

In 1833, the Rev. Mr Perkins and his wife were sent by the American Board of Commissioners as Missionaries to the Nestorians in Persia. Having crossed the Atlantic and passed through the Mediterranean and Black Seas, after stopping a while at Constantinople, on their way to Trebizond, about 600 miles east of that city, they left the sea, and took up their perilous journey of 7 or 800 miles by land. The details of this journey as given by the Missionary, form a striking picture of the perils often encountered by those devoted servants of Christ who take their lives in their hands, and go forth to carry the Gospel to souls ready to perish.

It was between midnight and morning when Mr Perkins reached the village of Galivan, where Bishop Yohanna resided. The inhabitants were asleep, but the bishop, immediately on being informed of the arrival of a Christian Missionary from America, an event he had been led to anticipate after the visit of Messrs. Smith and Dwight, ran out into the yard while it was yet dark to meet him. From that time to the present he has continued to be a devoted friend to the Missionaries.

During seven years the zealous Missionaries of the American Board have been laboring among this people, and we learn with pleasure that they have not interfered in any way with the religious practices of the Nestorian Church, and those under their immediate charge are left free to attend the stated worship of their synagogues, and to observe the fasts and festivals of their Church.—Their aim is—simply—to impart religious knowledge from the pure Word of God; to revive the sinning piety of the Church, and impart useful secular learning. They do not wish to impair the liturgy of the Church, nor to disturb its ecclesiastical organization; but they intend to give them their Prayer Books in a language which they understand, and to infuse into the bishops and clergy more of the spirit of Christ.

Among the first steps taken by the Missionaries, was the reduction of the common language of the people to written characters. In this work Mr Perkins was greatly aided by Bishop Yohanna and Priest Abraham. When they had accomplished this important object, a printing press had reached them, and we are told nothing could exceed the delight of the Nestorians when they saw the first page of the Gospel of Jesus Christ come out from the press, printed in a language familiar to all. The New Testament was soon struck off, and an abundant supply will now be furnished to those who never before possessed this invaluable treasure, the merchandize of which is better than the merchandize of silver, and the gain thereof than pure gold. And though all this was accomplished by Christians of another name, and who are worshippers under other forms than ours, we trust that we are not incapable of honoring their pious zeal and liberal sacrifices, and of rejoicing over their eminent success.

It gives us pleasure to add that our own Church has not been altogether unmindful of the spiritual necessities of the decayed and decrepid Christian Churches of the East. In the year, 1836, the Foreign Committee of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church, despatched the Rev. Mr Southgate on a Missionary exploring tour in Armenia, Persia, and Mesopotamia. In the course of his travels he visited Ooroomiah, passed a week in the house of the Missionaries, and there became acquainted with bishop Yohanna, of whom he makes honorable mention in his published journal. Mr Southgate speaks in high praise of the judicious and successful course of evangelical labour pursued by the Missionaries at Ooroomiah. And allow me here to recommend to the members of this parish the perusal of the interesting and instructive narrative of his tour through Armenia, Kurdistan, Persia and Mesopotamia. If our people would be at more pains to inform themselves as to what is actually doing in the Missionary field, there would be more prayers offered, and far more liberal contributions made for this great work of evangelizing the world.

In reviewing what has been done in behalf of the Nestorians, a writer asks—Is it not most remarkable, in the course of Divine Providence, that a Church in the interior regions of Africa, which for so many centuries, was one of the most distinguished lights of the world, should now be in the process of re-illumination, by means of a mission from the continent, of the existence of which no one of the long succession of Nestorian Missionaries had a thought? The light of the Gospel having visited the ends of the earth, is travelling back to the centre, where it had been extinguished. The object of the mission to the Nestorians however, is not merely the restoration of the Gospel to that people. It is expected through the divine blessing to renew their missions to the countries in Central Asia. What is needed among them is a pious, well educated priesthood. Let there be such a priesthood, and let Mar Elias the present patriarch and his successors, feel as did the patriarch Timotheus a thousand years ago, and let his bishops feel as did those whom Timotheus sent forth, and we shall need to send but few Missionaries into Central Asia from those western shores. We shall find them nearer the field of action,—oriental men with oriental habits and manners, better fitted than men from this western world to win their way to the hearts of an oriental people.

We have abundant testimony of the impressive and pungent manner in which Bishop Yohanna preached the Gospel in his native

language to the people of his charge, and urges upon them with power and eloquence, the performance of every Christian duty. It would be extremely gratifying, if the Bishop would venture, with his limited knowledge of the English tongue, to address a few words to his fellow Christians here assembled, in whose behalf, as well as in behalf of our own right reverend bishop, I again greet him with a cordial welcome to this sanctuary, and to this sacred altar of the Lord.

## EUROPEAN NEWS.

From London Papers to the 4th April.

London Morning Herald, April 4.

LISBON, March 28.

I missed the opportunity of writing by her Majesty's Steamer Rhadamanthus, which left this port on the 22d; but it was of little consequence as there was nothing of interest to communicate. The only news that I could have sent by that vessel was, that the Queen had issued a decree for the re-embodiment of the national guard, according to the new plan of organization established for it about 16 months ago. The object of the alteration then made was to render it like the former militia, subordinate and subservient to the Government, instead of being as before a perfectly independent body, proclaiming itself, at all times, a check upon the power of the Crown, and often assuming an attitude of menace towards it; and this object was in a great measure effected by withdrawing from the soldiers the right, which they had till then exercised, of appointing their officers, and vesting it in the Government. This measure, therefore, is far from being one of a revolutionary tendency, as it may, at first sight appear to those who are not aware of the material change made in the organization of that force. On the contrary, its effect will be to give greater strength and stability to the Queen's Government, especially as good care has been taken to exclude all those turbulent spirits who so greatly signalized themselves on former occasions, and to recruit the ranks of the national guard from those classes of citizens, solely, who have something to lose and nothing to gain by disorder, feel it their interest to maintain public tranquility undisturbed.

The christening of the royal infant which was to take place on the 30th instant, is to be delayed until the nuncio, Monsignor Capacini, receives the necessary procuration from the Pope (who it now appears is to be the godfather) to act for him. This proof of renewed friendliness between the courts of Lisbon and Rome cannot fail greatly to annoy and alarm the Spanish Government, particularly when viewed in conjunction with the severe censure lately pronounced by his Holiness upon the conduct of that government in regard to the church. The Government of Portugal never acted with greater wisdom than it has done in conciliating, as far as it can, the good will of the Papal court, and that of Spain would do well to follow its example, for the thunders of the Vatican are by no means innocuous in this part of the world (I speak of the Peninsula as a whole), and if once launched forth in downright earnest might raise a commotion which it would be no easy matter to quell.

The office of Minister of Foreign Affairs is yet vacant, M. Rodrigo da Fonseca still persisting in his resolution not to join the present Administration, notwithstanding all the endeavours that have been made to win him over. I am not able to give any further information respecting the arrangements made by the Finance Minister with the bank and tobacco contract for an advance of money, the

particulars having not yet been made public.

BRUSSELS, March 31.

The ceremony of the consecration of the Pope's internuncio, on Sunday morning, at Malines, will commence at eight o'clock in the morning. According to the intention of the Cardinal Archbishop, the ceremony will be performed with a degree of solemnity suited to the elevated position of the representative of the Holy see. All the bishops of Belgium, as well as Monsignore d'Argenteau, Bishop of Tyre, will be present.

On no former occasion have we seen in Belgium so numerous a body of bishops presided over by a prince of the Church.

April 1.

The *Journal de la Belgique* says, 'We learn that the negotiations between Belgium and Holland relative to the navigation on the intermediate water between the Scheldt and the Rhine, may be considered as broken off.'

At three o'clock this morning we received the Paris papers of Friday and Saturday. There is very little to notice in them.

The Messenger announces that Government has received official confirmations that the differences with the republic of Hayti have been settled to the entire satisfaction of both parties.

The Commerce has advices from Madrid and Barcelona, of the 27th, stating that the accounts from all the Spanish provinces were highly satisfactory, that the expected arrival at Madrid of Don Francisco de Paula occupied much of the public attention and that a marriage between the eldest son of the prince and the young Queen was again confidently talked of.

The *Revue des deux Mondes*, of the 1st of April, has some lines on the present condition of the Ottoman empire. It says 'All the efforts of the powers of Europe will only prolong the agony of the empire, for they can neither renovate its energies nor allow it to perish.'

The business done this week in the Produce Markets has been to a moderate extent, but at lower prices for almost every principal article—viz., tea, sugar, tallow, and cotton. It is highly necessary that the new tariff should be quickly adopted, as business is totally impeded by the suspense that prevails.

In the cotton market at Liverpool, the same state of things exists. The sales of the week there have been 18,940 bales, generally at reduced prices. Stock now, 533,540 bales, and at the corresponding date in 1841 372,360 bales.

A return of the imports, &c., of Tea in London gives the following results:—The imports this year have been 6,420,035 lbs; and to the same time last year were 3,865,383. The deliveries to this time last year were 8,902,988 lbs, and this year have been 8,476,970 lbs. The stock is 27,844,253 lbs, and in April, 1841, was 33,407,299 lbs. Of Congou the supply is 18,725,634 lbs.

Sir George Arthur is appointed Governor of Bombay, in succession to the late Sir H. McNaghten.

The Army.—The standard for recruits is reduced to five feet 54 inches; last week however, such was the difficulty of procuring men in Dublin that the bounty had risen to £11. It is intended to call out veteran battalions immediately for garrison duty at home, also to raise two more West India regiments, and a second battalion of the Canadian Rifle Corps. Consequent upon the augmentation of 6 regiments, the following regiments

will be ordered home from North America, viz. the Foot Guards, the 56th, 57th, 61st and 70th.

By the last overland mail we learn that large supplies and several regiments were ordered to be embarked from India to China by the 15th March. Sixteen transports had been taken up at Calcutta alone. Instructions had been received in India to comply with whatever requisition Sir H. Pottinger may make for stores or troops.

A determination to speedily settle matters in China on a firm basis has been communicated to the Governor General of India, and consequent on this the extensive scale of armament I have alluded to has been adopted. We expect to learn by the next accounts from China of the retaking of Canton, and the final departure of the expedition for Peking.

The Navy.—There are now building in the various Dockyards 19 new steam frigates.

Sir Henry Hardinge is spoken of as the expected commander of the ten thousand troops destined for the seat of war in Afghanistan.

SOUTHAMPTON, Saturday.

Great consternation prevailed here this morning, in consequence of its being reported that a portion of the stupendous tunnel near Warren Farm, had fallen in just at the moment a train was passing beneath, and that a great number of lives were sacrificed. I immediately proceeded to the terminus of the railway, and after waiting till one o'clock the seven o'clock down train from London arrived, confirming, as far as the giving way of the tunnel, the information. It appears, however, that the accident happened soon after the seven o'clock train from Southampton had passed through and that several workmen were busily employed in it at the time. On the arrival of the seven o'clock train from London at the tunnel, the passengers were taken on to the next station in carriages, which had been prepared with the greatest promptitude by the railway company. One of them told me that he went to a cottage near where the accident happened, and there lay dead the bodies of three remarkably fine young fellows, much mutilated, and that workmen were at the time busily engaged in digging out a fourth. These are all the lives sacrificed at present, but there are three or four more so severely injured, that it is supposed they cannot recover. Mr. Dixon, the resident engineer to the line, was soon on the spot after the occurrence, and rendered his valuable assistance in directing the men employed in digging for the lifeless bodies of their unfortunate fellow workmen. I can state, on very good authority, that the accident will not cause a greater delay than 10 days; and till it is repaired the passengers will have to be conveyed a short distance in carriages.

We understand that a strong feeling of sympathy has been manifested by the members of the United Service Club for Sir Allan M'Nab, who has recently arrived in this country from Canada; and anxious to testify their sense of that officer's gallant conduct while commanding the militia on the Canadian frontier, a proposition is on foot, which has already received very warm support, for admitting Sir Allan an honorary member of the club during his residence in England. This is a highly creditable demonstration, honourable alike to the Canadian militia (of whom Sir A. M'Nab is the representative) and to her Majesty's officers of both services. It will have the good effect of showing our fellow