

General Intelligence.

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM ENGLAND.

The steamship *Canada* arrived at Halifax on Friday afternoon last, with 95 passengers and a full freight.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Feb. 28.—The Earl of Derby presented a number of petitions from members of the Scotch Church in Canada, praying their lordships not to interfere with the arrangement entered into in 1840 on the subject of the clergy reserves in that province. The noble earl protested against the proposed bill for disposing of the clergy reserves.

A long discussion followed, in the course of which the Duke of Argyll defended the measure proposed by the government, as well as the line of conduct which he had himself observed with regard to this question.—The Earl of Desart defended Sir J. Pakington's policy, and declared that the arrangement of 1840 ought to be maintained inviolate.—The Bishop of Exeter attacked the Duke of Argyll for misrepresenting what he had said on a former occasion, and extracted an apology from the noble duke.—The Bishop of Oxford attacked the Bishop of Exeter for using illogical arguments, and for having supported the measure of 1840.—The Bishop of Exeter replied with great warmth, and was called to order by Lord Redesdale.—The Bishop of London declared that the inviolability of the clergy reserves was an essential part of the Canadian constitution.—The Duke of Newcastle denied this assertion; and finally the debate ended in a series of accusations and explanations, in which everybody accused everybody, and nobody would accept an explanation from anybody.

March 1.—A conversation took place on the general subject of transportation, in the course of which Lord Campbell expressed his hope that the government did not intend to abolish it altogether; to which the Duke of Newcastle replied that, as at present advised, he could not but believe that it would be necessary before a very long period to bring that mode of punishment to a close.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, March 1.—Lord Palmerston, in answer to Lord Dudley Stuart, said that no application had been made on the part of a foreign power for the expulsion of foreign refugees in this country, and that any such application would be met with a firm and decided refusal. No such expulsion could be enforced by government without fresh powers from parliament, for which he thought that a government, if disposed to apply—which was by no means the case with the existing one—could not ask with any chance of success. No alien bill, indeed, had conferred powers to expel foreigners, except for the sake of the internal safety of the country, which did not undertake to provide for the safety of any other. But he would add that he thought that foreigners who availed themselves of the shelter afforded by the laws and constitution of this country were bound by every principle of honour to abstain from intrigues calculated to give umbrage to foreign countries.

THE MONTENEGRO WAR.—TURKEY.—Lord D. Stuart then rose to call the attention of the house to the affairs of Turkey, as affected by the contest now going on in Montenegro. The noble lord concluded by moving for copies of any despatches that may have been addressed to the British government by Russia or Austria on the subject of the war in Montenegro.

Mr. M. Milnes supported the motion.

Lord John Russell agreed in the general principle laid down by Lord D. Stuart, that this country ought to be anxious to maintain the independence of Turkey, which had been repeatedly affirmed by treaties and conventions among the powers of Europe. He could conceive no greater calamity for this country than to have to consider what was to be done in such a case as the dismemberment of Turkey, which must involve a breach of faith; and he trusted no Englishman would be a party to the scenes acted on the partition of Poland. If Turkey fell to pieces by its own weakness, questions of great importance might arise, which might light up a war in Europe. Upon principles of general policy, as well as upon the grounds of right, international law, and faith to our allies, the integrity and independence of Turkey should, in his opinion, be maintained. The little territory of Montenegro had been, as his noble friend had described, long inhabited by a very hardy race of mountaineers belonging to a branch of the Christian church, but, certainly, deviating, to a considerable extent, from Christian precepts—for it had been their habit and custom not only to permit, but to encourage, robbery and the pillage of their neighbours, and to enrich themselves by these means. The Turkish government determined to meet these aggressions, and to punish those who had been guilty; but, in doing so, they adopted the plan of attempting the complete conquest of Montenegro; and for that purpose raised a very large force of 50,000 men, and placed at its head a very able chief—Omer Pacha—who is supposed to have promised the Sultan utterly to subdue what he called the rebellious part of his dominions. It appeared to the governments of France and England that this step was imprudent on the part of the Porte. In the first place, considering the state of his financial resources, and considering also the state of his military resources, such a proceeding would be accompanied by a great drain on those resources, and was in itself an act not justified by precedent. It, in the next place, appeared probable (as had been stated by his noble friend who

seconded the motion) that the destruction or utter subjugation, and the probable doing away of a great portion of the 100,000 inhabitants of Montenegro, would excite the alarm of the neighbouring Christian districts, and might lead to a religious war. Accordingly, representations were made, and friendly advice given, to the Sultan not to attempt this expedition on so large a scale, by Lord Derby's government, and repeated by himself when he held the seals of the Foreign-office. He believed that the French, acting on the same views, gave similar advice. The expedition under Omer Pacha, nevertheless, proceeded, and the next matter that attracted attention was the Austrian mission of Prince Leiningen to the Porte, with instructions to place the demands of Austria before the Sultan in a peremptory manner. The demands made were various; but, with respect to Montenegro, those demands did not depart from the terms of the treaties to which he had referred; nor did they depart, as might have been expected, from a power which has always shown respect to the international law of Europe, from any principles which might not be justified by that international law. It was said that Montenegro belonged *de jure* to Turkey, but that for a long time the independence of these mountaineers had not been disturbed, and that a large army in that country would disturb the frontiers of Austria. On hearing of these demands, her Majesty's government thought it necessary to have a frank explanation from Austria, communicating, at the same time, our views as to the policy of maintaining the independence of Turkey. The explanation given showed that Austria was animated by the same desire in that respect as ourselves. Complaints were likewise made that Hungarian refugees held distinguished posts in the army of Omer Pacha. He was unable to inform the house the exact arrangement that had been come to; but the Austrian government had expressed itself perfectly satisfied. There were, unfortunately, questions still pending of vital importance to Turkey; but he believed that it was possible for the Porte, by discarding early notions, to give to its Christian subjects as good government as its neighbours. If the Sultan should take the friendly advice of our ambassador, Lord Stratford, he would always find Great Britain a faithful counsellor. It was our interest, in common with all the powers of Europe, that Turkey should be maintained in its integrity, and governed so as not to be visited by internal disorders; and he had the greatest confidence that, by friendly negotiations and reasonable concessions, all the pending questions would be peaceably adjusted.

The motion was then withdrawn.

EMIGRATION DURING FEBRUARY.—The total number of emigrants who have quitted this port, during the month of February, is 12,990. Of the Australian ships the number was 22, namely, to Melbourne 12 ships, of 6,216 tons; to Adelaide, 5 ships, of 2,077 tons; to Sydney, 3 ships, of 1,269 tons; to Port Phillip, 2 ships, of 919 tons; or a total of 10,481 tonnage of ships, conveying all classes of passengers, and almost every description of cargo, to the auferous regions in the "new and happy land." Large numbers of government emigrants are still going from Birkenhead. On Thursday week upwards of 60 emigrants made their appearance at the depot from the agricultural districts of Cambridgeshire. On Thursday the Chiide Harold went into the river with about 400 emigrants on board; and to-day the John Fielden is to go out of dock, with 335 on board, whose destination is Moreton Bay. The Sabraon, Genghis Khan, Bloomer, Ida, and Earl of Elgin, are to follow.—*Liverpool Jour.*

MORE GOLD IN AUSTRALIA.—There is news from Melbourne to the 1st of December, and very important news it is. The accounts from the diggings show a continuance of the astonishing yield of gold from the mines lately opened, and mention the discovery of fresh deposits on the Koorong River, which bid fair to eclipse all previous discoveries, the metal being of exceeding purity, and found more commonly in the form of small nuggets than in the scattered state, which renders the laborious operation of "washing" indispensable in other places. From the Echunga diggings, near Adelaide, the intelligence is equally favourable. "Pounds weight of gold," writes the government commissioner, "are spoken of now as commonly as ounces were formerly." Still great numbers are disappointed, and the general rate of wages shows a downward tendency in the price of labour. Provisions had fallen considerably in the market, and supplies were pouring in from all quarters, so that the apprehensions of famine once entertained had entirely disappeared. The Sydney mail steamer was advertised to start on her return voyage to the Cape on the 1st of December. The Great Britain was to follow on the 1st of January. The receipts from the mines during the month of November, had been 427,296 ounces; and the total shipments to the 22nd of November were to the extent of 91 tons 14 cwt. 2 qrs. 9 lbs. 1 oz., valued in the colony at £7,705,366.

In the course of Wednesday and Monday, four ships arrived in the River Thames, from Australia with the large amount of £1,342,712 of gold on board, or 354,648 oz. This is the largest amount of the precious metal that has arrived almost at one time.

The *Marco Polo*.—On Monday, a numerous party of gentlemen were entertained to a *dinner* on board the ship *Marco Polo*, lying in the Salt-house Dock, lately arrived from her extraordinary voyage to and from New South Wales, when two handsome testimonials, in plate, were presented to Captain Forbes, the commander of the vessel,

and a present to the first officer, Mr. C. McDonald. A toast relating to shipbuilding was acknowledged by Captain Smith, the builder of the *Marco Polo*, who offered some remarks relating to shipbuilding at St. John, and the number of large ships for which he had recently received orders.—*Liverpool Journal.*

The English papers contain full accounts of the severe loss of life and property sustained during the great gale of the 26th ult.

The *Royal Nurse*.—A Glasgow paper asserts that a Highland woman has been selected to act as nurse to the expected royal infant, and not a Welch woman, as was reported.

Death of the Duchess Dowager of Bedford.—We regret to announce the unexpected demise of this respected lady, who expired on the 23d ultimo, at Nice, after a brief illness of five days. The duchess was the daughter of Alexander, fourth Duke of Gordon.

Death of the Bishop of Sydney.—The Right Rev. Dr. William Grant Broughton, Bishop of Sydney, and Metropolitan of Australia, died on Sunday last, in the 64th year of his age. His lordship arrived in England a few weeks since, on business connected with his diocese.

We have to record the decease of Lieutenant General Sir W. J. Whish, of the Bengal Artillery. This gallant officer, after nearly fifty years' service, returned home last year in a very delicate state of health.

The decease of Sir A. Pilkington, K. C. B., after seventy years of service, which occurred on Saturday, places another colonelcy at the disposal of Lord Hardinge.

Frederick Augustus, Grand Duke of Oldenburg, died suddenly on Sunday morning, in the 69th year of his age. This prince was the father of the Queen of Greece.

The Rev. John Jackson, Incumbent of St. James', has been appointed to the vacant see of Lincoln.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carlisle has been elected Lord Rector of Marischal College, Aberdeen.

A European Congress is not only on the tapis, but has been all but decided; the principal object is the final settlement of the Turkish question.

The Montenegrin Prince Danilo has forbidden his soldiery to cut off the heads of the fallen Turks.

The celebrated Arctic traveller, Dr. Rae, arrived in town on Monday, to make preparations for his overland expedition in search of Sir John Franklin, and to finish the survey of the northern coast of America. Dr. Rae will leave early this month for the Northern regions, via New York.—*London Shipping Gazette.*

LADY PEEL.—A rumor is afloat in circles likely to be well informed, that Lady Peel and her daughter have seceded from the Church of England and have become Roman Catholics. It is added that Miss Peel is about to marry the son of Lord Camoys, the son of a Roman Catholic peer.—*Daily Express.*

On Thursday the freedom of the city of London was presented to Dr. Layard, the great explorer of ancient Nineveh.

Several serious railway accidents have recently occurred in England, by collision, running off the track, &c., killing several persons, and wounding others.

The screw steamer *Andes*, Captain Hutchins, sailed hence about two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, on her second voyage to New York, with a very large and valuable cargo.

THE STAFFORD-HOUSE MEMORIAL ON AMERICAN SLAVERY has, it is stated, received between 300,000 and 400,000 signatures. The propriety of placing the address in the hands of Mrs. Stowe, on her arrival in England, five or six weeks hence, is at present under the consideration of the distinguished ladies with whom the idea of memorializing the women of America on the subject of slavery originated. The *Leeds Mercury* states that the memorial has received 10,615 signatures in that town. "We are glad to hear that it is intended to contribute in this town towards a substantial testimonial, to be presented to the authorities of that unrivalled and invaluable work [*"Uncle Tom's Cabin."*] Mrs. Beecher Stowe, on her approaching visit to this country."

The Morning Advertiser announces that the Duchess of Sutherland places Stafford House at the disposal of Mrs. Stowe, to give receptions in, and that Earls Shaftesbury, Carlisle, &c., will meet her at Liverpool.

The young Emperor of Austria is out of danger, his assailant has been executed, and Count Leiningen has returned from Constantinople with the flattering assurance that the Porte has conceded all he asked. The war in Montenegro will cease immediately. The Sultan is to withdraw his troops, forbid his Croat renegades to kill Christians, and the Christian Montenegrins are to be denied the gratification of killing Turks—the humanity of their Prince having previously interdicted the decapitation of Mussulmans when killed.

The war, therefore, which was so imminent last week, will not take place; and the Ottoman empire is to endure a little longer.—*Liverpool Jour.*

The "Exodus."—A Waterford paper states that on Friday the quays were literally alive with passengers to Liverpool en route to America; no fewer than 380 or 400 persons being on the deck of the *Mars* steamer at her departure, and bidding a long farewell to their native land.

FRANCE.—The Emperor and Empress are shortly to make an excursion to the southern provinces.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux is about to leave Paris in a few days, on a mission from the French government to his Holiness the Pope. It is said that his eminence is empowered to arrange the terms with Pius IX. upon which his holiness will consent to come to France to assist at the Emperor's coronation.

Jubilee Year of the Bible Society.

The Seventh of March will soon be here,—the anniversary of the day on which, forty-nine years ago, that great fact of our age, the British and Foreign Bible Society, came into existence, and when, consequently, it will enter upon its Jubilee year. As our readers have been informed already, the day will be celebrated by the holding of a special meeting of the Committee, open to all officers of auxiliary and branch societies, in the room of the London Tavern, where, in 1804, this grand and glorious institution was formed. Of all the leading men who assembled on that memorable occasion, but one, we believe, the venerable Dr. Steinkopff, survives, to recall on the very spot those ancient memories. Charles, Hughes, Owen, Pratt, Sharp, Porteus, Teignmouth,—all are gone to their rest and their reward. Many, however, are old enough to remember from what small beginnings the great results it is our privilege to have witnessed, have been derived. An extreme want of Bibles was felt in the Principality of Wales. An existing Society, which had been the ordinary channel of supply, hesitated to meet the demand. The apostolic Charles of Bala represented the wants of his countrymen to persons in London; and the practical mind of Joseph Hughes, aided by kindred spirits, drew from these elements the project of a comprehensive plan for the circulation of the Sacred Scriptures in Great Britain and in all the world. "When," observes Dr. Steinkopff, "I represent to my mind the 7th of March, 1804, placing myself in spirit in the assembly-room of the London Tavern, I behold there a grain of mustard-seed committed to the ground with a trembling hand, but with a prayerful heart. On that ever memorable day, our Bible Society feebly rose, which ever since has continually increased in vigour and strength, till it has reached the vast number of 8,000 auxiliaries, branches, and associations, in this and other countries. I felt delighted, when, at the first meeting of the society, a sum of no less than £700 was subscribed; but, blessed be God, at whose supreme command is all the silver and gold, these few hundred pounds have now multiplied to hundreds of thousands; indeed, from this live coal of Christian charity, a flame of generous ardour and exertion has been kindled, which, burning brighter and brighter into one focus, (collecting the magnificent gifts of the rich and the humble mites of the poor,) has wonderfully contributed to the illumination of many a benighted spot with the light of Divine truth. The number of those gentlemen who attended the first meeting, both ministers and laymen, was about 300."

Who shall now count the adherents of the institution? The societies in connexion with it amount to 8,257. The languages or dialects in which, directly or indirectly, it has promoted the distribution, printing, or translation of the Scriptures, are not fewer than 148,—half as many as the individuals who assisted at its formation. Of the 175 versions in which the Bible now exists, 121 are translations never before printed. From Earls-street alone, have issued 25,402,309 copies of the Word of God, which, added to some eighteen millions more that have been put into circulation by the aid of the Society, gives the amazing aggregate of forty-three millions of copies. Thus, it is calculated, has that Word which is able to make men wise unto salvation, been rendered, in 49 years, accessible to six hundred millions of the human race. The world having one thousand millions of inhabitants, much yet remains to be done, before the task which the Society has prescribed to itself, will be entirely accomplished; yet, if its future success keep pace with its past progress, there are those among us who may live to see the day when it shall have placed the Revealed Word of God within the reach of all nations.

The concurrence of events affords promise, that this great Society will celebrate its year of Jubilee under very favourable auspices. One cannot observe the altered tone in which sacred subjects are discussed in Parliament, without being reminded of its benevolent exertions. The incarceration of the Madiai by the Tuscan Government, Lord John Russell's admirable despatch on the subject, and the debate on Mr. Kinnaird's Motion, are all alike a tribute to its influence. Seeing these things, it is matter for special rejoicing, that the Committee in Earls-street, boldly avowing their true mission, have ranked it among the special purposes of the approaching celebration, "to bear a renewed public testimony to the Divine character and claims of the Bible, and to the right of every individual of the human family to possess and read the same." This glorious announcement will reassure the minds of those pious Christians who are suffering persecution and imprisonment for the mere assertion of a right which so distinguished a Society acknowledges and contends for; and, while it cannot fail to exasperate the advocates of systems to which the Scriptures are felt to be antagonistic, it will tend to conciliate and reclaim sceptics and infidels, who have looked at religion only as misrepresented by its basest counterfeit, more than all the arguments of the world.—*London Patriot.*