

une Mussulman spirit growed, but could do nothing more. The Sultan himself has become, in its eyes, little better than a *roue*, for he has broken through all Mahometan restraint, and has, *bismallah!* even gone to a *glaour* ball, and had *glaour* ladies presented to him there! Localities formerly as secluded from the Franks as Blue Beard's Chamber, have become open thoroughfares; we have made roads, established towns, from which, even though we depart, we cannot take away our impress. More than all, the Bible has elbowed the Koran in its most sacred retreats—the cross has stood side by side with the crescent; and what does all history say from the earliest days, as to the result of such contiguity? Even could we suppose such an anomaly as that our politics and civilization should cease to produce their own natural results on the semi-barbarous people; will our religion also become a nullity? Turkey's political extremity was our opportunity; and, having swayed there in national matters, our national religion will of itself assert its own indomitable sway. Old Turkey may, like the solitary desert bird, expire amid its own ashes; but from them will arise a new creature, purged from the dross of past being, and turning its freshened gaze toward the brightest source of earth's illumination—the despised and crucified Nazarene!

One step toward this is already gained. The protection of Christians is secured by signed treaty; and, secure from the murderous persecutions of old, a purer faith has a safe stand-point from which to exercise its elevating and Christianizing teaching. Have we only warred for Turkey as it was, or has Providence overruled the cogitations of Princes and the shock of armies to open up a wide field for the diffusion of Christ's gospel?

DOINGS IN PARLIAMENT.

To the present date, have been very interesting, and will continue to be so. The House of Lords has been thrown into a complete ferment by the Queen elevating Baron Parke to the title of Lord Wensleydale, with a peerage for life. As your readers are aware, the House of Lords is a high judicial Court of appeal as well as a Legislative House. But the Law Lords are so few, that it was deemed advisable to strengthen their ranks by the infusion of fresh legal talent; and Baron Parke was selected as the man for this honour, in acknowledgment of eminent legal services. The hereditary Lords, however, were deeply aggrieved; contending, that the creation of peerages for one lifetime only was an infraction of their hereditary dignity, and the introduction of a democratic element not at all suited to that very conservative and elite body. Accordingly, a committee of privileges decided that "the new boy," as *Punch* styled him, could not be admitted. The new Lord, however, though he may not sit as a Peer, very properly uses his title. There, for the present, the matter ends; but public opinion fully concurs in the principle established—hereditary legislation, by no means, although born of a lordly stock, is not held in such reverence as of yore. The ejection of the peerage of *talent* is not admired; and doubtless, in good time, the principle will be carried. As it is, something is gained: to stave off one evil, the Lords will remedy another, and are about to reform their judicial legislation.

ARMY MISMANAGEMENT.

More scandal concerning last winter's official military blundering has been made public. Sir John McNeill's report exposed much that was hitherto secret; and Lords Cardigan and Lucan have lost much of the halo that had surrounded their deeds in the battle-field. Charges of gross and wilful neglect, by which the cavalry horses were forced to eat off each others' tails while there was abundance of hay 7 miles off, called up these noblemen in the House; but their defence was, at best, a lame one. The real bane of the system seems to be promotion by purchase instead of merit. Sir De Lacy Evans is about to move for its abolition; but not until reform has thundered at St. Stephen's in louder tones, will the "vested interests" concerned in the maintenance of the present system be overcome, I fear. However, army reform is becoming a national cry; and the Queen has taken a great step toward it, by the establishment of an Order of Valour, whose decoration is to be alike conferred on general and private.

The scandals brought to light in the Report alluded to, were so glaring, and so

commented on by the press, that they could not be passed over. Seven officers have therefore been appointed to inquire into the allegations against Lords Cardigan and Lucan, Quartermaster-general Airey, Commissary-general Filder, Colonel Gordon and others. Curiously enough, these officers have already been applauded to the skies, promoted and decorated, for deeds which they will have to defend "in open court and the light of day!" Such is our present way of doing things.

The debates upon the Fall of Kars, and Sir Charles' motion concerning the Baltic fleet have yet to come on.

CHURCH REFORM.

The Ecclesiastical courts, so long notorious for the abuse of their jurisdiction, have at last come forward for inquiry and proposed abolition. Lord Blandford has introduced a Bill for the better regulation of parishes; and Sir W. Clay is about to move for the abolition of Church Rates. These all shew progress in a right direction. Even the warmest friends of the church admit her many corruptions, and the need of reform. When will the nation understand that religion is above the State, needs not its aid for existence and support, and is polluted by the union?—*To be concluded.*

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 19, 1856.

Sir John Walsley's motion in the House of Commons for opening the British Museum, Crystal Palace and other institutions of public resort, to the public on the Sabbath, came on for discussion on the 21st ult. An immense number of Petitions had been presented from all parts of the country against the motion by many of the most influential members in Parliament, and the motion was warmly opposed by gentlemen of almost all professions and denominations in the Commons, upon the grounds that such a Bill would be but the beginning of a general desecration of the Sabbath, and have the immediate tendency of rendering it a day of mere amusement, as well as labour, as was almost universally the case among the nations of the Continent, and that in the place of its providing a means of recreation for the poorer classes, which would keep them from the gin-shops and similar places of resort on the Sabbath, it would have the directly contrary effect—that the universal feeling of an immense majority of the people throughout the country was known by their petitions and other unmistakable evidence, to be in direct opposition to a measure which they felt would be the direct means of desecrating the day of rest to mere secular purposes, and would operate in lowering the whole moral and religious character of society. After a long and full discussion the vote was put, when the motion was lost 376 to 48—giving the majority of 328 against it. It was considered an open question in which ministers voted either way. The Premier Lord Palmerston was with the majority.

We feel much obliged to the kind friend and brother, who has furnished us with the instructive and interesting articles which have supplied the opening columns of the Christian Messenger for some weeks past, and which will be continued for some numbers to come. They have, we learn, been already imparted to the author's immediate circle, in the form of Lectures. The fund of useful information they contain is calculated to be of the utmost utility, especially to our youthful readers, whose minds can only be fully cultivated and expanded by a correct knowledge of the history, the character and the wants of the various portions of our common race. For ourselves, no part of the world, exclusive of our own nation and people, has ever possessed a deeper interest in our thoughts than France. Among the very foremost in all that regards civilization, genius, and enterprise, she has for centuries past been more or less the slave of superstition, of despotism, and of anarchy—a melancholy and indisputable proof that every other human perfection, without a deep moral and religious bias in numbers of those who make up a population, is utterly unavailing to redeem a country from the worst of evils. Divided as France is at this moment as regards the vast amount of her people between infidelity and

superstition, a dark and portentous cloud lowers over her future. There are nevertheless, the incorruptible seeds of truth here and there observable amidst her idol or pleasure-worshipping crowds of immortal beings. May they spring up and grow and bear fruit a thousand fold.

AFTER the synopsis of the new Education Bill given in our last, it may not be out of place to make a few further remarks, on a subject of such vast moment. We shall watch with deep interest the progress of the measure through the Legislature.

From the present position of parties in the House of Assembly, it can hardly be expected that a unanimous feeling will exist with regard to the subject. It is doubtful if sufficient courage will be manifested, by a majority of the Representatives, to enact a law to enforce the principle of assessment contained in the Bill, without attempts being made to suit the views of various parties who may form that majority. We shall not be much surprised if an effort is made to divide the school monies, and give separate schools to different sections. An intimation to this effect was given in the *Halifax Catholic* of last Saturday. It will be readily perceived that this would be giving up the whole ground of Free Schools, and introducing an entirely opposite principle, which if it were followed by each particular sect, would produce 'confusion worse confounded,' and render the Bill a curse, instead of a blessing, an occasion of discord and an engine of strife.

The great necessity at the present time is an increase of remuneration for Teachers. If the Bill will accomplish this object, it will be largely beneficial. If, however, the Assessment is not enough to make any sensible difference it will be but little satisfaction to know that schools are free, when the sums given to Teachers are insufficient to induce intelligent men and women to continue in the profession. Some considerable time must elapse before any great change will appear in the class of persons employed as Teachers throughout the Province, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of the Superintendent and Teachers at the Normal School at Truro. It remains to be proved too, how many of those who there receive their course of training will continue in the work. It is true they are obliged to engage for a certain length of time, when they enter that institution, but it will be unreasonable to expect them in all cases to adhere to this, unless an adequate amount of remuneration is provided.

The Prohibitory Bill.

The discussion of the Prohibitory Liquor Bill is to take place in the House of Assembly this week. We shall not fail to report whatever new light is thrown on the subject or new form the debate assumes. We suppose, however, it has been so fully discussed before, that the friends of the measure will not go into any very elaborate exposition of its principles. Action is more required now than speeches. Facts are so abundant that the only difficulty is in selecting from them to refute the false statements of its enemies.

"The revenue is in danger," is the cry of some of the opposers, forgetting or not caring to remember that after the labours of Father Matthew in Ireland the revenue of that country was increased by £200,000, notwithstanding that derived from whiskey and other intoxicating drinks had decreased £700,000 in one year.

The Temperance people, with but few exceptions, have done their work well. Petitions have already been presented with upwards of thirty-three thousand signatures, besides those from the Convention, our Associations and other religious bodies.

A futile attempt has been made by some of the opponents of the measure to depreciate the signatures to the Petitions. The expression of opinion is so decided and general, and the number so overwhelming that there seems no possible reason for refusing the Bill except by some side wind.

A Meeting for Prayer on behalf of the Temperance cause at the present important crisis was held at the Granville Street Church on Monday evening.

Rev. Mr. Bentley, Rev. Mr. McGrigor, Rev. Mr. McLearn, Rev. Mr. Miller, Judge Marshall and Mr. W. A. S. Blewett took part in the services. A deep and solemn feeling prevailed. The ravages still being made by this parent vice call for earnestness and prayerful effort as much now as at any previous period of its dreadful history.

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MEMORIAL has come to us with somewhat of an improved appearance under its new Editor. It is ever welcome as a monthly epitome of the progress of the denomination. Its articles are written in a vigorous, *Manly* spirit.

OUR latest intelligence by the *It. M. Steamer Arabia*, which reached us on Tuesday night, is up to the 1st inst. The Peace Conferences at Paris had fully assembled, all the Plenipotentiaries being present. Their first meeting was on the 25th ult. As respects the proceedings of the Congress, the utmost secrecy is preserved, nor had a syllable transpired which could lead to any probable conjecture of what was likely to be done. The only act of importance was the declaration of a truce or armistice for one month as regards all land operations, but not to apply in any respect to naval operations. It is simply an agreement to cease fighting on land. Various rumours were of course busily circulated as to what was likely to take place, but apparently grounded upon no certain data. By many it is confidently believed that the points which will arise under the *fifth* basis of negotiation, viz:—the thoroughly disarming and neutralizing the Black Sea, would involve so much humiliation to Russia that she will prefer to try the further appeal to arms. We think, however, the more mature and reliable opinions are in favour of the conclusion of peace, upon the fair construction and carrying out of the whole of the Five points of negotiation. No abatement has taken place in the meantime, of the most active preparations to carry on the war with renewed vigour both by land and sea. Such policy we believe to be a wise one, and on it will most probably, rest the reasonable prospect of Peace being shortly concluded.

Sir Richard Dundas, the same Admiral who commanded the British Fleet in the Baltic last season, is re-appointed to the same command. The advanced squadron of the Fleet has already left England, as the breaking up of the ice in the Baltic has already commenced, rendering that sea open to naval operations.

Two regiments are ordered out to Canada, probably to shew that the Government are not careless of the defence of their colonies in case of necessity, altho' the latest accounts would indicate the return of pacific feelings between Britain and the United States.

The Duke of Norfolk, the representative of one of the oldest and most wealthy and influential among the English titles of nobility, is just dead. The family is one among the few of the Peerage which has always adhered to the Roman Catholic faith. The late Duke, however, on occasion of the aggression of the Pope, which caused such deep offence to the nation three years since, renounced Popery and joined the established Church. It is said, however, that he was re-united to the Church of Rome on his death-bed. A sad instance of delinquency and its consequences has occurred in the case of Mr. Sadleir, a member of Parliament, who, after numerous and aggravated instances of swindling, forgery and dishonest speculations, involving immense sums of money and ruining vast numbers of persons, deliberately committed suicide, goaded by the remorse awakened by a consciousness of his guilt. His swindling speculations are stated in some of the papers to have amounted to as much as a million of money.

General Intelligence.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—F. Pasnow, Esq., will give select Poetic Readings this, Wednesday evening.

ATHENEUM ENTERTAINMENT.—Mr. Marriott, gave a graphic and beautiful sketch of "the Treaty of Tilsit" on Thursday evening last, at the Temperance Hall. The meeting of Napoleon 1st, and Alexander of Russia in the presence of the two armies, was described with much minuteness. The circumstances immediately preceeding, and following,—exhibiting their connection with the present struggle—were briefly referred to, and afforded the audience a pleasing and instructive review of that important period of history.

The painting (value £100 stig.) drawn by William Murdoch, Esq., from the Glasgow Art Union, may be seen for a few days at No. 16 Granville Street. A. & W. Mackinlay, Agents.

FOUND DEAD.—As the mail courier from this town, on last Friday morning, was passing from Sable River towards Jordan River, he observed some tracks in the snow—fancying them to be those of a bear, but after driving about two miles further on he observed, at a