

THE FAMILY CASKET.

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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, N. B. JAN. 16, 1856.

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Terms of the Visitor, 7s. 6d., per annum in advance, 10s., if payment be delayed over three months.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No Communication will be inserted without the author's name and address in confidence. Unless the opinions expressed by correspondents be editorially endorsed we shall not consider ourselves responsible for them.

Correspondents are respectfully reminded that short communications, as a general thing, are more acceptable to readers of Newspapers than long ones, and that a legible style of writing will save the printer time, which is always valuable, and secure a correct impression.

All Ministers of the gospel, who will send us the advance, for six new subscribers, will get the "Visitor" for one year free of charge.

Anti-Prohibitory Meeting in Fredericton.

We are informed by the papers, that a public meeting was held in Fredericton, on Friday evening last, for the purpose of giving an expression unfavourable to the Prohibitory Law. Report says that this convocation was called by the Mayor, at the suggestion of a requisition signed by Bishop Medley, Rev. Mr. McDevitt, Roman Catholic Priest, Rev. Mr. Podmore, the Bishop's assistant, and others. Now we do not for a moment question the political or civil rights of the parties concerned, to hold such a meeting. It is a perfectly legitimate mode of expressing dissent to any legislative enactment, and, therefore, no one has a right to complain that such a meeting was held. Neither do we object to an alliance formed by Bishop Medley and the Roman Catholic Priest, for the purpose of heading an opposition to the law. It is well always for men of every profession and grade to be out spoken, to show their true colours, and then you know just where to find them. The amalgamation, it is true, seems somewhat anomalous, but then strange things are frequently occurring, and, therefore, we must not be surprised, even though an Episcopal Bishop and a Roman Catholic Priest, are found wedded in clerical fellowship, in seeking to check the progress of Prohibition.

We have observed that this opposition to the great Temperance movement, constitutes a sort of connecting link to bind those together who, in other respects, seem removed at an interminable distance from each other. For example, who could ever imagine that the educated, refined, religious, and Apostolic Bishop Medley, could ever find a cord which would bind him in close association, in tender sympathy, and in intimate fellowship with those who traffic in intoxicating drinks. His calling is so exactly the opposite of theirs. He is a minister of Him who went about doing good. A Bishop, who is to be an example to believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in purity.—(1 Tim. iv. 12.) A watchman who is to warn the people to shun the very appearance of evil, to live soberly and righteously, and godly, in this present evil world, that they may be prepared for a higher and nobler state of being. But the calling of the *Rum Seller* is exactly the opposite. Just in proportion as he succeeds in his business, he presents temptations before the unwary; he sows the seeds of pauperism and crime, and the legitimate fruits of his labors are, *sighs, tears, anguish, woes, sorrows, disease, brands, violent assaults, individual degradation, domestic distress, national corruption, manslaughter, suicides, premature deaths*, and the propagation of every form of vice and misery, which degrades and curses humanity. Now, when you look at the calling of the two parties, and see how perfectly at war they are, you cannot but be amazed, that there should be any sympathy of interest between them; and yet, strange as it may seem, on this anti-temperance platform, the Bishop in his robes, the rum seller in his cups, and the drunkard in his rage, meet in strong and stirring sympathy. So deeply is this felt, that there is not a man who fills the poisonous glass, however degraded, nor a drunkard, however besotted, that would not greet the Bishop with frantic joy, and swear by all the powers of rum, that he is just the man for him.

But there is one consideration which is somewhat startling: while the Bishop of Fredericton is giving the weight of his powerful influence to the class referred to above, he is withdrawing it from a class of men of very opposite views; we mean, of course, the Temperance party. They are striving to erect barriers to check the swelling tide of intemperance, and thereby dry up a prolific source of crime and misery. One would suppose that minds of this type would be more congenial to the tastes of his Lordship, than the parties to whom he is allying himself. He very well knows that the advocates of the Temperance reform number among them some of the brightest lights in intellect, in science, in morals, and in religion, which exist in either hemisphere. Some of these adorn the very church in which he occupies so exalted a position.

At a recent meeting of the "Grove Kerns Temperance Laborers Friend Society," the excellent Bishop of Bath and Wells said, "that the Beer House was the bane of England. It was that which filled our Work-houses, and Goads, and brought to ruin those who haunted it."

But there is one of higher authority whose successor the Bishop of Fredericton claims to be, who has said with all the authority of inspiration that a *Bishop must not be given to wine*. 1 Tim. iii. 3. Query. If Bishop Paul had been in Fredericton would he have placed himself at the head of an Anti-Temperance movement?

If King Solomon had been there, and he was a very wise man in his day, he would have said, Bishop Medley "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Prov. xx. 1. "Be not," (Bishop) *Among wine bibbers: look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At last, it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.* Prov. xxiii. 20, 31-32. But we must not now say more, lest it should be thought that we are unwarrantably interfering with the Bishop's rights. Be assured this we have not the slightest wish to do.—He has, as already granted, a right to adopt this legitimate mode of expressing his opposition to the Prohibitory Law; and his Lordship also has a right to choose his own company, and to ally himself to whatever party he pleases. If he chooses, therefore, to take his stand with moderate drinkers, the class of prolific sots, with drunkard makers, and with the fallen inebriate, a perfect nuisance both in town and country, instead of giving his individual and official influence to those who are devoting their time, money, their prayers, and their best endeavors to save the present and future generations from the scathing, withering curse of intoxicating drink he is at liberty so to do. But with all due respect we beg to remind his Lordship that when he prays, "Lead us not into temptation," just so far as his influence extends he is keeping the temptation to quaff the inebriate's cup before the old and the young, the saint and the sinner, and that just so sure as this temptation remains, so sure multitudes will yield to its bewitching power, will drink and be drunken; and when he stands before his Maker in the day of final retribution, their blood may be required at his hand.

Since writing the above, the following notice of the meeting came down by Telegraph: From one thousand to fifteen hundred persons were present—most orderly and well conducted. The Mayor in the chair. Speakers—Messrs. Street, End, J. T. Smith, Rev. Mr. Gunter, Botsford, M'Ausland, J. C. Allen, Provincial Secretary, and C. Macpherson.

The following resolution passed by a majority of five to one—(some say much larger.) All ended harmoniously and in good feeling, with three cheers for Her Majesty.

RESOLUTION.

"While this meeting readily admits the necessity of legislation to prevent the abuse and to regulate the sale of alcoholic liquors, it most unqualifiedly deprecates coercive enactments against the use thereof, as arbitrary and unwise, and altogether inconsistent with the inherent and natural rights of the people of every civilized community."

"Therefore resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting, the Act of the last Session, commonly called 'The Prohibitory Law,' is incongruous to the spirit and feelings, and insulting to the character of the people of this Province, and fraught with serious evils to the social and political well-being of society."

AMENDMENT.

"That this meeting is not prepared to censure or condemn an Act which has passed the Legislature of this Province, received the sanction of the Lieutenant Governor and the assent of Her Majesty the Queen, until that law has at least had fair trial." Lost by same majority.

Resolved, "That copies of the foregoing resolution be sent to the several Representatives of his County for their consideration, and that the whole proceedings be published in the *Head Quarters and Reporter* newspapers."

Death of Rev. Thomas Magee.

This venerable servant of God has left the militant family to join the church triumphant in the heavens. He died at the residence of his son, in Baring, Me., on the 11th inst. Of the early history of our departed brother we know but little; but if correctly informed, he was a native of Cork, Ireland, and experienced religion in his own country. He was educated in the faith of the Church of England, but having been brought under the enlightening and subduing influence of the Spirit of God, he was led to examine the scriptures for himself; and the result was, that he adopted Baptist sentiments, was baptized upon profession of his faith, and united with a Baptist Church in Cork. Subsequently he emigrated to this country, settled first in Miramichi, and was there ordained to the Christian ministry by Elder Joseph Crandal and James Tozer.—After remaining in that section for a time, he removed to the County of Carleton, and thence to the County of Charlotte, where he has spent the greatest portion of his ministerial life. He was never long stationary as the Pastor of any one church, and hence he devoted a good deal of his time to missionary labor in different sections of the Province, and occasionally extending his excursions in the State of Maine, where, as will be seen by Brother Gould's letter, his ministry was highly appreciated.

Father Magee could not be said to be a very popular preacher in the general acceptance of this phrase, but he was most highly esteemed by his denomination, as a sincere Christian—a sound divine—an able minister of the New Testament—and as one thoroughly consecrated to the great work unto which he was called—and as such he will be greatly missed by the brotherhood.

He preached one of his most able sermons before the Western Baptist Association, at its session in Fredericton, September 4th 1854.—This discourse was founded on the passage in 2 Tim. i. 13—"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." This sermon evinced a clear and comprehensive view of Bible Christianity, and a mind of more than ordinary breadth, well stored with the riches of divine revelation. The Association expressed their interest in the sermon, by requesting its publication in the "Christian Visitor," and there it will be found in Vol. VII., No. 40 and 41, as a choice memento of one who, while here, fought the good fight, finished his course, kept the faith, and then went up to receive the crown of life in reserve for him above.

We rejoice to learn that the Rev. Messrs.

Burges, Gould, and Mitchell, united at his funeral in passing that tribute of respect to the departed, which his character so well merited. May the Lord reward them for their labour of love!

The following interesting notice of the funeral services, were communicated by the Rev. A. H. Gould, of Baring, Me.:

"You will, doubtless, have heard of Father Magee's release from the labors of earth before this reaches you. He died on the 11th inst., at 2 p. m. His funeral was on Sabbath, the 13th inst. The services were conducted by Brothers Burgess, Gould, and Mitchell, in the Baptist Church, Milltown, Calais, the late residence of our departed father in Israel. Bro. Burgess preached a discourse from 2 Tim. iv. 7, 8. The church at Calais and Baring suspended their afternoon services out of respect to this venerable servant of Christ, and many of their congregations attended the funeral services. Father Magee was highly esteemed by his brethren in this region, who regarded him as a man of sterling worth, of more than ordinary mental power, and of sincere and steadfast devotion to his Master's cause, and to the souls of his fellow-men.

"Yours, in Christian regard,"

"ASA H. GOULD."

It will be seen that the character of our departed brother is comprehensively and truthfully sketched in the closing sentence of Bro. Gould's letter. We will only add, that to us it is a melancholy reflection, that another veteran in our spiritual Israel has fallen in the battle field; but it is pleasing to know, that like those of our departed fathers in these Provinces who have gone before, he died, with his armor on, thus proving himself faithful even unto death. God grant, that those who survive may redouble their diligence in their Master's work, looking for and hastening unto the day of God, and remembering that it becomes us to work while the day doth last, for the night is approaching in which no work can be done!

Life in Death.

It will be seen by our obituary list that the Rev. E. N. Harris is called in the providence of God, to part with a beloved daughter. She was a child of more than ordinary promise, and as might be expected, parental affection threw around it, and over it, its strongest cords of love; and as she was very healthy there was much happiness anticipated from the unfolding of a rapidly maturing mind; but, unexpectedly the destroyer came, and all that was mortal of the child of promise was wrapped in the shroud and gloom of death. And yet there was hope; for unmistakable evidence had been given by the utterances, and conduct of Agnes; that the mind, which dies not was serious, thoughtful and prayerful, and that it waited for an opportunity to break away from the casket in which it was encased, that it might expand into the fulness of celestial intelligence and maturity. That opportunity came, and while father wept in sadness, and mother refused to be comforted, the priceless jewel was borne on angels' wings, to celebrate the anthems of its God in heaven. Who would stop its onward flight in regions of light and love, and chain it down to a mere speck of earth, and that cursed with the bitterness of sin? Surely parents would not. Rather would they say, "The Lord gave and the Lord taketh away, and blessed be the name of the Lord."

A friend has handed us the following appropriate lines bearing upon this subject:

—It was a tender flower,
Just bursting forth in beauty—
Into joyous life,
A plant so strangely fair,
That sweet affection kindled in your breast,
'E'en as you gazed upon it:
So bright and lovely was its form,
It seemed as the 'twas meant
For a sinner's clime:
But as you pondered on its fair proportions,
The icy messenger of death breath'd on it,
And it faded quickly away—
And as it withered, lo! a bright angel
Cull'd the bud, and swiftly flew
Through the ethereal sky,
And placed it in the Paradise above!
Now there it blooms in fragrance,
Water'd by the celestial streams,
And sweetens heaven with the perfume
Of its refreshing odours!

INTERRUPTION OF THE MAIL.—The Roads were so bad on Wednesday last, in consequence of recent storms, and the mail so heavy, that a very large number of the papers mailed for the Eastern route had to be left until the Fridays Mail. We exceedingly regretted this interruption and called upon the Post Master General to see about it, but he assured us that there was no way of avoiding it. He said the mail was so heavy that they were compelled to leave a portion of it behind, but such a thing would not be likely to occur again during the winter. We hope our subscribers will make all due allowance for these untoward events. Visitors intended for the Western Section of Nova Scotia will have to go as usual by Digby.

AGENCY.—A letter from Bro. W. H. Rogers of Pugwash informs us that he is prosecuting an agency for the Bible Union in the Province, and that he will shortly visit Moncton, Salisbury, Hopewell, Harvey and 2nd Salisbury in the fulfilment of his mission. The friends of the union will doubtless feel much pleasure in aiding this charity, as far as they can do so consistently with the claims of Home objects.

A friend writing us from Halifax N. S. in referring to the reminiscences of Elder Nutter expresses much regret that he did not visit Halifax when on his Bible Union Agency in Nova Scotia and adds, "I wonder if he remembers holding forth in Halifax upon bringing the top stone with shouting, crying grace, unto it. If he does not I do."

ANTI-PROHIBITORY.—We are informed that the opponents of prohibition in this city are making arrangements to get up a public meeting for the purpose of giving expression of their views upon the present Liquor Law. One would suppose that as they have both seen and felt the desolating and destroying influence of the liquor traffic in such a multitude of cases around them, that they would be willing to give prohibition a trial for at least one year; but a vitiated appetite, and the love of money are two potent influences. They darken the intellect, deaden the moral sensibilities, and harden the heart. When will man awake to a consciousness of what is really for his own interest?

The Closing Year.

The following interesting communication was not received until Monday last. This accounts for its not appearing at a time more in accordance with its date and subject.

Dear Brother Bill.—This is the last of the year, I therefore sit down to take a retrospect of the past. What time more proper for reflection than the closing year. It is a complete period. It is short enough to have its scenes remembered. It is long enough to evoke a startling portion from human life. It has something of the solemnity of the end of life. It is a miniature judgement hour when we may summon ourselves before conscience; receive its verdict, and, if need be, repent and reform.

"Tis greatly wise to talk with our past hours,
And ask them what report they bore to heaven."

With energy irresistible, it moves the whole mass of the living to the pale nations of the dead. With its restless and rapid wing, it annually sweeps twenty millions from this world of mercy and probation into the shoreless ocean and the unchanging destinies of eternity. If we take no note of time, it takes note of us.

We have around us a beautiful world, showing in every part, the wisdom, the power, and beneficence of God. The year has presented the bloom and fragrance of spring, the maturity of summer, the fruits of autumn, and the cheerful fireside of winter. The seasons have each brought rich gifts. But, if we have improved no time religiously, all these blessings have come in vain. Not a single joy have we embalmed for immortality. The last sun of the year '55 has gone down. Many around me are firing off guns with joy, while I feel solemn, and look at the past and see that I have honored the Saviour so little, who has done so much for me. But I desire to work and do the best I can in the vineyard of the Lord. The Lord has, we trust, blessed the Gaelic mission, in the conversion of sinners during the present year. Eight have been baptized, and a church organized, and a number more are halting between baptism and sprinkling, who have obtained a good hope.

Yours, truly,
HUGH ROSS.

NORTH SYDNEY, Dec. 31, 1855.

In a recent communication from Elder L. H. Marshall he says—Dear Bro. Nutter has fallen into a mistake in his reminiscences. No. 10, concerning Father Cleveland, he has recorded him as among the Dead, (but behold he liveth) and yet prays and labors for the peace of Jerusalem. Father C. was born in 1777, and is now about 79 years of age; he and his aged consort, the partner of his many toils reside at Salixton River, Alma. They both enjoy a good measure of health (and like David the King of Israel) they say blessed be my rock.

LEVI H. MARSHALL.
Please notify Bro. J. Wallace in your next number, that I have by accident lost the list of subscribers names, which he sent me, connected with domestic missions; and wish him to furnish me another list soon as possible.

L. H. M.

For the Christian Visitor.

Celebration at Sackville.

Pursuant to public notice of a resolution of the "Prohibitory Law League," there was a Temperance gathering, at the Temperance Hall Sackville, 1st January 1856.

At 1 o'clock p. m., some 30 or 40 sleighs, loaded with ladies and gents, many of whom were of the first standing and influence in the place, left their point of assembling, and drove through the pleasantly and beautifully situated village, to and around the square, in which Judge Botsford's antique residence is prettily situated; returning they drove into an open field, owned by Joseph F. Ellison Esq., near the Academies, where the party treated to whole hearted, soul stirring speeches, from Rev. H. Pickard A. M., W. Temple, and G. F. Miles; for at least one hour; with interest and enthusiasm became spell bound by the faithful portrayals of the glorious victory achieved by the Temperance men. The speakers (more particularly the last) seemed to enter into the spirit of this great occasion, with earnestness, zeal, and determination; one said "he was fully prepared to go forward, in the front rank to the battle if requisite"; another the more aged of the three, said "it was the second time he ever addressed a public assembly in the open air." After three hearty cheers in honor of the Prohibitory Law, the company separated in good cheer having had a good pleasant sleigh drive to the music of merry peals of bells and an excellent temperance treat from the speech makers, not a rum treat from drunkard makers, this was truly a high day for Sackville. In all this New Year's day excursion, not a man or child was seen under the influence of the inglorious intoxicating cup. Rejoice all ye inhabitants of Sackville, rejoice all ye inhabitants of New Brunswick that the time has happily and peacefully come, when you may thus unitedly celebrate the onward strides of this inimitable reform. Unite gloriously and labour untiringly until the Hell-born traffic with its concomitant evils shall be completely swept from our land, until you unite triumphantly to joyfully sound its funeral knell, until you bury all its heinous awful ravages forever a far-remembered without hopes of resurrection.

H.

FREDERICTON, 20th January, 1856.

MY DEAR BROTHER.—In company with Elder Saunders, I have this day discharged the mournful duty of conducting the funeral of Mrs. Chas. Bridges, the daughter of Mr. Sutherland, of Spring Hill. Her death was very sudden. Although in an infirm state of health, she was able to engage in her usual family duties, and none of her friends had any apprehension of danger; on Wednesday last, she was taken ill, and medical advice was called in, and on Thursday morning she breathed her last.

This sad bereavement has occasioned a feeling of gloom throughout the neighbourhood, where she was generally beloved and esteemed; and it has brought deep sorrow upon a wide circle of relatives. I endeavored to improve the painful event, by pointing out the duty of watchfulness, because we know not when the Master of the house may come.

This death is the more melancholy, because it is the second that has occurred within the same family circle nearly at the same time. On Saturday, the only son of Mrs. Burpe, a lad five

years of age, and nephew of the deceased, was buried at Sheffield.

To families, thus suddenly plunged into affliction, demand the sympathy and prayers of all their Christian friends.

C. SPURDEN.

Cheering Thoughts.

Suggested by the death of Mrs. Edwin Dixon.

"What if the saint must die,
And dwell among the tombs."

How consoling is the thought that though our friends must drop one by one, and be laid away till the resurrection morn, that they shall then beam with renewed lustre, and though while journeying through this vale of tears that the turmoils and cares incident to mortals can be meekly and submissively borne, are encouragements of no common kind, to induce us to press onward with untiring zeal towards the goal of eternal happiness.

And it is a cheering thought that the dump grave has lost its dreariness, that the Saviour has passed through it, and cheered the way for his followers, that though they must be beneath the clouds of the valley, and though this mortal body be sown in weakness,—O, cheering thought! it shall be raised in power; though sown a natural it shall come forth a spiritual and glorious body.

Such were the feelings of our deceased friend, Mrs. Edwin Dixon; who during her severe illness felt that she was nearly home, that she was journeying to a fairer clime, to a land of bliss, and although she suffered all that mortals could, no murmur escaped her lips, her meekness and resignation to the hand that inflicted the pain was wonderful. She spoke to those, who from time to time visited her, of the goodness of God and of that religion that comforted and soothed the last moments of our deceased friend. When descending towards the dark valley, a bright world of bliss was opened to her view. She did not feel that the future was all uncertainty before her, she knew in whom she had believed, her faith was strong in the Saviour's promises, that he would be with her when passing the swellings of Jordan. Those of our readers who had the privilege of being acquainted with her, know that she was a week, humble, and a most exemplary Christian. She lived the life of one devoted to the cause she had espoused, and though many years we have elapsed since she took a decided stand for God, that cause ever continued dear to her. She fell asleep, Dec. 15th, aged 49. She left a disconsolate husband, a bereaved family, and a large circle of friends and acquaintances who deeply mourn their loss; but weep not sorrowing ones, she is not lost, but gone before, we hope to meet her after a few more storms and sorrows, in a land where nothing of the kind can come. Cheering thoughts! look through the veil that hides her from our view, and see her among that seraphic band tuning her harp to Him who is worthy of all adoration.

The mournful occasion was improved by Elder W. G. Miles, who delivered a soul-comforting address from 1st Peter v. 7: "Casting all your care upon him for he careth for you."

LUCILLE.

General Intelligence.

Peace and War Prospects.

Propositions of peace are much spoken of in our English files: but from what is said on all sides, our conclusion is that peace between Russia and the Allies is an event not soon to be realized.—The following view is given of this important question by the *European Times* of the 5th ult.

The French capital was the scene of a grand military fete on Saturday last—one so brilliant and attractive that the Parisians, ever on the stretch for novelty, flocked to it in numbers greater than attended the entry of Queen Victoria into the same city. The weather, notwithstanding the season, favoured the spectacle; and the scene was inspiring, the shouts of joy deafening, and the address of the Emperor to the soldiery as terse and pointed as all his public displays of this kind are. The great fete was invested with peculiar significance; for it was given in honor of the return of the Imperial Guard from the Crimea, and was intended, no doubt, to act upon Russia, for in dramatic power of this kind the present head of the French people has many of his uncle's characteristics. He has deeply studied the national weaknesses, and can make his subjects as impulsive as he likes when the occasion suits, as he did in this instance, when he presented to the citizens of Paris the weather-beaten warriors of the Crimea. "I have come to meet you," said Louis Napoleon, addressing the soldiers, "as in other times the Roman Senate went to the gates of Rome to meet her victorious legions. I have come to tell you that you have deserved well of your country. My emotion is great; for with the happiness I feel again at seeing you are mingled painful regrets for those who are no more, and deep sorrow that I could not lead you on to battle"—just the kind of congratulation which a Frenchman loves. On this side of the Channel the address would sound bombastic if made to English ears; but to the genius of the people he rules it was perfection.

This movement in France is more than a military spectacle. Two camps are to be formed there, each of 100,000 men; and, if we are to credit some of the accounts from Paris, the Rhine, next year, is the destination of one of these armies, the Baltic of the other. If this be so, it will stir the soul of the Prussian monarch to its depths,—whatever may be left of it,—and the sentence cleverly introduced in the speech to the Guards favors this supposition. "Each of you will be able to take his share in glory, and the country which maintains six hundred thousand soldiers has an interest in maintaining in France a numerous and experienced army ready to march wherever necessity may require." Prussia then will speedily have to choose her part, and her lethargic king is in a fair way of being aroused from the slumbers in which he has so long indulged. Some colouring, too, is given to this growing belief by the tone of a London morning paper, which, although it addresses a small and exclusive class of readers, is known to be occasionally inspired by the Government. The organ, during the present week, has been "down" on the imbecile Frederick William in a manner quite at variance with its usual courtly phraseology. A sentence will show this: "It is earlier to reach Berlin than Moscow, and in the coming campaign, so fast is now our strength that the greater our enemy the greater our victory." The preparation for war in Sweden too, look ominous. The arsenal and military establishments exhibit all the symptoms of an approaching conflict, and as the public treasury is full, the equipment of the army and navy is proceeding with great vigor.

With respect to the propositions for peace entrusted to Count Valentia Esterhazy all is still uncertainty. These propositions were only submitted to the Russian Court on the 27th ult., and as ten days are allowed for deliberation, some short interval may probably elapse before we know the result. In the meantime the Russian

organ "Le Nord," published in Belgium, has been putting forth an absurd statement to the effect that Russia, as an act of condescension, is willing to concede the third point, providing that the closing of the Dardanelles be maintained; that no ships of war be admitted into the Euxine but those of Russia and Turkey; and that the amount of this force be settled between the two countries, without that ostensible participation of the other powers. The Russian organ represents this ridiculous offer as a counter proposition made by Russia to the Allies,—to those proposals which Count Esterhazy has carried to St. Petersburg.—In this statement there is not a word of truth, and the explanation which it has brought forth is this,—that Count Baul was waited upon some time ago by Prince Gortschakoff, who had laid before him this proposition, which had been despatched for St. Petersburg; but that the Austrian Minister viewed it in the light of an insult. The third point in the Austrian proposition is this,—neutralization of the Black Sea without any Russian fortresses and arsenals on its coast; but at the mouth of the Danube there is to be stationed for small vessels of war—a kind of marine police.

But the belief is that the Emperor Alexander will not accept the terms, and that the war will continue,—that he will try, at all events, the result of another campaign. It was felt when his father Nicholas died that the chances of an early settlement of the war were diminished, because a new monarch who has to make a name is morally weak, as compared with a ruler whose successes for thirty years have established his prestige. The Russians, at the hands of the late Czar, would have accepted conditions to which his successor dare not accede, and there is every reason to suppose that the present Czar is impelled forward by influences which he dare not resist. He has a warlike brother, ready to profit by his mistake, and circumstances which he cannot control may impel him forward, contrary to his own desire,—so true is it that results affecting the existence of hundreds of thousands of human beings depend not unfrequently on personal caprice or unworthy ambition.

If the war is to recommence again in the spring, as it is almost certain to do, public opinion will not be satisfied unless the third policy, which has hitherto been pursued in the Baltic be set aside in favour of more decided action. The leading morning paper has been indulging in some strong writing on this point, which finds a hearty response in the public mind. No doubt, we believe, exists that preparations for repairing past inertness at sea are now being made by the Western powers, which will enable them to strike some heavy blows at Russian supremacy in the northern extremity of her empire, for a fleet will sail in the spring for the Baltic, greater in number, and material power than ever before left the shores of England; and our French ally is ably seconding the effort. That the Czar is a little uneasy at these war preparations is evident from the pains which are taken to render Cronstadt impregnable, and to fortify St. Petersburg. Attacking him has at the most remote points of his territory will find abundant occupation for his troops, however numerous, and at the forthcoming council of war, in Paris, the plan of this combined attack will doubtless be settled in a manner the most likely to render it successful when put into action.

GENERAL CALL TO ARMS BY THE RUSSIAN COMMANDER IN ASIA.

The *Invalide Russe* publishes a proclamation by General Mouravieff, calling the entire population of Imeretia, Gurjel, and Mingrelia to wage a war of extermination against the enemies of the cross. It is this measure which is supposed to have induced Omar Pacha's retreat.

THE Czar's LETTER ON THE FALL OF KARS.

The following is a translation of the Czar's letter to General Mouravieff:—"The resolute persistence, the exemplary courage, and the warm circumspection which have marked your entire conduct in Asiatic Turkey have now been crowned with full success. The dominating fortress of Asia Minor, the fortress of Kars, has surrendered, with its entire garrison, artillery, and great depots of arms and ammunition. The Anatolian army of 30,000 men exists no more; its commander-in-chief is our prisoner. I thank you heartily for this so glorious feat, which has invested the arms of Russia with new renown. I also commission you to express my heart-felt thanks to the army under your command for the steadfastness and courage which have overcome the stiff-necked resistance of the enemy. In testimony of your high merit I nominate you Knight of the Order of St. George of the Second Class, a rank to which you have proved yourself incontestably entitled; and remain, with imperial grace, your well-wisher,"

"ALEXANDER."

THE CRIMEA.

General Jean Durando was to replace General La Marmora in the command of the Sardinian troops during the absence of the latter. Marshal Pelissier was spoken of as the probable commander-in-chief of all the allied forces in the Crimea.

A letter from Kalisch, of the 25th ult., in the *Austrian Gazette*, says:—"According to the latest accounts from the Crimea, the Russian troops have been reinforced by a regiment of Hussars of the Guard, and by the Radezky Regiment of Hussars, formerly stationed at Odessa. It is therefore evident that no want of provisions is experienced by Prince Gortschakoff."

A letter from Odessa of the 21st ult., in the *Austrian Gazette*, says:—"Large bodies of troops are marching from the Crimea into Bessarabia. There is not, however, any intention of evacuating the former, as their places will be filled by other troops from the reserve, and by the militia. General Gortschakoff will, it is said, be replaced in the Crimea by Count Osten-Sacken. The former will resume the command of the troops in the Danube. The allied gunboats which remained at Kiburn, have been frozen in, and all the efforts made to release them have been hitherto fruitless."

THE EAST.

Letters from Constantinople state that the Austrian government has made satisfactory explanation to the Porte respecting the seizure of Colonel Turr, on Ottoman territory.—Other accounts from Constantinople say that the popularity of Omar Pacha has been much diminished by reason of the failure of his present expedition. It was known that he had abandoned the design of marching on Kutais, and was in full retreat upon Soucharn Kaleh, 10,000 of his troops, with others to be despatched, are to be sent to Trebizond, to cover Erzerum, which place, it is apprehended, will be attacked by General Mouravieff. The command will be given to Ismael Pacha. On the 19th ult., an Austrian vessel, laden with 100 oxen and 200 sheep, was driven by a storm into the Bay of Sebastopol, when Fort Constantine opened fire upon her, and continued its fire during the whole of one day, when she fell a prey to the flames. The crew made their escape.

TURKEY IN ASIA.

The Austrian journal *Fremden Blatt* learns