

seize the remaining bit of bun, and devour it before any one could prevent it. Poor little soul, how vexed she was. She came down from the stool, her pretty eyes filling with tears, saying, 'O you naughty, greedy Ponto, I would not do that with you, and you had far the best half.' We were both very sorry for the child, but I remembered that I had a few biscuits in my bag, which we had likewise meant for lunch, so we called the little one, and soon had the pleasure of seeing her quite consoled. The cause of their quarrel being removed, she and Ponto became good friends again, and frisked about the room as if they had never fallen out. 'Is not Ponto very pretty?' she asked us, after a time. We both praised him, and then she said, 'He is all my dog now; he used to be mamma's dog, but we left her in that great hole at Boulogne, and now I have him.'

We were both a little shocked to hear her speak of her mother in that way, not as if she missed her at all, so I said, 'were you not very sorry?'

'I was; but that was a long time ago.'

'Is it?' I said, wishing to try her.

'I am sure it is a week.'

'A week!' and both Anne and I wondered she had no black clothes on.

'I am very glad to have Ponto to play with for papa sent away Celeste. She was my nurse. I liked Celeste; she was so kind; but papa said he hated her; and she came to the steamer and cried a good deal, but we came away and left her; and I like Ponto so much, for papa says I am a little torment; and when he goes out in the evening, Ponto is such a gay fellow, and we play till the woman comes to put me to bed. I like those big houses in the daytime, for I can look out at the horses and the carriages, and the people, but at night it is so dark, and I am so afraid.'

Thus she chattered on, still rolling over and over with the dog, until the door of the inner room opened, and a tall military-looking man came out in a very hurried manner, saying, 'Come Fanchette,' and without perceiving us at all, gave his hand to the child, and followed by the dog strode out of the room. Fanchette looking back from the door, and giving us a pleasant smiling little nod, a kind of spontaneous acknowledgement of our kindness.

(To be continued.)

#### EUROPEAN LIFE IN CANTON.

The life of a European in Canton, is none of the liveliest. There are no amusements but boating and walking in a pleasure garden which they have laid out for their use. Their wives and children live in a state almost of imprisonment, women being the especial aversion of the Chinese, and not daring to show themselves in the streets, at the risk of being stoned; because there is a prophecy that a woman shall one day conquer the celestial empire. Everything is especially dear in Canton. A six roomed house with kitchen, pays an annual rent of from 150*l.* to 200*l.* Each servant receives from four to eight dollars per month, and maid servants from nine to ten, the Chinese only consenting to serve the Europeans in consideration of receiving double pay. The expense of this one cost may be imagined, from the fact that each member of a family must have a servant exclusively for himself, while no servant will perform the work of another. A Chinese breakfast for a European consists of tea, bread and butter, fish, outlets, &c; dinner, of soup, curry, rice, roast meat, ragouts, and puddings. The style of cookery, except in curry and rice, is English; the cooks Chinese. Cheese, pine-apples, long-yen, mango lytschia, &c., English beer, with both of which, ice is served up, brought from North America. The expense of a European household may be set down at 30,000*l.* a year.

#### THE RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS FOR SIR CHARLES NAPIER'S RECEPTION.

On the 30th of March the board of admiralty transmitted to Sir Charles the preparations which the Russians were making for his reception. At Swaborg, Cronstadt, and Revel, they had laid down seventy mines and booms for the purpose of destroying his ships. All the forts were supplied with red hot shot. The board also obtained the Russian plan of meeting the British squadron, which they felt assured would at once proceed to Cronstadt. The fleets were ordered to remain close in harbor and receive the attack, till our vessels were disabled, as it was calculated they would be. Whilst in this condition, the fire of the forts was to be seconded by that of the fleets, which would thus secure an easy prey. The Swaborg division was then to be ordered, by electric telegraph, to come to the support of the Cronstadt fleet, and thus make sure of the whole of our ships. The plan was not ill-devised, and would, no doubt, have met with more or less success, had the admiral been unwise enough to fulfil the Russian expectation that he would attack the forts of Cronstadt.

**GENIUS REWARDED.**—It is reported that a Russian order is on its way to England to be bestowed upon Sir Robert Peel, in recognition of his late lecture on Russia and her people. The order is the Order of the Merry St. Andrew of the first class. The Queen it is said, has already anticipated the baronet's prayer to wear the honour; he having in her Majesty's opinion, so richly deserved the distinction.

#### LECTURE.

We have much pleasure in publishing, at the request of the Committee Messrs. McCulley, Phillips and Sinclair, the annexed Lecture delivered by Mr BLAIR, at the Mechanics Institute, on the 26th ult.]

[CONCLUDED.]

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Holy Places or sanctuaries at Jerusalem and Bethlehem are certain buildings and fragments of buildings which—as is alleged by Ecclesiastics of the Latin and Greek Churches—refer to the time of our Saviour, and were concerned in some of the momentous events of his Ministry.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is founded upon Mount Calvary, is less than 100 paces long and not more than 60 wide, and yet, is so contrived that it is supposed to contain under its roof twelve or thirteen sanctuaries, or places consecrated to a more than ordinary veneration, by being reputed to have had some particular actions done in them relating to the death and resurrection of Christ. As first—the place where he was derided by the soldiers—secondly—where the soldiers divided his garments—thirdly—where he was shut up whilst they digged the hole to set the foot of the cross in and make all ready for his crucifixion—fourthly—where he was nailed to the cross—fifthly—where the cross was erected—sixthly—where the soldier stood who pierced his side—seventhly—where his body was anointed in order to his burial—eighthly—where his body was deposited in the sepulchre—ninthly—where the angels appeared to the women after his resurrection—and tenthly—where Christ himself appeared to Mary Magdalene.

The Emperors of Russia during the last century and a half, have steadily kept in view these maxims, and have endeavoured to impress them on the minds of the Sultans, viz—that the Greek Church has always been more favoured than the Latin by the Sultans—that the Czar is the recognised head of the Greek Church—and that the Czar has hence a right to interfere in all that concerns the Holy Places at Jerusalem. On the other hand France insists that the Latins have always had privileges at Jerusalem, and that the Kings of France have been recognised as protectors of these Latins. For instance a treaty between Francis the first and the Sultan in the early part of the sixteenth century, consigned the Holy Places and the Monks who took care of them, to the protection of France. This treaty appears to have been the cause of numerous disputes. In 1757 these disputes became so intolerable that the Divan issued an ordinance, expelling the Latins altogether from the Church of Bethlehem and the Church of the Tomb of the Virgin—leaving them access to other of the Holy Places, but placing the whole under the care of the Greek Monks. In the year 1808 the Holy Sepulchre was partly destroyed by fire, and the Porte in granting permission for re-building, gave this into the hands of the Greeks rather than the Latins, and on this ground the Greeks afterwards claimed additional rights and prerogatives. There were prolific elements of discord here—scandals continued to arise so frequently, and Christianity became thereby so brought into contempt in the East, that Russia and France thought it proper to interfere—the one as the protector of the Greek Christians, the other of the Latin. Two Commissioners were accordingly sent out in 1819—one from Russia and one from France—to make personal enquiries at Jerusalem concerning the state and occupancy of all the sacred buildings. The two envoys made a minute examination, and sent in reports to their respective Governments. It was hoped that the foundation was laid for an amicable settlement of the whole subject. But shortly after this troubles broke out between Turkey and Greece, and troubles in other directions kept the subject in abeyance until the year 1850.

In the beginning of 1850 the Pope and many Roman Catholic Sovereigns agreed to assist France in endeavouring to obtain a settlement of the knotty question—urging that the Greeks had usurped property belonging to the Latins at Jerusalem. The French Ambassador at Constantinople formally made certain demands from the Porte, but the Russian Ambassador resisted them—insisting that the Greeks were in the right, and that Russia was their protector.

The English Ambassador at once saw that serious consequences might arise out of the simple matter, and counselled the Porte to be cautious of offending either party by conceding too much to the other. The Sultan was much embarrassed by the urgent claims of the two great Christian powers. The British Ambassador was fully alive to the difficulty of the Sultan's position. In one of his despatches to the Home Government he said—The French Ambassador has assured me that the matter in question is a mere question of property, and of express treaty stipulation—but it is difficult to separate any such question from political considerations and a struggle of general influence—especially if Russia, as may be expected, should interfere in behalf of the Greek Church. On another occasion he said—No one seems to doubt that every nerve will be strained by the Greek Church and Nation to maintain their present vantage ground, and that Russian influence, however masked, will be vigorously exerted as on former

occasions, to defeat the attack of the Latin party.

The year 1850 passed away in these discussions, and 1851 commenced with a strong demand from the French Ambassador, urged by a dispatch from Paris to insist on a restitution of the state of matters which existed at Jerusalem in 1740, while the Russian Ambassador insisted that no change whatever should be made at Jerusalem. The French Ambassador declared that if the moderation of his Government in seeking only a joint participation of the Holy Places were not appreciated, the claim of undivided possession by the Latins would be urged with all the weight of a demand warranted by treaty. At the same time the Russian Ambassador declared that he and his Legation would immediately quit Constantinople if the present state of the Sanctuaries was in any degree unsettled. It is easy to picture the embarrassment of the Sultan and his Ministers at such a dilemma.

The years of 1851 and 1852 were marked by a continuation of the same disputes as before at Constantinople between Russia and France, but rendered more serious by mutual irritation.

The British Representatives in conformity with instructions from home, remained neutral, ready to aid in healing the differences if opportunity offered.

Thus the eventful year of 1853 approached—there would be something merely ludicrous in the conduct of these many grave men concerning such trifles, were it not that political ambition lurked behind the scene. The British Ambassador at St. Petersburg ascertained that the Czar had commenced warlike preparations at the beginning of 1853—the answer given to his inquiries was that those preparations bore relation to the threats of France, and that Russia had no unfriendly intentions towards Turkey.

It was about this time that the Czar dispatched Prince Menschikoff to Constantinople. When received by the Grand Vizier, on the second of March 1853, he used peremptory language, and on being invited to visit (as was customary) the Minister for foreign affairs, he at once refused, the immediate consequence of this insult was that the Foreign Minister resigned. By the Sultan anxious for conciliation though greatly offended, the resignation was accepted. At this time Lord Stratford De Redcliffe was absent from London, but his place was filled by Colonel Rose. To him the conduct of Prince Menschikoff appeared in so serious a light that he sent a dispatch to Admiral Dundas, at Malta, requesting him to send a squadron to the Dardanelles as a check to Russian influence. This order the Admiral did not feel at liberty to obey, and the Home Government afterwards approved of his decision.

On the 8th of March Prince Menschikoff had a formal audience of the Sultan, and soon afterwards the Prince disclosed his view to the new Minister for Foreign affairs.

The Prince had further interviews with the Foreign Minister on the 17th, and the 22nd of March, and Colonel Rose soon ascertained that Menschikoff was endeavouring to draw Turkey into a secret treaty with Russia, unknown to England and France. Some days later the Russian envoy requested the Minister for foreign affairs to give a promise that the English and French Ambassadors, should not be informed of the nature of a secret Treaty, which Russia would propose—as Menschikoff's conduct had been marked by mingled arrogance and vagueness, the Minister refused to give the required pledge. The negotiation referred openly and ostensibly, to the Holy Places at Jerusalem but it seemed as if the secret Treaty was intended to mask some further inroad upon the independence of the Ottoman Empire.

On the first of April a further conference revealed the fact—that the Czar demanded an unconditional control over all the Greek and Armenian subjects of the Sultan, offering in return to put a fleet, and 400,000 men at the service of the Sultan if Turkey ever should need aid against any western power whatever. The Grand Vizier refused the treaty—refused to keep the knowledge of it from France and England, thereby greatly offending Menschikoff.

Lord Stratford De Redcliffe arrived at Constantinople on the fifth of April, and was speedily immersed in the diplomacy of the time and place. On the 13th of April Menschikoff received a communication from St. Petersburg, complaining of the slowness of his proceedings and ordering him to demand peremptorily the assent by Turkey of all the Czar's demands—There was an urgent desire to conclude the whole before France or England could have any chance of interfering, and the Minister for foreign affairs was perplexed at the impetuosity of the Prince. France had at this time become conceding in regard to the Holy places, and Turkey was enabled to give, what appeared full satisfaction to Russia as far as the matter was concerned. On the fifth of April, appeared the Firman of the Sultan, completely settling the question.

Strange to say it was on the same day which witnessed the issue of the conclusive firman that Prince Menschikoff sent in an official note to the Minister for foreign affairs, so peremptory in its tone, as thoroughly to alarm Lord Stratford. The Sultan was ill at the time, and the

Minister for foreign affairs, troubled at his position, requested the advice of the English and French Ambassadors. It soon appeared to them that the demands of Russia could not be acceded to—claiming as she did, the protectorate of Eleven Millions of the Christian Subjects of the Sultan—in other words a share of the Sovereignty of Turkey.

This was a state of things which the British Government were not prepared for; they had thought that the settlement of the Holy Places would comprise all the matters in dispute, and they were wholly unprepared for the news which Lord Stratford had now to transmit to them—a sudden change of Ministry took place at Constantinople. Menschikoff demanded from the new Minister for foreign affairs an immediate answer to the note.

On the 21st of May, Prince Menschikoff departed from Constantinople, and the Imperial arms were withdrawn from the Russian Embassy. Count Nesselrode wrote to the Minister for foreign affairs, stating that the Prince would remain at Odessa a short time, and that if Turkey sent in its adhesion within a week, all yet might be well. Turkey did not send in its adhesion, and thus the end of May witnessed the termination of the eventful Menschikoff Mission.

It was the policy of England to remain neutral in respect to the question of the Holy Places, peacefully advising all parties, but claiming no right of interference. When however the demands at Constantinople became imperious, and when Sir Hamilton Seymour obtained unquestionable proofs from his position as British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, that the Emperor Nicholas was pouring down vast bodies of troops towards the Turkish frontier. Then did the British Government feel that this neutrality must have an end; England was bound by treaties which she could not suffer to fall into oblivion at such a time. It became a political contest—a war to preserve the balance of power in Europe, by preventing Russia from crushing Turkey, and it was the bounden duty of England and France to arrest the progress of this barbarous and despotic power, which threatened (at no distant day) to overrun and subvert the liberties of Europe.

England and France used every endeavour to bring the matter to an amicable arrangement, but finding all their efforts useless formally declared war on the 28th March, 1854.

The following paragraph occurs in the declaration of war.

The unprovoked aggression of the Emperor of Russia against the Sublime Porte, has been persisted in with such disregard of consequences that after the rejection by the Emperor of Russia of terms, which the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, and the King of Prussia, as well as her Majesty, considered just and equitable. Her Majesty is compelled by a sense of what is due to the honor of her Crown—to the interests of her people—and to the independence of the States of Europe, to come forward in defence of an Ally, whose territory is invaded, and whose dignity and independence are assailed.

Having thus traced the course of events down to the commencement of hostilities, time will not permit, neither would it be necessary to follow them to their termination; you are all aware of the scenes that followed—the glorious battle of the Alma—the magnificent cavalry charge at Balaclava and the heroic bravery of that small band who maintained the honor of England on the blood stained heights of Inkermann, but in conclusion permit me to ask to whom were we indebted for a continuance of those scenes with their daily and nightly horrors at which angels wept, and humanity shuddered—when from the cottage of the peasant, and the palace of the Prince, was heard the voice of lamentation—Mothers weeping for their Sons, Wives for their Husbands, Sisters for their Brothers. Amidst the host of brave and gallant men who fought and died in the Crimea, permit me call your attention to one in whom as a Colonist we all felt interested—I allude to the late Major Welsford. A braver or nobler man never breathed—the last time I beheld him, he was in the prime and vigor of manhood, riding with his regiment through the streets of Halifax. Now, his bones lie mouldering, far away from kindred and friends. He fell nobly leading on his men, to aid (as he himself expressed it in a letter written the night before) in making Her Majesty a present of the Redan,—Peace to his ashes!

"He sleeps his last sleep,  
He has fought his last battle,  
No sound shall awake him—"

Till the trump of the Arch-angel shall summon him forth to join the hosts of the redeemed on high. For a continuation of this War, with all its accumulated horrors, we are clearly indebted to Russia. England and France had ever shown themselves willing to bring the matter to an amicable arrangement, and that too on terms not incompatible with the honor and dignity of the Russian Empire. In proof of this allow me to refer you to the Conference held at Vienna. On the meeting of the Plenipotentiaries of the four Powers, the Russian Plenipotentiaries were themselves invited to take the initiative, and propose some method by which they thought they could carry out the principles to which they had assented. The Russian