

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Daily News.
THE RUSSIANS AND THEIR IDOL-GOD.

We read of many kings and kaisars who have repaired to the theatre of war, to go through the form of receiving the submission of towns, fortresses, or armies, that had been previously reduced to extremities by their generals. But Alexander II. is the first sovereign on record who has travelled so far to witness, with his own eyes, the dexterity with which his soldiers can destroy and evacuate their own defences. The Roman emperor who went from Rome to the Belgian coast to witness a sham embarkation for the conquest of Britain has hitherto been thought the most sublime ninny on record; his laurels must fade in comparison with the Russian Emperor, who has travelled from St. Petersburg to Odessa to witness an unresisted intrusion into his own dominions. How the news of his passive exploits may be received at St. Petersburg it is not easy to conjecture. When the inhabitants of that capital learned that their Black sea fleet had been sunk by the orders of Prince Menschikoff, and that their forts around south Sebastopol had been blown up by the orders of Prince Gortschakoff, they could console themselves by the reflection that these misadventures could only happen in the absence of their emperor—their God upon earth. But their emperor has gone to the scene of action, and matters go on in his presence exactly as they did in his absence. May not this shake the confidence in his miraculous power to protect them? And may not the consequent want of faith in him prepare an indifferent reception for his imperial majesty on his return? The reverence with which the Russians regard their sovereign borders on idolatry; but old chronicles tell us how the worshippers of idols are now, when tired with praying to their wooden gods without effect, tried whether they could not beat them into better behaviour. If the Russians have ever read the story of the man who, tired out with fruitless prayers to his idol, threw it rudely down from its pedestal, and was rewarded by a stream of gold coin which, having been deposited in a cavity of the image, they may be tempted to repeat the experiment upon their own flesh-and-blood divinity.

From the London Morning Post.

ON WHAT CAN THE CZAR RELY.

In preserving with this conflict, which has ruined the moral ascendancy of Russia, east and west, on what can the czar rely? We had an earnest at Bomarsund; we have reaped more solid fruits, with less parade, at Kinburn.—From the Baltic to the Black sea, from Moldavia to the Caucasus, from Sebastopol to Kars, from Sweborg to Otchakoff and Kinburn—not one success for the enemy in three years, but innumerable and heavy disasters. Perseverance, under such circumstances, may be weakness and criminality. This is not our affair in a moral point of view; but it is very interesting to us in a political and practical respect. We would, therefore, once more ask, in what can the czar confide? His father confided in the impossibility of a union between such old enemies as France and England. Because they had often boxed each other when they were young and naughty boys, they could not shake hands, and be friends, as men. He lived to see that union. He saw and yet would not believe. But it was argued by our ill wishers that such an alliance could not last, for it could not be sincere. As if brave men could not respect and love brave men! The alliance has lasted has been real, and has been sincere. It has disappointed the calculations of the malignant, has surpassed the hopes of the good, and will outlive the illusions of the intriguing foe with whom we are at war. On what, then, can our enemy rely? To what part of Europe (for in Europe alone must he look for help) can he turn with the least prospect of succour? Austria declined to side with him on the appeal of gratitude—so bad was his cause. She merely confined herself to not siding against him. Prussia would be glad of alliance elsewhere, similar to those which have influenced her government to befriend Russia, even against the wishes of her people. Perseverance is one of the conditional virtues. If the cause be hopeless, perseverance is an increase of folly; if the cause be bad, perseverance is an aggravation of guilt.

From the London Daily News.

THE RUSSIAN BEAR'S MONKEY.

If it is true that the veteran courtier Nesselrode has become an object of suspicion in his latter days to his sovereign, and to the heads of both the great parties in Russia, it is really no matter of surprise. Apart from the moral truism that men who spend their lives in trying to keep well with everybody and by being out of favour with all, there are circumstances in the career of Nesselrode which account for any jealousy and mistrust on the part of his late and present master. It must be remembered (and Nicholas never forgot it) how very long the career of this aged politician has been. He was in the vigour of his years and his faculties—just above thirty—when the century opened on the rising grandeur of Napoleon. He calculated his fortunes and laid out his career on the supposition of an eternal friendship between Russia and France. As

far as he has since had any political ideas of his own, they have always been in accordance with that early and vivid conception which his conduct at the time was a sort of pledge to carry out; and it is no wonder now, when things are going wrong for Russia, that the disconcerted and irritated court, made suspicious by disappointment and mortification, should charge the minister with maintaining his old predilections in favour of France. Such is now the opinion of more parties than one in Russia; and no doubt the old courtier is chewing the bitter end of human ingratitude in his present painful position. He is thinking no doubt, how hard it is that, after nearly sixty years of laborious and what he thinks, faithful service, after all his toils, all his sacrifices of his own feelings and convictions, and character for sincerity and consistency, he is now blamed by the German party for the war, and by the Muscovite party for his supposed good will to the allies. One conjecture what the real state of the case has been. On the whole, it seems most probable that he was opposed to war but that his habit of obedience to the will of Nicholas prevailed as usual; and that now he sees the consequence without much surprise. As for his witnessing them with anything but pain, the allegation seems to us pure nonsense, such as nothing short of exasperation and fear could excuse or account for. The clearest thing about the whole matter is, that Nesselrode must indeed be a very ordinary sort of man if he is really surprised at the sort of reward his life of service is receiving. A youth of caution and self-seeking; a manhood of slavery and tergiversation, and hard repression of conscience and every other inconvenient faculty; and an old age of complicity in political crime—these are not the antecedents of an honoured and peaceful retirement from life. If he chose to play the monkey to the Russian bear, he has no right to complain of being whipped into a corner in his old age, when his keepers suppose, rightly or wrongly, that his tricks have become productive of more plague than profit. The charge may not be true in detail; but he subjected himself to it when he put on his livery and sprang to his post of honour on Bruin's back.

Communications.

MR. EDITOR,

Sir,—The reputation and influence of your valuable Journal, and the zeal you at all times display for the public good, induces me, without apology, to request you to copy the enclosed article into your paper, which appeared last week in the Halifax Presbyterian Witness, under the Editorial, headed "Temperance Movement." The remarks, I think, are appropriate to our present state, and the appeal made to the reflective faculties of the law makers and christians of the sister Province, are equally applicable to ourselves.

The Prohibitory Law will soon become the law of our land, when, I trust, the authorities aided by the lovers of order, will make strenuous efforts that it shall not, as heretofore, remain worse than a dead letter on our Statute Book.

I am ignorant, Sir, of the state of morals in your locality, but the facilities for acquiring the deleterious article in this quarter, are so easy, that it is not uncommon to witness young inebriates, mere boys, swaggering along the streets in the evenings in clubs, or lounging in the porches or outhouses, accompanied with their indispensable companion the Bottle, busily emptying its contents, by handing it from one to the other, while the oaths and obscene language issuing from the hopeful group, would put a frequent-er of Billingsgate to the blush.

"Truly the Schoolmaster is abroad." I trust, Sir, that the publication of the enclosed, with such remarks as may fall from your pen, will rouse the sleeping energies of parents and those in authority, to endeavour to arrest the evil ere it be too late by enforcing the Law, and saving the rising generation, if not the inveterate toppers, from all it may be temporal and eternal ruin. Yours,

A SUBSCRIBER.

Douglstown, 19th November, 1855.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.

"The principles of 'teetotalism' now command respect, if not admiration and approval, in quarters where a few years ago their advocates would be laughed to scorn. The world is governed by opinion, and the opinion is now decidedly in the ascendant among the better classes of society, that coercive measures must be had recourse to in order to put down the nuisance of drunkenness. The most simple and obvious plan is to place intoxicating drinks beyond the reach of those who are sure to abuse them. We do not hesitate to say that the present system of licensing is a sham, an anomaly and a curse. Well has it been said by Robert Murray McChesney, that he never 'saw a license to sell spirits without thinking that it is a license to ruin souls.' What think you, ye law-makers of Nova Scotia, of granting license to wretches base enough to accept them to ruin souls?—What think ye, christian men of Nova Scotia, of those 'who sit in the lurking places of the villages, who in secret places murder the innocent'? What think you of the system that allows a 'rum seller' to wring the last penny the mad and wretched father or mother when their children may be dying miserably from want of bread? What will the political economist think of the fact that our Empire

suffers incomparably more from the devastations of intemperance than it does from the Russian war—more in blood and treasure, and infinitely more in a moral and social point of view. We can utter the shout of victory above the soldier's grave—but those who die in consequence of their own criminal indulgence—what can we give them but the sigh of despair! He who dies in the battle-field leaves a noble name behind him, that those whom he loved may cherish with fond remembrance—that casts a halo of glory around his previous career, however indifferent it might have been. Though war, then, is a terrible, and sometimes a most distressing scourge, it is not to be mentioned in comparison to the woeful scourge of intemperance. Sensual indulgence does more against our nation in one year than combined Europe could do! And it is none the better that the evil is inflicted voluntarily. It rather shows how deeply rooted in our very nature the evil is, and how urgent the necessity for counter-active and regulative measures. Were mankind pure and righteous, conscientious in all their doings, strong to resist the promptings of evil passions, and free from the influence of depraved appetites, then there were no need of law to coerce with irresistible arm, no need of articulate rule to guide with jussive finger. No sooner were the voice of reason heard or the dictate of conscience whispered to the soul, than man would obey. But alas! the crown has fallen off our head; moral darkness broods over our spirits; and we are continually prone to do what is wrong. Therefore, it is that law must utter its thunder and the sword must be drawn to defend the right. Therefore it is that men deliberately choose the headlong course that begins in folly and ends in ruin. Therefore it is that men can obtain 'license to ruin souls.'

We hope the day is near when such cannot be said of Nova Scotia. How should we rejoice to see the day when we could point to our country-men as pre-eminent for temperance and sobermindedness, and our country smiling in the lap of peace and plenty! How should we rejoice to see the thousands of pounds now worse than wasted, turned to the purposes of benevolence and religion! Assuredly if we are to escape the awful gulf of degradation, that is, the opposite of everything good, happy and beautiful we must work betimes—every one in his sphere—every one according to his opportunity. Though the gospel is the grand panacea for all earthly ills, we must not neglect other obvious means. Our great ultimate aim should be to put a total stop to the traffic in ardent spirits. We must not stop short of this. In the mean time ameliorative steps might be taken preparatory to the grand step. Subject the traffic to all possible disadvantages. Rob it of its remunerative character. Put a total and absolute stop to it on Sunday—as has been done so wisely and with such remarkable success in Scotland. Steps of this character would be of great importance in paving the way for a PROHIBITORY LAW such as our temperance people have set their hearts upon. We do not like to whisper discouragement, but we do fear that there is little prospect of obtaining that great object at present. Still it is a great encouragement to see how widely such a law is already enforced—and with what beneficial results.—Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Maine—all have tried the law and have found it practicable and useful.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 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.

CENTRAL BANK AGENCY, CHATHAM.

Discount days TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS, Hours for business from 10 to 3 o'clock. Notes for Discount to be lodged at the Bank before 3 o'clock, on the day immediately proceeding the discount day.

This paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Pills and Ointment Establishment, 244 Strand, London, where Advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

COUNTY GLOUCESTER.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Bathurst, 22nd November, 1855.

It is seldom that this neighbourhood suffers by fire, yet I have now to record a very severe visitation of this element, which has destroyed the fine Steam Mills of Messrs. Ferguson, Rankin & Co., together with much valuable property. On the morning of Saturday last, a little after 3 o'clock, A. M., the Watchman on guard observed a suspicious light somewhere in the vicinity of the boiler, and ran immediately to arouse the Engineer and others. Before his return, however, the blaze appeared through the roof of the Mill, and fanned by a violent north-wester, the flames spread with inconceivable rapidity over the whole building, setting at defiance all human efforts to arrest their progress. The exertion of the inhabitants—who flocked to the scene with the most praiseworthy alacrity from both sides of the harbour—were therefore

altogether directed to prevent the fire communicating with the principal provision store of the establishment by means of the vast piles of sawed lumber which spread in close proximity to both. This was accomplished only after the most strenuous exertions, in the face of intense flame, a furious biting wind, and severe frost; by throwing large quantities of the deals into the harbour, by which means the fire was confined to the mill itself, and the lumber in and immediately around it. I have heard no estimate made of the value of the property destroyed, but great as it undoubtedly must be, it will yet bear no comparison with the wide loss and deprivation which the suspension of employment heretofore afforded by this mill, will occasion the inhabitants around. This mill was but the renewal of a former mill, on the same site, which was also destroyed by fire on the 17th April, 1845, just ten years and seven months before the present visitation. The origin of the fire is not known. The property was partially insured.

WEATHER.—The steady and near approach of winter was first made seriously manifest on the night of the 16th, when the shores of the harbour were bound fast for the season; sharp frost and biting north-westers have continued to the present writing. This morning the ground received a slight covering of snow, which while it is embarrassing to wheels, is insufficient for runners.

Owing to a press of business, and absence from home, I am unable to fulfil the promise made at the conclusion of my last letter, but I shall not neglect it.

THE PACIFIC.

By the arrival of the whaling ship George, at San Francisco, from the Ochotsk Sea, some intelligence has been received by the American press of the doings of the Allied fleets against the Russian possessions in that quarter.

It appears the British Steamer *Barracouta* and frigates *Pique* and *Amphitrite* arrived off Ayan on the 10th July last, and found the town deserted, the inhabitants having retired into the interior. The following information is taken from a San Francisco paper.

"There was at Ayan a small vessel on the stocks, which the Russians were building, and a small steamer that had been brought there the year before. She was intended as a tug-boat on the river Amoor. The Governor of Ayan had a hole dug in the beach, above high water mark, and with tackles and purchases hoisted the tug boat into the hole, with the intention of burying her. At the time the British steamer bore in sight, the Russians were engaged in putting merchandise in the tug-boat from the company's warehouses. The steamer had got so close to the shore before she was discovered that the Russians did not have time to cover her up.

"On the 11th of July, the squadron sent their boats on shore, and commenced taking all and everything they could find that was of any use to them that the Russians had left. On the landing of the boats, they found the place where the tug was buried, and they commenced taking out the boxes of merchandise and hardware that the Russians had put into the tug-boat, and conveyed them on board the squadron. After they had got all that was convenient for them to take, the commander ordered the tug-boat to be blown up, which was done by putting one hundred pounds of powder into the fore part of the vessel and applying to it a slow match.

"The British Squadron did not have the pleasure of making many prizes in the Ochotsk Sea. All the towns along the coast were deserted.

"The battery at Ayan had been destroyed by the Russians themselves, and the guns were all buried. All the available force that the Russians had in Kamtschatka and Siberia were concentrated at the River Amoor. The only vessel we have heard of being taken off Cape Elizabeth. She had on board part of the crew of the Russian frigate *Diana*, which vessel was wrecked at Simoda, Japan; she was bound to the Amoor river."

The following additional news was received by the Propellor John Hancock, from the same quarter, and is also taken from a late San Francisco Journal.

"From the Japanese waters the Hancock went in the mouth of the Amoor, where they met some Russians. These latter said that the Russian fleet after having been blockaded by the allies in the bay of Castry, had escaped in a fog, and went through a difficult pass between the island of Saghalien and the main land into the river of Amoor. The vessels were anchored at a strong fortification said to contain fifteen thousand men. There were seven vessels in all, several frigates, three corvettes and one small steamer. There is a bar at the entrance of the Amoor, and the Russian frigates had to be lightened, and to have their masts taken out before they could enter.

"The Hancock was about to enter, when she was requested to keep off, and she did so. The Russians said that if the allied fleet should attempt to enter the river, they would pay severely for their boldness. After leaving the Amoor, the Hancock went through the Ochotsk Sea to its northernmost extremity, meeting a great many whaling vessels, which had mostly done well. They saw but one Russian vessel, that was a sloop of forty tons belonging to the Russian Fur Company. The natives of the shores of the Ochotsk Sea were semi-barbarous, half Tartars,