

iron, while we are proposing to convert six more sailing ships of the line into steamers.

In sailing-vessels, which however can no longer be considered the strength of the navy, our superiority is very great—296 to 136; of which 105 are ships-of-the-line and frigates, against 38 French of the same classes. We have also a great superiority in screw gunboats, 162 to 28; so that the whole steam navy of England amounts to 464 vessels, that of France to only 264. In our merchant service, too, our comparative resources are vastly the greater—our registered tonnage being upwards of four millions, that of France under a million. Our merchant steam-vessels' tonnage being almost six times greater than our neighbour's. Our tonnage per vessel, also, averages much more than double that of France, and the crews of our vessels in the home trade, too, almost treble those of France.

At a cost of eighteen or nineteen millions less than ourselves, the Emperor has raised his navy in seven years from a very great inferiority to nearly an equality with that of her Majesty, while we at so much greater expense have failed to keep our relative position. That relative position is now, indeed, a weaker one. With the vast extent of our possessions in every part of the globe, and consequent exposure of attack, actual equality of naval force means relative inferiority. At the present moment, LOUIS NAPOLEON seems to have his hands full in a quarter more promising to his ambition, and probably, therefore, it cannot be our turn yet. May it never come!—*Freeman*.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MAY 25, 1859.

Future Prospects.

We referred very briefly last week to our expected denominational anniversaries—the Associations,—and noticed the recent advancement of Christ's Kingdom. We feel, however, that the subject deserves a much more extended notice. We have indications in abundance that the principles of the Gospel will soon make far more rapid progress than they have hitherto done. This must be apparent to every observant mind. The commotion on the continent of Europe and other parts of the world, we believe, will have more to do with religious progress than is intended by the principal actors, or is supposed by those who observe it from a merely political point of view.

The clash of arms which has so unexpectedly burst upon our ears is doubtless but the precursor of events of vast moment to the nations, more immediately concerned. Those nations, of all on earth, are perhaps the least tolerant of pure religion, and have presented greater obstacles to a general diffusion of gospel truth than even pagan countries. Civil and religious liberty is a term not understood there by either rulers or people. Although we, in this favoured land, may not be called to take an active part in the strife, yet Christians cannot meet together on matters relating to the kingdom of Christ without feeling that such eventful times demand from them decision and energy in carrying forward the great work entrusted to them by their Divine Master.

The war may at present appear to have but a very remote connexion with religion, and may seem but the striving of one potentate against another for the gratification of his ambition, yet eventually, we doubt not, the nations now bending under the scourge of war will arise and throw off the yoke of oppression under which they have so long been crushed, and it will be seen, as it has been frequently before, that it was but as the storm sent to prepare the way for the more perfect reign of righteousness and peace.

When we remember the predictions of the Great Ruler, and call to mind the wonderful manner in which he has interposed for their accomplishment, we may take courage and watch the developments of His Providence with yet deeper interest. The Lord causeth even the wrath of man to praise Him, and the remainder of wrath he restrains. The late painful events in India are a signal instance of God's making all things work together for good to them that love him. Recent accounts received from that country shew that Christian natives occupy a very different position there, now, from that they did formerly. The Rev. James Smith writes from Delhi, dated March 4th, 1859:—

"When I left India, not a native Christian could get employment even in the meanest situation, notwithstanding Mr. Halliday's declaration to the contrary. Now, if there were thousands more in every town, they would be immediately employed. I everywhere met our people, no longer the dejected, downcast beings they once were, but clean and smart as to their attire, and manly and bold in bearing. The mutiny

has accomplished the disenthralment of the native Christian community, and we may reasonably hope that in future they will not only be able to sustain themselves in independence, but aid in the cause of the Redeemer among the perishing heathen."

In like manner may we not expect that Italy—the land where, in all probability, contending armies are now spilling each others' blood, and over which superstition and Infidelity have so long brooded, and are now bringing forth death and destruction,—that there the pure light of truth will break in and scatter the darkness which is over the land, and the thick darkness which covers the people?

War is a fearful scourge, but a nation bound in the chains of superstition, and yet exerting its power against God's Word and people, is, perhaps, a more appalling sight. Let us, then, as we come together for the purpose of reviewing what the Lord has done for us as a people, endeavour to set a higher estimate on the blessings we enjoy, and whilst we have such unnumbered mercies, let us send up united fervent prayer that God would arise and scatter his enemies, and overcome them by his grace, until the Prince of Peace shall reign from the rivers unto the ends of the earth.

Our English papers came to us by the last mail filled with highly important and interesting intelligence. The great anniversaries of the Baptist Denomination had just been held, and indicate that an amount of vigour and earnestness animate our English brethren greater than at any former period.

THE BAPTIST UNION held its annual meeting on the 22nd, at which the Rev. G. W. Lehmann, of Berlin, delivered the Introductory Address. As the Annual manifesto of Baptist Principles from that body, it is a masterly production. We shall endeavour to give it in a condensed form on some early occasion. It is well worthy of perusal and does credit to the head and heart of a Baptist minister from the Prussian capital. It is highly gratifying to see that bonds of warm Christian affection attract so many of the best men in the denomination from all parts of the world to this annual gathering.

It might be worthy of consideration whether or not our own CONVENTION might not form a connection, by an annual fraternal Address, to this body in the British Metropolis. Some of our brethren who might be in London at future anniversaries would, doubtless, feel pleasure in representing these Provinces of the British Empire in their councils.

We merely throw out the suggestion, and shall be glad, in case it meets with the approbation of the brethren, if they will take it up at our next meeting of Convention. Our New Brunswick brethren will, we doubt not cordially unite in such Address.

A general review is by this body given to the position of the denomination in Great Britain, and especially to the condition of suffering brethren in other countries. Whatever affects the free progress of divine truth or interferes with its manifestation in any part of the world, is deemed worthy of their attention. At the meeting above referred to a strong protest was entered against "American Slavery," and an Address to the Churches in the United States, on the subject, adopted. "The Bible Monopoly" was also the subject of a very firm resolution. The liberation of Religion from State Control is always a subject of special consideration. "Recent Religious Revivals," too, were brought before the body and made a subject of resolution, expressive of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Our Sabbath Schools.

These institutions, we believe, are yet in a very imperfect state. They are commonly rather the outgrowth of Christian principle in some few persons belonging to a congregation, than as they should be, organizations in which all the members of the Church feel themselves personally interested and responsible.

The returns of Sabbath Schools made by some churches to the Associations, from year to year, are rather an indication of what may possibly be done by them than of what is really accomplished by this mode of instruction. Far more is effected, we believe, than has ever appeared by our Statistics.

The time which it is possible to devote to this subject at the Associational meetings, is so limited that but little can be done at them for the improvement of this branch of Christian operation. More must be done, however, before they will become what they are often called,—the nurseries of the Churches. Bible Classes, for the regular systematic study of the Scriptures, are of the utmost importance. We may expect stability in young converts only as they are well versed in Bible doctrine, and have their minds interested in the examination of Gospel truth. The Pastors and Deacons may do much to promote this by recommending such helps as they may have ac-

quaintance with, and by making occasional enquiries to ascertain the amount of attention given to the study.

The Elections.

THE late political agitation and contest in this Province has been one of no ordinary character. Each side is charged by the other with having used intimidation, bribery and corruption. Some with double voting, and others with polling more votes than there are voters in the District. One side is accused of bringing in Railway labourers to vote who had not the necessary qualification, whilst the other is charged with making the circumstance of men being employed on the public works an excuse for heaping abuse upon good voters, and even of commending the opposite party for coming to the polls with deadly weapons. The most unblushing falsehoods have been freely circulated; stories the most unlikely have been invented and palmed off upon the credulous and unsuspecting.

Even professedly Protestant ministers of the Gospel have not hesitated to use their ecclesiastical authority, and in some instances we learn, have charged their people that unless they voted for a certain candidate, they would forfeit their right to the ordinances of their church, and would subject themselves to discipline. Not only so, but in some cases these so-called ministers have disgraced their calling by going from their own place of residence into another county simply for the purpose of canvassing and preaching against a prominent political opponent. We are willing to allow very considerable latitude to the excitement of political contests, but for men professing godliness and denouncing the combinations formed in another church to lay themselves open to charges even more flagrant, will, we doubt not, recoil upon themselves, expose their real characters to their people, and destroy their influence for good.

If such things cannot be otherwise avoided, we think it high time to substitute some means for the protection of voters from annoyance. Much as we dislike giving encouragement to cowardliness, yet we think every man is entitled to protection whilst giving a free expression of his opinions, both political and religious, and that in doing so he should not be exposed to the danger of firearms in the hands of his opponents.

Certainly a Registration of persons entitled to vote should be made forthwith, so that it may be known who are the sovereign people, instead of our lives and liberties being at the mercy of the most unprincipled and reckless. We make no charge ourselves against one party or the other, our only desire is to inform our readers of what is current in our little political world. Until clubs, firearms, and Rum are prohibited at elections, and frowned down by an enlightened public opinion, we may expect in vain to see them free from riot and bloodshed. We have recent instances of both parties receiving permanent injury by the use of the latter of the above articles for electioneering purposes, and hope they will in future abandon such disgraceful measures of promoting the interests of their party.

THE *Presbyterian Witness* of Saturday last takes Mr. Shannon to task for his having, on the hustings recently, condemned the mixing up of politics with religion and religious newspapers.

Our contemporary tries to shew that because religious men may engage in politics, therefore religious newspapers may do the same. We need not say that we come to a very different conclusion, and think he argues very unfairly. We do not think the editor of a paper, professing to represent, and assuming the name, of a religious denomination, has any right to make use of this, as a mask, behind which to serve a political party whose cause he has chosen to espouse. When an editor does this, he, at once sinks his character as the exponent of a religious body, and becomes a political partizan, unworthy of even the respect accorded to the professed politician. This will be evident to all, when it is remembered that there may be probably a larger number of the body whose name he wears, entirely opposed to him and to the political party he endeavours to support.

By pursuing such a course of conduct an editor, too, countenances the dishonesty and wickedness of those who bear the name of Christian ministers, but who make use of the confidence reposed in them as religious teachers, for the purpose of obtaining some worldly power or advantage. It is a shame that religion should be prostituted to such vile purposes. We do not think it necessary that a man, when he becomes a Protestant minister or a Catholic Priest, should give up his citizenship: but we do think that when a minister makes use of his position as a minister for any other purpose than that belonging to his office, he forfeits all title to the respect which is very properly accorded to it. When this is the

case, his people may be expected, if they have any self-respect, to suggest to him the propriety of his retiring from the sacred profession.

Ladies, read Mr. Harris's advertisement in another column! It is quite unnecessary for us to commend to you the cultivation of flowers. Your appreciation of the beauties of nature and art, renders that peculiarly your department.

Our English mails by the *Canada* bring London dates to the 7th inst.

The news is of the most momentous nature. The storm of War which has been for some months past lowering over the European Continent, with alternate hopes and fears, has at length burst forth. On the 28th ult. the Austrian armies crossed the Sardinian borders, under a declaration of War, which was almost simultaneously published at Paris and Turin.

Thus, at length, the sword is unsheathed, not, in all human probability, to be returned to its scabbard until myriads of lives shall have been sacrificed to the evil demon of war,—not until the insatiable lust of dominion in the bosoms of the great despots of Europe, shall have been quenched by bloody reverses, or appeased for a time by as bloody successes.

The news of a battle being fought was premature. The Sardinian army had retreated before the Austrians and strengthened their chief fortresses, whilst vast bodies of French troops were pouring over the Alps, or being transported by steamers to Genoa, the chief seaport of Sardinia. It was reported that the Austrians intended to risk their fortunes on a great battle, which would probably take place about the 10th inst. The Austrian and French Emperors, and the king of Sardinia were respectively about putting themselves at the head of their armies.

The Dukedom of Tuscany, the principal of the secondary states of Italy, had declared their adhesion to Sardinia, and the Grand Duke, who is a branch of the House of Austria, refusing to accede to the measures, was suffered quietly to depart and proceed to Vienna.

The greater part of Italy will, no doubt, declare for Sardinia, for although their chance of bettering themselves under the auspices of Louis Napoleon, is but small, yet such is the hatred to their despotic and oppressive rulers, that they will gladly seize any opportunity, however unpromising, of improving their present condition. Every succeeding mail may be expected to bring us news of more or less importance as to the great struggle that is going on.

A strong and universal desire prevails in England to avoid to the utmost all participation in the conflict, with no small dread, however, lest the vast and complicated interests of Great Britain should render it necessary ere long to declare on one side or the other, as altered circumstances may possibly demand.

The public mind in England had been much excited by a report that a secret Treaty, offensive and defensive, had been entered into between France and Russia. The fact had, however, been wholly denied by the Russian Ambassador in London, but some secret agreement, though of what exact nature is not known, no doubt exists between the parties.

The Returns for the New Parliament had been very generally made. There was upon the whole a considerable majority of those who are usually termed Liberal, but as they are split up into opposing parties, and as a very large body of the Conservative party were returned, it was thought not improbable that the Derby Administration would still continue in power. Accounts by the next mail will probably ascertain the question.

General Intelligence.

Domestic and Foreign.

The following telegram was received at the Merchants Exchange News-room on Saturday last:—

PHILADELPHIA, May 21.

Panic down in Breadstuffs. Flour seven; Meal four; Corn—none by sight.

It is said that H. M. 62nd Regiment is ordered away from this garrison.

Fresh salmon have been selling in our market for a shilling a pound.

James Cleary, of the Eastern Passage, fell out of his boat and was drowned on Saturday afternoon, the 14th inst.

A young man named William Pitts has been arrested at Sydney for robbing the store of Mr. Archibald. The robber was caught in the act.

Judge Haliburton is elected to represent Launceston in the House of Commons.

The Right Rev. Dr. Connolly has been appointed Archbishop of Halifax.—*Express*.