

effort to place a knowledge of our principles and polity before those ignorant of them, and who in many cases need only to know the truth, to follow after it. Let us hope that it will be no longer so,—that the time has arrived when Baptists will awake to clearer views of their duty and their destiny, and will with renewed zeal and determination, “come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty.”

The subject of Education has received a good deal of attention by our churches in this Province, and we commend the subject of a Denominational Literature as one of a kindred nature, equally claiming their consideration. As I said before, I penned those remarks for the purpose of eliciting discussion on the subjects referred to, by the denomination generally.

C. H. H.

N. B. The same arguments may be used for the circulation of the C. M. The “Wesleyan” is pushed into the hands of all sects. Why be so delicate in seeking to enlarge the subscription list of the Messenger? I said to a Baptist the other day,—“Why do you not take the Messenger?” Reply,—“I take the Wesleyan, and can’t afford to take both.” I told him what I think is the truth, that the Christian Messenger is a much superior paper to the Wesleyan, and I considered it his duty to give it the preference, and so I say to every Baptist.

C. H. H.

For the Christian Messenger.

Revival at Sable.

Three weeks ago we commenced meetings at Sable River, which have been continued every day since. The interest has been increasing daily. Scarcely a male inhabitant at the head of the River but has professed religion since these meetings commenced. A Church was organised there last Saturday. It now numbers about 40 members. I am to baptize there again next Lord’s-day morning, and here in the evening. We had an interesting baptism here on the Island last Lord’s-day; amongst the converts were two sea captains on the eve of leaving for the West Indies, who desired to follow Christ before they left. They were baptized and joined the Church. We are now holding meetings every day, and many have obtained hope. Pray for us dear brother.

W. HOBBS.

Locke’s Island.

For the Christian Messenger.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

LONDON, Dec. 19, 1856.

ENGLAND AT WAR AGAIN.

MR. EDITOR.

The national sword scarcely dried from its Crimean bloodshed—scarcely sheathed and hung up—is again waved amid fearful notes of preparation. War has been declared at Bombay, against Persia, who, by an awing proclamation, accepts the gage thrown down. Our proclamation sets forth at length the causes which have originated the step: charging upon Persia a wilful breaking of treaties, in hostilely occupying the neutral ground between Afghanistan and Persia—Herat.

But the vast majority of your readers, like the vast majority of Englishmen, perhaps say—“Where is this Herat? what is it like, and what is its importance, that we should go to war about it? why go to war at all?” The Times tried to enlighten us about it a few days ago, and with many prophecies of future notoriety gave a leader saying in effect—“Now, attend everybody, learn all about it; for it is most likely, 20 years hence, you will have some relative who died, was wounded, or fought there!” A pleasant prospect, truly, for approaching Christmas! Then it went into the geography, topography, and history of the affair, growlingly concluding that we must go to war for strange people and far-off territories, to little purpose; the necessity being forced upon us as a consequence of our extended empire, and all the jealousy it brings of the interference of other powers.

I will not trouble your readers, Mr. Editor, with all that might be said about this place, but give a short account to aid them in understanding the affair.

Herat is situated on a plain 2,500 feet above the sea level, is distant 300 miles due west from Cabul, and 400 miles due north of Gombroon, at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, the whole breadth of Persia intervening. In 1838 its population was stated at 45,000, but earlier accounts double that number. In a military point of view, the importance of Herat is very great, owing to its commanding an opening in the great range of the Paroparissus or Ghor Mountains, the only one through which any considerable and well-equipped army can march upon the frontier of Hindustan from the north-west. The city has been described as the gate of India. Within the limits of its territory all the great

roads leading to India from the west converge; all the necessaries for an army—provisions, lead, iron, sulphur, saltpetre, &c., may be procured in abundance.

“With slight intervals of conquest or independence, Herat belonged to Persia up to 1749, when it was taken and annexed to Afghanistan. The Persians attempted to take Herat in 1815 and again in 1838, in which latter siege Major Pottinger so highly distinguished himself by his able defence of the city. It was, however, a demonstration by a small British force in the Persian Gulf that ultimately compelled the Shah to raise the siege.”

As I stated in former letters, the Shah of Persia besieged Herat, and at last took possession of it. It is believed that he has been influenced to this by Russia; and it will be recollected that in last war there were many signs that if Russia had been likely to succeed, Persia would have joined her. Had she done so, we should have had our Indian possessions to defend, as well as Turkey. Jealousy and ill feeling have existed for a long time, and have now come to a head. Dost Mahomed has rule in Afghanistan, and is our ally. We shall support him in vindicating his own territory, and he will send a land force through Candahar to Herat. We have now 40 sail, with a force 6000 strong, on the Persian Gulf, and have already occupied there the isles of Ormuo and Karrack. A land force will also proceed by Cabool, under Dost Mahomed.

To the Indian army the news is most acceptable. Shut out from the laurels gained in the Crimea, they deem the present their time. It says much for the efficiency of our Indian government, that so large and effective a force has been raised almost instanter, fully equipped, and eager for the fray. We have had rest in India for some years, and so, are fully prepared for the emergency. The native Sepoys are true, and their bravery was well proved in the battles of Mooltan, Cabool, Sobraon, and other fields of conflict with the Sikhs. In fact, with English discipline and officers, this force is in itself more than a match for the same number of Persians, without our own unrivalled English army. But rupees must be plentiful as well as men and bravery. The transports for the Persian gulf alone cost a thousand pounds a day!

It is said in some quarters, and denied in others, that 50,000 Russians only await the first call of the Shah to march against us. The country, however, is little known; and it is affirmed and also declared that Russians could not go, for the simple reason that the character and resources of the country alone would destroy them. Russian papers deny that the Emperor has any intention of interference; but then, falsehood seems to be their native and natural idiom. However, in his famous recent protest against England and France interfering in Italy, Alexander threw out a significant hint as to his future course in the words—“The ulterior use of the forces rests in the discretion of his Imperial Majesty.” It is well known that Russia has given the cold shoulder to England, and courted France, since the peace. France would hardly act with us here; and so Russia may hope to gratify her resentment by a blow at our Indian possessions without having to fight France as well: using Persia as the monkey did the cats claws to get him the roasting chestnuts. Of course there is everything said and surmised, ending in uncertainty altogether. France is spoken of as a mediator between Persia and England; and the Persian Ambassador also had an interview with Lord de Radcliffe, our representative. But the latter is said to be so high and firm in his demands that the negotiations ceased.

We all agree that war is a dreadful thing. Young debaters argue the question, whether it is justifiable under any circumstances. As to the distinction between offensive and defensive war, the difference is like two angles, which meet each other: we must be offensive, to be defensive. Logicians may prove that part of the question, as they prove many things, by metaphysics; but common people cannot follow them, and even metaphysicians have one theory for the head and another for practice. The original conquest of India was forced on us, piece by piece. Our rule has established civilization, swept away cruel barbarisms, and blessed the peoples. The tyranny of bloodthirsty princes has been overturned; caste has been shaken; sutteeism and torture abolished; licentiousness, obscenity, impurity of doctrine and practice, all modified, and improved. These are blessings; but the sword obtained them, and, if we would hold our own, the sword must retain them. Those rich provinces are Russia’s envy and Persia’s greed. Are we to let them go? Statesmen, popular opinion, and common thought, say, it would be madness, dishonour, injustice to the

Hindoos—all that is *infra dig.* Against all that comes the old question of war at all.

We have seen, the position of Herat commanding India. Persia, with Russia behind her, allowed to settle there, would entail long series of wars, shake our empire, and re-introduce, if successful, the evils we have removed and are removing. Apart from national honour, India is far better under us than them. National honour also urges us to resent invasion of neutral ground rendered sacred by treaty. Therefore we go to war. Let those, who want a knotty subject for debate, argue the relative good of our ceasing war, to prevent bloodshed, and the evils that would follow such a course: recollecting, also, that the same principle applies to every inch of ground, beyond the Island of Great Britain now held by the British Crown.

Such is the position of the Persian war now. We shall see whether mediation by France be given, and be successful; or, if the determined front assumed will bring Persia to terms; also, whether Russia by siding with her, will provoke fresh proceedings in the Baltic or elsewhere.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE BOMBA.

At a review of troops, recently, a soldier sprang forward and stabbed the tyrant of Sicily with his bayonet. The weapon glanced aside, and only inflicted a slight wound on the thigh. The King retained his seat on horseback, and, though deadly pale, continued the review. The Queen and other members of the Royal family were present. The assassin was secured, and afterwards hung. He refused to discover his accomplices, expressing fervent and undying hate to “the tyrant whose body would at last fall before some of fifty conspirators who had sworn to take his life.” Murder is murder still, whatever provocation be given: but who can wonder that mere humanity, outraged as it has been by that monster, should forget distinctions between right and wrong, and strive to rid itself of its torturer? The fact revealed by that poor man, and his persistence in it with death before his eyes, must afford rather nervous suggestions to Bomba the Cruel, surrounded by guards though he be. Who would wear his crown, lined with curses as it is? But a day of vengeance may come yet; even before he meet a higher Judge.

The insurrection appears to have been repressed, but not extinguished—its secret ramifications are said to extend far and wide, only waiting for a favourable period to break out again with more effect. All the channels of information, however, are so watched and controlled, that nothing can be known for certainty. Mazzini and others are still at work. But from foreign intervention, that down-trodden people need expect little help. Despotism is too wide-spread and deeply rooted, and diplomacy so controls liberal sentiments even where entertained, that Sicilians must appreciate the force of the quotation—

“Who would be free, himself must strike the blow.”

DISPUTE WITH CHINA.

“It never rains, but it pours.” Another unpleasant little affair is just now “ou” with the celestials of the flowery land, true as of old to their bombastic and cowardly character. A Manchester private commercial letter states that a letter from Canton, dated Oct. 17, gives the following intelligence:—

“On the 11th inst., a lorch (or trading vessel) bearing the British flag, and registered at Hong Kong, was boarded by the crew of a junk bearing the Imperial flag, and four of her men (Chinese) were taken into the city, where, it is said, three of them have been beheaded. After two days had been allowed for explanation and apology, which did not arrive, the Imperial junk was taken possession of by armed boats from one of our men-of-war. A strong naval force is mustering at Whampoa, and some of the steamers and vessels of war have proceeded up the river as far as the depth of water will allow them. Our own impression is, that the native authorities will make the required concession; but, as in former instances, not until the very last moment preceding some threatened operation.”

RUSSIA, CIRCASSIA, AND TURKEY.

Some time ago, the Russians at Kertch or somewhere near, fired on an English gunboat; but the matter received explanation, and passed off. Now they have seized a Turkish brig and 18 boats, on pretence of their having irregular papers—a mere falsehood. Other boats escaped, and told the news. Of course Russia will give way, when taken to task about it; but these little affairs all show her animus, and are important in the present critical state of affairs. Meanwhile, her war against the Circassians goes on, and with temporary success, for she has driven them out of Soujouk-Kale, an important place on the Black Sea. The Circassians would have fared better if they had helped us more cordially in the late war. Romance has invested this people with many attractions which are dissipated on closer acquaintance; and our relations with them

have not been so hearty and cordial as to sustain previous expectations. Russia will always have her work to do there, like Austria in Switzerland let us hope, with no better success.

Turkey is “prepared to become actively our ally in the Persian affair, if we provide funds.” No doubt: who could not summon voluntary pugilistic allies from his neighbourhood, on paying them well? How may ambitious, hard-headed boys or loafers, would be but too well content to receive cuffs *ad libitum*, if accompanied with a *consideration*? There are Turkey’s Bashi Bazouks, eating their own heads off and knocking other people’s about: this is just the job for them. But what a state of affairs to look forward to! paying all the voluntary *shirri* who like to prostitute their sword to us. As misfortunes make a man acquainted with strange bed-fellows, so war brings us into queer company and questionable alliance. But then, as everybody says, our *Indian empire must be maintained at all cost.*

PRUSSIA AND NEUFCHATEL.

This *coup d’etat* business grows more serious. Prussia fumes over her defeat, and threatens armed force if her prisoners are not released by the Swiss. She talks of 100,000 men, and orders are whispered of preparations for immediate action. France mediated—that is, haughtily gave Switzerland her advice, which was, to give way. Very properly, the Federal Council refused: whereupon France as haughtily leaves her to her fate. But Louis Napoleon is not yet Dictator of Europe, however he may try to practise the airs of one. Beside, everyone sees why Louis would deery a free state: it would set a bad example to Parisians, who are far from slow in drawing conclusions in such cases. And perhaps one of these conclusions might be—If Neufchatel repulses the claims of Prussia why should we submit to the exorbitant claims of our ruler, who would have us be deaf, dumb and blind?

Switzerland can take care of herself. And it is not likely that we should allow France, Prussia, or anyone else, to crush almost the only free state on the Continent, and spread despotism from east to west, north to south. Prussia’s claims are negatory in all common national law: Switzerland cast off her yoke as much as America did ours. And, freed then, she will not be again enslaved; and, more, Prussia will hardly try it, in face of our opposition.

THE SECOND PARIS CONFERENCE.

Is much talked of; when it will meet is not quite certain. There are to be considered, for certain—the evacuation of the Black Sea by England, the evacuation of the Principalities by Austria, the settlement of a dispute as to the exact line of Russian frontier, and we know not how many other matters.

At the last Conference, Bolgrad was named as a frontier of Russia in (I think) Bessarabia. But there are two Bolgrads—one a village, the other a large and most important place. Russia took care to claim the larger place, and the maps used at the Conference were found to be incorrect. Thus the quibble was raised. We should have left the Black Sea at the right time (six months after peace) if Russia had acted rightly about the Danube and Kars: the Austrians say the same regarding the Principalities: so the whole is to come on again.

Accounts vary in stating that the questions will or will not be confined to those originally considered, excluding Italy, Sicily, Neufchatel, and other matters: I should incline to the former opinion.

Austria sides with us in these matters. France and Russia are more united. Every newspaper has some particular idea of what is going to be done, and who are to unite together to do it. After all, it is but supposition, as it was before: the press were never more at fault than in that congress. Their representatives were nullified, and not an atom of official intelligence could they get. So now. But we shall all know in time; and if the result be as favourable as before, we shall not have much to grumble at. But, look at European and European-Asiatic politics either alone or combined, from whatever point of view we choose they are still complicated, threatening, uncertain, and uncomfortable.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA

Has just returned from a tour through his Lombardian provinces. Despite all the enthusiasm that it was hoped the police could raise, it was all a dead failure. The nobility left their seats, and would not go to his receptions; the people looked on in gloomy silence and discontent which spoke more forcibly in scowls than words. Francis Joseph is said to be much enraged at it, and to have expressed himself mislead in the ideas he conceived were felt toward him. I recollect, in school days, the sending a boy to Coventry often proved the first step to his reformation. Francis Joseph, will it be so with thee? Verily, there is room enough for it. Home affairs, Mr. Editor, I have no space to dilate on, and there is but little to tell. My letter must close, and omit them till another opportunity. YOUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.