

What shall be done with the Crimea?

Gibraltar the key, and Malta the heart, of the Mediterranean, were for many years the subjects of bitter sword controversy and jealousy between France and Spain on the one hand and Great Britain on the other. Who does not remember the terrible attack of the allied fleets of England's enemies on Gibraltar—the incomparable valour which resisted it—and the mainly generosity which hastened to save those whom their own madness doomed to destruction between fire and water! But British skill, intrepidity and perseverance wrested from, and maintained against, all Europe both these most important stations. It is now to be regretted that she cannot take and keep possession of the Crimea. There could be nothing more propitious for the civilization and religious enlightenment of that portion of the world. But such a destination for the Crimea is entirely out of question. France cannot consent that Britain should possess it, neither can Britain give it to France. But it seems to be agreed on all sides that Russia must not be permitted to keep it. There seems little doubt but that it will be wrested from her, if not before spring, at least in another summer campaign. Sooner or later the Allies will have undisputed possession of the Crimea; and when once the armies of Russia shall have been driven beyond the Putrid Sea and the Isthmus of Perekop the task of keeping what they have won will be an easy matter for the Allies seeing that they have the unchallenged mastery of the sea. And Russia will henceforth be viewed with less dread throughout the world. The charm of her invincibility is dissolved: for she has not won a single battle since the opening of the present war; and within the last two years her battalions have been routed, she has suffered humiliation and defeat at the Alma, Balaclava, Inkermann, and the Tchernaya. Sebastopol has been wrested from her. Kars has withstood her utmost efforts. Kinburn, Otchakoff, Taman, Taganrog, Kerch, and all the coasts of the Sea of Azoff, Swaborg and Bomarsund in the Baltic, have been visited with destruction; and the Czar can neither save them nor avenge them. It will not therefore be a difficult matter for the Allies to keep permanent possession of the Crimea. The opinion in well informed quarters seems to be that—

The Crimea must, under no circumstances and on no conditions, be restored to Russia; and her Trans-Caucasian conquests must be wrested from her. But what then must be done with the Crimea? A writer in the November number of the North British Review answers the question in the following admirable manner:—

It must be in the hands of some Power which cannot use it amiss—which no one fears—which has and can have no sinister or dangerous designs. Sardinia is such a Power.—She has deserved well of the Allies. She has a gallant army—for its size about the best in Europe. She is essentially a commercial nation, and will develop and protect the commerce of the Black Sea. In her hands Sebastopol may become a vast emporium of industry and enterprise. She has an excellent constitution and a liberal tariff. And, above all, she can have no hopes or wishes of aggrandisement in that quarter. She will hold the Crimea in trust for the peace and interest of Europe. Assign it to her under the guarantee of a general European treaty; fortify her the two great roads which connect it with Russia; assist her for a term of years with a subsidy equal with the possession will involve her.—and the Eastern Question will be settled in the most effective, enduring, and economical mode possible. Sardinia would be able to maintain the Crimea against a coup-de-main; against a deliberate and prolonged war, she would be backed by the common forces of all the parties to the general treaty of pacification.

The new Colonial Secretary, MR. LABOUCHERE is one of the old whigs of the Russell school. He is well advanced in years; is not much of a speaker; nor indeed much of any thing except a correct plodding common sense man. Had he been in office six months ago it is not likely that Mr. Hincks would now be gazing the list of Colonial governorship, Sir William Molesworth was not at all unfriendly to innovations—no great stickler for precedents. The following are the comments of the London Times on the appointment.

This department, unhappily vacated by the death of Sir William Molesworth, after being refused, as our readers know, by Lord Stanley, and after being refused by Mr. Sidney Herbert, has been offered to Mr. Labouchere, and accepted by him. That the name of this gentleman should have been mentioned from the first day of the vacancy, and that the office should nevertheless have been offered nearly to at least two other statesmen in opposition to the Government and to one another, is a fact that speaks for itself. Notwithstanding all that is said about liberality, and the coming of a new era, and other large ideas, when the moment arrives they generally give way to the actual force of political connection, or party, as we suppose it must be called. Lord Palmerston has fallen back on a trust-

worthy and competent man who will transact the business of his department with regularity, and perhaps with despatch. There cannot be very much to do in it, or at least there is not much that requires anxious consideration of the chief, if we are to judge from the way in which the office has been knocked about for the last twelve months. Mr. Labouchere, we think, is the fifth secretary within that brief period, nay, virtually the sixth, as Sir George Grey held the reins for Lord John Russell while he was away at Vienna. As there has been no very loud complaint as yet from the persons most interested in the colonies, none at least so loud as when one energetic mind was concentrated for several years on the government of the colonies, it may be concluded that a respectable man's business will do for the purpose.—We do not now attempt to govern the colonies in the old sense of the word. We allow them to govern themselves, and it is only within a very limited range that we can arise any discrepancy between our and imperial legislation.

On Tuesday the instant the Rev. James McLean, rector of Mabou, was inducted to the pastoral charge of the Congregation of the River, Shubenacadie and Lower Stewiacke.

Rev. P. G. McGregor preached an appropriate discourse. Rev. J. Cameron narrated the steps taken by the Presbytery in the matter, and the people, having by a show of hands, declared their adherence to the call, Mr. Cameron proposed the usual questions, which having been satisfactorily answered, he offered the induction prayer. Rev. Mr. Sedgwick charged the minister and Mr. McGregor the Congregation. May the great Lord of the Harvest give strength and perseverance to his servant in cultivating the field on which he has entered, and provide, in his abounding grace, a faithful successor to labour in the equally destitute section of country which he has just left.

The ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY having refused to proceed further with the trial of Archdeacon Dennison, to the Rev. Joseph Ditcher applied to the COURT of QUEEN'S BENCH to compel him to proceed. The order was granted by the Court and now the Archbishop, whether he will or not must give the heretic Dennison a trial. What a commentary this on the discipline of the Church of England!

MECHANICS INSTITUTE.—HON. JOSEPH HOWE delivered his second lecture before the Institute on Wednesday evening last. It was very interesting, instructive, and even brilliant. His descriptions of the various parts of Paris were truly graphic and life-like.

MR. HUGO REID "principal of Dalhousie College," is to deliver the next two lectures. Subject, The Steam Engine.

Letter from Rev. G. N. Gordon. 4 BELLE-VUE COTTAGES, GROVE ST., HACKNEY, LONDON, Nov. 20, 1855.

In compliance with the request of some of my friends in Halifax for a communication from me during my sojourn in England, which they might receive through the Witness, I now send you a few lines in relation to my visit to this country, and the future prospects in the Polynesian mission-field, which I hope will prove acceptable, by your favour, to my esteemed friends in Halifax and the country who read the Witness.

By the good providence of God, I had a propitious passage to Liverpool, which, with all its monotony, I enjoyed with some pleasure and profit. During the summer season while I was sojourning through the beautiful island of Prince Edward's, and through Nova Scotia with all its varied scenery, I was called in a special manner to contemplate the wisdom and goodness of the Creator so strikingly manifested in such rich and picturesque scenes, so well fitted to fill the soul with admiration and gratitude towards the Universal Lord. But the very different emotions of wonder and awe are especially awakened in the mind by contemplating God's works in a sea-voyage. The Psalmist calls our attention to the wonders of God which are to be seen in the deep. And these wonders, which are to be seen in the struggles of two powerful never-resting elements of nature, while they awaken appropriate emotions, also afford us an interesting and instructive contrast with terrestrial scenes, which should be improved by mariners and passengers to the glory of God. As the America glided over the mountain waves at the speed of about three hundred miles a day, with as much agility as a young roe skipping upon the mountains, I could not but wish for such a speedy mode of conveyance to the isles of the Pacific. And this may be the case at no very distant period—for the propriety of forming a depot for vessels at New Caledonia, where there are coal-mines, is now discussed by speculators. I was favored on the passage with the acquaintance of several, apparently excellent persons, among whom was Dr. Parker of China. On the first Lord's-day on which I was on board, I expounded the Scriptures, at noon, to some of the passengers, and gave some instructions from God's word to the sailors, who appeared to be very much in need of useful books. On the second Lord's-day I preached at 10 A. M. to a congregation of persons from America, Europe, and India, to all of

whom the word of God was given in the evening I expounded a portion of God's word in the second sabbath, and having learnt that the previous Sabbath evening had been very much profaned, at a late hour, by some of the passengers, I sought to prevent the recurrence of such conduct, and therefore, after reading and expounding the Scriptures to them, I requested a man present, who had been a singer to a congregation, to favor us with some hymns, which he readily did. Other good singers soon joined in the same delightful exercise, several psalms and 112 were sung, and the singing protracted till a late hour, to the exquisite delight and profit of all present. The evening was fine—the moon shone brightly—the ocean smiled placidly under the moon's reflected light—Old England was in view, and during the night we gently glided up to Liverpool harbor, where we were early in the morning, and this we were favored with a splendid view of the city, harbor, and docks. I remained but one day in Liverpool, during which I visited the Sailor's Home, which is an honor to the city, and especially to the excellent gentlemen who founded it, and who, amidst many trials, are still seeking to do good to wandering mariners. I did not visit other places of importance in the city for want of time. I learnt from an Episcopal pastor and others, that many of the inhabitants are sunk in vice. After my arrival in London, I obtained a map and directory of the city, from which I learnt many things which are essential for a stranger to know. I have not yet taken time to visit the Crystal Palace, British Museum, and other places of great attraction, which I may yet have an opportunity to do. There are places in London which are especially dear to me, though a stranger, on account of the associations which they call up—a visit to which I regard with a kind of sacredness—such as Paternoster Row, Smithfield, and Westminster Hall, pass through London Hospital, which is the way to the medical studies under very peculiar circumstances. The "Palace of the Queen," and there is or can be open on a Sunday, where there is a place of gospel preaching, whose name the place bears sought to be destroyed by persecuting its servants to death. It also has its own peculiar associations, which are instructive to the passers-by, who reflect on its past and present.

To be continued. For the Presbyterian Witness. Mic-Mac Mission.

NOTES OF A COLLECTION OF TOUR TO CHARLOTTETOWN, PIETOU, AND TRURO.

MR. EDITOR,—Allow me, through the medium of your paper, to thank the friends of the "Mic-Mac" for the liberal aid they have afforded to our cause. On the first day of November I left Halifax by the direction of the committee of the Mic-Mac Mission, for the purpose of visiting Pietou and Charlottetown in order to collect funds for the payment of the second instalment for land, &c. I reached Pietou that evening, or rather, next morning at 10 o'clock, and after a few hours, embarked on the steamer for Charlottetown. On the day following, I had the opportunity of addressing a very large audience in the Temperance Hall—Commander Otterbar, R.N. on the Chair. Next day I commenced the process of calling upon the people for subscriptions. I spent about a week in the city and vicinity, and obtained nearly £60 Halifax currency. I was obliged to hasten back, the season being advanced, and reached Pietou on Wednesday, Nov. 14th, in time to attend an appointment in Rev. Mr. Bain's Church—I forgot the name of the tutelar saint—and spent about a week in Pietou county. On the Monday evening following I addressed a large congregation in Mr. Roy's Church, New Glasgow, and had another meeting at West River on the following Wednesday evening. On the intervening Sabbath I had the pleasure of riding with the Rev. Mr. Sutherland, minister of the Free Church, to Roger's Hill, wrapped in his "Highland plaid," which I found very comfortable on so cold a day. I preached the second sermon, and listened to the first, 'till it was in Gaelic, and in the evening addressed a crowded audience in the Free Church at Pietou. In each case I delivered a short address, at the close of the sermon, on the Mic-Mac Mission. My worthy brother would not permit me to sing a psalm in an "unknown tongue" during the Sabbath day service, lest some of his good people should be "stumbled." This did not, however, prevent me from listening to a luxury of that kind. I was quite enraptured with the Gaelic singing at Roger's Hill. It was delightful. The precursor, who certainly possesses a rich, soft musical voice, read out, or rather chanted the lines, one at a time, and I, in my happy ignorance, mistook the reading for singing—I supposed he was giving us a solo, and that it was part of the tune to be sung next. The effect was indescribably solemn and pleasing. I listened with patience to the sermon about as long as I ever got a white man to listen patiently to any of Mac addresses. Friends who accompany me to the "wigwam" usually become very fidgety after the first half hour, and take, as I did, the first opportunity to escape. I missed the last psalm.

But were I to begin to describe the various interesting adventures I met with, the pleasing acquaintances formed with ministers and others, and the renewal of former acquaintances, I should hardly know where to stop; your patience, and that of your readers, would be tried beyond endurance.

I obtained about £60 in Pietou county, and over £20 at Truro and Onslow. I had the pleasure of visiting the Normal School at Truro, and was greatly pleased with its appearance and prospects. I listened while the Principal, Rev. Mr. Forrester, examined a large class of male and female "teachers" on one of his previous lectures. It was truly an interesting sight. As I saw them all sitting, pencil in hand, taking notes, I could not help wishing to give them a helping hand by inducing them to learn at once and practice and teach the "Pronographic art." Providentially, my wishes were in part realized. On Friday evening last I learned that one of the pupils

was delivering a lecture on "Nemotechny" in the Academy. I hastened over and got there just in time to be too late. I told some of them I would like, had I an opportunity, to give them a lecture on Phonography. They said—"do it now, it is early in the evening." No sooner said than done. They wheeled into line, resumed their seats, and I mounted the rostrum and explained the principles of the art, and offered to furnish them at once with a number of the Elementary Books. By the request of the ladies I closed by singing an "Indian Medley," and opened my subscription list to the Mic-Mac Mission—delenda est Carthago—and obtained several donations. I was followed to my lodgings by a number of all the Phonographic instructors in my possession, and engaged to send on more. Every body should learn to write short-hand. It must soon become an indispensable branch of instruction in all our common as well as our higher schools.

Next day, Saturday, I left in the coach for Halifax. Passing the Railroad shanties we took in a wounded man, and were horrified with his account of his "blowing up," as he called it. We had not proceeded many miles before we were stopped by a wagon across the road, and two prostrate horses in the ditch. Providentially the drivers—two doctors, returning from looking after the wounded men—were all right. We all turned out and pulled up the poor horses, or rather, helped them to pull themselves up. Whereupon we resumed our seats in the coach, and were glad to find ourselves safely deposited at our lodging places a little before 9 o'clock.

Yours truly, S. T. RAND.

For the Presbyterian Witness.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir, I feel ashamed to trouble you by again presenting myself in your columns. I feel thus not on account of my position, nor from any doubt as to the importance of my subject, but because of my unworthiness of occupying the one, and my inability for treating the other. I have been waiting since my last communication, fondly expecting that something more would be done towards ameliorating the condition of those working on the Railway. I had at least flattered myself that some able and worthier advocate than I would have appeared on the stage before now. But as all are silent, and I am ignorant of anything definite having been done for supplying the spiritual wants of Railway laborers, I feel constrained to raise my unworthy voice even though I should remain unheard and unheeded. Let him who reads refrain from criticizing my composition. Let him behold in me nothing more than one who comes forward to plead for his fellow-laborers, and who, in so doing, desires to speak the truth in language unadorned, save with common sense.

Doubtless my Christian friends are aware of the sad and deplorable condition of those working on the Railway. I believe I have no need to enumerate or represent to my readers those evils which are stalking abroad here almost unheeded and unopposed. Were I to do so I might speak of the destroying torrent of drunkenness which is sweeping onward with all its attendant evils, and engulfing its hundreds—I might tell of the enticing and ensnaring sin of gambling—of spending the Sabbath in pleasure excursions, in trucking provisions, or in cutting wood. All these evils prevail to an extent almost surpassing belief. Impressions of a different nature may have been produced on some by the reports of travellers. It such has been the case with any of my readers I would beg them to remember that it is easier for a passer-by to be led astray by appearances than for a dweller, intimate with the place and conversant in the scenes, to be deceived. But whatever be the degree of the wickedness, or the extent to which it prevails, there is none but will allow that it is bad; enough to require a remedy, and extensive enough to demand vigorous exertion for its suppression. This is a fact which none can deny. With few honorable exceptions, every shanty is a rum-shop, and every rumshop a gambling house. Nothing of a special kind has been done to counteract the destroying influence of these soul-ensnaring dens. Comparatively speaking, the means of grace have been wanting. Seldom was the opportunity granted of spending a portion of the Sabbath listening to the Gospel preached. No wonder then that the Sabbath finds the rumshops full, and too often the gambling tables occupied by those who feel its hours hang heavily on their heads.

True, on rare occasions the Rev. Messrs. Martin, Sprott, and some others, have visited the Railroad. But these visits have been few and far between, and often they have been so unexpected that few of the inhabitants knew any of them till the sermon was over, and, perhaps, the minister home. That such visits would ensure the greatest amount of success, and would leave permanent impressions for good behind, they would require to be often and better notified.

I do not take it upon me to inquire if the Evangelized Christians of Halifax and vicinity have been doing their duty with respect to the Railway laborers—leaving them thus almost destitute of the means of grace. The papacy is not unconcerned nor ungrateful of the devotees of their superstition. Shipwrecked here our emissaries here again and again. Shall Protestantism leave such a wide field uncontestingly prey to the insidious missionaries of the Man of Sin? Surely not. Protestant missionaries are wanted here. Can they not be sent? Certainly they can. It cannot surely be impossible to enable us to have the privilege of hearing a sermon oftener than once in six weeks. What say you, Presbyterians of Halifax? Has not this subject a claim on your attention? If it has, can you in any way answer its demands? If you cannot wish in this matter and do something? I do not wish to dictate, but if you cannot even then, are there not many evangelical bodies in Halifax to whom you can give the right hand of fellowship, and who would gladly assist you in this work and labour of love? The Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia has lately

sent another of her missionaries far hence to the Gentiles, will she not evince her missionary spirit among those who, comparatively speaking, stand at her very door?

Yours truly, ONE ENGAGED ON THE RAILWAY.

DOMESTIC NEWS.

ACCIDENT.—A young man named John Burke, belonging to Isaac's Harbour, was unfortunately drowned by falling overboard while assisting to moor a vessel at Messrs. Wier & Co's wharf, during the blow on Sunday night last. Deceased was a young man of excellent character. The coroner's jury returned a verdict as above.

NEW RAILWAY CONTRACT.—On Tuesday last, the Railway Commissioners opened a heap of tenders that were offered, pursuant to conditions previously advertised, for constructing a section of the Railway, about 7 miles in length, on the Eastern road, leading to Truro. There were nineteen separate tenders submitted. Messrs. Spencer Sutherland & Son, of Canada, secured the contract, for their estimate of the cost of performing the work was below the valuation that any other competitor named. Exclusive of iron materials that the Commissioners provide the Contractors have engaged to finish this section at the rate of 4,500 a mile.—Chron.

ACCIDENTS.—Dr. Jennings was summoned to attend no less than four cases of personal injury, on the Railroad, yesterday forenoon. His aid was first required by a son of Mr. McIntosh, carpenter at Sackville, who had his leg broken by a horse, that he was in charge of, falling upon him. The doctor was next obliged to hasten to the section near Shultz's called "Fraser's Contract," where three men, employed in excavating rock, were suffering from the untimely explosion of a blast. One of the sufferers Davis, from Wallace, received the whole of the charge in his face, but owing to the application of opportune relief, he is nevertheless likely to recover without retaining any trace of the wound in his countenance.—ib.

SUDDEN DEATH.—A young man named Parks, brother of the master of a vessel at Fairbanks' wharf, was seized with a fit of desperate illness on Thursday evening, and expired in an hour after the commencement of the attack.—ib.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The following appointments bear date November 30, 1855: To be Justices of the Peace for the County of Shelburne—Robt. E. Woodill and James Muir, Esqrs. To be Notaries and Tabellions Public—John C. Whidden and Jared C. Troop, Esqrs. To be Surveyor of Shipping for the District of St. Mary's Guysborough—Alexander McDonald, Esq.

To be a Commissioner for taking Affidavits and Recognizances of Bail in the Superior Court, and for the relief of Insolvent Debtors—Nathaniel W. White, Esquire—Oct. 1855.

TEACHERS DEVOURD BY CANIBALS.—The missionary ship John Williams, named after the heroic martyr of Iromanga, has recently completed a voyage among the New Hebrides and other Western groups.—Among the news she brings is the following: On reaching the Island of Fate, the distressing news was brought on board that some of the teachers, with their wives, left their on the last voyage, had been barbarously murdered. Only nineteen days after they were landed under the most cheering circumstances, the two Rarotongan teachers and their wives were murdered to furnish materials for a horrid cannibal banquet. The reason of this sudden act of cruelty could not be learned.—N. Y. Observer, Nov. 22.

A NEW-BRISWICKER DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF ABROAD.—Mr. James Heirie Street, son of the Hon. J. A. Street, of Fredericton, who has been doing duty as Assistant Surgeon in the 30th Regiment, in the Crimea, has been promoted to the first Assistant Surgeon of the thirty-ninth, for his gallant conduct in accompanying his regiment, when it went into action at the storming of the Redan, on the 8th of September.

THANKSGIVING DAY.—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by proclamation (which will be found here in our columns) has appointed the 27th day of December next, to be observed throughout the Province as a day of general thanksgiving. We sincerely hope that there will be a unanimous response to this appointment, by the people of the Province. The Almighty has dealt bountifully with us during the past year, and as a people, our gratitude to Him, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift, should be made manifest.

MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE IN CANADA.—The marriage of Sophia, second daughter of Sir Allan McNab, Premier of the Canadian Ministry, to William Coats, Viscount Bury, only son of the Earl of Albemarle, took place at Dundurn Castle the residence of the bride's father, on Thursday last, with great éclat.

WASHINGTON NEWS.—Washington Nov. 25.—The Union has been authorized by the State Department to say that Mr. Buchanan has had two conferences with Lord Clarendon, in relation to the West India squadron, at which Lord Clarendon stated that the squadron originated in no purpose unfriendly to the United States, but its object was to protect British commerce against Russian privateers, three or four of which, as he had been informed, were fitting out in New York, one being nearly ready for sea, and one said to be a very large and fast vessel, specially intended to intercept British ships conveying Australian gold, with the purpose first, however, to capture one of the Cunard steamers. In justification of the statement Lord Clarendon had referred to the case of the barque Maury, as represented in the affidavit sent to him, and said to be communicated by Mr. Barclay, the British consul in New York, to Mr. Crampton, and by him transmitted to the British government, and at the same time laid before our government.

The appearance of Sir Colin Campbell at the United Service Club on Saturday last created quite a sensation among those who were fortunate enough to be present on his arrival. Many of his old companions in arms in the Peninsular and Indian campaigns congregated about the gallant veteran, and welcomed him with a cordial warmth and enthusiasm that must have been highly gratifying to the brave old soldier.