

tion; and I must now leave to history to teach its moral, and to sum up its consequences.

You will perceive that Messrs. Brown, McKenzie and other radicals from Upper Canada, and the rascals from Lower, voted against the Bill. The reason, it is hardly necessary to say, was, that it did not go far enough for some, and perhaps went a little too far for others—Messrs. Brown and McKenzie, and that school, chiefly opposed it on account of the commutation clause, which will secure to the Church of England probably £250,000 or £275,000. It is impossible to say the precise sum at present. But this is close upon it—And if the Church—

will doubtless be the case—come forward and make up to the incumbents in their different parishes the annual value of their incumbencies, this sum may be made the nucleus of a large and most useful missionary fund. And it will—happily for the Church and happily for the public, who abhor the rule of mere mountebanks—be for ever out of the reach of the Parliamentary spoiler.

Correspondence. FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

ACCORDING to previous notice, the Annual Meeting of the Truro Diocesan Church Society, was held in the Church School House, on Thursday evening the 28th Decr. The Reverend the Rector in the chair. The Meeting was opened by singing and prayer. After which the object of the meeting was stated, and the operations of the Society explained from the chair. Then the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:

The 1st. Resolution was moved and supported by Mr. Joseph W. Teas:

Resolved.—That as Almighty God accomplishes his dealings with men by means of agencies, and as this and similar Societies have been eminently blessed, in spreading abroad the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we consider them as instruments in the hand of God for accomplishing his work—and feel in duty bound to sustain them to the utmost of our ability.

The 2nd. Resolution was moved and supported by Mr. Wm. H. Wivell.

Resolved.—That the heartfelt thanks of this Meeting are due unto the Lord for the measure of success and usefulness which has been vouchsafed to the Diocesan Church Society—and our earnest prayers that he would continue and increase it.

The 3rd. Resolution was moved and supported by Mr. M. H. Ambrose.

Resolved.—That the extension of the Church in its integrity to various parts of the world, by the founding of new Societies in the Island of Borneo, the Mauritius, and the South of Africa, and the contemplated erection of two additional Dioceses in Canada, together with the privileges recently granted by the Sultan of Turkey to the Protestant Church in his dominions, afford encouragement to the hope of the diffusion of religion throughout the world.

Although from various causes the Meeting was not so large as on some previous occasions, yet an excellent spirit was manifested, and about nineteen pounds contributed. It is however expected that those persons who were not present will send in their contributions, which will doubtless considerably increase the above-mentioned sum. J. W. T. Truro, 29th Decr. 1854.

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Esq. Dec. 33.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

Her Majesty opened the Parliament on Tuesday, Dec. 12, in person. The Queen with that punctuality which is so characteristic of her Majesty, left the palace at ten minutes before two, and arrived at the House of Lords at fifteen minutes past, when, after the usual formalities, the Queen read the following speech:—

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have called you together at this unusual period of the year, in order that, by your assistance, I may take such measures as will enable me to prosecute the great war in which we are engaged, with the utmost vigour and effect. This assistance I know will be readily given; for I cannot doubt that you share my conviction of the necessity of sparing no effort to suppress any force now engaged in the Crimea. The exertions they have made, and the victories they have obtained, are not exceeded in the brightest pages of our history, and have filled me with admiration and gratitude.

The hearty and efficient co-operation of the brave troops of my ally the Emperor of the French, and the glory acquired in common, cannot fail to cement still more closely the union which happily subsists between the two nations.

It is with satisfaction I inform you that, together with the Emperor of the French, I have concluded a Treaty of Alliance with the Emperor of Austria, from which I anticipate important advantages to the common cause.

I have also concluded a Treaty with the United States of America, by which subjects of long and difficult discussion have been equitably adjusted.

These Treaties will be laid before you.

Although the prosecution of the war will naturally engage your chief attention, I trust that other matters of great interest and importance to the general welfare will not be neglected.

I rejoice to observe that the general prosperity of my subjects remains uninterrupted. The state of the revenue affords me entire satisfaction; and I trust by your wisdom and prudence you will continue to promote the progress of agriculture, commerce, and manufactures.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

In the estimates which will be presented to you I trust you will find that ample provision has been made for the exigencies of the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I rely with confidence on your patriotism and public spirit. I feel assured that in the momentous contest in which we are engaged you will exhibit to the world the example of a united people. Thus shall we obtain the respect of other nations, and may trust that by the blessing of God we shall bring the war to a successful termination.

CONCLUSION OF THE EARL OF DESBY'S SPEECH.

He demanded of the government that parliament should be told what they had been called together for. What, is it to hear of the battle of Inkermann, or of the great achievements of the Baltic fleet? The latter, however, was not mentioned in the royal speech:—"Yet never did so mighty a force navigate that sea—it was one of the most powerful armaments which this country ever sent forth. It formed the pride and boast of the country, and very considerable powers were given to the admiral for proclaiming war." (A laugh.) The signal that was given cannot be forgotten. We all recollect the injunction that was given to the men on board that ship, "to sharpen their entlasses, and the day was their own"—(a laugh)—and that if the Russian fleet did not come out to meet them, they were to see whether they might not move into the harbour of Cronstadt, and compel them to come out by force. (Hear, hear.) That fleet was sent out and what have they done? I am not about to depreciate the conduct of our fleet. On the part of individual officers an opportunity was afforded for the exhibition of great skill and seamanship and of great valour. But as far as all the results of war go—of all that most expensive and most formidable fleet—those results are literally nil. You crumbled down a half-finished fortress which you were not able to occupy, and now one by one your ships are departing home from the scene of their labours, but out of their exploits. Now, I need not say that I am not a naval man, and so far, perhaps, do not speak with much authority—(hear, hear, from the ministerial benches)—but I apprehend that the government ought to have known the strength of Cronstadt—ought to have been aware of the peculiar characteristics of the Baltic, and the peculiar strength possessed by the Russians for the defence of their shores there. What did the Government do? Why, they sent out a fleet of such superior power that it would have been an act of madness on the part of the Russian fleet to come out and meet them in the open sea; and at the same time they sent out a fleet, the vessels comprising which, in consequence of their magnitude, were of such a draught of water that it was absolutely impossible, looking at the depth of water in the Russian strongholds, that they and the enemy's ships could come into conflict. (Hear, and a laugh.) The consequence of this was, that Sir C. Napier was condemned to an ignominious inaction which is only paralleled by the old duel, which many of your lordships, no doubt, remember:—

"Lord Chatham, with his sword drawn,
"Stood waiting for Sir Richard Strachan;
"Sir Richard, longing to be at him,
"Stood waiting for the Earl of Chatham."

(Loud laughter.) So stood Sir Charles, and so stood the Russian admiral. Both were, no doubt, long engaged but somehow, from the nature of things, it was impossible they should come to blows. This is another instance in which the government will be charged with having condemned to ignominious inaction one of the finest fleets sent out from this country, and this from neglecting the most ordinary precautions which the safety of the service required. One person communicated with the government on the subject, pointed out the shallowness of the water, the necessity of employing vessels of a small draught of water, but the government took no notice, or only said, "Pooh! pooh! What do they know about it?" (Hear, hear.) Their views were altogether neglected, until again it was too late; and when it was too late and a whole year had been lost, then the vessels which ought to have been constructed at first were begun to be built. Thus the expenses and opportunities of one year were altogether thrown away, and we are, so far as the Baltic is concerned, in the exact position in which we were before. (Hear, hear.) Now, I repeat that I allude to all this, not for the purpose of discouraging those gallant men who, whether in the Baltic or elsewhere, have done their best to maintain the honour of our flag; but if we are to come to a successful issue of this great and serious war—if we are to look to conquering an honourable peace—we must strike decided blows. I say "conquering" an honourable peace, because I feel assured that without conquering a peace you will not obtain it. (Hear, hear.) Depend upon it, knowing as I do the resources of the Russian empire, and knowing the character of the great man who rules it (for he is a great man, although now employing his vast resources for unworthy purposes), you will gain no peace unless you conquer it. (Hear.) You must obtain by your arms such a vantage and such a superiority as to force the Emperor to submit to your terms of peace; but if you do not achieve some great success you may have a protracted and sanguinary, probably a disastrous war, but an honourable and a successful peace you cannot have. (Hear, hear.) With reference to the treaty with Austria, their lordships could express no opinion upon it; inasmuch as they were wholly ignorant of its provisions. Judging from the past, he characterized the attitude of the country as one of doubtful neutrality, whilst that of Prussia is one of doubtful hostility. The noble lord concluded his eloquent speech with the following peroration:—"I feel it to be doubly important that for the prosecution of this war we should have not only, as we have, the cordial, deliberate, and steady sanction of the people of this country, but that we should also have the opinion of parliament expressed in the most unmistakable language that no question of difference as to the mode in which the war has been conducted, or might have been conducted, shall interfere with the unanimous declaration of parliament that we will give her Majesty's government every support in our power—that the world shall see a specimen of a great nation, shunning all political animosities, putting all party contentions, and uniling heart and hand with all the means at their disposal, with all the influence they can exercise among their fellow countrymen, to prosecute the war, even although we may not entertain confidence in those who have the management of it, to give them the most liberal support that they can require. (Cheers.) I think I am speaking the sentiments of the country, of my own friends, and of parliament, when I say that, far from grudging them any supplies or any support which is necessary for the successful prosecution of this great and important war, it will be the country that will urge forward ministers to spare no pains, to omit no exertions, to make every sacrifice and every effort for the purpose of securing a just and honourable peace, in consequence of successful distinguished operations. (Cheers.) To those gallant men who are now, under circumstances of considerable difficulty, and with diminished numbers, gallantly fighting the battles of this country, reinforced as they have been to a certain degree, calculating as I do upon their indomitable perseverance and courage under all circumstances of difficulty and discouragement, to them I would say, 'Yet a little more patience, yet a little more perseverance. The end is not yet, but the end is approaching you, when you shall reap the reward of your labours. The eyes of your countrymen are upon you; the hearts of your countrymen are with you. The sympathies of your countrymen are in support of your unparalleled exertions. Men, women, and children are exhausting their voices for the purpose of relieving your distress, and ministering to your comforts, and assuaging your sufferings. Fresh reinforcements are at hand. Your courage, your daring, your steady and obstinate resistance, and your undiminished perseverance, shall not only be acknowledged, but shall serve as a moral and an example to the country; which is proud of having you for soldiers. Go on in the gallant course which you have begun. Have yet a little more patience, struggle against the unavoidable difficulties which are opposed to you, and believe that the hearts of your countrymen are with you. There are laurels for you, when you have fallen, and when you return from a mission which, with all its harassing difficulties, its dangers and its labours, will be and must be successful, because your example will inspire your countrymen, you will be the men who will have upheld and maintained the honour of your flag, you will be the men who have delivered Europe from the power of the oppressor, and you will deserve the blessing of England and of the world.'" (Much cheering.)