

heard from our dear sister Very, who is well, and begs through the "Visitor" her christian love to all her friends. She is thankful to hear that the Churches are alive to the duty of paying the amount due her late husband. We are requested by brother Seeley, the treasurer of that Committee, to urge upon the Churches, the necessity of their forwarding at once, the amount, as the brethren, viz:—Miles and Seeley, appointed to visit the Churches to collect these sums, cannot now get round, and the money is absolutely wanted to save the estate.

R. T.

Speech of the Rev. S. ROBINSON at the recent meeting of the Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, held at the Centenary Chapel in this City.

MR. PRESIDENT; LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—The resolution which I am called upon to second, and which has been so ably spoken to by the mover, contains a sentiment on which I would wish to make a few remarks: "The Bible is God's gift to man, designed for all men, and all men require it." This is proved from the fact that it contains two great central truths;—*Man is fallen. Christ has died.* As God's gift to the world he designs all men to possess it, and he is preparing the world to receive it.

Some of the designs and promises of God require a long time in their execution, but they are certain of their fulfilment in the end. From the time He made known his will in the first promise of a Messiah, until the Saviour was born, it took two thirds of the world's present age to prepare for that event. Yet the fulfilment was as certain as if it had been fulfilled on the day on which it was made.

Any design of man must be executed soon, for our days are like a "tale which is told" "like a vapor which appeareth and then vanisheth away." Not so with God, with Him "a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day." It was five hundred years from the time the promise was made of Canaan to Abraham until his posterity inherited that land. So, although God gave his word to our world more than two thousand years ago, yet he is doing more at present to prepare the world for the reception of that word than ever before. If Christ had come into our world at any other age than that in which he was born, the world would not have been prepared to receive his Gospel as it was at the time he appeared. "In the fulness of time God sent his Son"—at a time when all nations of the world were provinces of a great Empire; at a time when a language the most perfect ever spoken by man was ready as the learned language of the world to give the truth of God to man. God has given the world to his Son, and by his Word he designs to fill the whole earth with his glory. For ages and centuries he has been preparing the world to receive his word.—Suppose the work of giving the Bible to the world had been attempted in the beginning of the fourteenth century, and men had been called upon to give a million of copies of the Scriptures to China. Why Sir, it would have taken an age to have written, off what can now be accomplished in a few months. God's hand is seen in that wonderful invention made in 1441, I mean the art of Printing. Without that invention how little could be done to supply the hundreds of millions of our race with the pure word of God! Now, with its modern improvements of the stereotype and the steam press, what facilities it affords for scattering the leaves of the tree of life among the nations!

There are two thirds of the earth covered by water, and a few hundred years ago navigation had to creep around the shores of the old world, and the intercommunication between the nations of the earth was exceedingly limited. But in the year 1432 we see the hand of God again in preparing the way for His work in the discovery of the Mariner's compass. Now with the aid of the compass the most remote places in the world can be reached. The printing press is ready to print the Scriptures, and improved navigation ready to carry them to all men.

America was discovered in 1492, and Spain claimed it as a gift given by Pope Alexander the Sixth, who assumed that all the unknown land in the world belonged to him, and that he could give it to whomsoever he would. We have an apology for the successor of the Prince of the Apostles. He had only done what had been done 1400 years before by a great Prince, the Prince of this world, when on an exceeding high mountain he "showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, and said, all these kingdoms I will give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me." How great these two Princes must have felt giving kingdoms, continents and worlds!—Worship me, said the one, acknowledge me as God of the world, the Prince of the world. Worship me or acknowledge me, said the other, as God upon earth, Christ's Vicar, Prince of the Apostles and all shall be thine. The truth is, Mr. President, not one of these great Princes had one inch of God's earth to give. Spain not only claimed the new world on account of this gift but soon France made settlements and claimed most of North America, which she never wholly gave up until Napoleon the First sold out her right to the United States in 1812. These two great nations failed to inherit any part of North America, after most vigorous efforts had been made by them to retain it. But yonder on Plymouth rock, in 1620,

we see a band of unpretending men landing with the Bible in their hands and the love of Christ in their hearts. They took root and spread. No wonder what do we see? The Anglo-Saxon race spreading from Newfoundland to Florida, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and now on the shores of that great ocean, through their golden gates, they are looking out on the beautiful isles of that ocean with their schools, their colleges, their Churches actively engaged in giving the word of God to the world. Do we not see in this the hand of God, preparing the world for his word?

Let us now turn from the New World to the Old, and we will again see God preparing the way for his word in the distant East. Up to the year 1570 no way to India or China, by water, was discovered. This country could only be reached by land through hostile nations and tribes. But the discovery of the passage round the Cape of Good Hope in that year opened all that part of the world which contains more than one half of our race.—India was claimed by the Portuguese, France soon established herself in that land of spices. In 1660 Great Britain only owned a small tract of land in the neighbourhood of Calcutta. A bloody war was carried on between the French and the British, to decide who should have the mastery in that country; but soon the war ended in favour of Great Britain. The history of the Indian Empire from that time to the present is full of interest.—That Empire in the heart of Asia is exerting a mighty influence on that populous part of the world. If that Empire was owned by France or Portugal, what would be the prospects of giving the Bible to that densely settled part of our world. The indirect influence of the Indian Empire over the destiny of China, and the labours of our Missionaries have to do with the opening at present, to give the Scriptures to that great country. Do we not in this see the hand of God, preparing the world to receive his Word?

But what is that power, which is growing gray in its opposition to the Bible, doing? It knows that book contains its death warrant. It has made a bold stroke the last year in shutting up in prison a pious English lady for giving a copy of the Scriptures and a copy of the Pilgrim's Progress to a poor peasant. And as if God designed to teach us the foolishness and weakness of his enemies, while that persecuted Christian is lying in prison, the friends of the Bible are preparing to give the word of God by millions to those who have it not. The American Tract Society is printing 2,000 copies of the Pilgrim's Progress in one day. What it took John Bunyan twelve years to dream, is now dreamed 2000 times in a single day.

Oh, yes! thou great opposer to giving God's word to all men, the hand of God is out against thee. Thou hast worn out the saints of the most high God, changed times and laws, thou art drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. For a long time the kings of the earth gave their power to thee. But thy days are numbered; thou hast engaged in a conflict against God's most holy word. But there is a stone cut out of the mountain without hands, and it is in motion. It has smitten the head of gold, and arms and breasts of silver, and the body of brass, and broken them in pieces. It is just on your track, and if you are not out of the way it will break the iron and clay and make them as the dust of the thrashing floor when driven by a mighty wind. And "that stone will become a mountain and fill all the earth."

## Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

DEAR BROTHER THOMSON,—I should feel obliged if you would, either in a private letter or through the "Visitor," answer the following query:—"Is Fasting a Christian duty?"

St. John, Jan. 22, 1854.

E. H.

Fasting—Reply to E. H.

FASTING has been observed in almost all ages and nations, particularly when seasons of deep distress have called for mourning and affliction. The one appointed by Moses was the great day of expiation, Lev. xvi. 23, 32. Since the time of Moses, instances of FASTING have been very common among the Jews, Zech. viii. 19; Jos. vii. 6; Jud. xx. 26; 1st Sam. vii. 6; 2nd Sam. xii. 16; Exo. xxiv. 2, 8; 1st Kings xix. 8; Jonah iii. 6. It does not, however, appear that Christ or his Apostles appointed any particular season or day for FASTING; still there are many examples in the new, as well as the old Testament, of this duty being attended to on important and solemn occasions. Let us observe that the Saviour who was made in all points like unto his brethren, after he was filled with the Holy Spirit, FASTED forty days and forty nights, the design of which was, that he might set an example to his followers how to resist the idolatry, worldly glory, self-sufficiency, and presumption presented to them by the Devil, who is the God of this world, but whom Jesus came to conquer and destroy on behalf of his people. This FASTING of our Lord was no doubt supernatural, but the Saviour, in his sermon on the Mount, gives in-

struction to his disciples, in reference to many personal duties, and the manner in which he wishes them to be observed, among which we find *Alms Deeds, Prayer and Fasting.*

At such a period as that occasioned by the crucifixion of the Lord, he said the disciples *would FAST*, and no doubt they did so; though on that occasion it might be more from grief of heart than from religious principle.

Subsequently to the ascension of our Lord, the disciples, during their pilgrimage on earth, often FASTED, sometimes, indeed, from necessity (2 Cor. vi. 5; xi. 27), and sometimes from choice, and as a personal duty (Acts xiii. 23). The latter, no doubt, would be more pleasant than the former; still on no occasion were they to look *dismal* as did the hypocrites, who *appeared unto men to FAST.*

When BISHOPS and DEACONS were to be chosen and ordained in a congregation of the Lord's, it was to be done with FASTING and prayer.

The Corinthian converts, prior to their conversion to Christianity, had been trained to the exercise of their uncontrolled and licentious passions. The Apostle who had begotten them unto Christ through the truth, exhorted them to give themselves to prayer and FASTING for a time, that they might obtain self-government, and that SATAN might not tempt them for their incontinency and disorder. When, therefore, any solemn and important duty is to be attended to, whether of a personal, relative, or of a public character, FASTING and prayer are imperative duties of the Christian. The Bridegroom has been taken away from us for a time, but he will see us again. These, then, and not the future, are the days for FASTING and prayer. Christ warned his disciples upon the manner in which this duty is to be performed (Matt. vi. 16, 18). All this implies an approbation of the duty, which being of a *moral* and not of a *positive* kind, must be obligatory under every dispensation of religion.

R. T.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Milltown, St. Stephens, Jan. 29th, 1854.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—Knowing that you are an advocate of general intelligence, I give you a short account of the fire which took place in this village on Thursday morning, about 4 o'clock. It originated in the store owned by McColley, and ended in the destruction of both the store and a Universalist Meeting House. Two Engines were soon on the spot, which prevented the fire from destroying Mr. Darling's house (an ornament to this Town). When the fire had reached the steeple, it was one of the grandest and yet most fearful spectacles I ever beheld. The reader can imagine the extreme heat of the fire, it having melted the bell in a few minutes.

It was rumoured that the property was but partially insured, and that the house of worship will shortly be rebuilt to admit in it the large congregation of Universalists.

Please insert this, and believe me to be,  
Yours truly,

A. M. D.

KANE'S ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—A letter from Mr. Kane, giving the experiences of the Arctic Expedition under his command, up to July 20th, has been received in New York. It is the first letter received from him since the expedition sailed, and is written in a hopeful and encouraging spirit. He was at Upernivik. It was his intention to remain in the brig as long as possible, seeking a harbor on the eastern side of Smith's Sound. The moment the vessel comes to anchor he will leave Olsen, a trust-worthy man, in charge, to prepare for winter quarters, drop his whale boat, with himself, the Esquimaux, and seven seals, and take advantage of inshore tide-leads to continue his journey to the north. He anticipates that his return to the brig will probably be during the solemn darkness of the winter night. But, apart from the novelty and excitement of such a journey, the moon in her high Northern declination will come in at the very nick of time, becoming circumpolar on 13th October and November, and giving twelve days of unbroken light. With the aid of lunars, and constantly recurring meridian observations of the stars, no danger of losing his way was apprehended.—[Nat. Int.]

FRANCE.—The return of Lord Palmerston to power has given the greatest satisfaction on this side of the Channel. It shows a singular change in the feeling of the French public towards England, that the man who but a few years ago was considered France's greatest enemy, whose name was a bugbear held up to frighten the timid, is now most popular. His retirement was universally regretted, especially by the Government, and his return is a matter of congratulation, as if it were all that was required to humble Russia.

## General Intelligence.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—The Steamer *Atlantic* arrived at 11 o'clock this morning.—She brings little definite intelligence relative to the affairs of Russia and Turkey, in addition to that brought by the *Niagara*.

Constantinople, Dec. 30.—The allied fleets attempted to enter the Black Sea, but were prevented by tempestuous weather.

Lord Dudley Stuart has had an interview with the Sultan of Turkey, respecting the employment of Poles.

It is reported that the British Charge has resumed negotiations with Persia. The Persians in Teheran have broken out in tumult against the Russians.

The Russian Ambassadors still remain at London and Paris, awaiting instructions from St. Petersburg.

Frequent skirmishes take place on the banks of the Danube.

The Pasha of Egypt has tendered the Sultan a strong naval force to supply the loss at Sinope.

Russia is attempting to form an alliance with Denmark and Sweden.

France has called out an additional contingent of 80,000 men, to replace the 70,000 destined for Turkey.

A Russian force has appeared at Khiva.

The Chinese insurgents had evacuated Amoy.

Breadstuffs.—Wheat advanced 6d.; Flour 2s.; Indian Corn 2s. per quarter.

### ARRIVAL OF THE ASIA.

The Royal Mail steamship Asia, arrived at New York on Tuesday.

The Sultan has consented to negotiations proposed by the Four Powers in the neutral city.

The allied fleet entered the Black Sea on the 3d January. The Czar is reported as not to view it as a declaration of war, and has ordered the Russian naval force to rendezvous.

SEBASTAPOL, Jan. 4.—The Turks stormed the entrenched camp at Citale on the Danube putting 2000 Russians to the sword.—They also defeated 18,000 Russians marching to relieve Citale. These reverses prevent the passage of the Danube at present.

Nothing definite from St. Petersburg.

The infant child of the Queen of Spain is dead. Consuls 93 1.8. Breadstuffs for the week advanced 1s. on Flour, 1d. to 1½. on Wheat, and 2d. on Indian Corn. Provisions active. General markets unchanged. Manchester trade good.

THE RUMORS ABOUT PRINCE ALBERT.—The *Daily News* contains a strong letter on this subject, from one evidently within reach of the secrets of the court:—

"The subject," says the correspondent, "is no doubt, a delicate one; but the impression, the suspicion, the persuasion, the apprehension, or the belief,—for it takes a great variety of forms—that the Prince Consort has recently trespassed into the bounds of political affairs, from which he is prohibited by the constitution of his duty, is now so general, that it is impossible any longer to confine it to conversation. Go where you will, into good or bad society, amongst rich or poor, the feeling or the fear that it is the court, and not the responsible ministers of the crown, who are giving the impetus and the tone to the foreign policy of England, is now a topic of conversation. People cannot get rid of an apprehension that something is going very wrong in this the highest quarter of the state; confidence in the prince is giving way; and, instead of popularity, resentment seems very likely to take possession of the public mind. Nor is it political affairs only that his Royal Highness is accused of meddling in and marring. In the army, also, he is said to be interfering; and the recent scandals at the Horse-Guards are openly and loudly ascribed to him. It is quite time that notice should be taken of imputations so serious. "The Duke," moreover is dead and gone; so long as he lived interference with the army would have been impertinence. His absence is felt at the Horse-Guards now.

"Can we forget that the Coburg family has always been Russian in its associations? It was as a Russian officer Leopold first came to England; his sister, a Princess of Coburg, married the Grand Duke Constantine; her present majesty was christened Alexandrina after the Czar Alexander; and another member of the family has, I believe, also served in the Russian army. These are things we recollect when a pro-Russian policy predominates in the councils of England. To notice them seriously may be pushing the case too far; but family influences do in all spheres actuate personal conduct—most of all, history tells us, in Courts. When, therefore, suspicion is excited, the Prince Consort can no more hope to be exempt from reminiscences of this kind than other princes."

The *Times*, in a leading article, praises the circular on the Eastern question issued by the French Government. A few more days will bring Russia's answer to the intimation which virtually limits and controls her rights as a belligerent power; and the French Government has doubtless thought it right to prepare the nation, by this manifesto, for a reply, which may assume the shape of a declaration of war.

The understanding between England and France continues to be of the most cordial and decided character.

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