

FRIENDS' REVIEW.

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CONTENTS.

Mirabeau's Answer to Dunkirk Friends.....	J. B. Congdon	481
Notes from an Interleaved Bible, No. 19.....	M. S. Wood	483
Mary Hustler.....	Annual Monitor	485
News from Herschel's Planet.....	St. Paul's	486
EDITORIAL:—The Scurrility of the Press—The French Relic—Conventionality.....		488
MARRIAGE AND DEATHS.....		491
NOTICES:—Haverford School Association—General Meetings and First-day School Conference, N. C.....		491
CORRESPONDENCE:—Letters from Providence, England, Canada and Arkansas—General Meeting at Rochester, N. Y.....		492
Holston Cave.....	J. W. Morgan	494
POETRY:—Paul at Athens.....	C. L. Thompson	495
SUMMARY OF NEWS.....	Publisher	496

For Friend's Review.

MIRABEAU'S ANSWER TO DUNKIRK FRIENDS.

I notice the article on the first page of the *Review* for Second month 24th, and the Editor's notice of the same. The "Answer" to the petition of the Dunkirk Friends to the National Assembly of France, early in 1791, was not written by Bailly: it was both written and delivered by a greater than he, the renowned Mirabeau. Bailly had ceased to be President of the Assembly, and had been appointed Mayor of Paris, sometime before William Rotch and others presented their petition, and Gabriel Honoré de Riquetti, comte de Mirabeau, now occupied the place, having been elected to it early in the year 1791. He held it but a short time. A few weeks after he had written and pronounced the "Answer," the man who seemed to hold in his hands the destinies of France had ceased to live.

It was early in the year 1791, that the petition which called forth the reply given in the *Review* was presented. I have not been

able to find a copy of this paper. Perhaps it may yet come to light. William Rotch, no doubt, had a copy, and he would be very likely to send one to his friend and correspondent Rebecca Jones. May it not be found in the pages of the *Moniteur*?

Of the "Answer," we have two versions,—that given in *Friends' Review*, and another which is found in the *North American Review* for 1822, vol. 15. In an article in that periodical, in which he notices a work entitled, *Euvres Oratoires de Mirabeau; précédés d'une notice historique sur sa vie*, Alexander H. Everett gives a sketch of the life of that wonderful man, and quotes largely from his speeches. This address or reply to the Quaker petitioners he gives entire, translating it from the work he was reviewing.

Everett thus introduces his translation of the answer:

"The following answer was made by Mirabeau, then presiding in the National Assembly, to an address from a deputation of the sect of Quakers. He refutes all their principles with great nonchalance, at the same time that he is overwhelming them with a profusion of polite and complimentary phrases. The whole speech is, in fact, a piece of delicate persiflage."

Which of the two translations is most faithful to the original I have no means of ascertaining. The version in the *Friends' Review* is by far the most vigorous, and is, probably, the most correct. It would be interesting for us to have the petition in the original English and the answer in the original French.

But the readers of the *Review* will be, I have no doubt, more interested in the history of the petition and of the circumstances attending its presentation to the National Assembly of France.

William Rotch, of Nantucket, had established the whale fishery at Dunkirk in France. His son Benjamin, who afterward settled at Milford Haven, was there in charge of the business. The father left France in 1787 and did not return until the summer of 1790. He then took with him his wife and

limestone; but this uniformity does not last long; the beautiful stream of water, which we found at the entrance, makes its appearance again at one side and flows across the cave and sinks under massive rocks on the other side, stalactites from the size of a pencil to several inches in diameter may be seen projecting from the abrupt terminations of the walls on either side and pendent from the ceiling, like icicles found at a cataract; many of these are hollow and easily crumbled to pieces, being nothing more than carbonate of lime, formed by the constant dripping of water. We also find the stalagmites in great number, rising from the bottom of the cave, some only a few inches above the surface, others a foot or more, while some are several feet in height. One about three feet high, standing near the center of the cave, attracts the attention of all who pass by it, on account of its smoothness and beauty, with its snow-white base and marble-like top with a small pool of water on the apex, filled to overflowing by a constant drop from above—this is called the “churn.” Again we cross the “creek;” here, as before, it rises on one side and flows parallel with the cave for a few rods and then disappears on the opposite side. After we travel about half a mile we come to large pillars of stone, mostly about one foot in diameter, extending from the bottom of the cave to the top. Apparently they are nothing more than stalagmites, which have “grown” from the bottom and are now joined to the top, and appear as though they were props to the massive arch over our heads, were it not that all of them are broken square off near the middle; it appears that the top has either been raised or the bottom depressed, leaving a space between them of about an inch, or sufficiently wide to thrust the hand between the broken ends. These were broken, no doubt, at the time of the terrible catastrophe at the entrance. Proceeding further, we find a large heap of guano, the deposit of innumerable bats, which inhabit this dark abode.

When we have walked a reputed mile and a half, we reach the “narrows,” where the walls draw near to each other and the ceiling comes within four or five feet of the bottom; but it remains this way for only a few rods and then opens out to its usual width and height. Up to this point there are nine “creeks” to cross, or the same one that number of times. Shortly after passing this narrow defile, we come to a deep creek over which there is no way to cross except a narrow shelving rock extending along the side of the cave. A little further on we find more interesting curiosities than yet seen; various apartments or openings appear on each side, forming rooms of different sizes and shapes; overhead appear an unusual number of

stalactites and beautiful formations of various kinds of deposit. One of those rooms has been termed the “smoke-house,” on account of its various forms of stalactites resembling pieces of meat, suspended ready for the smoke. In another division there is a shaft five or six feet in diameter extending up from the ceiling beyond where the light of our torch will reach; this opening appears to be the abode of more bats than any other part of the cave. Here we find stones of a soft nature, upon which are names and dates engraved over fifty years ago! Here the echo of the voice appears to resound with a ten-fold reverberation more than it did when within a furlong of the mouth. Stamping on the ground or striking a stalagmite or pillar seems to shake everything around us, and causes the walls to appear to vibrate.

We continue in our course until we shall have crossed seventeen “creeks” and reach the eighteenth one, where the stone reaches down to the water and closes the opening entirely. The distance to this point is reputed to be nearly three miles.

JEPHA W. MORGAN.

Ackworth, Iowa, 2d mo. 23d, 1872.

PAUL AT ATHENS.

BY CHARLES L. THOMPSON.

All along the classic waters of the broad and blue
Ægean,
 As they softly break in music on the shores of
 Thessaly,
 Winds of Hellas, through the cordage of the vessel,
 lift a paean,
 For the preacher bears the message that shall set
 the thinkers free;
 Into distance fades Olympus, with his royal crown of
 snow,
 And his thunders sink to dirges, breaking very sad
 and slow:

Ἐπὶ—Ἐπὶ ἀγνώστῳ.*

Swiftly round the cape and softly at the olden port
 Piræus
 Grates the keel upon the sands that slope to
 Athens' portals;
 The “long walls” reel in ruins, for the broken stones
 shall be as
 Highways for the tread of Truth that breaks the
 Greek Immortals:
 The gods from off their pedestals fall each to Hades'
 gloom,
 When the brave Apostle reads the words, their epi-
 taph and doom:

Ἐπὶ—Ἐπὶ ἀγνώστῳ.

Through the spaces of the “painted porch” and
 lofty colonnades
 Sadly linger yet the echoes of the Stagirite's de-
 spair,
 And the voice of grand old Plato trembles yet along
 the shades
 Of the “olive grove,” whose memories still bur-
 den all the air;
 But the nightingale among the branches sings her
 notes of woe,

*Literally—“To God—To God unknown.”

And the winds along the Agora repeat it sad and low.

Θα—Θα ἀγνώστα.

The voice that caught its grandeur from the long roll of the sea,

And poured its waves of passion on the sinking Grecian heart,

Till Liberty's expiring breath could say "Thermopylæ,"

Seems yet to echo in the temples and along the ruined mart;

The nation's cheers are tremulously deepened into groans,

And the answer of the preacher is in these prophetic tones :

Θα—Θα ἀγνώστα.

All the weary earth is Athens, and around the altar stairs,

Where a shadow wraps the faces of the prone immortals, dead,

Stand the people in the darkness, lifting silently their prayers,

Longing, half unconsciously, to greet the preacher's tread.

He comes, and from the blue Ægean unto earth's remotest shore,

The trembling hand of man shall write this threnody no more ;

Θα—Θα ἀγνώστα.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—European advices are to the 19th inst.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Lord Northbrook, late Under Secretary of War, has been appointed Viceroy of India, as successor of the murdered Lord Mayo.

The reply of Secretary Fish to the British note respecting the Alabama claims case was communicated by the American Minister to Gladstone and Earl Granville on the 14th. On the 15th Disraeli asked in the House of Commons if the note could be laid before the House, alluding to the public anxiety to know its contents. Gladstone replied that after it had been considered in a Cabinet meeting, the government would report on the subject, but it was impossible to do so then. A member gave notice that in case of further negotiations with the government of the United States, he should ask that nothing be accepted by the British government as final until sanctioned by Parliament.

Lord Granville announced in the House of Commons on the 14th, that he had received official notice from the French Cabinet of the abrogation of the commercial treaty between the two countries.

On the 15th, Ministers in both Houses of Parliament stated that the reply of the American Government was couched in courteous and friendly terms. The views of the British government were not adopted; hence an answer was thought to be required, and, indeed, appeared to be invited. That answer was to be delivered to the American Minister in London, before the 21st inst. It would be inconsistent with public business to lay the correspondence before Parliament at present.

FRANCE.—The Assembly has passed a bill for the suppression of the International Society. It imposes various fines and terms of imprisonment for holding office in or belonging to the society, and in some cases deprives offenders of civil and domestic rights.

On the 14th, the Assembly discussed the budget, when President Thiers made a speech, in which he

defended the estimates of the War Department, and insisted that they could not be reduced, as it was necessary to replace material of war, fortify the frontier, repair fortifications, and create a real army. Subsequently, he agreed to a compromise with the committee on the budget, by which the estimates were reduced 19,000,000 francs. On the 17th, he urged that the committee should promptly decide upon the question of new taxation, declaring that delay on this point was paralyzing to the government and to the trade of the country. He presented a definite proposal of the government for raising 55,000,000 francs by taxation of textile, and 56,000,000 francs on other raw materials. The proposition gave rise to a warm debate. The Assembly has rejected a resolution proposing a reduction by one-tenth in the allowance of President Thiers.

The government is said to be negotiating with that of Germany, with a view of anticipating the full payment of the war indemnity, and thereby securing the complete evacuation of French territory by the German troops.

SWITZERLAND.—The Federal Council has appointed the 12th of Fifth month as the day for the people to vote on the ratification of the revised Constitution adopted by the National and State Councils.

AUSTRIA.—An Imperial edict has been issued, dissolving the Diet of Bohemia, and ordering elections immediately for a new Diet, to be convoked Fourth month 24th.

PRUSSIA.—The government has requested the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ermeland to revoke the sentences of excommunication pronounced by him contrary to the laws of the country.

The Prussians are said to be actively extending the fortifications of Metz and Strasburg.

The Archbishop of Cologne has formally excommunicated several Professors of the University of Bonn, for the rejection of the dogma of Papal infallibility.

EGYPT.—Cases of cholera having been reported from Mecca, a rigorous quarantine has been imposed, by vice-regal orders, on all Mohammedan pilgrims passing through Egypt.

INDIA.—The assassin of the Governor General made a confession before his execution, in which he declared that the murder was not the result of a conspiracy, but his own design alone.

MEXICO.—Almost ever since the re-election of President Juarez, a conflict has been going on in various parts of the country between the government and a party who have attempted armed revolution, and numerous insignificant engagements have occurred, with varying results. The most important battle occurred recently near San Luis Potosi, and the government troops were victorious. Zacatecas, which had been occupied by the revolutionists, has also been re-captured; and on the whole, the government is hopeful of ultimately overpowering its opponents.

DOMESTIC.—Some of the members of the Japanese embassy are at present in Philadelphia, engaged in a careful and intelligent inspection of various manufacturing establishments in that city. The embassy have been charged by their government with the duty of acquiring information on all the distinguishing points of American and European civilization and institutions, for the benefit of their own country; and they are showing commendable zeal and faithfulness in their endeavors to carry out this purpose.