

Communications.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Mr. Pierce,

It must be a source of great satisfaction to every man whose heart is in the right place, and whose pride and boast it is to be a British subject, to see the Patriotic feeling now being displayed throughout the Colonies of the British Empire. Every man appears to feel he has a direct interest in the sanguinary war now waged by the "Allies," against the deepest dyed despot that ever cursed our green earth with his blood red sceptre, and the wish to contribute in any way, to alleviate the sorrows of the widows and orphans of the brave fellows who have fallen,—gushes spontaneously from every heart—The war cry of the immortal Nelson, on Trafalgar's glorious day—a cry that thrilled through the heart of every Briton, and carried death and dismay to the enemies of the "glorious old flag," appears to have been caught up again, and on this occasion has resounded to the remotest corners of the British dependencies—"England expects every man to do his duty."

How nobly has this cry been responded to through every Province, County—aye Parish of England's Colonies. Every class and creed are giving of their means, to swell the fund truly called Patriotic.

I am glad to see that Northumberland is coming up nobly in the good cause. The call upon our patriotism has met with a warm and cordial response, and I feel convinced that when the returns shall have been made from the different parishes, we will hold a respectable position on the "list." This is as it should be, as a son of *Auld Scotia* I would feel humbled, if our country does not appear in the front ranks of contributors—Oh Caldonia stern and wild—land of my Sires—land of my Childhood—land of my dearest and undying affection, how has my eye moistened, as I read of the glorious achievements of your sons at Alma, Balaklava, and Inkerman. The spirit that animated the "Scots who hae wi Wallace bled,"—that breathed through the serried ranks on Bannockburn's renowned field—that burst forth with redoubted fury in the decisive charge that turned the tide of battle, on Waterloo's blood red plain,—appears to have fallen like Elijah's mantle, on the worthy descendants of such worthy sires. Ah Scotia, long may you remain the brightest gem in the imperial diadem, and may your sons ever be found as now—fighting the battles of the oppressed, against the oppressor. Teach Russia that the motto that encircles your national emblem, conveys the same stern truth that it ever did—"memo mi impune lacessit," and all that Scotia's sons require is

"To see the foe
Their only aim is how to kill,
'Twa' at a blow."

Truly the Crimea has been an aceldama to our brave troops, but worse than that it has now taken all the repulsive features of a Golgotha, and methinks there is not a thought can enter the mind of the dying soldier, so well calculated to cheer his last moments, and still the throbbings of his anxious spirit, as the fact, that his widow and orphans are made the special care of the country for which he has poured out his life's blood, and the "Patriotic Fund" sounds upon his dying ear in tones, partaking more of heaven than of earth.

Can we want any incentive in this good cause.—Sarcely the reflection just penned is more than sufficient to point the appeal that is now being made to our patriotism, and I am sure their "breathes not a man with soul so dead" from one end of our country to the other, but "to himself has said," how much shall I give to the Patriotic Fund.

R. J.

Indian Town, 5th March, 1855.

LECTURE.

Extracts from the Opening Lecture delivered by James Caine, Esq., at our Mechanics' Institute, in January last, with which the author has kindly furnished us.

After a few introductory observations, the Lecturer said:—It is a solemn truth which is verified by the declarations of heaven and our own experience, that "we know not what a day, or an hour may bring forth." The Poet has beautifully said:—
"Heaven from all creatures hides the book of fate,
All but the page prescribed their present state."

Since the time at which I last appeared before you as a Lecturer, only a few months have elapsed; but these have been months of thrilling import in the history of the world.

During the long period of nearly forty years, most of the nations of the earth, have enjoyed profound tranquility! Warriors had begun

"To hang the trumpet in the hall,
And study war no more."

And the blessings of civil and religious liberty, were rapidly receding lands which had long been shrouded in darkness and idolatry.

The progress made in the arts and science during this season of repose, and the extent to which useful knowledge was being diffused among all classes of mankind were unparalleled in history! But alas, this happy state of things, was not destined to last for ever.

While most of the nations of Europe were thus vying with each other in generous efforts to ameliorate the condition of our race and extend the blessing of freedom, the Czar of Russia, armed with great physical strength, and fired by satanic zeal—was secretly playing his cards and slyly "scaling his gaza," with the cold-hearted design of destroying this god-like movement! His intention was accordingly to extinguish the last ray of freedom in Europe and ride "rough shod" over the necks of inlaid mankind.

The "Lion of Old England"—long quiescent—was loathe to be roused from his repose! At length, however, he began to shake the dew from his mane; his bristles rose—and now in concert with the time-honoured legions of old Gault—he has begun to make the tyrant tremble on his throne! Let us hope, my friends, that Heaven, helping the "Allied Powers" will ultimately succeed in bringing down the haughty autocrat from his loftyerie; that they will pluck his eagle wings, and instead of permitting him to become the assassin of human rights, make him the laughing stock of nations and his crown the football of his own subjects.

Meanwhile, however, multitudes of fond mothers, like Niobe of old, must weep for the loss of their brave sons who have fallen in freedom's cause, sisters must sigh for brothers laid low at Sebastopol, and many a vow of fidelity pledged at parting, will be cancelled by the cold hand of death! Be it so!—The cost may be great, but the conquest will be glorious!

It cannot be denied that the cause espoused by England and France is that of truth and justice, and the common interests of all civilized nations. Nor is it calumny to assert that Russia is fighting in defence of a falsehood—of an injustice—an attempt which, if it succeed, will lay civilization prostrate, and throw Europe back for many a century.

The other nations of the earth must take their sides; and each must be distinguished or degraded in all time to come, by the side it espouses! Those governments that are not with us must be against the cause of freedom! If the monarchs of Central Europe cannot be moved in this cause, their people must be appealed to! If Kings, Emperors, or Presidents, will not themselves move in freedom's cause, I must be seen what their subjects will do! If Russia appeal to the Cossack, they must appeal to humanity, and the war must expand to its proper dimensions, with liberty and civilization on the one side, and barbarism and barbarity on the other.

The battles of Alma, Balaklava, and Inkerman, have rendered the army of England more popular than it was during any period of British history!—Danger and difficulty instead of daunting or affrighting our countrymen, seem to have attractions which impel them to offer their services with eager alacrity. Their blood is up in a noble cause, and their spirit is inspired by the recital of the glorious deeds achieved in the Crimea.

Far removed from the blood-drenched fields on which freedom's battles are being fought, it may not be in our power to aid our brave countrymen physically, or share their dangers personally, but it is in our power to sympathize with, and assist them spiritually, by pleading with the Lord of Hosts daily, that he would be pleased to bring this sanguinary struggle to a close, by crowning the allied army with victory, by restoring the unwearied survivors to their friends and families, allowing their grateful country to adorn their brows with liberty's richest laurels; and by enabling the pen of the Historian, to hand down the glories of *Alma, Balaklava, and Inkerman* to the latest posterity.

(To be continued.)

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1855.

TERMS.—New subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 17s. 6d. at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

This Paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Pill and Ointment Establishment, 24, Strand, London, where advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

We have obtained our files of Liverpool papers to the 3rd, and London to the 2nd of March, and from them we have made copious extracts. They add no news of consequence in addition to what we published last week in our telegraph despatch.

Since the retirement of Messrs. Gladstone, Herbert, and Lord Graham, the British Government has been re-constructed. We give a list below:

OF THE CABINET.

First Lord of the Treasury—Lord Palmerston; Lord High Chancellor—Lord Cranworth; Chancellor of the Exchequer—Sir G. C. Lewis; Lord President of the Council—Earl Granville; Lord Privy Seal—Duke of Argyll; Secretaries of State, Home—Sir George Grey, Foreign—Earl of Clarendon, Colonial—Lord John Russell, War—Lord Panmure; First Lord of the Admiralty—Sir Charles Wood; Chief Commissioner of Works, &c.—Sir William Molesworth; Postmaster General—Rt. Hon. Viscount Caning.

NOT OF THE CABINET.

President of the Board of Trade—Lord Stanley, of Alderley; Lord Great Chamberlain—Lord Willoughby d'Eresby; Lord Steward—Earl Spencer; Earl Marshal—Duke of Norfolk; Lord Chamberlain—Marquis of Breadalbane; Master of the Horse—Duke of Wellington; Gen. Commander-in-Chief—Viscount Hardinge; Master of the Mint—Sir J. F. W. Herschel, Bart.; Master of the Rolls—Sir John Romilly; Attorney-General—Sir A. F. J. Cockburn, Q. C.; Solicitor-General—Sir R. Bethell, Q. C.; Judge Advocate-General—Right Hon. G. P. Villiers; Secretary of the Board of Control—Mr Danby Seymour.

Lord Duncan becomes a Lord of the Treasury in the room of Lord Elcho, retired.

IRELAND.

Lord-Lieutenant—Lord Carlisle; Lord High Chancellor—Right Hon. M. Brady; Master of the Rolls—Right Hon. T. R. Smith; Attorney-General—William Keogh, Esq.; Solicitor-General—J. D. Fitzgerald, Esq. Q. C.; Chief Secretary of Ireland—Mr Horsman.

Preparations are being made in France and England to send a most powerful fleet to the Baltic; and it also appears, that the former nation purpose despatching a large land force to co-operate with it. A late paper says:

"The operations in the Baltic this spring will, it is confidently and officially stated, be conducted on a scale of extraordinary magnitude. In addition to the naval forces of England, which are to consist of one hundred steamers, France

will send fifty steam-vessels and a powerful land armament, which is now stationed (says Galignani) along the coast from Calais to Cherbourg, for the conveyance of these troops and all war materiel, the French Government have entered into a contract with an English company the representative of which is at present in Paris—an arrangement which will have the advantage of leaving the vessels of war to act with all their power against the great Russian strongholds in the Gulf of Finland.

"The ships now fitting for the Baltic will carry a total armament of 2,188 guns, a considerable proportion of which will be the Lancaster construction. Several hundred extra shipwrights were put on at Sheerness, Woolwich, Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Pembroke, to expedite the preparations of the ships, and on Saturday (this day) the majority will be ready to come out of dock.

"It is impossible (says the London Times) to peruse the list of the naval armament which will assemble in about a fortnight at Spithead, in order to proceed to the Baltic under the command of Admiral Richard Dundas, upon the opening of the navigation, without a return of that pride and confidence in the resources of this great empire which the late military disasters in the Crimea and the incomplete results of the last naval campaign had so grievously shaken.

"There are solid grounds in the composition of this fleet, for the belief that its success will be equal to its power. The Admiralty have shown a greater determination to keep pace with the improvements of the age, and within a very short period they have transformed the British navy, since every one of the vessels destined for the Baltic this year will be propelled by steam. They have also taken advantage of the experience of last year's navigation in a sea which had been very seldom explored by our ships of war. The crews of the fleet which left our shores last spring had been hastily brought together at the commencement of hostilities; the men were not thoroughly acquainted with their duties, with their officers, or with each other; and, although we do not believe they deserved the taunt of Sir C. Napier against the noble squadron he had lately the honour to command, it is obvious that the efficiency of a man-of-war is enormously increased by a year in commission. A further improvement of equal importance has been made in the choice of the vessels of this fleet.— We repeatedly pointed out at this time last year that in Nelson's Baltic expedition the ships of the line that were selected by the Admiralty were almost exclusively the 74's of that period, not exceeding the tonnage and armament of the large frigates of the present day, and that these ships had been found most available in that sea. We also observed that the success of these operations depended very much on the number of gun-boats we could employ, and the want of some craft resembling the old bomb-ketches or mortar-boats, which had disappeared from the navy, was continually felt. Experience has convinced the Admiralty of the value of these suggestions. The fleet consists of 20 sail of the line, all capable of being propelled by steam power. Of these ships 10 are three-deckers; but only two of these, the Duke of Wellington and the Royal George, are first-rates, the remaining eight being all new, or nearly new ships, of 91 and 81 guns. Then come 10 more ships of the line, two-deckers, or third and fourth rates, carrying 60 guns, and comprising what were termed the block-ships, their services were conspicuous in the last Baltic expedition. The number of steam-frigates and corvettes will be increased to no less than 35; and, in addition to these vessels, the fleet will contain eight mortar-boats, carrying one 13-inch gun each, 28 steam gun-boats, carrying two or three guns, and five heavy floating batteries plated with wrought iron on their decks and sides, and intended to be taken into action without rigging aloft. These batteries carry 12 guns each, which may, however, all be fought on either side of the vessel. This fleet, therefore, has all that is required to encounter the Russian navy, if it should venture to put to sea; to blockade the whole Baltic coast, if necessary; to carry the arms of the allied Powers into the shallow waters which have heretofore been the place of refuge of the enemy; and to assail the forts and strong places on the coast which have not yet been exposed to any real attack."

It will be seen by the annexed paragraph that the works on the Balaklava Railway is progressing at a very rapid rate:

"On Friday, the 16th of February, a mile of the road from Balaklava was laid; the chief surveyor expected to get up to Kadikoi on the 19th. At that place was the first depot; and there commenced the first incline which was to be worked by engine power. From Balaklava to Kadikoi—a distance of nearly two miles—the road is nearly on a level; from Kadikoi to the French camp—half a mile—there is an incline of 1 in 15; from the French camp to Head-quarters—a mile and a half—there is an incline of 1 in 25. At Head-quarters the summit level is about two mile and a half—tolerably level. The surveyor, his staff, and workmen, had to rely in a great measure upon their own aided energies. Lord Raglan is said to take great interest in the line, and Sir John Burgoyne was doing his best to promote it; but owing to the condition of the army, no assistance

could be had from it. The navies in general worked pretty well. Some black sheep there were: and the facility with which rum could be obtained at Balaklava rendered it difficult to keep some of them in hand. The great obstacle was the difficulty of transport. The worn-out horses supplied by the artillery were of no use. The horses belonging to the railroad corps had been landed but had not quite recovered from the effects of the heat and defective ventilation in the hold of the vessel that conveyed them. It was a serious drawback to have to unload the ships and carry up the materials for the huts and tables exclusively by manual labour. Half the men however, were hatted, and the work was fairly in progress."

The telegraph despatch of the European news which we published last week, furnished the startling announcement of the Death of the Emperor Nicholas. This was a piece of intelligence which took the public by surprise, as no previous intimation had been received of his illness, and many persons still entertain doubts on the subject. The British papers do not furnish any information in addition to what was conveyed in the telegraph despatch to the Ministry, the substance of which we gave last week, but we think the intelligence comes to us in such a direct shape, that it leaves no doubt of its correctness.

Wilmer and Smith's European Times of the 3rd March has a long article on the subject, from which we copy the following extracts:

"The event was announced to Parliament last night by the Ministers of the Crown as having taken place, and the sensation which it produced in both branches of the Legislature was not greater than that which it will cause throughout Europe and the world. Of the certainty of the Emperor's death no doubt need be entertained. Lord John Russell, who is now in the Prussian capital, first telegraphed home that he had been struck by apoplexy—was on the point of death and had just taken leave of his family. This was shortly followed by another telegraphic message from the British Minister at Berlin, to the effect that he actually expired at St. Petersburg yesterday morning at one o'clock.

"It is hardly possible to overrate the importance of the extinction of this single life in the present circumstances of this and other countries. Its effects must be great and immediate, and it is more than probable that the bloody struggle impending before Sebastopol, in which thousands of lives would certainly be sacrificed may be spared by the event which we announce this morning. In the case of the extinction of a despotic monarch like the Emperor of Russia, whose will was the law of fifty or sixty million of people, the policy which he embodied while living, dies with him, and the restoration of peace becomes, under the circumstances, less a matter of doubt than of certainty.

"The fate which has overtaken this great but unscrupulous Monarch, supposing him to have died a natural, and not like many of his predecessors, a violent death, demonstrates, in the strongest possible manner, how feeble the most potent become when unsustained by that moral power which is stronger than cannons or bayonets, or the most deadly instruments of war. Twelve months back, before the declaration of hostilities, Nicholas Romanoff, who now lies a mass of clay in his ancestral halls on the Neva, was the most proud, the most powerful, and the most arrogant sovereign on this planet; but this small interval of time has served to reduce him to a condition more pitiable than the humblest of his serfs, for in his nefarious attempt to subjugate a weak and a near neighbour, he outraged justice, provoked the hostility of the Western Powers, stirred up resistance throughout Europe to his dictation, and lived long enough to discover that the prepared strength of a long reign and an almost boundless empire, was utterly futile in the pursuit of a bad purpose. The most conservative ruler in the world fell almost literally by his own hand when he pushed his aggression on the property of others beyond the bounds of endurance.— The violation of the commandment which told him to respect his neighbour's property ended in his destruction,—in that prostration of the mental and the physical powers which superinduced apoplexy.

"The Czar was born on the 6th of July 1796, and if he had lived until summer would have attained 59th year. He died not of old age but of a broken heart—of the disappointment caused by the utter failure of all his schemes of aggrandisement, the prostration of all his hopes,—a terrible example of the effect of unhallowed ambition."

The Emperor has left a family of six children, four sons and two daughters. The health of the Empress is very precarious.

The London Daily News in noticing the death of the Emperor thus alludes to the eldest sons:

"Constantine, the second son, is the favourite of the Muscovite party—Alexander the eldest of the German party. It is very unlikely that the Czar's Will will be found. But in Russia's preponderating party would not shrink from the fabrication of spurious documents, and