

of the character of the churches "Allow me now, to enter a little into their inner condition, and to give you some of the striking features of their character. One of these is their very intimate union, a subject certainly of interest in a meeting like this. Though since my earlier years I have been led by Divine grace to know the Saviour, and to be united with his people, and have enjoyed all that blessedness which by such a union is imparted, yet I never have witnessed that measure of love and cordiality ever before, but since the formation of our churches, I believe that the longing in every heart for love and communion has in many of our members been the first motive in joining us, when they beheld that degree of brotherly love prevailing amongst us. English Christians would perhaps smile at the indulgence and display of this love, and feel it rather strange, but it is quite natural to the German character, and arises also from the experience of hatred from the world, of amazing grace in the soul, and from the feeling of oneness in all that is most sacred to the heart.

Another striking feature amongst them is a glowing zeal for the propagation of the truth as it is in Jesus. Missionary effort is the very soul of our churches, and no member is thought much of that does not in one way or other make himself useful for the Lord. By such means about 795,000 Holy Scriptures and 9,000,000 religious tracts have been distributed by our churches during the time of their formation. Thus wide-spread stations have arisen and are constantly increasing. And it is decidedly from the world that our increase has been made, and not, as our adversaries used to maintain, from the believers.

As to our organisation it was quite natural that the main principles of our independent churches in England and America should be adopted and carried out with us. Still there are differences which I may mention. Though the independence of every church from all others is maintained, still there is a compact oneness of them all, that makes them appear more like a body. This arises in part naturally from the fact, that by one instrument under God, our venerated Oncken, all those churches have been originated in the short space of twenty-five years, during which they not only have felt the fondest love to him, but have in all difficult cases resorted to him for advice and aid, and that by his indefatigable zeal means for the support of their ministry have been provided, till they had means to do so themselves; which as yet is still limited, so that he actually has been and is still held as a father to them all. The compact oneness of the Roman Catholic Church, imitated as much as possible by the Protestant Churches, could not fail to produce an influence on every other organisation of churches as quite necessary and to be the nature of the Church of Christ. Out of this feeling the regulated organisation of our churches, agreed upon in the first General Conference of 1849 in Hamburg, arose. I was committed to draw up those statutes which are still the basis of our organisation.

The difference between your churches and ours may furthermore be found also in the circumstance, that such things as become a Christian, or otherwise, are not so much left with us to the individual judgment, but are to a greater extent regulated by laws and statutes, such as marriage with unbelievers, divorce, and similar things.

Discipline is also, perhaps, more severe and strict. Hence you will be perhaps astonished to find in our statistic table that of our number at the close of last year, viz., 7,120 members, not less than 254 have been excluded, while 114 were restored, making those cut off 140. Indeed, these cases of discipline occupy, in our church meetings held every week, and generally on the Sabbath, a great deal of our time. But these cases by far do not all arise out of immoral conduct; but along with the greater inconstancy of the German character, compared with the English some things ought to be taken in account, such as the hardships and persecutions which are to be endured, and which, while confirming the faithful, at the same time frighten the unsettled; the law of the Sabbath, kept, at least, as holy by our churches as in this country by the faithful, in strong contrast to the world and even to believers around us, causes trials to the Christian, not easily conceived, the mentioned regulations with regard to marriage, causes, I dare say, almost the third part of those cases of discipline. At any rate our churches are very far from latitudinarianism, but are rather endeavouring to raise the standard of piety.

European & Foreign News.

NEW DANGERS OF WAR.

It seems hard to say how armies are in future to be manœuvred. As guns are now manufactured and handled, they must literally sweep the field of everything living. With such rifles and cannon as we now use, the Great Napoleon could have been picked off the Observatory at Waterloo or the tobacco-mill at Leipsic, as surely as Nelson was shot down on the quarter-deck of the Victory. There is a famous painting of Louis XIV. standing on the bank of the Rhine, with the Marshal of the day imploring His Majesty to remove his sacred person from a scene of such danger, and even threatening to terminate the battle by a retreat unless his prayer is attended to. There is no longer room, however, for any such affecting scenes. To enter the field at all is to stand at the cannon's mouth, and none will go there except at the stern command of duty.

These considerations ought to have some weight with the Imperial and Royal personages whose military ardor is thought to count for something at this moment in the tremendous ba-

lance of war and peace. The Emperor of Austria and the King of Sardinia are both something more than holiday soldiers, and the inclination of the Emperor of the French to studies of war is well known. But the life of a sovereign concerns more than himself. Kings cannot afford, at the present day, to be killed off like Charles XII, or Richard Coeur-de-Lion. However brave they may be, or however disposed to the science of arms, they can be but amateurs in the field of battle, and for such indulgence there is no longer any fair scope. On lives like theirs may hang not only dynasties, but constitutions too.

An inquiry will naturally suggest itself, after all these reflections, as to the probable end of such marvellous progress in the terrible arts of destruction. If war is to become year by year more dreadful, more deadly, and more expensive, what will be the practical effect upon society? We trust it may be this,—that it will be less and less readily undertaken. When war is almost certain ruin to both sides, both sides, we may hope, will pause before they accept such an issue. The Enfield rifle, as we have seen both in the Crimea and in India, can change the very face of a battle; but the Enfield rifle is a mere pop-gun compared with the elaborate weapons which are now introduced to the world.

In the American frigates a single gun worked by a half a dozen seamen will throw to a distance of two or three miles a shot equal in weight to an entire broadside of such cannon as were used by Duncan and Jervis. Armstrong's guns are expected to carry nearly twice that distance, and rifles have been produced which will send bullets through a target at 1,000 yards with a rapidity of succession like that of hail-stones on a sky-light. How any ship or battalion is to stand against such projectiles it is a puzzle to conceive. But, if war can be thus made to extinguish war, it will be a true blessing, though realized by a strange process.—English Paper.

TROUBLE IN TURKEY.

The Times' Vienna correspondent observes that we are on the eve of a general rising in European Turkey. The Porte has about 130,000 men concentrated at Shumla, Sophia, &c., and Omar Pacha is coming rapidly from Bagdad; but the Russo-French plan for the dismemberment of Turkey is a good one, and, in all human probability, the days of the Mussulmans in Europe are numbered. Recent movements in Montenegro have induced Austria to strengthen the defences of Cattaro on the other land side. Milosch is rising the Servian militia, and in a short time will have between 30,000 and 40,000 men. Conza has demanded back the arms carried from the Danubian Principalities by the Russians, and being supported by the French, will probably get them. The political agitation in the southern provinces of European Turkey is exceedingly great. In Greece the patriots openly declare the moment for enlarging the kingdom has arrived. Russian propagandists were never so active as now in the Slavonic province of Austria. Hungary is also full of Russian agents. A private letter from Genoa states that all the Austrian vessels at Genoa had just been seized by the Sardinians. In reply to a letter from Lloyd's Managing Committee, Clarkson & Co., of Doctors' Commons, state that they had advised that Austrian and Sardinian ships now in British ports should remain where they are, as they would be captured at sea, and they cannot be sold after the declaration of war.

NEUTRALITY OF ENGLAND.

The Independence Belge of Saturday mentions a rumor that explanations have been asked of the French government by England as to a phrase in the Imperial manifesto, which, in anticipating the independence of Italy, "to the Adriatic," implies the entire abrogation of the treaties of 1815. In its number of yesterday the same journal says, that the explanations offered by the cabinet of the Tuilleries have appeared sufficient at London, and that a better understanding prevails between the two powers.

The Nord says: "The grand news of the day is the resolve on the part of the cabinets of London and Berlin to maintain a strict neutrality in the present war. A despatch from London, which we have this moment received, assures us that, after declarations from Russia and explanations by the French Government, England and Prussia have decided upon absolute neutrality, in order to localise the war in Italy. The war no longer threatens to embrace the rest of the Continent, and its duration will be all the shorter. To prolong the contest under such circumstances, would be on the part of Austria an act of madness. Whatever may be the phases through which this war may pass elsewhere, the issue is not doubtful. Italy will be restored to herself."

PRUSSIA AND GERMANY.

The part which Prussia will play at this important moment has probably brought the crisis sooner than would otherwise have happened. Between the Courts of Vienna and Berlin the best understanding seems to exist, and the petty German rulers are all ready to side with the two leading powers when the occasion arises. The Germans cannot forget the doings of the Emperor's uncle, and they evidently believe that the present ruler is preparing to follow his policy, with the view, as they may think, of meeting his fate. It would be more strange than improbable if St. Helena received another Napoleon, the pest of Europe, to its rocky bosom before the world is much older. There is only one gleam of sunshine in this otherwise dark and gloomy picture—the contest cannot be indefinitely prolonged. War extending over years are now impossible. The means of destruction are now

so much more certain and deadly, and locomotion has so shortened time and transit, measured by the old process, that one party or the other must cry "hold, enough!" ere many revolving moons have passed away. Even before winter sets in we shall be at the beginning of the end.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The British Government have formally proclaimed strict neutrality, and warned its subjects against violations.

The War department has issued an important notice, authorizing the formation of volunteer corps throughout England.

The activity in the English dock yards is equal to the height of the Crimean war.

The Pilgrim Monument at Plymouth is progressing. Nearly a thousand tons of granite have been delivered upon the hill in the vicinity of the proposed "Monument to the Forefathers," and Messrs. Hall, of that town, have commenced laying them in form to constitute the foundation to the Monument itself. The corner-stone, which is already cut at the yard in Quincy, will be laid on the first of August with appropriate and imposing ceremonies.

DEATH OF HUMBOLDT.—The Canada brings intelligence of the death of Frederick Henry Alexander Humboldt, the eminent naturalist. Baron Humboldt was born at Berlin, Sept. 14, 1769, and was, therefore, in the ninetieth year of his age. From his boyhood he evinced a faculty for physical inquiry. His early education was directed with a view to employment in the government mines. Since 1795 he has connected himself with those pursuits which have won for him undying fame. He is most popularly known by his "Kosmos," a work written late in life. His death will leave a void in scientific circles, as his attainments, acquired during a long life, placed him at the head of learned men in all lands.

The "conversion" of Lola Montez is announced. She has, it is said, quietly settled down a humble, peaceful, exemplary religious woman, in her own domicile in Piccadilly, London, having amassed a sufficient sum to purchase and pay for a house.

Among the titles of the King of Ava is "absolute master of the ebb and flow of the sea, brother of the sun, and king of the four-and-twenty umbrellas."

The British have taken possession of another island in the Red Sea, which they claim to have purchased from an Arab Sheikh. The name of this last acquisition is Kramakau, north of Perim, near the Arabian shore.

The Emperor Napoleon III., having been born on the 20th of April, 1808, has completed his 51st year.

The Empress Eugenie completed her 33rd year on the 5th inst.

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ALICE T. SHAW.

May 25.

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