867. DEAR EDITOR:—The most salient point of religious interest in this city at present, is the Young Men's Christian Association. It is an attempt to apply Chicago business principles to Christian work in that city, and it is undeniably doing a vast amount of good.

The Y. M. C. A. is, by a concatenation of circumstances thrust forward into the position of Evangelical champion here. The Y. M. C. Union is the rival machine, representing the Liberal Christians, whom the Association refused to admit to the rank of working members, while it refuses contributions from no quarter, and numbers even Jews among its honorary life members.

Another sign of the times in this locality, is the holding of ratification meetings, with reference to the Presbyterian National Union Convention. Wherever I have gone in the West, I find that the effect of the Convention has been profoundly felt. The stiffest have thawed under the blessed influence it has exerted, and the most conservative have been startled, out of their equanimity.

Among the Christian "institutions" of Chicago, D. L. Moody takes a high rank. Formerly a clerk in a shoe store, and a first class salesman, he has of late years withdrawn from business and lived on whatever God sends him, as does George Müller of the Bristol Orphan Asylum.

Scholarly men will continue to indulge in those torrents of emotion, which are suddenly set loose by a stroll in the "forum Romanum," and among all the mighty fragments of the ancient city. The same charm still invests the mountains, plains, valleys and cities, and will continue to enchant every visitor to that historic land.

other of them was wrong about the means, and declared that he wanted the Bishop to do nothing for him that he would not gladly do for the Bishop. The Bishop said that he did, right in coming to him, and that he would see that the mischief was put an end to, (and he kept his word.)

The religious atmosphere of Chicago is very different from that of Philadelphia. Theological liberalism, with its negative creed or unfaith, and its heart-hankering after reason and progress, takes the lead here.

Put together these facts. First, the Vatican is the seat of a power which rests upon the superstitious and conscientious convictions of one hundred and sixty millions of persons, whose homes dot the islands and the continents from Japan round to California.

ON THE WING.

WILL ITALY BE FORGOTTEN?

LONDON, NOV. 6, 1867. As I chanced to take up a leading London newspaper in a London coffee-house, the other day, my eye fell on an editorial which had a characteristic English flavor.

There was a combination of audacity and bearishness in the editorial, which was all the more interesting to me, from the fact that I had just returned from a pilgrimage to that country, and was fresh from face-to-face interviews with the insurgent Garibaldians, and the smooth-shorn officials of the city of Rome.

The lovers of art will not cease to admire the marbles which have come down from Grecian and Roman antiquity, and the more modern stones of Michael Angelo and Canova.

marbles which have come down from Grecian and Roman antiquity, and the more modern stones of Michael Angelo and Canova. There are frescoes and paintings in Milan, Venice, Bologna, Florence, Rome and Naples, which will not soon lose their attractive power.

Visitors will still climb to the pinnacled roof of Milan's cathedral, and gaze upon the glowing summit of Monte Rosa, and all the phantom-seeming host of Alps which occupy the North-east sky.

But who shall be obliged to deny that there are other reasons of quite another nature, reasons a thousand-fold more weighty, why thinking men of all countries, and especially of England and America, should visit and scrutinize most carefully this peculiar country?

The intelligent traveller is aware as he penetrates the Alps, and descends upon this awakened country, that he is upon the battle-ground of two opposing tendencies—of two contrary sets of influences.

On the one hand, he perceives the enthusiasm of the people. He hears the clamor for national unity. He sees the eager rush for news. He notices a hunger for newspapers, which reminds him of the war times in the United States.

On the other hand, he sees the splendid churches full of the smoke of incense, and the associations of superstition. He sees the long-robbed, smooth-faced, slow-paced priests, the incarnation of confident secrecy.

Now, it is possible that Papal influence, assisted by the horror with which the Catholic governments cannot fail to regard the loss of the Pope's temporal power, may succeed in repressing all this modern movement.

But if, on the contrary, the party of progress overwhelm all opposition, strip the Pope of his civil authority, drive out the priest rulers from their musty offices in Rome, open the populous dungeons to the imprisoned patriots, and seize Rome with a grasp which could not be loosed by all the opposing powers of Europe, then may occur what has been on the point of occurring before.

the political, or the religious condition of the next generation, can fail to regard the settlement of it, with the most serious attention. I venture to say, that no respectable intelligent man can go from the elegant chamber in Florence, where the magistrate cements every wedding bond, to the dingy head-quarters of the Roman police, where ten thousand secret spies are controlled in the interests of Papal tyranny, and by whom every resident and every traveller is watched perpetually, without probable reflection.

Perhaps it would not be too much to say that politically and religiously no country under heaven is as interesting to-day as Italy. No where else is the traveller so well rewarded for his toil.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AT ROORKEE, IN NORTHERN INDIA.

[We are glad to present to our readers the Twelfth Annual Report of the Roorkee Mission Station. We trust our valued friend and brother will long be continued in his labors in the cause of Christ.]

From the close of last year up till the commencement of the hot weather, the missionary and his assistants continued to itinerate in the District, as they had done the two preceding months. It was our aim at most places visited, to impress the minds of our audiences, if possible, with the fact, that our visits to them were not simply because we believed it to be our duty to do so, or from any other motive than regard for their souls' eternal well-being.

About the 20th of March, your missionary, with his native preacher, accompanied Mr. Calderwood and several native helpers to Hardwar, where they labored about three weeks. In consequence of the approaching fair being a Kumbh or twelfth year—which is always immeasurably greater than an ordinary fair—many hundreds of pilgrims were going for the purpose of bathing, and then returning some weeks before the regular bathing day; and in order to take advantage of this state of things, it was deemed proper to commence our labor there so long before the time we usually go thither.

In connection with this account, one striking feature of this fair must be mentioned. Although the number of mendicants of the different classes amounted to many thousands, from all parts of India, yet there were exceedingly few instances of self-torture, generally so common at the great fairs throughout the country.

The fair at Pirankaly was attended, as usual, by my assistants, in September. While at the Station, the missionary has conducted the usual services in Urdu, on the Sabbath and Wednesdays of each week at his own house.

Preaching in the bazar has been kept up more efficiently than formerly. Having had the verandah in front of the Mission Chapel prepared for the purpose, the missionary and his assistants have resorted thither every evening of the week, except Sabbath, to make known the gospel, and have, almost invariably, succeeded in obtaining audiences varying from 20 to 40 persons, who, for the most part, have given us encouragement by their attention to what was said.

LANDOUR, October 1st, 1867. P. S.—Since my return to Roorkee, I have seen the Government Report of Arrangements for keeping order, &c. made by their officials at the last Harwar fair. According to this document the number of the pilgrims in attendance amounted to the enormous sum of 2,855,900. Very probably this is not too high an estimate.

PROGRESS IN IOWA.

Messrs. Editors:—On the 29th of December, the new church edifice at Nevada, Iowa, was consecrated with appropriate ceremonies, to Almighty God.

The sermon, eloquent and appropriate, and appealing to the deepest convictions of the regenerate heart touching God's faithfulness and truth, was by Dr. Gillett, of Keokuk, Iowa, assisted in the service by Rev. J. M. Phillips, of Des Moines, Rev. S. Jones, of the M. E. Church, Nevada, and the pastor, Rev. Isaiah Hill.

The church and society, as well as their youthful and devoted pastor, have reason to congratulate themselves upon the completion of this neat and commodious house of worship. Bro. Reid, then fresh from the Seminary, began his work in this new and promising field, in a church just then organized, about three and a half years ago.

The house is a half gothic structure, of wood, 26 by 48 feet, finished with a tasteful spire 77 feet high, with a fine Meneely bell of 600 lbs. swinging in its belfry.

Faith, and hope, and prayer, and perseverance have, been called largely into requisition, and now, by God's blessing, results are embodied in another spire to point the carnal thought heavenward, and the silvery tones of another bell to awaken the solitudes of the prairies, and invite its dwellers to the place of prayer.

The dedication is to be followed by a series of meetings, in which the pastor will be assisted by Mr. Phillips.

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