

bearers are deceiving themselves, in professing to love Christ and his gospel, while they enjoy plenty and lay up for their children, yet leave their *Pastors* to wear out their lives in distressing poverty? Ministers have passions and feelings like other men: they find as much inward and outward opposition to the exercise of faith, and hope, and patience, as their brethren, and commonly more: so that their spirits are often depressed and their hands weakened, on these accounts: when a regard to the real dignity of their office forbids them to complain, and induces them to suffer in silence and submission. Reader, you may have a Pastor, who is according to general estimation, well supported. This is all well, but how many in this land are justly described in the above, and even those who occupy the pulpits in large cities, how few can with proper care even leave anything for those dear ones whom they are so often called away from. Just picture to yourself the case of a popular minister's family suddenly deprived of their head. For a few months, it may even be years, his people mourn his loss, but soon another takes his place. Their void is filled, not so with his sorrowing family—caressed and petted as may have been his children—beloved as may have been his wife, soon they are made to feel that they have to struggle for themselves in the midst of a heartless world, all the more heartless because now painfully contrasted with the elegant refinement, which is always exhibited by an affectionate people, in the charmed circle of a beloved pastor's house. Oh! how we could wish that some noble minded steward's of God's bounty, would associate together to create a fund for the relief and assistance of the families of those who have spent the prime of their manhood for the good of the church—the application of whose abilities to any worldly subject, would have placed their families far above the need of any such assistance. C. S. M.

Phila., Nov. 6, 1853.

News Department.

From Papers by the R. M. S. America, Dec. 11.

ENGLAND.

THE BISHOP OF NEW ZEALAND.—The metropolitan see of Sydney will be offered to the energetic Bishop of New Zealand on his return to England.—This tribute to the virtues and success of one who has been, without exaggeration, called the 'Apostle of the South,' reflects credit on the authorities who offer it. Directly, it shows that labour is considered the true test of efficiency in making such appointments: and indirectly, it may be considered a proof that tried colonial experience is deemed the best credential for the important post of head of the Australian episcopate. Translation in ordinary administration of colonial dioceses, the Church is reasonably averse to. But Bishop Selwyn will occupy a metropolitan see, and one of that importance which eminently requires a bishop personally habituated to colonial wants and feelings, already skilled in missionary work, and with age and practical knowledge such as shall attract the confidence of an important people.—Without doubt the appointment will be as popular in Australia as in England. The Venerable Octavius Hadfield, Archdeacon of Waimate, will probably succeed Bishop Selwyn in the see of New Zealand.—*Morning Chronicle.*

BISHOP OF CAPE TOWN.—Her Majesty has just been pleased to re-constitute the bishopric of Cape Town, and to direct that the same shall comprise the western districts of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope, consisting of the divisions of the Cape, Stellenbosch, Caledon, Swellendam, George, Beaufort, the Paarl, Worcester, Malmesbury and Clanwilliam, and all portions of the colony of the Cape not comprised in these divisions lying south of the Orange and west of the Ongar Rivers, and also the island of St. Helena, and be called 'The Bishopric of Cape Town;' and Her Majesty has appointed the Right Rev. Father in God, Dr. Robert Gray, to be bishop of the said see of Cape Town, and to be Metropolitan Bishop in the said colony of the Cape of Good Hope and its dependencies, and in the island of St. Helena: and Her Majesty has further appointed that the Bishop of Graham's Town and of Natal shall be suffragan bishops to the said Bishop of Cape Town. Her Majesty has further been pleased to appoint the Right Rev. the Bishop of Sierra Leone to be a member of the council of that colony.—*Gazette.*

THE BISHOP OF NATAL AND GRAHAM'S TOWN.—On Friday last, as these bishops were proceeding to Cuddesden Palace to meet a party at the Bishop of Oxford's, the carriage was upset near Wheatley, and the right rev. brethren were extricated from their perilous situation by being helped through the window, as the door could not be opened. Their lordships sustained no injury, and as the Bishop of Oxford's carriage, returning also from Oxford, fortunately reached the depot shortly after the accident, their lordships were enabled to proceed to their destination without much delay.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

ALLIANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, AUSTRIA, AND PRUSSIA, TO TERMINATE THE WAR.

Positive and definite engagements have been agreed to by the four mediating Powers, pledging them to maintain the existing territorial arrangements of Europe, and to recommend fresh preliminaries of peace in the East. The proposition originated with the British and French Governments. The Prussian Government signified to its Ministers in London and Paris that it was prepared to co-operate with the Western Powers on the basis proposed. On the following day the Austrian Government gave its assent, and the Conference of the Four Powers at Vienna proceeded at once to despatch to the Porte the grounds on which these Powers are prepared to recommend an adjustment of these differences, and, if necessary to enforce it.

It is stated that the evacuation of the Danubian Principalities, and the withdrawal of the demands preferred against the Sultan's authority, are indispensable conditions of the settlement, but it would be impolitic in the extreme to neglect the present opportunity of placing the whole system of Eastern affairs on a footing more generally conducive to the security and benefit of Europe. In this respect it is not improbable that the traditional views of the great Cabinets may now undergo considerable modifications.

A letter from Vienna states that the report that an alliance had been formed between the four Powers is incorrect: a collective note has been drawn up, but no mutual pledge given to enforce its acceptance.

Letters from Krajova state that the Russians had made no advance against Kalafat. It was thought that General Fishback had been ordered to fall back upon Bucharest, where Prince Gortschakoff is concentrating the whole of his troops, with the front of his army turned towards Silistria. On the 27th, 28th, and 29th ult. the Turks renewed their attacks near Giurgevo, without, however, obtaining any favourable results.—Within the last ten days about 420 of the Russians who were wounded at Oltonitza had died. Among them were about 15 officers and 3 colonels. The Russian General who was killed in that battle was a Baron Plosen.

In Moldavia affairs are conducted in the most absolute manner, by General Uruhoff. The Jews in particular are the victims of his brutality. Some Austrian Jews, who believed that, as foreigners, they were entitled to a different sort of treatment, were peremptorily told to go to Lemberg, in Austria. They had to invoke the protection of the Austrian Consul-General.

The struggle continues in Asia. The Russians, after three sanguinary affairs, have been driven by superior force from Koblis on Laskow. The fortress of Saffa, and it is said also that of Akistan, have been taken by assault by Selim Pacha. The entrenched camps of the Turks at Bayagido, had been attacked by the Russians without success, who failed on the 17th of Nov. in a renewed attack upon the fort of St. Nicholas.—A small Turkish steamer was captured.

The Capudan Pacha had given a grand banquet to the Admirals and officers of the English and French fleets, on board the Turkish flag-ship, the Mahmoude. The officers had been presented to the Sultan, and Lord Stratford made a speech, in which he promised to Abdul-Medjid effective support against unjust aggression, at the same time that he recommended the conclusion of an honorable peace as soon as possible.

The Sultan replied, that he desired peace, but on the condition that it should in no wise offend the honor of Turkey, and that it should be compatible with his sovereign rights.

The Turkish garrison at Kalafat is changed every day, the troops being relieved from Widdin. It is supposed that this circumstance gave rise to the incorrect report that Kalafat had been evacuated by the Turkish forces.

A similar regulation is observed at Mekan. The Turks passing to and fro incessantly alarm the Russians at Giurgevo, who, not being relieved, suffer exceedingly.

It is stated that a three months' armistice, demanded by England, has been refused by the Turkish Ministers, and in consequence Lord Stratford had an audience of the Sultan, which lasted five hours. An extraordinary Divan was appointed to meet.

The desertions from the Russian army of Asia were so numerous that three Polish officers had been commissioned by the Turks to organize them into a legion, which at the date of the intelligence contained 1,000 men.

LANDING OF THE RUSSIAN TROOPS IN ASIA.—The Russian journals contain an official account of the landing of 16,000 Russian troops, with two batteries and 829 horses, upon the Asiatic coast, from the fleet of Sebastopol. Nichimov commands the Russian squadron in the Bosphorus. His flag-ship is the Constantina, a three-decker. The Russian fleet stationed at Sebastopol consists of 14 three-deckers, of which 4 have 120 guns, and 10 have 84 guns; 2 frigates with 54 guns, and 2 with 44: 2 corvettes, 7 war steamers, and 14 transport vessels. The Adjutant-General Kornilow directed the landing of the above troops. In Suchum-Kale, where the water was too low to allow the approach of the larger vessels, the disembarkation was effected by means of the transport vessels, and was completed by the 21st ult. It is said that the Russians will not attempt to force a passage at Galatz until the arrival of General Orten-Sacken's corps.—Baron von Rosen is the name of the Russian general who fell at Olenitza.

GREAT EXCITEMENT AT ST. PETERSBERG.—At St. Petersburg the excitement is fully as great as at

Constantinople. Since the news of the engagement on the Danube reached the capital, the greatest agitation has existed, and no efforts have been wanting on the part of the Government to stir up the amour propre as well as the religious fanaticism of the people. The Czar passes different bodies of troops in review almost every day, and is profuse in his distribution of honours and rewards.

SWEDEN.

The text of King Oscar's speech is more energetic than the German version of it which has been published. In the passage relating to the defence of the country the King says, 'Called by my duty as a King and by the present state of Europe, I will order to be laid before you an estimate of the needs of the army, and of that which is necessary to assure the independence of Sweden. Every sincere patriot must take such interest to heart. A King of Sweden never appeals in vain to Swedes when the honour of the country is in question. You, I am sure, will act like worthy sons of a nation whose heroism and patriotic devotion are inscribed in ineffaceable lines in the most glorious annals of history.'

Correspondence.

SONGS OF THE CHURCH

No. 62.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

"The Lord is at hand; Be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."—*Phil. iv. 4.*

A voice to ev'ry land
Proclaims the way, prepare,
The Lord is nigh at hand,
To judge the world in righteousness,
And with His great salvation bless
His saints who watch in prayer

In praise before His throne,
Let ev'ry knee bow down;
Let ev'ry want be known;

With joy lift up your heads on high,
For lo! redemption draweth nigh
His waiting saints to crown.

To pray'r! to pray'r! the cry
Rings through the earth and air;
The day of God is nigh;

Go forth to meet the Bridegroom King,
And to His blest espousals bring
The sacrifice of pray'r.

In faith and patience wait,
The blissful scene to share,
When He shall come in state;

And all whose bridal lamps will burn,
Who care for nought but His return,
Shall be transform'd in pray'r.*

Then nobler notes of song,
In purer strains shall rise,
His praises to prolong,

Whose blissful reign shall never cease,
Who keeps the heart in perfect peace,
That on His blood relies.

W. B.

* St. Luke ix. 28.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

CHRISTMAS! What a charm there seems to be in the word—the assembling of families, the unusual, warm recognition of friends, the more thorough diffusion of cheerfulness, and the greater abundance of happy faces rise up, like spirits of love at its very sound!

The old man smiles as he thinks of the gathering of his family around him on that day. The merry child is doubly merry at the thought of Christmas holidays and Christmas presents. So determined does every body seem to be happy, that one would think some gladdening change had come over the world, that the millennial year, so much talked of, had really dawned.

Why is this? The more I think of it the more strange and unreasonable it seems! What is Christmas? What is the day kept for? Every child in the Sunday School will tell you that it is *Christ's Birthday*, kept in honor of Him; and most gladly do we answer, 'Yes, most appropriately kept, though he be not commanded it.' If we keep the birthday of a brother, of a sister. If we keep our own birthday, and think it an honor to have others keep it, then surely it cannot be unacceptable to the Saviour of men that we should thus honor Him. But I said, it seemed to me unreasonable and strange that the world should assume such a happy tone on this occasion. Not strange that He should be loved, not strange that He should be honored, not unreasonable that His Birthday should be kept. But most strange and most unreasonable that it should be by such persons and in such a way as it is.

How many thousands rejoice in Christmas that never rejoiced in Christ? How many thousands dishonor and displease Him in the very keeping of His Birthday! Look in at the rich man's house, and see the horn of plenty poured out, and laughing men and joyous children partaking of the Christmas feast and the Christmas glee. Go in among them, speak to them of the day, talk to them of the love of Christ appearing on their behalf, expatiate on the riches of His goodness, the loveliness of His character, the glory of His person; call Him "the chiefest among ten thousand, the altogether lovely," speak of His bold