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MISCELLANEOUS.

A short account of Mr. Frey, a converted Jew, and preacher of the Gospel.

From the London Evangelical Magazine, 1806.

Mr. Frey, whose original name was Joseph Samuel, descended from Jewish parents, and was born at Mainstockheim, near Kitzingen, in Franconia, a province of Germany, September 21, 1771. His father is a respectable rabbi, of eminent devotion, wholly retired from the world, giving up himself entirely to the study of the Jewish religion. The children were educated strictly according to the law of Moses, and the injunctions of the Talmud; and partook, in a large degree, of those prejudices against Christianity, which are common to the Jews, and which were increased by the jealousy of their mother, whose brother had embraced the religion of Jesus Christ at Strasburg.

Mr. Frey and his four brothers being intended to become teachers of the Jewish religion, were carefully instructed in its principles. At six years of age, Mr. Frey could perfectly read the five books of Moses in Hebrew; and at thirteen, he was admitted into the congregation. He was then called upon to determine whether he would devote himself to study or to trade. He chose the former; and having pursued his studies till his nineteenth year, became a teacher in private families; in which station he continued about three years.

At the close of this period, his mother, who conducted the trade by which the family was supported, had occasion for his help in the business, and called him home; but her prospects not being realized, he again left his father's house, at the expiration of six months, and returned to the country of Hesse, where he had before lived as a teacher. His father, who accompanied him a little way out of town, took leave of him in the most affectionate and devout manner, and laying his hands upon his head, said, "The angel of the covenant be with thee!" which words made a powerful impression on his mind, & have been happily accomplished in his experience.

When he returned to Hesse, he could obtain no employment; most of the Jews there, being tainted with infidelity, had no relish for religious instruction. He therefore continued his journey, through Westphalia, to Hanover, till, after various disappointments, he came to Hamburg and Altona. Having continued some time in the latter place, all hopes of being employed as a teacher vanished; and having struggled with a variety of embarrassments, he at length met with a Jew, who, in a very plausible manner, assured him he could procure for him, in a family at Schwerin, just such a situation as he wanted. Mr. Frey was induced to part with five dollars for this purpose. But alas! when he arrived at the place, he found he had been completely swindled out of his money.

In his journey to the latter place, he travelled with a Jewish student and a merchant's clerk. The latter, who was a Christian, observing his scrupulous attention to the law of Moses, conformably to which he scarcely touched any thing but bread and water, while his brother student, who was a professed infidel, made free with every thing, said to him, "I am sorry to see you still striving to keep a law which has expired long ago;" which he confirmed by Jer. xxxi. 31, &c. These words greatly affected him; and soon after, the thought of becoming a Christian first occurred to his mind; for till now, the very name of a Christian was an abomination to him. This idea first struck him on the Sabbath day, when he took up his pen, and wrote a letter to the clerk before mentioned, laying open his situation, and offering to accompany him to Berlin, and diligently to inquire into the truth of Christianity. Having finished this letter, he lighted a candle and sealed it with wax.

A few hours after, his conscience smote him severely for this violation of the Mosaic law, which forbids lighting a fire on the Sabbath, (Exodus xxxv. 3.) and for which crime the Talmud inflicts the punishment of a forty days' fast. His conscience was now alarmed, and remonstrating against this his first wilful transgression, as he conceived, of the law, told him he was no longer a Jew. His feelings were indescribable,

and he knew by painful experience the force of those words, "A wounded spirit who can bear?" He now anticipated the painful consequences of this breach of the law, if he continued a Jew; and his inclination to become a Christian every moment acquired additional strength.

Finding, to his great mortification, that his Christian friend had left the town for Rostock, he set out the next morning for that place, earnestly hoping to find him there; but was disappointed. He applied, however, to the principal minister of the town, expressing his desire to be instructed in Christian principles; but after several conversations, he was advised first to go to three other towns, where, if he was not received, he might return to Rostock, and be admitted there. This was intended as a trial of his sincerity. He then proceeded to Wismar, a seaport belonging to Sweden, where the superintendent, Mr. Haupt, offered to instruct him in Christianity; he also procured for him a situation at a shoemaker's, with whom he agreed to learn his business. Here he continued eighteen months, when his master gave up his trade; and Mr. Frey being obliged to remove, served eighteen months longer to another master at New Brandenburg, in Mecklenburg Strelitz.

On the 8th May, 1798, he was publicly baptised, and received a member of the Christian church. It is the custom in Germany, when a Jew is baptised, that he should have several godfathers, who generally make him presents; but Mr. Frey declined this, lest he should be thought to have become a Christian for worldly gain.

It is also a custom for a converted Jew to receive a new name at his baptism; accordingly, at the time of Mr. Frey's baptism, the minister having preached from John viii. 32, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free," gave him the name of Christian Frederick Frey.

Thus did Mr. Frey become a Christian outwardly, being convinced in his judgment of the truth of Christianity; but in a great measure unacquainted with the power of it on his heart.

The means by which the Spirit of God was pleased to effect this great work deserve particular notice. He had occasion to call at a shop to purchase a trifling article; when the tradesman (Mr. Michaelis) finding that he was a Jew, but now baptised, said, "I have been reading the life of Solomon Duitch, a converted Jew; I heartily wish you may turn out such a Christian as he was. But how do you live now?" Mr. Frey frankly told him how vainly he spent part of the Lord's days, in worldly company, &c. when Mr. Michaelis affectionately advised him to call next day (Sunday) at Mr. Thorman's, where several Christian friends met in the evening for religious exercises, with whom he might form an acquaintance for his edification. This he promised to do.

Next morning he went to church, when the minister confirmed a number of children, and, in the course of his exhortation, said, "As I fear some of you may be tempted to return into the broad way of destruction, let me give you this word of Job on your journey, My righteousness, I hold fast, and will not let it go: My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live. Job xxxvii. 6. Dear children, consider at the close of every day, whether your heart does not reproach you." &c. These words proved as a hammer to break his heart in pieces. His conscience began to approach him for a thousand offences, and he saw that he had broken his double covenant as a Jew, at his circumcision, and at his conformation in his thirteenth year; and also his baptismal covenant when he joined the Christians. In short he was now made acquainted with the spirituality of the law, and his soul was filled with all the terrors of Sinai. He hastened home, wept and prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

At five in the afternoon he went to Mr. Thorman's, oppressed with shame and fear, and was received by the Christian brethren in the most friendly manner. He returned to his closet, and poured out his heart before the Lord. In the morning he opened his Bible, and met with these cheering words, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the chief." These words filled him with joy, so that he could not proceed, but continued repeating the latter part, "to save sinners, of whom I am the chief." From that time he clearly saw the way of salvation, and was enabled to rejoice in hope.

He was now brought, as it were, into a new world, and reading his Bible with

* Frey is the German name for Free, and is pronounced in the same manner.

other eyes than before, found great delight in the company before mentioned, and at once gave up his carnal amusements, spending every evening in reading the Scriptures and evangelical treatises. Among others, the Basil Publications, containing missionary intelligence from England, &c. attracted his particular notice, and he felt a strong inclination to devote himself to the service of his Saviour among the heathen.

Some time after this, he removed to Berlin, and worked about a year and a half at his trade. Here he frequented the United Brethren, and derived much advantage from their preaching and conversation. His missionary zeal acquired increasing vigor; and he was at length admitted into their missionary seminary at Berlin, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Jaenicke, who spared no labor to instruct him and the other students in the leading doctrines of the gospel.

From hence he was called by the Missionary Society to come over to London, together with Mr. Palm and Mr. Ulbricht, to be employed as an assistant to Dr. Vanderkemp, in South Africa. In September, 1801, he arrived in England, together with Mr. Palm, who has since sailed to Colombo, and Mr. Ulbricht, who has gone to South Africa.

After his arrival, the Directors of the Society, considering that being a converted Jew, he might probably become a suitable person to preach the gospel to his brethren, determined his staying in England; but being totally unacquainted with our language, he was sent to Gosport, where he continued upwards of three years under the care of the Rev. Mr. Bogue, made considerable advances in the study of divine truth, and acquired such a knowledge of the English tongue, as to be able to preach fluently and acceptably to crowded audiences in the metropolis and its vicinity.

For some months past, Mr. Frey has devoted his labors principally to his Jewish brethren, to whom he delivers a lecture every Saturday evening. For several weeks, a great number of Jews attended, and some of them with much seriousness, while many of the lower sort, who remained in the street, expressed their contempt and malice in a very riotous and disgusting manner. In consequence, however, of a prohibition from the leading Jews, few comparatively have lately appeared in the chapel. Yet a score or two still attend; and several individuals come to his lodgings, and unite in a social prayer. Among these there is reason to hope that some are under serious impressions, and will prove "Israelites indeed."

We are happy to be able to gratify our readers, in presenting to them this very slight sketch of Mr. Frey's life; but we shall be happier still in announcing a more full and particular narrative, which we understand is in contemplation to be published under the sanction of the Missionary Society, and which, we doubt not, will be eagerly read by Christians of every description.

[Here the London account ends.—Mr. Frey's Narrative, however, published by him in 1816, (4th ed.) to which allusion is made above, relates to the occurrences of his life down to that time: from which we learn, that he continued in Great Britain, very usefully engaged, and preaching to Jews and Christians with various success, until July, 1816; when, owing to some difficulty in the way of his ordination, arising solely from sectarian grounds, it was thought best for him to remove to this country. He accordingly arrived at New-York in the ensuing September, and was soon afterwards ordained to the charge of a Presbyterian church in that city. Since that time, as well as before, his truly christian character and sincere zeal to promote the glory of God, our Saviour, and the extension of the Gospel, have recommended him in an especial manner to the patronage and regard of the Christian brethren in America.]—Winchester Rep.

Mr. Salazar, Minister of the republic of Colombia, on presenting his credentials to the President of the U. States on the 12th instant, made the following handsome remarks:

"Sir: The republic of Colombia this day enjoys a high honor, in offering to that of the United States, through the humble voice of her Representative, the homage of her respect and friendship. Admiring, in common with the Universe, the virtues of a people made great and happy by liberty and order, she is anxious to contract with them relations of mutual utility, and hopes that sentiments of reciprocal good-will may be co-extensive with the two countries, and of equal permanence.

At the termination of the struggle which she maintained in her defence of her rights, Colombia saw with pleasure that this illustrious nation was the first to recognize her Independence—a noble act of justice, coming with peculiar ap-

titude from the United States, and an example to other nations worthy of imitation.

The moment America (heretofore Spanish) perceived that the time had arrived for the exercise of self government, operating in concert without any inter-communication, and as it were by an impulse of nature, the cry of Independence resounded from one extremity to the other. The civilized world, as they looked on at the origin, progress, and termination of this political revolution, instead of regarding it as an act of rebellion, saw in it only the necessary result of the order of things, and one of these important events of the age, which have contributed to change the face of the earth, and to meliorate the condition of the human race. Hence it is that our commercial relations have been unbroken, that our flag has been respected upon the seas, and that the principles of neutrality have been acknowledged and practised conformably to the law of nations.

The U. States of America, acting upon a more elevated scale, uninfluenced by the petty calculations of exclusive profit, knowing how to be great in themselves, and not thro' the littleness of others, after having interposed their good offices as conciliators, assumed the solemn responsibility of acknowledging the New Republics. Never was there an act more expressive of the national will, more noble in its motives, more interesting in its object, more unanimous in its decision. The names of all its authors are engraven by gratitude on the hearts of my fellow-citizens, and history will record them in imperishable characters.

This generous conduct was in conformity with true policy. Colombia believes herself worthy of being admitted into the great community of nations, as well from her physical and moral strength, as from the principles she professes. While the doctrine of the radical sovereignty of the people, toleration, the abolition of slavery, and the rights of society, as consecrated in their legislative codes, shall continue to prevail in an enlightened world, she relies securely upon its favor. Her desire is universal happiness, and, to this end, it is the duty of every State to labor, as well for the sake of its own good as for the cause of mankind.

To Spain, now in arms in defence of her own Independence, while still seeking to deny ours, the Republic with one hand presents the sword that triumphed at Pichinca, Carabobo and Boyaca, and with the other, the olive of peace. May the ties of blood, of religion, and of language, inspire her with benevolent sentiments, and incline her to listen, in the silence of the passions, to the voice of truth, and to the wise and friendly counsels of the American government! May heaven continue to pour out its blessings upon the country of Washington and Franklin, and may it continue to reap the fruits of its establishments, and of its free institutions. From her own, from time and peace, Colombia hopes to enjoy the same felicity. It has been purchased at the expense of great sacrifices, and with the blood of her heroes and martyrs. The United States will be the model for her happiness, as they have been of her glory. I have done."

This Address was received with great kindness by the President, who replied, that "he availed himself of the occasion to explain the part which the United States had acted towards Colombia; and the other new governments in South America, in their contest for their independence, which had been as friendly as comported with their neutrality. The President expressed himself, also, in terms of great regard for the Republic of Colombia, and his satisfaction at receiving Mr. Salazar in the character of Minister from his Government."

A WESTERN HERMIT.

About 12 miles above the junction of Spoon and Illinois rivers, immediately on the bank of the former, there has been living, for three years past, a man who had entirely secluded himself from the world, and dwells in the midst of the wilderness alone, and upwards of 60 miles from the residence of any human being. His name is Davidson, is a physician, was formerly a surgeon in the United States' army, and was pupil to the celebrated Dr. Rush. He has a number of medical books, two guns, and a dog, and a quantity of clothing. He has erected himself a small hut, and has about an acre of ground in cultivation—at the back of his garden runs Spoon river, in which he has a fish trap. His food is wild turkeys and other game, fish, and the produce of his garden. He appears displeased at the sight of a human being. My informant saw him at his residence, being impelled by curiosity to visit him, and inquired of him par-

ticularly the cause of his strange seclusion. He said he had done so, and would do so ever, to keep clear of the wretched white people. His father lived in Pennsylvania, and he has received many solicitous letters from him and other friends, to return, but he has never answered one, and declares it to be his determination to remove from his present situation as soon as the whites approach too near him. As soon as his present stock of clothing wears out, he says, he will dress himself in skins.

Ind. Gaz.

From the Boston Centinel.

Letter on the Militia.—We have perused, with much satisfaction, a letter from the adjutant General of this State, to the late President Adams, on the subject of the Militia, and cannot better recommend it to general perusal, than by copying the answer to it of the venerable Ex-President, which follows:

Quincy, 18th May, 1823.

DEAR SIR—I thank you for the privilege of hearing read your manuscript dissertation concerning the militia. I scarcely know how to express the satisfaction and delight I have received from its perusal. It is so conformable to all my opinions concerning it from my cradle, that it seemed to be living my life over again. The delight of my childhood in the trainings, will never be obliterated from my memory. I have seen the march of the militia of Massachusetts to defend the town of Boston against the formidable armada of the duke D'Anville. I have seen the march of the same militia to Cambridge after the battle of Lexington. I have seen the militia of Massachusetts on Boston common under Governor Strong, assemble to defend us against the British armadas, and I never felt my existence with more cordial delight than I did upon these occasions.—But I am in danger of running into a rhapsody of enthusiasm.

You have proved it to be the most essential foundation of national defence. The most plentiful nursery of seamen and soldiers, armies and navies. These American States have owed their existence to the militia for more than two hundred years. Neither schools, nor colleges, nor town meetings have been more essential to the formation and character of the nation than the militia. You have proved its importance in a civil, political and moral point of view. Improve its constitution by every prudent means, but never destroy its universality. A select militia will soon become a standing army, or a corps of Manchester yeomanry. I see with pride and delight that you come forward with such patriotism, talents and patience of thinking and inquiry, in the service of your country. I long to see your letter in print. Whenever the militia comes to an end, or is despised or neglected, I shall consider this union dissolved, and the liberties of North America lost forever.

I am, dear sir, your friend, relation and humble servant,

JOHN ADAMS.

Gen. WILLIAM H. SUMNER.

Mr. Canning, in his speech in defence of his negotiations relative to Spain, delivered in the British House of Commons, on the 30th April, somewhat indulged his propensity to merriment at the expense of the ally of Great Britain, Portugal.

"Portugal had, like Spain, shewn some symptoms of jealousy with regard to the Congress of Verona, and had been anxious to learn from us how her interests were affected by the deliberations at Verona. He, (Mr. Canning,) believed he had rather offended than gratified the Portuguese Ambassador by the answer he had given on this occasion, for he had said very frankly, 'really, as far as I can recollect, your name was not mentioned at the Congress.' 'Portugal not mentioned!' was the rejoinder, in a tone of indignant astonishment—the institutions of Portugal had made the subject of deliberation? Upon which he, (Mr. Canning,) said—'Oh! upon recollection, you were mentioned—but it was with reference to the Slave Trade.'"

FOREIGN.

DECLARATION OF WAR BY SPAIN.

New-York, June 16.

The Spanish letter of marque ship Tarantula, arrived here yesterday, in 41 days from Cadiz. We learn that she sailed on the 5th of May—that a formal declaration of war against France had been published; that the Spanish privateers were fitting out with all expedition—and that one French merchant vessel had been captured off Algairas, previous to the sailing of this vessel.

The following interesting letter from Cadiz, dated April 25th, was received in this city, by the schooner Little Wil-