

## Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

## LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

LONDON, FEB. 1, 1856.

## THE PEACE PROPOSALS.

DEAR SIR,

MY last letter stated the probabilities of peace, and gave the conditions of its establishment. Those prognostications have been realized, so far as the conditions are concerned; Russia has accepted them unconditionally, as a basis for negotiations. The preliminaries are arranged—an armistice has been agreed on,—and in about three weeks from this time, at Paris, a Conference will meet. Lord Clarendon, the Foreign Secretary, assisted by Lord Cowley, will be our plenipotentiary: may he prove a more creditable one than Lord Russell was, at the last Congress! The Ottoman plenipotentiary is not named.

Verily, they have work before them: To determine what "neutrality" of the Black Sea shall mean—to guard against aggressive operations by Russia, and yet allow her "legitimate means of defence:" to allow or not the reconstruction of the forts on the Circassian coast; and, above all, to administer that most nauseous pill for Russia to swallow, the perpetual disarmament of the Aland Islands. Already difficulties are mooted as in prospect—such as Great Britain insisting on her right to add such "ulterior propositions" as may seem to be necessary for the security of Europe, while Austria refuses to acknowledge such right, &c. Almost every politician has his own rock on which he prophesies the negotiations will split; and, were the jargon of discord to reach the negotiators, peace would indeed be doubtful.

Then, should Prussia be admitted? Yes, says one party, for the urgent remonstrances to the Czar induced him to receive Austria's proposals. No, says another section; for, when her adherence to the Western Powers would have prevented the war, she withheld it, and only comes in to claim credit when all is done without her—when she has under the pretence of neutrality, been in reality Russia's feeder—when she fears being forced to take one side or the other—when, by coming into the Congress though not into the field, she may make a show before Europe, blind the Western Powers, and act as a weight on the side of Russia.

The acceptance of the proposals has been variously interpreted. Despite the ingenious sophistries of *Le Nord*, Russia must have felt severely the long train of her reverses. And the future appeared still more pregnant. Germany, cold-hearted at least; Austria with a stern ultimatum; Poland, the empire's most sensitive nerve, debated of by the Allies and coveted by Austria; Norway and Sweden leagued; Finland threatened; Cronstadt itself dubious, before the 250 allied pennants, and new mortars of next spring; Nicholaeff, the Crimea, and Sea of Azov, additionally insecure; Omar Pacha in Asia; Prussia herself urging peace; the scarcity of money and men, and the influence of a peace party—all these, it is said, have made Russia anxious for peace; especially as she has the capture of Kars for a set-off against Sebastopol. On the other hand, the old wily game of gaining time, and greater success by intriguing diplomacy, than by force of arms, is urged as a reason. But already the refusal of Austria to receive any thing beside a simple yes or no to the first proposals—the council of war recently held in Paris—the enormous and earnest preparations for next campaign, especially in the Baltic, added to the unity and increasing strength of the allies, as well as the firm state of public opinion here, must all have convinced Russia that, to secure peace, she must act promptly and without the slightest evasion.

There are many who say, that after another campaign we should be able to command better terms, without even needing the good offices of Austria or Prussia. But, apart from the horrible continuance of bloodshed, the chances of war, and the enormous expense, public feeling, especially in France, considers the end of the war already gained; and our excitable, emotive neighbours hail peace as a thing already decided, and are somewhat impatient that we more stolid, calculating English do not so spontaneously jump to the same conclusion.

Again, it cannot be denied, that, crippled as Russia is, and formidable as is the array against her, she is far from being subdued, or crying

peccavi. Her resources are still immense: the war is viewed as a religious one; and fanaticism will spend its last ruble, and fight, as the late Emperor said, to the last musket and last man, before surrender. We already know her stubborn defence, her skill in fortification, her impregnable interior, her devoted valour in fighting with the desperation of despair. Even were we willing to carry matters to this extremity, we could not do so alone; and would the despotisms of Europe, pro-Russian to so great extent, allow it, not to say aid us?

Russia has already received such a lesson as she will not easily forget, and sustained losses that a century will not recover, besides being bound down by all Europe to keep within her own limits. Her dream of subjugating the East has burst like a shell, scattering ruin around herself, while the "sick man" (Turkey) is out of danger. Though staggering, she still presents a bold front to the foe; but also professes herself anxious for the restoration of peace. Let us now, therefore, insist firmly on the maintenance of sufficient guarantees for the future, and sheathe the sword—grateful to that Almighty hand which has again led England safely through her peril to victory, and endeavouring, amid the calm repose of peace, to hush those passions which horrid war has evoked. It was forced on us; we accepted it because there was no alternative; obtained peace soon as we could; and will be the last to violate or endanger it. So end the Russian war! and long, long be it, ere another curses Europe, retards civilization, and summons thousands, unprepared, to meet their God. "Give to us peace in our time, O Lord!"

## THE QUEEN'S SPEECH AND THE SESSION.

Yesterday (31st) the Queen opened Parliament in state. It was an impressive scene, viewed in connection with existing events. I do not recollect seeing so many spectators on any similar occasion; and there was not that usual boisterous or careless hilarity. The importance of the present crisis appeared to impress all; and the knowledge that the royal lady who passed was about to utter words which would ring through Europe, and help to sheathe or unsheathe the sword, gave the *cortège* an additional interest.—Of course the Queen was cheered: who so mean or poor as not to love her, and welcome her passage among her people?

Her Majesty's speech was calm, dignified, determined, and yet conciliatory. The passages relating to foreign affairs cannot but give satisfaction. When shall we have again the old line, "I continue to receive the most friendly assurances from all foreign powers?"

No mention is made of the American differences, which are again causing uneasiness. The Central question appears to gather intricacy and ill-feeling; but surely war is still impossible. Certainly, a sense of mention in the Speech will prevent distortion of the quest on "over the water," or inflammation in the rather sore bosoms of our American cousins. Let us hope statesmen will be able to do this for us satisfactorily. Soldiers avant!

The ensuing session is most momentous. Peace, the fall of Kars, military administration and discipline, Church reform, the Sabbath question, new translation of the Scriptures, &c., stand out prominently for debate.

Death has been busy since last session among our Legislators. Two Dukes, one Marquis, seven Earls, and fifteen others, have been swept away by his hand. In the Commons, Sir William Molesworth, that great Colonial reformer—the eccentric Col. Sibthorp—and the Catholic leader, Mr. Lucas; with others, are no more. Thomas Babington Macaulay has relinquished his seat, and dedicates the remainder of his life to the completion of his great history. Full of honour, he leaves the Senate for the study, and succeeding generations will know him better as a historian than even as a master of oratorical debate.

[To be concluded in our next.]

For the Christian Messenger.

## Letter from the Crimea.

DEAR BROTHER,

I have received a very interesting note from Rev. Robert McNair one of the chaplains at Scutari, with whom I had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance at Charlottetown a few years ago. He is a Presbyterian minister belonging to the "Old Kirk." He was very young when he came to C. Town, and stayed about two years I believe.

He was universally beloved and respected. He so conducted himself that no one could "despise him because of his youth." He has been appoint-

ed Chaplain to the Hospital at Scutari, where I lately addressed a note to him, enclosed in a letter from one of his friends in C. Town. Yesterday I received a reply. It contains some information, and some reflections, that will interest your readers, and I would hope, benefit them, and you will admire the true Christian liberality which it breathes.

An allusion is made to a deep personal affliction, and also to our mode of correspondence, which is in "Phonography," the newly invented system of short-hand, to which reference was made at the close of my lecture at the Temperance Hall the other evening, as kindly noticed in your last. This is all which needs an explanation. I can read it as easily as tho' it were long-hand. The piece of paper on which the whole is written, would scarcely weigh down a good sized feather.

Yours truly,

S. T. RAND.

Halifax, Feb. 20.

SCUTARI, Jan 2nd, '56.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

It gave me much pleasure to receive your enclosure. I have still a warm side to America and am always glad to hear of old friends there. Thank you for your expression of sympathy. The wound did indeed cut deeply; but I trust I have been enabled to say, "It is the Lord; let him do what seemeth him good."

I hope you will be able to make this out. I see there is a slight difference between your style and mine. I am not up to the latest improvements upon the system of Phonography, but I can read your letter with perfect ease.

I have sometimes in the course of my visits here met with men belonging to one or the other Baptist connections; and it always gives me a deeper interest in them when I reflect upon the days I spent in the society of yourself and others of your way of thinking. One young man here whose name I saw down as a protestant, told me his friends belonged to the Calvinistic Baptists, but that the inconsistencies of professing christians had set his mind against religion altogether. I have had several conversations with him, and he has read with great interest "James's Anxious Enquirer," Doddridge's "Rise and Progress of Religion," Scott's "Force of Truth," and other books which I have put into his hands.

You need not be afraid of my taking advantage of any position. If his mind is made up upon any point, I believe it is on the subject of baptism, and I shall not attempt to unbinge him upon that. I have other work here than this. If he becomes a consistent baptist I have charity to believe that he will be a consistent christian.

Another young man I had some hope of. His mother is a pious woman and a member of a Baptist church. He used to weep much when I spoke to him, but latterly he is very dull and I begin to think that his mind is partially affected by his illness.

The position of a chaplain has its trials; but the field is one which has need of being cultivated. I feel the need of your admonitions to faithfulness.

I often think of the peaceful and happy days I spent in Prince Edward Island. Since then my path has been a somewhat chequered one. I had an illness the first winter after my return to Scotland which laid me aside from duty for some months. Since then I have been at Gonrock till I received the appointment as chaplain, and that came not of my seeking, but was put in my offer by others.

I am glad to hear of yourself and family, and hope I may hear from time to time of your continued health and usefulness. Such instances as you notice must be cheering, and serve greatly to encourage you in your labours. I wish I had your talent for languages: I would set about the study of Turkish, for alas! I live among a blinded people. May the Lord have mercy upon them! and may He gather them too into his fold!

I desire to unite with you in prayers for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. It would be a pleasure to me to meet you, and others in America, again in this world. But if not here, let us strive to be found faithful at the last; and then we shall meet where friends shall part no more.

Believe me, my dear Brother,

Yours very sincerely,

ROBERT MCNAIR.

Rev. S. T. Rand.

## Letter from Rev. W. H. Hobbs.

LIVERPOOL, FEB. 13.

DEAR BROTHER,

THROUGH the medium of the *Messenger* I wish to inform the members of the E. D. M. Board, that in consequence of having to supply the Church in Liverpool for some months in the absence of their pastor, I shall not be able to comply with their wishes in performing the mission assigned me to the Churches in Cape Breton; and hope that the members of the Board at their earliest convenience will transfer the mission to some brother who may be able immediately to enter upon the work to supply Margaree, Maubou, and the adjacent settlements, whilst they are favoured with their natural bridges over lakes, rivers, and bogs, which no doubt will greatly facilitate the travelling of the Missionary. Brother Shiels, no doubt, will be willing to spend some time in the above named places; his brethren, no doubt, will consent for him to be absent for a season to benefit their neighbours.

The question is, will he go immediately, and will the Board sanction the appointment; or some other Brother may be obtained that our dear brethren in those places may not be disappointed, and that sinners may be saved.

Yours fraternally,

W. H. HOBBS.

P. S.—Brother Skinner administered the ordinance of Baptism last Lord's day, and he thinks some indications for good are manifest at Port Medway. May his hopes be fully realised! I commenced some extra services three weeks ago in this Church. The meetings have continued to the present, and some good tokens are manifest; Congregations very large and solemn, from evening to evening, the Church are coming up to duty, and we hope good has been done. One young man last evening professed, and we hope others are enquiring. What the result will be we know not.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Letter from Onslow.

BROTHER EDITOR,

We expect to open a new Chapel for Divine service on Lord's day, 24th of this month. I feel in hopes that these lines may be read by some of our ministering brethren who may visit us, and assist on the occasion.

In the review of the past year, we have experienced much that calls for grateful acknowledgment, and much to humble us, and prompt to greater diligence, and more watchfulness. Death has removed some of our members from earth, to their heavenly home. Among the number was Brother Joseph Crowe, Senr. He was baptized by Rev. C. Tupper, some years ago, and at the age of eighty-five closed his eyes on all earthly scenes, with the joyful hope of a blessed immortality.

Sister Lynds also, after a few days illness, passed without any wavering of confidence into her longed-for home.

Mary, daughter of the late Alexander Upham, of happy memory, lies also in our island burying place. She left Boston to accompany her sister, whose health was delicate—the latter is left, the former is removed; but she likewise had professed faith in Christ; and in hope of eternal life, in the morning of her days, escaped the pollutions and trials of earth.

Thus the church's ranks with us have been thinned—thus the church triumphant, we trust, has been enlarged.

Some additions too, by hopeful conversion, and baptism, have been made. About twenty-five have been added. May they be living members!

A small Chapel has within seven months been erected, and is the one in which we expect to worship at the time before mentioned—these are our tokens of prosperity, encouraging as far as they go, humbling to think of what might have been under the exercise of strong faith and energetic labor. May we all, each in his appropriate sphere, work while the day lasts.

Yours truly,

D. W. C. DIMOCK.

Onslow, Feb. 7th, 1856.

[We regret that the above has not appeared until after the time specified, but it did not reach us in time for our last number.]

## Extract of a Letter from Chester.

We have given Brother T. W. Crawley a unanimous call to become our Pastor. And he has accepted the call. He will enter upon his labors about the middle of March. He has preached to us on the last two Sabbaths with much acceptance.

Yours in Christ,

JOHN E. MELVIN.