

English members of the deputation for Dr. Steane to speak. The Rev. Doctor, it is well known, is a veteran in the cause of religious liberty, having, in connexion with the Evangelical Alliance, of which he has been from its foundation an hon. secretary, devoted a large part of his time and strength during that time to its maintenance, and, on the present occasion, it was mainly owing to his able pamphlet on this subject that the members of the Evangelical Alliance in England and America were made acquainted with the sufferings of their fellow-Christians in the Baltic Provinces.

Dr. Steane went straight to the point at issue, viz.—the difference between the views of Prince Gortschakoff and the Russian Government on the subject of religious liberty, and those which were held by the members of the Evangelical Alliance. He insisted that the right of propagating the creed which we profess, and publicly maintaining it by voice and pen, by preaching, by the circulation of the Scriptures, and by tracts, was an integral part of religious liberty, and that this was what it had been his privilege and that of the Evangelical Alliance to promote for years back, in various countries of Europe where it had not before existed, as it was this which was enjoyed with the happiest results in England and America.

Further, Dr. Steane went on to say that in reference to the condition of those for whom the present deputation pleaded, it was evident that whatever relaxation of the stringent and intolerant statutes under which they had suffered was enjoyed by them at the present time, was owing solely to the kindness and humanity of the reigning sovereign, whilst the law itself so long as it was unrepealed, like the sword of Damocles, was ever hanging over them, ready to fall the moment that a sovereign or a government of another character should hold the reins of power.

These faithful words brought the discussion to a point. It was clear from the movements of feature and limb in the venerable diplomatist as he listened to Dr. Steane that the latter had struck home.

He replied with some warmth that Dr. S. had indeed hit the point of disagreement between his views and those of the deputation. He, for his part could not accept the doctrine of religious liberty as now laid down, and he appealed to the multitude of sects in America, which he said, were nearly as many as there were people there, in support of his views. He maintained that the Greek was not, like the Roman for instance, a propagandist church, and in regard to the conduct of the Russian Government towards the various sects which were to be found in that vast empire, he said that its policy had been to put down those which inculcated immoral tenets, and as for the rest (putting his hand before his eyes and looking through his fingers), he said, "we deal thus with them."

He was reminded, in reply, that the happiest effects had resulted from the exercise of perfect religious freedom, whilst the greatest evils had resulted from a system of repression.

At this stage of the interview it was clear that the Prince was becoming somewhat impatient, and though he was addressed briefly by two other speakers, the Rev. Dr. Adams, of New York, and the Rev. Professor Oosterzee, of Holland, no fresh point of any consequence was elicited.

Understanding that the memorials to the Emperor were in the room, the Prince asked to see them, and they were handed to him. He immediately began to read the memorial from the European branches of the Alliance, and taking offence at the statement which occurred in it to the effect that the Lutherans of the Baltic Provinces were suffering from the attacks of the Greek Church, he said somewhat angrily that this was not the case, and that he could not undertake to present such a document to the Emperor; he next turned to the American memorial, which was somewhat differently worded, and seemed to be more satisfied with its tone; but, after some deliberation, it was agreed that it would better further the end we had in view were we on our part to withdraw both the memorials, leaving it to Prince Gortschakoff to lay before his Imperial master a full statement of what had passed at the interview.

This he promised to do, and the deputation retired, feeling satisfied that if they had not gained all they had asked or desired, they had at least had the privilege of bringing before the highest authority in the Court and Church of Russia, a full and explicit statement of the views for which

they contended, and with the belief strong within them, drawn from the expression used by the Prime Minister, that it was the wish and intention of the Emperor, if he could see his way to it, to establish the liberties of his subjects of different communions on a secure basis.

I have omitted to mention that the case of the American missionary labouring amongst the Nestorians, and that of the Nestorian Christians themselves sojourning in the Russian empire was brought before Prince Gortschakoff by Dr. Schmettau, and that Mr. S. Gurney and two other members of the Society of Friends took occasion to offer a memorial of their own on the same subject as those prepared by the Alliance. After what had passed, however, they saw it advisable to withdraw their memorial also, and to content themselves with the promise made to them by the Prince that the matter should be duly laid before the Emperor.

Thus ended this interesting mission, and before the day was out the greater part of the members of the deputation had left the scene of the interview, and dispersed on their way to their various homes, or to other countries. But the duty of those who are interested in the cause of these oppressed members of the Protestant Church has not ended. Still the throne of the Highest is open to their supplications, and as much prayer has been offered in the past in connection with this enterprise, so it is to be hoped that much prayer will be offered in the future, that the effort so lately made, even if for the present it may not seem to have effected any real good, may, in the end, result in the concession of those liberties for which it was our privilege to plead.

For the Christian Messenger.

TO THE "YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION" IN HALIFAX, AND THE SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

Respected Junior Brethren,—

You now form, in all, a numerous, and I must presume, an influential body for the promotion of Christian Principles and conduct, and for their defence against all persons and means opposed to them. The very marked and appropriate motto you have taken, "Stand up for Jesus," I scarcely need to say, requires you to employ your most strenuous and active exertions for effecting those excellent purposes. The very phrase, "Stand up," means openly showing yourselves in their behalf, and especially in reproving and condemning—as now so much needed—all public acts and means contrary to those principles and conduct, or tending to the injury of religious faith and Christian morals.

A most marked public occasion for your so acting has recently been afforded. I allude to the "Scott Centenary Celebration," as it is called, which was held to extol the genius and writings of a man, the far greater number of whose publications—and which gained him celebrity—are fictions and romances; in other words, fabrications of pernicious lies, and which, as every person will readily see who glances over them, contain many low, degrading, and ribald scenes, and sayings, and doings, and in which, as by far the worst of all, the Divine names are profanely used, page after page; in some parts equal to the pages, or beyond them in numbers; thus expressly violating one of the Ten Divine Commandments, and the profanity being that of the author himself, as the romances and profanities were his own inventions, and his fictitious stories, of course, did not require the latter abomination. He has even given some of those invented profanities as uttered by a Clergyman.

The pious Covenants of former ages, and their children, would have abhorred the thought of extolling or celebrating such a man, and all the thousands of their pious descendants in the present day, I am convinced, have similar feelings. Expelling such a man is insulting Christianity. Instead of being "a benefactor of the world," as recently said, his numerous profane romances have greatly tended to corrupt the world. As to genius, there is a certain spiritual being who possesses an incomparably greater genius than dwelt in Scott, and has invented and uttered innumerable more fictions and falsehoods, yet nobody would think of extolling or celebrating his genius and doings, at least none professing Christianity.

A somewhat similar occasion, as to Christian morals, will presently be afforded you for open censure and faithful adherence to your motto. I allude to the approaching "Aquatic Carnival," which in the light of Scripture truth, can only

be regarded as an exhibition, favoring vanity (and sin, idleness, folly, dissipation, and other evils, directly injurious to religion and morality, and the social welfare. Your expressed disapproval on these two subjects would have a good effect on your seniors on the point of example.

You want my youthful brethren, as a most important and influential medium for your Christian efforts, a press in the city, exclusively your own, and devoted to publishing articles in the promotion and defence of Christian principles and conduct; and also a pure literature on moral and other useful subjects, and which would stimulate and give gratifying employment to you, in preparing and publishing Essays and other writings, edifying to yourselves and others. You now number in the city, as I have heard, upwards of three hundred, and I suppose, in the whole membership—throughout the Province, nearly, if not quite a thousand. If my suggestion for establishing such a press is approved of, and a compliance with it commenced, I will give you, according to my means, a liberal sum, to assist the good undertaking, and further support it.

I will have this writing published in all the religious journals of the city, and also in all such of the secular papers as will receive it, so that the several suggestions it contains may be made known to all the Associations in the Province.

With best Christian regards and desires for your usefulness,

I remain,

Your sincere friend,

JOHN G. MARSHALL.

Halifax, 18th August.

Dominion & Foreign News.

An Ottawa despatch says the Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise will take up their residence there.

The Governor-General's residence is being prepared for their reception.

In consequence of the Washington treaty considerable reductions are expected in the militia force of the Dominion.

QUEBEC, Aug. 18.—Paul Piquet, Hudson Chief, died yesterday at Lorette. He served as a guide to the 114th Regt, during the war of 1812.

The 60th Rifles and other detachments at Quebec have received orders to prepare for embarkation in the autumn. The working parties at the South Quebec fortifications are to be immediately reinforced by civilian laborers, and the forts will be completed this year. It is stated that the 60th will go to Halifax, and the 78th to Bermuda.

St. JOHN.—On Wednesday night the tannery of Mr. A. L. Peters, Lower Cove, St. John, N. B., has been destroyed by fire, and some adjacent buildings damaged. Loss £10,000. A fine horse perished in the flames.

The Charlottetown "Herald" understands that Mr. O'Brien's tender of £4,115 per mile, for constructing the P. E. Island railway, has been accepted—his securities having been found sufficient; and all that is now needed, is the lodging of the securities, and the signing of the requisite documents.

Seventy-nine little girls, brought out by Miss Kye, have arrived safe at Quebec by the steamship "Prussian." It is understood that there are 170 applications for them.

UNITED STATES.

Jacob Vanderbilt and other members of the Staten Island Ferry Company, together with the engineer, are charged with manslaughter by the coroner's jury in the "Westfield" disaster. They are held in heavy bail.

Twelve convicts in Sing Sing jumped aboard a steam tug passing the prison wharf, took possession, crossed to the west side of Hudson River, and fled to the woods.

A colliery explosion at Pittston, Penn., killed 18 miners. Only 3 got out alive. It will take hours to reach the men who are blocked in. Some of the men at work rescuing the unfortunate miners have been brought up insensible. Twelve dead bodies had been got out.

SAN FRANCISCO.—The Japanese Government are about to adopt a new coinage, of which the American dollar will be the unit.

Suspension Bridge, Niagara, Aug. 15.—The bodies of two men were discovered floating in the whirlpool yesterday. One of the bodies has been recovered. It is supposed they are the remains of persons carried over the falls in a small boat.

The Rev. Mr. Cleveland, (known as Father Cleveland), who is in his 100th year, preached in Boston on Sunday, the 6th inst. One of his hearers was a man 102 years old, who addressed a few words to the congregation at the close of the service.

A remarkable family lives in Dallas county, Ark. The father is 108 years old, the mother 106, and the two are the parents of twenty-nine children—fifteen boys and fourteen girls.

Two hundred ready-made dwellings are to be shipped from Chicago to Colorado. They are to contain seven rooms each, with partitions, stairs, windows, sash and casing, roofs, and trimmings for doors and windows complete, and can be placed in complete condition for occupancy in two hours after being unloaded.

A new enterprise has sprung up in Virginia. One of the old "estates" has been turned into a goat pasture. Over two hundred goats have already arrived, and thousands more are to follow, the idea being to make money out of the kid skins, for which the demand is large.

JAPANESE PRINCES IN NEW YORK.—The New York Times says:—"Thirty young Japanese noblemen, belonging to the most illustrious families in Japan, and under the leadership of Prince Schemidzo Jugad, have arrived in New York from San Francisco and occupy quarters at the St. Nicholas Hotel. The young gentlemen are sent to this country by the Government of Japan in order to complete their education, and especially with a view of examining mechanical inventions. As a general thing, these young Japanese possess very intelligent faces, and gazed around them at first with an air of half alarm, half astonishment that was quite amusing. They were all dressed in irreproachable black broad-cloth, and had it not been for their almond-shaped eyes and coffee-coloured complexions, they would have passed muster on Broadway for well-dressed Spaniards.

Prince Schemidzo Jugad, who had charge of the party, was educated in this country, and now occupies a very high position near the person of the Mikado. The Prince is about thirty years of age, and has a very prepossessing appearance. He converses in English fluently, and with scarcely a perceptible accent. He is quite intelligent, and, though somewhat reserved and haughty, he conversed on various topics with considerable animation, and alluded more than once to his thorough knowledge of the English language and his familiarity with American institutions. He says that the young Japanese, not one of whom is over twenty years of age, are very apt and eager in their desire to acquire knowledge, and will beyond a doubt, make rapid progress in the various studies to which they may apply their minds.

Prince Schemidzo Jugad further stated that the young noblemen are to be instructed with the object of fitting them for important positions in the Foreign Office of Japan, which had recently become a very important department of the Japanese State. Upon his arrival, the Prince, followed by his charges, stepped up to the hotel register and wrote, in fair legible characters, "Prince Schemidzo Jugad, Japan, with twenty nine companions."

Soon after their arrival the Japanese were shown to their respective rooms, as much to escape the insolent curiosity of the crowd which had gathered in the hotel vestibule, as to refresh themselves after their long jaunt across the continent. The distinguished visitors will remain but a few days in the City in order to view the objects of interest, when they will be sent in detachments of four or five to the different colleges throughout the country.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

ENGLAND.

The Queen is recovering from her recent illness.

A Committee of French Citizens have arrived in Ireland. Their mission is to thank the Irish people for the aid and sympathy they extended to the people of France, during the late war. The Dublinites are wild with excitement, and gave the Committee a most cordial reception.

Napoleon has declined to receive the address of welcome, which it has been proposed to tender him, except at the expressed wish of the British nation.

In Konigsberg, Prussia, on the 14th inst., sixty-two persons were attacked by cholera, and twenty-two deaths from the disease occurred.

The meeting of the Emperors of Germany and Austria and their advisers at Gastein is regarded as a pledge of peace.

The French pretend to be indifferent to the meeting, and predict an alliance between France and Russia.

In the House of Lords the Queen's assent to the Army Regulation Bill was announced.

In the House of Commons Viscount Enfield, Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs said that a searching investigation had been ordered into the facts of the recent murdering of six Englishmen in Peru.

Mr Gladstone spoke at length in defence of the action of Police at the Dublin meeting of the 12th inst., in reply to a remark of Mr. McGuire, Member for Cork, and others. Finally a division of the House was called for, and resulted in a majority of 52 in favor of the course of the Government in suppression of Dublin meeting.

Despatch from Petersburg says Prince Gortschakoff has announced that he told the Deputation from the American Evangelical Alliance, when they appeared before him to remonstrate against the intolerance of the Greek Church, that their mission had the appearance of interference

with the domestic affairs of Russia; and that Russia would not tolerate a shadow of interference. He refused to present their message to the Czar and dismissed them.

A despatch from Madrid states that there are great Republican rejoicings throughout the city, on account of the liberation of a member of the Cortes charged with complicity in the assassination of General Prim.

The Spanish Government arrest all known Communists who seek shelter in Spain. One prominent French Communist has been arrested and sent to Paris.

A despatch from Konigsberg says that there were thirty-four deaths from Cholera on Tuesday, and thirty on Wednesday, and that the disease is spreading rapidly.

A large Lambs' Wool Factory was destroyed by fire in Leicester last night.

An unknown yacht is reported as having been seen to capsize off the coast of Devonshire.

A duty of one franc per ton will be exacted by France as a tonnage tax upon all vessels entering French ports.

The ex-Emperor Napoleon has given a feté at Chiselhurst, at which telegrams were read from the Czar of Russia, King of Sweden, Emperor of Austria, King of Portugal, King of Holland, Prince of Wales, and others.

Recent accounts from Persia represent the famine as worse than was at first reported. Twenty-seven thousand deaths from starvation alone, have occurred at Isphahan, while at Mazeen Devan, where the rice crop, the principal hope of the inhabitants, is an utter failure, the Cattle Plague, Typhus Fever, and Cholera prevail to an alarming extent.

The Government of Persia underrated the condition of affairs, and so far as it can, contradicts the reports of the ravages of the famine, because it is the result of its own oppression.

Postal Conference at Berlin suggest International Treaties between Europe and American Powers, making a uniform rate of letter postage, regardless of distance, 20 centimes prepaid, 40 centimes unpaid, with additional charge by sea.

Prominent medical and other health authorities declare that there is little or no danger that the Asiatic cholera will be seen as far west as the United States during the present year, but that it seems to be steadily and surely coming.

The condition of the health of Princess Christian is causing much anxiety to the members of the British Royal family. It is feared that the Princess is suffering from an affection of the lungs, and the medical men in attendance under her have recommended an entire change of air.

A typhoon in Japan Aug. 4 caused the loss of four hundred lives. Several vessels were wrecked, including the "Pride of the Thames," and the captain, two mates and steward were drowned. Damage to property estimated at half a million dollars.

Catherine Hatch, governess of an infant school, was charged at one of the London Police Courts, on the 19th ult., with having unmercifully flogged a boy of four years of age. The child was produced in court, when his back was found to be one mass of bruises, and presented a most shocking appearance. She was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment, with hard labor.

FRANCE.—Difficulties have arisen in Berlin in respect to the evacuation of four departments of France still held by the Germans. The French Government has in consequence refused to admit Alsatian produce to the French markets until after the German troops leave the soil of France.

Negotiations for complete evacuation of France by Germans are still pending. The journals continue to report outrages committed by Germans in France.

The "Patrie" says that Russia is making great military preparations. Prussia is also filling up her cadres, perfecting her armaments, and collecting enormous quantities of stores.

It is positively ascertained that a majority of the Assembly will support, slightly modified, a proposition conferring the Presidency for three years on Thiers.

Pouyer Quertier, Minister of Finance, has gone to Germany for an interview with Bismarck, relative to evacuation of French territory by German troops.

The election committee of the Assembly have reached the vote upon Thiers' term of office to three years, and stand 9 in opposition, and 6 in favor of the proposition.

A Paris despatch says that M. Groussot, one of the late Communist Cabinet, now being tried before the Court Martial at Versailles, accuses Mr. Washburne, the American Minister, with harbouring Prussians during the war.