

have no right to "order and direct" in matters of religious faith and obligation. If they are invested with power to command, they of course are justified in inflicting punishment in case of disobedience. The latter legitimately follows the former. Hence, all such interference with the rights of private judgement is pregnant with the spirit of persecution. None believe more firmly than we do, that in all things which do not touch the rights of conscience, we are bound to be subject to the higher powers, and cheerfully submit ourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the King as supreme, or unto Governors, or unto them that are sent by him; but, in all matters implicating the right of private judgment, and the freedom of conscience, man is accountable alone to his God; and in this respect, he stands as perfectly free to think, decide, and act for himself, as if human government had no existence. To obey God rather than man is the great principle of the Protestant faith. The opposite of this idea is tyranny and persecution.

While we give this candid expression of our sentiments, we would strongly recommend to our churches to observe the day religiously. Not, indeed, because man has dictated to them to do so; but because such a service, rightly performed, cannot but be pleasing to God, and conducive to spiritual improvement. May we venture also to suggest, with all due respect to the powers that be, that all Proclamations touching religious obligation, and consequently the rights of conscience, should come in the shape of recommendation, instead of positive command. Such a form would be much more satisfactory to such of her Majesty's subjects as believe in an open Bible, and in an unfettered conscience; and we presume it would not be objected to by the strongest advocates for the religious authority of the State.

Since writing the above, we have seen some very excellent remarks in the Editorial of the *Free Press* of Wednesday last, on this subject. The arguments employed in that paper against all dictation in religious matters by the civil power are just to the point. They may be ridiculed, but cannot be answered.

#### Temperance.

We have devoted more space than usual this week to the subject of Temperance, for the purpose of letting our readers know what they are saying and doing on the opposite side of the globe, to extend the triumphs of the cause. Read the CRY FROM INDIA on our fourth page. It contains arguments in favor of the prohibition of the traffic which never can be answered. We were pleased to hear that one of our leading Printers in the city struck off a thousand copies of this article for gratuitous distribution. We should rejoice to know that a copy of it was placed in every family in the land.

Our esteemed Bro. G. F. Miles at St. George, writes as follows:—

"I do what I can for the Visitor. You have our co-operation, our sympathies, and our prayers; and you will, you must prosper. God bless you in your laborious work."

These words of whole-hearted good will were accompanied with a valuable addition to our list. If all brethren who can, will do likewise, as we trust they are disposed to do, our hands will never hang down, or our heart grow sad in our work. Brethren pray for us!

We are pleased to learn that a large proportion of our churches, have cheerfully responded to the Visitor claim, and have forwarded the amount as expected. Some few have not done so as yet: the Treasurer would be glad to hear from them.

#### Annual Missionary Meeting.

This to our minds is a meeting of unusual interest. The Society is in its infancy—it requires special care. It is the child of the Baptist denomination—who will nurse it if they do not? Brethren, this infant must have our sympathies, our prayers, and our money, or if it live, it will be a puny thing, and will never arrive to the perfect stature of a man. Attend the meeting, and see what is to be done to promote its healthy growth and progress.

A new paper called the *Woodstock Journal* has been received. It is edited and published by Mr. Wm. R. MELVILL. The first copy is neat in its appearance, and is filled with useful matter.

We are indebted to Col. Favor's Express for the latest news from the United States.

### General Intelligence.

#### THREE DAYS LATER.

The Steamship *America* arrived at Halifax at 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning, with Liverpool dates to the 13th inst. The *Arctic* arrived out on the 10th.

The Cotton market closed heavy at a slight decline. Sales of the week, 54,560 bales.—Breadstuffs were active at an advance of 2d. on Wheat, 1s. on Flour, and 1s. on Corn.

Manchester market dull, and prices slightly yielding.—Iron was in fair demand.—Freights to the United States firmer, with a slight advance in rates for weight.

The ship *Baldour* at Queenstown, reports that on the 21st April, lat. 45 30, long. 32 54, two miles distant, saw a large steamer go down. Steered towards the place, and saw large quantities of biscuits and boxes. When first seen, a barque was alongside the steamer, but she steered away south-west. She may have been the *City of Glasgow*.

#### BOMBARDMENT OF ODESSA.

Full accounts are now to hand of the bombardment of Odessa. As surmised, the affair was far from decisive, being mere destruction without any result. The British accounts report the attacking force as the English steamers *Sampson*, *Terrible*, *Tiger*, *Retribution*, and *Furious*, and four French steamers, with a detachment of English rocket boats. The mode of attack was new. The steamers continued for 12 hours to sail round in a circle of half a mile in diameter, 2000 yards distant from the batteries, and each steamer delivered her fire as she passed, the rocket boats continuing to throw 24 lb. rockets, to set the town and shipping on fire. The steamers also threw red hot shot. The Russians fought with extreme bravery, replying to the fire of the ships. Towards night, the battery becoming untenable, its fire became slower though regular, and at length the shipping in the rear being on fire, it was silenced. During the action, red hot shot from the steamer *Terrible* blew up the Russian Magazine, or imperial mole, and silenced the formidable battery there. A Russian frigate in the harbour took fire, burned to the water's edge and blew up; also 12 small ships and 2 ships of war building. The rockets also set the lower part of the city on fire, which burned for two days. Three of the attacking steamers were disabled. The British estimate their loss at less than 20 killed and wounded. The Russians estimate theirs at 12 killed and 60 wounded.

#### LATEST.

It is said that an alliance between Sweden and the Western Powers was on the point of being concluded. It is also confidently stated in Paris that Spain, Portugal, and Piedmont, are willing to join the Western alliance, and if necessary, to supply a contingent.

The Arab chief Unsuuf, with 1000 Coares, has embarked for Turkey.

Fourteen Russian merchant ships have been captured in the Black Sea. Admiral Dundas has proposed an exchange of prisoners.

The Times correspondent at Landsoot in Sweden, writes on the 4th that the Amphion, Captain King, was reported ashore in the vicinity of Revel, and it was feared that the captain and crew would be made prisoners.

An additional camp of 50,000 men was formed near Madrid.

The Turks are about to blockade Greece.

The Shah of Persia has become hostile to Russia, and is raising an army of 50,000 men.

The Turks have advanced from Kalafat to Kravova.

The Russian fleet left Manilla for Batavia.

It appears that the hostilities against Russia are to be carried out on a much larger and grander scale by the allied powers, and the *Paris Monitor* of the 6th announces that the French and British governments have agreed in the adoption of all the measures of precaution which the present war may render necessary.

With this object the Emperor has decided on the formation of two camps; the first, of 100,000 men, will be established between Montreuil and St. Omer, and the second, of 50,000 near Marseilles.

The English government on its side (says the *Monitor*) is preparing troops, and a fleet capable of transporting in case of necessity, the forces necessary, to the Baltic or Black Sea.

The *London Times* asserts that both Revel and Helsingfors are to be occupied, and the Gulf of Finland closed till an attack on Cronstadt can be organized.

In the Black Sea, a descent on the Crimea and the capture of Sebastopol will be effected, and the Crimea held by the allied armies. There is scarcely a doubt that this is a correct programme of the intended operations.

The formation of the Northern camp is supposed to be a demonstration against Prussia.

The *Morning Herald* has a telegraph despatch from Stockholm, announcing that the British steamer *Leopard* arrived at Stockholm May 5, and signalled that the enemy's ships were coming out of Helsingfors.

Admiral Napier instantly made signal to the fleet, to make ready for sea immediately.

The French fleet had reached Wingo Sound, and was hastening to form a junction with the British Naval forces.

A telegraphic despatch from Constantinople of the 27th April states that the French Ambassador, having insisted that the United Greek Catholics should be permitted to remain in Turkey, a serious misunderstanding arose, and Gen. Barely de Hilliers prepared to leave Constantinople, when the Turks yielded.

Several conferences have taken place between the British, French and Austrian ministers, at which conditions were agreed to, to be offered by Austria to Russia after the former has occupied Bosnia and Upper Albania.

The conditions were said to be favorable by Baron Meyendorff. They were regarded as being the final attempt of Austria to restore peace before she declared herself.

A pitched battle took place on the 18th and 19th April, between 70,000 Turks, under Omar Pacha, and the Russians, under General Liders. The Russians retreated behind Cziuruvona, with the loss of many guns, their baggage and military chest, &c. Silistria remained undamaged up to the 23, amidst continued attacks.

The Allied fleets had bombarded Salina, but no details had been received.

Much excitement had been caused in consequence of the reported capture of a French brig by an American privateer. The British steamer *Grape Shot* had been sent in pursuit of her.

Lord Raglan arrived at Malta on the 25th, and left the same day for Turkey. The *Caradoc* left on the 26th for Corfu, to convey the Duke of Cambridge.

On the 26th ult., 19 English officers and 550 artillery men arrived in Malta, with 536 horses—20 horses having died on the passage. Lieutenant King had gone to Tunis to purchase 1000 horses. Preparations are making at Malta for lodging 5000 French troops.

The *Monitor* declares that as Russia has withdrawn the *exequaturs* of the French Consuls at Odessa, Warsaw and other Russian towns, the French Government has withdrawn the *exequaturs* from the Russian Consuls at Marseilles, Cette, Toulon, Havre, and Bordeaux.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 27th ult. contains a proclamation from the Emperor to his people, in which he represents the war against England and France as one undertaken in defence of the Orthodox Faith.

England and France, he says, have thrown off the mask and revealed their real object, which is to weaken Russia and deprive her of her powerful position in Europe.

Russia will fight for the christian faith, in defence of her co-religionists, oppressed by her merciless enemies.

The *Paris Monitor* of the 2d, represents the bombardment of the town of Odessa on the 23d, by the allied fleet, as an act of retaliation for the conduct of the military authorities of the place towards a flag of truce, sent from the English steam vessel *Furious*. It is stated that one of the Russian batteries had been completely destroyed, and several vessels in port burnt.

A letter from Silistria of April 25th, says that the Russian bombardment had produced no effect. It is said that an attack was to be made on the 1st of May, by 30,000 Russians, and that the passage of the river at Oltenitz would be made at the same time.

WRECK OF AN AUSTRALIAN STEAMER.—The British steamship *Australia*, from Australia for London, with gold and passengers, was wrecked March 30, on Green Point at the Cape of Good Hope. The passengers and treasure were all saved.

The gigantic new screw steam ship, the *Royal Albert*, of 131 guns, is to be launched on the 12th of May, in the presence of the Queen.

Count Nesselrode, the veteran prime minister of Russia, who is now 84 years of age, is the son of German parents. He was first a sailor, then a soldier.

Messrs. Wright, of Birmingham, England, have recently patented a rope, constructed of the best hemp and galvanized wire, spun together by machinery; and a rope so manufactured, four and a half inches in circumference, was found on trial

capable of drawing three hundred tons weight, which required two engines to propel it.

PRIVATEERS IN DUTCH PORTS.—The official journal of the Hague has published the following very satisfactory notice:—"According to orders from the King, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice, and the Marine, make known to those whom it may concern, that, in order to observe a strict neutrality in the war which has just broken out, no privateers, having commissions or letters of marque, either alone or with any prizes which they may have made, shall be admitted to enter our ports, or the mouths of our rivers, except in case of actual stress of weather; in consequence, orders have been sent to keep a strict watch over such privateers and compel them to put to sea again as soon as possible. The above ministers with the authorization of the King, warn all the inhabitants of the kingdom not to engage in any way in the present war, by means of armaments, as no letters of marque, issued by the belligerent powers to Dutch citizens, without the authorization of the King's government, will have legal value. The ministers hereby make known to the public, that the Dutch government, in observing the most absolute neutrality, will not sanction any commission or letter of marque: therefore, the subjects of the King, and all those who are subjected to the laws of the kingdom would, by taking any part in the war, by fitting out vessels, run the risk of being treated as pirates by other nations, and expose themselves to prosecutions before the Dutch tribunals, as well for making an attack on the safety of the state as for piracy."

Reply of Russia to the Declaration of War.—The Russian manifesto, replying to the English and French declaration of war, which is published in the *St. Petersburg Journal* of April 13th, is a speciously worded document, defending Russia's injured innocence, and throwing the responsibility of hostilities upon England and France. The same paper of the 12th contains some remarks respecting the "confidential correspondence." It states that the subject was brought confidentially to the knowledge of the Sovereigns of Prussia and Austria, but not to that of the Emperor of the French; because, at that moment, the French Envoy at Constantinople was employed in actively supplanting Russian influence there. The article defends the Emperor's motive as correct and honourable, and concludes as follows:—"These short observations will suffice to reduce, to its just value, all that falsehood, exaggeration, and malevolence has attributed to the language of his Majesty. In the eyes of impartial men, the publication which has just been made will prove only one thing, the abuse of a generous confidence, which has not been appreciated, and the injustice of suspicions, which have been made the pretence of a disastrous war, for which, had it not been for them, there would have been no cause."

DEATH OF MONTGOMERY, THE POET.—James Montgomery, the poet, died at his residence, the Mount, Sheffield, on the afternoon of the 30th ult. He presided at the weekly board of the infirmary only two days previously, and walked home, more than a mile, afterwards. He was born Nov. 4th, 1771, at Irvine, Ayrshire. We copy the following brief summary from the *London Times*:—

"When only twelve years old, the bent of the boy's mind was shown by the production of various small poems. These indications could not save him at first from the fate of the poor, and he was sent to earn his bread as assistant in a general shop. He thirsted for other occupations, and set off with 3s. 6d. in his pocket to walk to London, to seek fame and fortune. In the first effort he broke down, and for a while gave up his plan to take service in another situation. Only for a time however, was he content, and a second effort to reach the metropolis was successful, so far as bringing him to the spot he had longed for, but unsuccessful in his main hope—that of finding a publisher for a volume of his verses. But the bookseller who refused Montgomery's poems accepted his labor, and made him his shopman. Fortune, however, as she generally does, smiled at last on the zealous youth, and in 1792 he gained a post in the establishment of Mr. Gales, a bookseller of Sheffield, who had set up a newspaper called the *Sheffield Register*. On this paper Montgomery worked *con amore*, and when his master had to fly from England to avoid imprisonment for printing articles too liberal for the then despotic government of England, the young poet became the editor and publisher of the paper, the name of which he changed to *Sheffield Iris*.

In the columns of this print he advocated political and religious freedom, and such conduct secured for him the attention of the Attorney General, by whom he was prosecuted, fined and imprisoned; in the first instance for reprinting a song commemorating "The Fall of the Bastille;" in the second case for an account he gave of a riot in Sheffield. Confinement could not crush his love of political justice, and on his second release he went on advocating the doctrines of freedom as before, in his paper and in his books. In the lengthy periods between those times and the present, the beliefs which James Montgomery early pioneered in England have obtained general recognition, and, as men became more and more liberal, our poet gained more and more esteem. He contributed to the magazines, and despite of adverse criticism, in the *Edinburgh Review*, established his right to rank as a poet. In 1797 he published "*Prison Amusements*;" in 1805 the "*Ocean*;" in 1806, "*The Wanderer in Switzerland*;" in 1809, "*The West Indies*;" and 1812,

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