OUR CAMBRIDGE LETTER

Feb. 10, 1871.

At the date of my last letter, the proposed University Commission was the principal subject of discussion in our Halls and Combination Rooms. Early in December a memorial, urging upon Mr. Gladstone the expediency of granting to the Commission fuller powers than those assigned to it in its letter to the Vice-Chancellor, received the signatures of a considerable number of resident Fellows and Lecturers; the Premier decided, however, to abide by his original scheme. During the vacation, the list of the Commissioners was published, and was, no doubt, eagerly studied by many members of both Universities. It is generally regretted in Cambridge that so few of the Commissioners are acquainted with the working of the University and College systems. Dr. Bateson and Prof. Price are, indeed, the right men in the right place, as they are thoroughly versed in the academic economy, but the mystery of academic finance; but are their colleagues equally competent to deal with questions so important and so complicated as those which will come before them? As, however, the powers of the Commission are strictly limited to the collection of financial statistics, it is perhaps of little moment whether its members have, or have not, taken an interest in educational and academic questions. Indeed it may be doubted whether the terms of reference will allow them to do more than apply to the Vice-Chancellor and to the Deans of the Colleges for copies of their balance-sheets, and to examine their expenditures. It would seem that the Commissioners are not empowered to report upon the use which the foundations make of their revenue, still less to frame any estimate of the expenditure which their expenditures in new fields are likely to entail. This seems to me a misfortune, since, so far as existing estimates of the income of the Colleges give an account of our income unless it is accompanied by an explanatory return of our outgoings. The opinion is, I think, very general, that the financial statements which the Commission is instructed to require will be of little or no value; and in consequence little interest is felt in its doings.

Mean time the work of the University proceeds as usual. The annual exhibition of copies of a memorial from the North of England Council of Education, in which it is suggested that the University and Colleges would materially advance the cause of which they are the bulwarks, has been facilitated, and the several Colleges were to grant to Fellows so engaged the privileges which are now conceded only to Fellows resident in the University. There is much to be said in favour of this scheme at the same time it must be remembered that we are bound to consider the requirements of the University in the first instance, and that it is only our superfluities which can justly be applied to the subvention of educational establishments in the manufactories of Yorkshire and Lancashire. When proper proviso has been made for the instruction of our Undergraduates, full men as well as Honour men,—when our Professional men have been largely developed and extended,—then, and not till then, I think, we may attempt to carry out this benevolent project. The present epoch of the University Council may perhaps be considered somewhat inopportune.

The new regulations of the Classical Tripos come into operation at the opening of the present year. The eleven papers of which the examination has hitherto consisted are henceforward to be supplemented by one paper in Psychology and two in certain special subjects appointed by the Board of Classical Studies. The special subjects are to be chosen from the works of Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Quintilian, and Lucretius. There is every probability that this change will work well; but at present the Undergraduates do not think it; it would be expected to know something about the subject-matter of the books they read. As the examination began this morning, we may expect soon to hear what the examiners think of the new system.

Finally, it has been decided to place the statue of the late Prince Consort in the vestibule of the Fitzwilliam Museum. It is suggested, however, that whenever the University builds an Examination Hall the statue should be removed thither.

Two Letters of Charles the First.

27, Queen's Road, Feb. 10, 1871.

A kind friend, who for some months has been publishing volumes of "Gondomar Correspondence," in the private library of the ex-Queen of Spain, with the hope of forming something useful to the drama or the country, has endeavoured to obtain from the Spanish Government a long and careful search may yet produce some result. In the mean time here are the two letters, which may be of interest to some of your wide circle of correspondents.

F. W. COWLES.

"Gondomar: I do hereby verie willingly establish . . . your correspondent, I mean an honorable officer, of my principal Almahete, & for proof thereof I must now pray you in your name to return my humble & honest thanks to your Master for her kynde & loving message sent me by Cotttingham who I hope shall be able to inform you how thankfully both the Kings my father & I takes you honnest & diligent endeavors in this great business . . . which praging God to prosper I bid you hastilie farewell & rest."

"In the adrese: To the Count of Gondomar my principal Almahete."

"Gondomar my friend: I have seen Buckingham's Letter to you all in English, I know no reason why the-choices of your friends should be as yours as I am not as you were as forced to recrudescere by writing short letters in regard of the great pains we take in bowrie fighting for you, for my friendship. If I have it be obtained, I shall think my self largely rewarded for all the labors of this work, which I wont not for formalities sake, but do indeed find my self engaght both in honore & affection: but if you wonder how I can love before I see the troth is, I have both seen her picture and hard the report of her very person number when she is ingrate in my hart where I hope to preserve it till I espouse the principal: all particular I refer to the King my fathers directions, & to the trust of the bearer my servant, onlie I pray you not to look now so much to the bonum publicum which the Pope so eamently prays to be added but rather to looke back & consider how much we have alredie grantt & to remember that ye ever promised that the King father should be no faincied in matters of religion, then as well as on; & good reason might perswade him though ther wer no matchte & under the other side to considere what we have not receivt, nor theそこ matter upon our Roman Catholiques if my matchte should be broke of (which God forbid) upon these now yscy points. And so God bless you & all your labours."

"Your faithful friend . . . CHARLES, P.

Cartas y Provisiones Reales, 1615-1616, de P. de Pelacho-Madrid; Sal 2; Est. C. — p. 83.

TRANSLATIONS.

Alhambra Cites, Feb. 10, 1871.

I venture to hope that your columns will afford room for a few lines which propose to meet a want long felt in our national literature.

Some years ago I undertook a "labour of love," in the shape of translating the diaries of a brother African traveller. This was Dr. Francisco Almeida y Lacerda, the first European known to have penetrated into the remote and dangerous country of the Muta and King, Camara, and after his death, caused by fatigue, privation, and anxiety, his translation was left unfinished, but has been completed by his chaplain.

Thinking that the reading public might wish to learn what the brave and noble soul of a Spanish African both—where, Dr. Liviugston lately lived, it is said, under detention, and which may be visited by the expedition, the whole of which, B.N., I offered my version, or rather abstract, for publication to
THE AETHEUM

2313, FEB. 24, 1792

The Council of the ’Halhabeta,’ with the assurance, under personal guarantees, that the Society should not lose by the transaction. The answer was four hundred pounds, and a Mr. Worcester, a friend, wrote to the President, a. d. 1792, and that a regulation prevented the issue of any work dating after a.d. 1700. As a member of the fund, I could not blame the style and manner of the publication, but I was very surprised by the manner in which my book was published; it will not, of course, look at the manuscript.

"Translations don't pay", wrote a good novel, like Sir Walter Scott; 'The Soul of Man; the Holy Land,'—only please remember the 'swaddlers.' So sorry; Dr. De Luca is very interesting indeed; sirs, Dr. Livingstone; but—we can't improve the translations. And these gentlemen are wise in their generation: why should the publisher light his pipe with the patient that the public wants when the other ignores its wants?

Thus it came to pass that I resolved, with your permission, and the advice of friends, to propose establishing a General Education Fund. But you will not aid me until it is proved that such Fund is necessary to supply a rent of the day and of the day.

In the early part of the present century, French, I need hardly assert, was still, par excellence, the special and political language, the age of Europe, which is now threatened with a new dynasty of Babel. Frenchmen thus disdained themselves with the talk of learning strange tongues, whilst their countrymen knew little of the language of the Orient, except as the name of a child who was the slave of the language. I am glad to see that this is now changed. The French, however, still know little of the Orient, except as the name of a child who is the slave of the language.

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THE ATHENÆUM

N 2513, Feb. 24, '72

The Poet-Laureate has presented to the Prime Minister a memorial, in which he set forth the Minister's inexcusable delay in inviting the principal Spanish artists at that time in the capital to a breakfast. On this occasion he informed his guest that he had some plans for which he must leave in a few days, and they would be entertained in his absence to perform the function of the Minister of Finance. This was indeed a great blow to the Minister, who was not expected to be absent for more than a few weeks.

The buildings at the eastern end of Guildhall for the new Library and Museum having now made considerable progress, it is necessary, in order to complete the entrance from the porch of the Hall to the new building, to close the present library, which was erected in 1823, for a period of about three months. The librarian and his assistants intend to avail themselves of the opportunity thus presented to rearrange the collection. It is expected that the works will be finished about the month of June. On Saturday last, by permission of the Chairman of the Committee, to whom the task of superintending the work has been intrusted by the Corporation, a considerable number of the Members of the Architectural Association visited the buildings.

Mr. Dayman's long-promised 'Medieval Latin-English Dictionary,' based upon Ducainge, will appear shortly. The edition of 'Glossaries' by Henschel, from the press of Didot, 6 vols. 4to, Paris, 1840, has been followed. The editor, however, claims to have added many new words, especially from the Glossaries appended to the works published by the Record Commission, from the 'Promptorium Parvulum,' edited for the Caenud Society by Mr. A. Way, and the works on Ancient Music by Mr. W. Chappell, and to have attempted, in some of the longer articles, a more systematic arrangement than is found in Ducainge. In explaining words, the rule adopted has been, first, to give the connotations of the word in most or some of the languages in which it occurs, unless it be so common as not to require an explanation; second, to give the present meaning in English; and thirdly, to give the variations of its usage in alphabetical order. No attempt has been made to assign a philological or value to the meanings of the words except that found in Matthew, and to express the meaning in English.