

continued to decline. Bro. Gates says, "During the whole of her sickness, and more especially as she approached her end, she maintained an unshaken confidence in the Saviour, and her personal interest in Him. She talked with familiarity of dying, as a sweet release from sin and suffering; and disposed of her wardrobe to her mother and sisters with all the composure of a healthy person transacting secular business. She also chose the text, (Ps. xxiii. 4.) and the hymns to be sung at her funeral, some weeks previous to her death."

Bro. Gates adds, "I must omit many things, but one thing I will mention, her almost unexampled patience and resignation to the Divine Will, 'Not my will, but thine be done.'"

Thus sustained by the power of sovereign grace, did this amiable Christian depart this life on the 7th day of January, 1857, at the age of 27 years and 9 months. "To die is gain."—Communicated by Rev. C. Tupper.

BENJAMIN BOULTER.

Elder Benjamin Boulter, of Tryon, P. E. Island, departed this life on the 6th inst. By request I write to communicate some particulars that I obtained respecting his life and happy death.

Mr. Boulter was born at Plymouth, Devonshire, England, January 12th, 1792. As a man it is due to say, that all who knew him had unbounded confidence in his integrity, for instance, his indenture of apprenticeship has upon it a certificate of his faithful performance of all the conditions therein specified; so we see that his first step in the journey of life was faithfully done.

Early in life he was the subject of deep convictions, and at 17 years of age he was converted through the instrumentality of an Independent Minister, one of the many great preachers of that day, who, used to preach a certain number of sermons for a few weeks only, and then give place to a successor. Being sprinkled in his infancy he became connected with that body of christians, and preached among them occasionally. He also attended the preaching of the never-to-be-forgotten Dr. Hawker, and with tears in his eyes, he would talk of how he lived, how he preached, and how he died.

About the year 1818, he left the land of his birth, came to this Island, worked at his trade, and preached when opportunity offered. Shortly after he married a daughter of the late Deacon Foy, of Tryon, a christian man of blessed memory. Sister Boulter, his pious worthy partner and seven children still survive to mourn their irreparable loss.

In 1826, he was baptized by the Rev. Joseph Chandall, and joined the Calvinistic Baptist Church at Tryon, in connection with the N. S. Association, continuing still to labour in the vineyard of the Lord until about seven years ago, at which time he was Ordained, in order to perform the office of a Pastor more fully. Like an Apostle he became chargeable to no man, but worked for his living, preaching here or there as required, up to a few weeks ago.

Having been called upon to attend a funeral occasion in the absence of the Pastor at Free Town, Bodeque, he preached a sermon from the words "Prepare to meet thy God." It was a solemn thrilling sermon and may emphatically be said that he preached as a dying man to dying men, the occasion being afterwards alluded to in his hearing, he stated, that "the Lord in answering prayer had, in a peculiar manner, sustained him both in body and mind, for he was not conscious of any debility during the service; but on returning home he felt that his work was done."

From that time his illness increased and his sufferings great as they were, were endured with patience and resignation. All that he said during his sickness respecting the ground of his hope fully indicated that he was resting on the Rock of Ages, and that he knew that the covenant between the Father and the Son, was ordered in all things and sure. The doctrines he had preached in his health, were now the consolation of his dying hour. A short time before he expired, he requested the 20th Psalm to be read, saying to a friend that Jesus was precious to him: shortly after which he yielded up his spirit into the hands of his Creator. I was at Bodeque, going to see him, but a snow storm came on. On Wednesday the 7th a message came, to say that he was gone. Friday morning came, the morning of his burial, fine, clear, and bracing, but dreadful winds. Roads east and west quite blocked up. Rev. Mr. Ross, Deacon Hooper and self, started and got down in time, when we joined a goodly number, met to pay the last tribute of respect to our departed friend. Twenty-two sleighs formed the funeral procession. His mortal remains were deposited in the public burial ground. The Methodist Chapel adjacent, being nicely warmed and the snow well cleared away by the friends, for which we felt grateful, not only as it concerned our own comfort, but as showing respect to the departed. The services were conducted by the Rev. M. Ross, and the funeral sermon was one of deep interest—from the words—

"Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

The Divinity of Christ was a theme that he loved to dwell upon. I have heard him address sinners in touching language, he would not mutilate a doctrine but preach his sentiments fully, whether men would hear, or whether they would forbear.

Another of our aged Ministers has been called home; unless we have an increase to our ministerial rank, we as a Denomination here, will soon cease to exist. Other religious bodies will occupy the ground, and no blame to them. I was grateful to read the suggestions of Bro J. W. Barsa in the last C. M., respecting one general Missionary Board, I hope that it, or a similar one, may be adopted. Will not our As-

sociation send us help? "The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few."—Com. by Albert Casswell.

St. Eleanors, P. E. Island, Jan. 23, '57.

European & Foreign News.

For the Christian Messenger.

London Correspondence.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

LONDON, March 13.

CHINESE WAR.—MINISTERIAL CRISIS.—DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

MR. EDITOR,

We had only time to turn ourselves round, after hammering at Russia, and then found ourselves at loggerheads with Persia. Chinese affairs also looked very disagreeable; but the Persian danger of a long war with doubtful results appeared most imminent. Now, however, that is disposed of, while the Canton affair has assumed proportions and threatens results, which may affect our whole policy, foreign and domestic. We may at least rejoice in this—that, in so far as one war is better than two, so we are favoured: and, of the two, perhaps we have the easier, though a more muleish and unscrupulous, enemy to deal with.

Before proceeding to consider in detail the Chinese question, I may just add, that peace is duly proclaimed between Great Britain and the Shah. That ugly affair is brought to a happy conclusion: for ugly it was, look at it in whatever light we might—in the light of interest, humanity, cost, results, anything worth caring about. These are the grounds on which the agreement rests:—

1. "The whole of the Persian territory which is or might be occupied by the English troops, up to the proclamation of peace, in those parts, is to be completely evacuated by the English."

2. "Persia recognizes the independence of Afghanistan—that is to say, takes a solemn engagement not to interfere any more in the affairs of Afghanistan."

3. "Herat is restored to its independence. That Province will henceforth be governed by its native rulers."

4. "Renewal of the treaty of commerce concluded between Persia and England. England will henceforth be treated in the Persian empire on the footing of the most favoured nation; Persia equally so in the British empire."

5. "England renounces henceforth affording protection to Persian subjects."

6. "Mr. Murray, the British minister, who resided at Teheran before the war, will return to Teheran, where he will be received with great honours by the Persian Government."

If such terms be only kept, we shall have nothing to grumble at. The evil is, experience tells us that, after having been beaten, such fair words are plentiful enough, with Orientals, till an opportunity occurs of breaking faith. Nothing but the prestige of force, ever ready and willing speedily to avenge duplicity and treachery, can maintain our position in the East. To pause, to shrink, is to be lost: to strike at once, and strike home, is to be feared and respected. But our Indian government appears fully able to meet any emergencies that may occur; and is certainly one of the best managed branches of our Government at home or abroad. Proceedings began decisively at Herat; and, when their character became known, that was sufficient: they were stopped there: one sample was enough. There was no disputing such a palpable fact; and so, the matter becoming more than a joke, Persia listened to reason, and the matter was soon settled.

We shall see how far this rule will apply to China: or rather, we may imagine it, unless events prove that the nation will support similar energetic proceedings against similar treachery, by our authorities, instead of paralyzing their hands by votes of censure. But, to explain.

On the very day on which the peace with Persia was settled, Mr. Cobden, moved, in his place in the Commons,—“That this House has heard with concern of the conflicts which have occurred between the British and Chinese authorities in the Canton River; and, without expressing an opinion as to the extent to which the Government of China may have afforded this country cause of complaint respecting the non-fulfilment of the treaty of 1842, this House considers that the papers which have been laid on the table fail to establish satisfactory grounds for the violent measures resorted to at Canton in the late affairs of the 'Arrow'; and that a select committee be appointed to inquire into the state of our commercial relations with China.”

The thing which most immediately brought about the proceedings here decried was as follows:—

A trading-vessel, called a lorcha, with a Chinese crew, but possessing a British registry and displaying the British flag, was boarded by authority of the governing Mandarin Yeh, the flag hauled down and trampled on, and some men taken away. The excuse was, that one man was father of a pirate, and that, as such, he would be put to death for his son's crimes. (That is one of the institutes of the people lauded and bepraised as moral, civilized, peaceful, and humane.)

Sir John Bowring and Consul Parkes demanded apology and satisfaction. After much equivocating delay, some other men were brought, instead of those taken away. Further satisfaction was denied, and the English treated with the utmost contempt. Remonstrance and patience were only considered evidences of inability to enforce our rights. There was no appeal from

Yeh to the Emperor, no other means than those of force to prevent our being still further insulted. The fleet was therefore ordered to attack the River forts; and, after in vain endeavouring to induce Yeh to listen to reason, his residence was bombarded. Now this has been the chief argument of Mr. Cobden and his clique—that a populous, thronged city has been visited with the horrors of bombardment. No such thing—the city was spared, and the residence of the originator of the mischief, alone destroyed. So the affairs stood when last accounts left: but another mail will come in about the 16th, and perhaps bring further news. We know, however, that a reward of \$100 had been offered by Yeh for every English head—that a system of kidnapping had accordingly ensued, which "left no one safe out of a man-of-war"—that Chinese bakers had poisoned all the bread for the colony; but had put so much arsenic in, that they defeated their own purpose, although many suffered severely, especially Sir John Bowring's family—that the crew and passengers of "The Thistle," steamer, 11 in number, were all murdered, and all but one decapitated—that the factories were burned, the populace thirsting for the blood of the "foreign devils"; and, amid the spreading war, our fleet, colony, and countrymen, could scarcely hold their place.

However, reinforcements have now been despatched. The Sir J. Brooke has left Singapore for Hong Kong, with three companies of sepoy and a detachment of European artillery. The 84th Regt. has gone from Rangoon. Here, the Sidon, Transit, and Assistance, transports, are waiting to proceed with troops and marines. Two block ships (60-gun, two-deckers), and a squadron of gun-boats; four companies of Royal Artillery; some sappers and miners—altogether, about 6000 men, with plenty of arms—will soon be on the spot, to sustain the honour of England, and, if necessary, inflict just punishment on the treacherous enemy.

Now for the argument of the question, as carried on in Parliament. Every one knows what Mr. Cobden is, on such questions—exclusive, impracticable, the decrier of his own country and ready apologist for her foes. It was contended that *The Arrow* was not really an English vessel—that is, entitled to the protection of English laws—her registry having expired five days before the seizure. *Per contra*, she could not have time to renew it; and such expiry was not known to the underwriters, therefore was only an accident common in vessels on voyages. Again, a lorcha has an English hull and rigging, whereas a Chinese vessel is an ugly affair called a junk, with rows of teeth, eyes as if to see her way, and painted according to the province from whence she comes." All these regulations are absent in the cases of lorchas; they being recognized by the Chinese as English vessels, and therefore there being no excuse of ignorance for insult to our flag.

Much shere nonsense was talked of the moral gentleness of the Chinese; but it was convincingly rebutted. It was shown that this bloody-minded Yeh destroyed 70,000 in cold blood, last year, during the rebellion; "he exterminated the rebels, and he would do the same with the foreign barbarians." The reward offered by him for heads, has been mentioned. Then it was proved that the treaty of 1842 had never been fulfilled. By that we have a right to enter Canton: but it has never been allowed, and we have forborne to use force in order to obtain the fulfilment of the treaty. It was recalled, too, that our Plenipotentiaries in that treaty were hustled, shuffled, abused, and cheated: also, that even since, the conduct of that people to us has been such as to have tempted reprisals long ago; and that, while one treaty has been disregarded, gradually the insults rose to such a pitch as to be unendurable. The English merchants on the spot, who had suffered most by the so-called bombardment, had entreated the Consul to proceed, as the only method of securing safety to life and property.

Then, again, it was contended that these evils had been mainly fomented by Yeh, who was hated as much as he was feared by the people. At Shanghai, the state of affairs was all right, because the Mandarin influence was absent: and it was asserted, that only by extreme measures—the striking a powerful blow, deposing Yeh and entering Canton by force, could our future intercourse with the Chinese be at all maintained. There was no access to the Emperor, or resource of diplomacy: they shut themselves out of the family of nations; and there was no guarantee, but that of force, that they could hold to any engagements with those whom they treated as dogs, and exercised all their powers to deceive and insult.

Regarding Sir J. Bowring, too, much has been said. Whenever did a public man escape vilification, however pure his motives or upright his conduct? Against all the charges that were brought against him, it was said, that, if not a real member of the Peace Society, his character and tendencies were so pacific that nothing but the last necessity would have induced him to resort to arms. Admiral Seymour possesses the same credit for humanity. Dr. Bowring was appointed by the very men who now howl at him. And, as was justly said, in answer to a remark, that it was not for mere officials to plunk the country into war, without Government at home knowing or being able to advise on it—what is to be done? Before communication could be had, irretrievable ruin would take place, and England's dignity and colonists be destroyed by wretches who murder for gold, poison wells, or bread, and torture helpless captives. There must be an option left with the Plenipotentiaries; and that such option was not used heedlessly, or without positive necessity is the most fair, reasonable, and likely assumption, in judging Dr. Bowring and Consul Parkes.

One other argument was used—that all the foreign merchants of other nations, as well as our own, are unanimous in approval of the conduct of government. Now what becomes of their bread-and-butter, the trade with the natives, if war be continued? And yet against this manifest insult in peace, they support Dr. Bowring, because being on the spot, knowing the whole affair, and the character of those with whom we have to do, they are convinced no other course remained but the proper assertion of our sense of insult.

Even the *Siecle*, too, a French paper who decried our proceedings at Sveaborg and at Bomarsund, confesses no other course was left, and our consuls were fully justified in their acts.

I have been thus particular in re-stating and collecting the chief points of the debate and dispute, both because they will become the chief national question for some time to come, because of the principle involved in them, and because of what took place on their discussion.

Mr. Cobden, no doubt, was sincere in his views, such as they were; he at least does not worship office, or jump at an opportunity of getting it, as a dog jumps at a bone—for the sake of the meat on it. But there were others, who, took advantage of this motion, to coalesce, and form an opposition which should unsettle the government. Derby and Disraeli, joined with the Peclites, who have of late been numbered from them. Lord John Russell, too, joined the cabal, with his Whigs; and, together they got a majority of 16 in the Commons; though, in the Lords, they lost by 36—but then, the Lords' House does not contain so many men who, for the sake of party, would ignore any political principle, that they could. The coalition bespoke its origin. Tories, Whigs, Liberals, all joined—not in the real question, but that they might together effect a slaughter which should at all events give them one meal of spoil, however unable they might be to establish a government in place of what they destroyed, however incongruous its constitution, and however opposed to the national mind.

But the blow recoiled on themselves. People now-a-days, with morning and evening papers, see further into political conjuring than they did of old. A really honest, hearty Premier, however some may disagree from him in some respects, is in the main popular. No one thinks of justifying all Lord Palmerston does or has done: but he is the best man of the time, there is no one else to do half as well, and there is something plainly to look at in what he does, without political mystification. He carried us safely through the Russian war: and this Chinese affair would have followed in the same train. To be such a man, is to be envied and hated, by those who try the same course and make a mess of it. Such explains the Coalition. But, as Disraeli remarked, most unfortunately for himself, "England does not love Coalitions." No wonder, when we reflect that Aberdeen's was a Coalition Ministry, and that it starved our army and nearly ruined the nation's prestige!

So, when it became known that Palmerston had been placed in such a position as to force resignation or dissolve Parliament, the great mass of the people were highly indignant; and even those who differed from him on some questions resolved to vindicate, in him, the principle of Parliamentary freedom and the preservation of a pure patriotism against the unprincipled attacks of political adventurers. The opposition were astounded on hearing that Palmerston would not resign, but rather appeal to the country. Many then regretted their course, having the prospect of meeting their constituents. And we find already that the feeling is decidedly in favour of the Government. London and Liverpool have both sent well-signified requisitions, asking Lord Palmerston to stand for their representation. Cobden has not ventured to test his former proudly-boasted extensive constituency of the West Riding of Yorkshire, but takes refuge in the small borough of Bolton, Lancashire. Mr. Layard gives up Aylesbury, on the same score; and Lord John Russell, for 16 years connected with the metropolis as its representative, has only just crawled out in a long address defensive of his conduct, and soliciting support chiefly on other grounds. The great probability is, he will lose his seat. It is a sad termination to such a career as the noble lord's first life, that now, mere place-hunting intrigue has made him stoop so low. The *Times*, to-day, publishes his address, and, side-by-side, is a scorching "leader" that annihilates its sophistry. The members who voted for the Coalition (especially those Liberals who, on Mr. Cobden's crochets, voted with him), are marked men; and, where they represent a constituency that is at all open, they will either lose their seats or have such a fight for them as will be more warm than agreeable.

There is little doubt that the country will pronounce in favor of Government by an immense majority. The present Parliament dissolves in about a week, and the new will meet in May. The first trial of strength will then be for a speaker. By the issue of that contest, we shall know the strength of parties: and by that strength the proceedings of the new session will be determined.

Only recently, we were looking back at these party conflicts as relics of old and departed political battles: now we are suddenly plunged into them again headlong. But reform will not be hindered, for doubtless, Palmerston, appealing to the people as he does; and carried into office again as he will be, by popular approval, and popular vengeance on political intrigue—will become more the people's representative than before, and lead the way with comprehensive measures of reform, if only to keep up to his national constituents, and distance his foes of opposite parties.

In one thing, however, all parties have agreed.

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