

opposition to the true Church grows with their growth of influence; this very morning I heard them chanting their hymns in the tomb of the Holy Virgin, a place which we can enter only by permission given." This is a high testimonial, unintentionally paid, to the success of evangelical missionaries in Palestine.

TABLE-MOVING—SPIRITS.

In these latter days, the Bishops have published a number of manifests against table-tipping, declaring it to be the work of Satan. It has been suspected of this because it came from America; but your readers are doubtless ignorant why these phenomena should first be known in the United States, and not in Italy or France. Here is the explanation of "L'Univers":—"The question is often asked why the devil should have greater freedom of action in the United States than in Europe." In reply, that journal speaks of the United States as a "country where the holy sacrifice of the Mass is only celebrated at vast distances, from one point to another, and where many millions of the descendants of the Protestants have no religion, and are not even baptized. This absence and scarcity of the sacraments leave to Satan more empire over man than elsewhere, and he audaciously comes upon the earth, not driven away by the oft-repeated immolation of the divine victim." I hope, Mr. Recorder, that some one of your readers will recommend this profound reply to the attention of your neighbour, the New York Tribune. It is from a Frenchman in New York, Mr. H. DeCourcy, who has charge of a large establishment for the sale of French glass, in Broadway, if I am not mistaken. This gentleman is the zealous correspondent of "L'Univers." He sends, from time to time, letters filled with such hatred and denunciation of the United States and her Institutions, that the French house which he represents has become so alarmed for fear of its fatal effects on their commerce, that they have insisted upon his concealing his real name.

UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE.

I have not mentioned the assumed alliance formed recently in Paris, because it is entirely unimportant. It is the work of our Unitarians and Universalists, with the Rev. Mr. Coquerel at the head of the movement; and they dream of forming a *Christian alliance* by uniting with the two first sects the Catholics and the Greeks in a common faith. Alas! this *common faith* is the faith of Voltaire! Here is the opening formula of one of their journals: "Love of God, the Creator and Father of all mankind; love of all mankind, the creatures and children of God." And this is all! These pretended Christians entirely forgot Jesus Christ in this primitive scheme of belief. At length they perceived their omission, and they have assigned him a place towards the closing sentence. This is merely an episode in the continual internal warfare, of which the National Church of France is the theatre, between the Universalists and the Orthodox, who strive to keep together, and whose different views continually drive them asunder.

I intend, on some future occasion, to say more about the regeneration of France by religious influences—if she shall ever be regenerated. I have not forgotten my promise to do so, but the events of the moment have seemed so important, and so well worth your knowing, that they have left me very little leisure.

As for the Baden affair, you know that it is only one of the thousand quarrels which result from the union of Church and State. I expect in a few days to be in a position to give you some interesting facts touching this matter.

GALLUS.

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Springfield, April 4th, 1854.

DEAR BRETHREN,—I returned yesterday evening, from attending the funeral of our esteemed sister, Charlotte Elizabeth Day, beloved wife of Mr. Jacob Day, Jr. In her death, the second Wickham Church has parted with another of its valuable members, her husband with an affectionate wife, and her three little ones with one of the kindest of mothers. Our departed sister was brought to see her lost condition as a sinner when quite young; and after remaining sometime under conviction of mind, she was enabled by faith in Christ's righteousness to feel happy in his love, and about twelve years ago was buried with Christ in the likeness of his death and resurrection by Elder James A. Smith, and united with the above church and remained a true hearted member until the day of her death. Her house and her heart were ever open for the reception of the people of God. She was blessed with a peaceable and kind disposition, which won the affections of those around her, which was evinced in her sickness and death. Her disease was consumption, which was protracted; but she was enabled to manifest Christian fortitude and patience. As death drew near, she seemed deeply interested in the salvation of others, and spoke of the importance of improving the time of health, to be ready for death: and calmly resigned her departing spirit to him who had redeemed her by his precious blood. The writer improved the circumstance of her death from 1st Thes. iv. 14,—“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again;” and the Divine presence was truly manifest in the speaking and hearing of the word of life. May the God of love give Divine support to our afflicted Bro. Day, and protect his little ones! May all her sorrowing friends remember:

“She sleeps in Jesus and is blest,
How soft her slumbers are;
From sufferings and from sin released,
And freed from every care.”

Her death took place on the 31st March, aged 30 years and 10 months.

D. C.

General Intelligence.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

New York, Saturday, April 8.

The “Europa” arrived at 4 o'clock this evening. The Czar's reply had not been officially received, and Eastern affairs remain unchanged.

Wheat had declined 6d. on the week, and Flour 2s. Corn dull. Provisions active.

The Sarah Sands arrived at Liverpool on the 24th.

The steamer Cambria left Liverpool on the 26th for Kingstown, to ship more troops for the East.

From Omar Pacha's Camp on the Danube, nothing was received except accounts of continual skirmishes with the outposts at Kalafat.

An English and French Frigate had gone to destroy the Russian Stockade at the mouth of the Danube. This will probably be the commencement of hostilities.

TURKEY.—On the 8th inst. a four hours' conference was held between the English and French Ambassadors and Redschid Pacha, touching the convention between the Western Powers and Turkey. The chief points are: 1.—The Porte engages never to negotiate with Russia without the intervention of the Western Powers. 2.—Amelioration of the condition of the Christians.

A separate treaty is annexed for the following four points: 1.—Abolition of the poll tax (harasche). 2.—Right of Christians to be admitted as witnesses in judicial proceedings. 3.—Right to hold landed property, without distinction of nationality or religion. 4.—The civil rights of the Christians admitted in the army and the civil service.

The destination of the English and French forces is to be left to the decision of the Sultan.

A letter from Constantinople of the 9th says, “The Russians are said to be preparing chains to stretch across the Danube. The Russian subjects in Turkey, France and England are about to be summoned to return home. Since prohibition of the export of corn from Odessa, the price had fallen from nine to three silver rubles. Numerous failures are expected at Odessa.”

The commander of the troops at Revel had proclaimed that probably the town would be bombarded by the English and French, and women and children had been required to leave it.

A despatch from Copenhagen, dated March 16, says that it is probable that the frigates and vessels of the second class of the English fleet, will enter the Baltic by the Sound, and the larger vessels by the Great Belt. The appearance of the

British fleet has greatly strengthened the popular and constitutional party in Denmark; and, on the other hand, afflicted the friends of Russia with proportionate disgust.

It is stated by a despatch from Berlin, 19th, that the Czar had replied to France and England—“The proposal of the Western Powers does not require five minutes' consideration: it is refused.”

The London Morning Chronicle's Paris correspondent writes on Monday evening:—“It was on Saturday that the government received from Berlin a telegraphic despatch announcing the answer of the Czar to the summons of England and France. That answer is couched in strong, dry, and almost disdainful terms. As soon as the English minister at Berlin was made acquainted with the answer, he despatched a courier forthwith with the news by way of the Prussian port of the Baltic to Admiral Napier, in order that he may be prepared to act upon his instructions.”

In the House of Lords, in reply to Lord Clanricard, Lord Clarendon said it was the intention of the Government, in the event of war, to treat Russian subjects with all the liberality in their power; and as to letters of marque, to set an example to the world, and mitigate, in their treatment, the horrors of war. He hoped in a few days to be able to state his ultimate resolution.

The publication of the secret correspondence between Russia and England had increased the good feeling in France towards England.

The Globe says that the Turkish loan of two million pounds sterling was taken by Messrs. Rothschilds at 84; the stock is to be reimbursed at par in fifteen years from the date of issue. It pays nearly nine per cent on these terms.

The firm of Benjamin Elkin & Sons, a West Indian and Australian house in London, have failed. Liabilities £140,000.

Sir Charles Napier, previous to his departure for the Baltic, was received at the Portsmouth Guildhall, by the Mayor and Common Council, and presented with an address. In his reply the Admiral said:—

“I will do the best I can to prevent the British flag from being tarnished. I know a great deal is expected from the fleet; but, gentlemen you must not expect too much—(cheers). We are going to meet no common enemy—we are going to meet an enemy well prepared. I am sure every officer and man in the fleet will do his duty gloriously; but, at the same time, I warn you again that you must not expect too much—(cheers). The fleet is a new one; the system of warfare is new; great consideration is required to ascertain how it is best to manage a fleet urged by steam. The system of warfare is entirely different now to what it was formerly; but we will do our best—(cheers).—and I am sure I shall remember to the last day of my life the kindness of the people of Portsmouth—(loud cheers).”

The Boston Traveller of Wednesday last furnishes the following abstract of the recent secret correspondence between England and Russia on Turkish affairs, just laid before Parliament.

Secret Correspondence between England and Russia.—The secret and confidential correspondence between the British & Russian Governments, which took place in the early part of last year, and which has been laid before Parliament in consequence of a recent challenging article in the Journal of St. Petersburg, occupies a large space in the English journals. The London Times thinks the Ministers of the Crown have no cause to regret the occasion of laying their whole case before the public, and that the disclosures convict the Russian Government of a duplicity almost unparalleled in the political history of Europe.

Among the documents is a Memorandum drawn up by Count Nesselrode in June, 1844, and founded on communications received from the Emperor Nicholas when in England, which lays down the principles by which Russia and England agreed to regulate their conduct towards the Ottoman Porte. These principles embraced the independence of Turkey and of her existing territorial possessions. Both Cabinets agreed, that it was their common interest to preserve this independence, and that they would unite their efforts to avert dangers threatening to the safety of the Turkish empire; and that for this purpose it was essential to leave the Porte alone, “without uselessly harassing it by diplomatic embarrassments; and without interfering, except in case of absolute necessity, in its internal affairs.”

For nearly ten years these principles were mutually and faithfully observed, till on January 9th, 1853, the Emperor Nicholas meeting the British Ambassador, Sir Hamilton Seymour, at the palace of the Grand Duchess Helen, entered into a conversation with him, and this conversation appears to have been the first of the series of confidential communications.

The Emperor in this conversation intimated his conviction that Turkey was on the verge of ruin; that it was important that England and Russia should come to a perfectly good understanding in the matter; and that neither should take any decisive step of which the other was not apprised. He disclaimed the policy of Catherine II. directed to the conquest of the Turkish empire. He declared that if England should attempt to establish herself at Constantinople, he should not permit it; but that he was equally ready to engage not to take Constantinople, at least as his own, for he did not deny that circumstances might occur to induce him to occupy Constantinople as a guarantee.

This conversation was reported to the English Government, and Lord John Russell, in reply to it on the 9th of February, rejected the Russian overture, except in so far that the British Cabinet declared that they had no intention or wish to hold Constantinople, and that they would enter into no agreement to provide for the contingency of the fall of Turkey without previous communication with the Emperor of Russia. On the 28th of February the Emperor strongly repeated his conviction that Turkey was falling to pieces, and opened himself more fully to the British Minister.

“The Emperor went on to say that in the event of the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, he thought it might be less difficult to arrive at a satisfactory territorial arrangement than was commonly believed. The Principalities are, he said, in fact, an independent state under my protection: this might so continue. Servia might receive the same form of government. So again with Bulgaria: there seems to be no reason why that province should not form an independent state.

As to Egypt, I quite understand the importance to England of that territory. I can then only say, that if, in the event of a distribution of the Ottoman succession upon the fall of the empire, you should take possession of Egypt, I shall have no objection to offer. I would say the same thing of Candia: that island might suit you, and I do not know why it should not become an English possession.”

Lord Clarendon replied to these disclosures of the views of Russia, writing as follows:

“The main object of her Majesty's government, to which their efforts have always been, and always will be, directed is the preservation of peace; and they desire to uphold the Turkish empire, from their conviction that no great question can be agitated in the East without becoming a source of discord in the West, and that every great question in the West will assume a revolutionary character, and embrace a revision of the entire social system, for which the Continental governments are certainly in no state of preparation. The Emperor is fully cognizant of the materials that are in constant fermentation beneath the surface of society, and their readiness to burst forth even in times of peace. And his Imperial Majesty will probably, therefore, not dissent from the opinion, that the first cannon shot may be the signal for a state of things more disastrous than even those calamities that war inevitably brings in its train. But such a war would be the result of the dissolution and dismemberment of the Turkish empire; and hence the anxiety of her Majesty's government to avert the catastrophe. Nor can they admit that the signs of Turkish decay are now either more evident or more rapid than of late years; there is still great energy and great wealth in Turkey; a disposition to improve the system of government is not wanting; corruption, though unfortunately great, is still not of a character, nor carried to an extent, that threatens the existence of the state; the treatment of Christians is not harsh, and the toleration exhibited by the Porte towards this portion of their subjects might serve as an example for some governments, who look with contempt upon Turkey as a barbarous power.”

The Emperor of Russia pretended to be satisfied with this answer, and ended the correspondence by a “Memorandum,” dated April 15, 1853, recognizing all the principles contended for by the British Government: acknowledging that the best way to support the duration of the Turkish Government was not to harass it by imperious demands, backed in a manner humiliating to its independence and dignity; and finally declaring the readiness of Russia to labor in conjunction with England to prolong the existence of the Turkish empire. To all this the Emperor added that his son would be equally ready to perform all he had promised.

The Times remarks that at the very moment the Emperor Nicholas was making these promises; he was in the act of violating them; that at that time Prince Menschikoff had addressed to the Porte the project of a secret treaty; and that in fact the secret treaty itself and the memorandum above referred to, reached England within a few days of each other.

The Times thinks that the publication of this correspondence will not fail to produce a powerful effect on the relations of Russia and England with the other powers of Europe. The language used by England throughout was in entire consistency with her friendly understanding with other powers; while every part of the conversations and communications proves that Russia was prepared to make very little account of the other powers, even of France, provided she could succeed in detaching England from them, in uniting her to the schemes of the Czar.

THE JAPAN SQUADRON.—The United States squadron, under Com. Perry, left Hong Kong on 14th January, bound to Loo Choo and Japan. They carry with them many hearty good wishes for their success, but the success anticipated is somewhat doubtful.

WASHINGTON, April 5.—The Japan Squadron.—The Evening Star says, that Commodore Perry was long since notified to return home after visiting the Emperor of Japan. It is understood that he will leave but one steamer and two sloops of war in the Chinese waters, and will return by the way of San Francisco.

FIFTEEN DAYS LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.—By the arrival of the California steamers, we have received fifteen days later news from California.—The steamers leaving San Francisco on the 16th of March had over \$2,000,000 in treasure.

The trial of Col. Watkins, of the Walker expedition, had commenced. Ex-Governor Foote of Mississippi was one of the counsel.

Mining accounts are still exceeding favourable. San Francisco markets are quite stagnant.—Six failures, including two commission merchants, had occurred.

Money was stringent and real estate had largely declined in value.

There is the gratifying intelligence that Lieut. Stein and his party were safe.

EARTHQUAKE.—On the night of the 17th March an earthquake was felt at Cuba during ten seconds but although the inhabitants were greatly terrified, no damage appears to have been done.