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Rev. A. W. NICOLSON,
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OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—At our recent Financial District meeting, the combined ministers and laymen have had the details of the great scheme for the first time fairly laid before them. There was in a few instances an apparent disposition on the part of some to complain of the progress the whole question of lay representation had made, and a wish to discuss the principle and not the details. This was not allowable, and would have been useless. It is to be feared, that some very elaborate speeches were left unspeakable, and some orators were disappointed. There have been no substantial alterations. Some Districts propose very slight alterations. Some of the details are accepted with unmistakable reluctance, such as the restriction of speaking in the mixed Conference to ten years men, and the entire withdrawal of the power to vote, except a minister be of the elect 20. There is a strong feeling in favour of making 10 years of membership instead of five, the qualification in the case of laymen who are to be elected to attend Conference. But we may conclude that with slight alterations, the broad outlines of the plans are before us, and are accepted by the District meetings. This marks off another and a most important stage in the advancement of the whole question.

DISTRICT REVIVAL SERVICES have been widely organized, and their appointment formed an important feature of the District meeting, bringing in an element of spiritual bearing in the midst of the financial and business detail which ordinarily form the staple of the September meetings. Several Districts have the entire services of a missionary for the year. The experiment of the past year was found so graciously successful that it is being repeated on a larger scale and in new localities. In the other Districts plans are formed for mutual help from adjacent circuits, and regular appointments and times for systematized efforts to gather in souls from the power of Satan. The President has given a powerful impetus to this grand work by his personal influence, and also by circulars addressed to every minister and circuit. It is hoped that the way will thus be prepared for a larger extension of the Home Mission work of Methodism.

THE GREAT FUND for Methodist extension has not yet been brought into active operation. It has an able and energetic secretary, but the money comes in slowly. It cannot begin to grant assistance until a fixed amount is raised. This point is almost gained, and meanwhile applications are pouring in which reveals most pressing necessities and painful destitution of evangelic means of grace. On the whole it may be safely concluded, that our church at home is bracing up for larger efforts, that it is full of life, hope and energy. Its mission is as clearly defined as every it was, and under the Divine blessing it is resolving upon wider efforts, and more liberal offerings for the work to which God has called it.

THE CHURCH CONGRESS has duly met, read its papers, and discussed the various matters upon the programme. It is not memorable for any special deliverance, nor has it led its adherents out for any new departure. There was one sagacious remark of the Bishop of Carlisle in reference to recent overtures to the Wesleyans. He thinks they are unwise, that the Wesleyans do not desire union or absorption, and that it is best and most dignified to let us alone. So we all think, and shall rejoice if the other Bishops will accept the advice thus tendered, and in future consistently act upon it.

THE TURKISH QUESTION has maintained its absorbing interest during the fortnight, and yet there is not much to chronicle, as the work of negotiation for peace and reform is of

necessity a slow one, and the Government delights in reserve and obscurity. It has been successful in warding off some of the impending danger arising from the popular uprising and indignation, by adroitly representing it as a party attack upon them, and they have thus rallied to their standards, and quieted many who were vehement in their denunciations only a few weeks ago. Yet it is clear that England is now actively interfering, and Turkey will be compelled to punish the atrocious perpetrators of those hideous deeds, restore persons and goods as far as possible and promise security for the future. It is feared after all, that it is only a compromise, a temporary patching up of a corrupt and doomed Government. It may for a little delay the destined fall of that wretched Power, but it will be only for a little while.

Oct. 2, 1876. B.

WAR NOTES.

THE Mohammedans in Arabia are interested in the war Turkey is waging against her insurgent provinces, and foreseeing that money in abundance will be required if Russia has to be fought, have determined to assist the Sultan as far as in their power lies. The Metowas, or pilgrim guides at Mecca, have deliberated solemnly and called on all the faithful to come forward with contributions for the holy cause, and Mecca and Jeddah have responded by at once sending in \$25,000, which will be forwarded to the Imperial Treasury at Constantinople. It is now a religious duty for all Mohammedans to aid the Sultan, and this fact will prove important in the coming struggle.

A DISPATCH from Vienna says, not only from Constantinople, but from all provinces of European Turkey there is news of a growing excitement among Mohammedans, of conventicles held in Mosques, and the Ministry is divided. The Sultan is too inexperienced to take the leadership of affairs. This position is most favourable for Russia's diplomatic action. The Russian Ambassador at Constantinople may carry everything before him, or if he fails may induce such an outbreak of Mahomedan feeling as might justify almost any steps on the part of Russia.

THE BRITISH FLEET.

The British Empire now has enrolled in her own ports, or those of her colonies, a commercial tonnage of more than seven millions of tons. England to protect the tonnage and her sea coast, now has four hundred ships of war, whose tonnage exceeds 317,000 tons, while the other nations of Europe have, in the aggregate, 380,000 tons of ships of war. England has fifty iron-clads; twelve of these are most efficient vessels, built within the last fourteen years. At this moment she has thirty-four ships of war upon the stocks, of which eight are superior iron-clads, costing not less than \$350 per ton.

In the last eighteen years England has expended \$970,000,000 in gold, on her navy. In addition to this the subsidies she pays to mail steamers have averaged \$5,000,000 annually for thirty years, and the principal part of this large sum has been repaid by postage, but the subsidies have given to her, in addition to her navy, more than 400 ocean steamships, subject to her call in time of war. England annually builds more than 20,000 tons of war ships. Some of her first ironclads were experiments, but if we include those on the stocks, she has now twenty of the largest class, ranging from 5000 to 10,000 tons, protected by plates of seven to twenty inches in thickness, armed with rifled cannon weighing eight tons to twenty five tons each, and she is testing cannon which weigh eighty tons each and throwing projectiles weighing 1700 pounds. Half her tonnage, manned by 60,000 seamen, is constantly at sea. France has 84,000 tons of iron-clads, and fifty vessels on the stocks; Turkey 68,000, Italy 38,000 tons. Russia has five iron-clads, one of them measuring 10,000 tons, and Germany has civilized a number, while Holland has 163 war ships, of which fifteen are iron-clads.

RUSSIA—ITS POPULATION, DEBT, REVENUE, INDUSTRY AND TRADE.—Since the accession, in 1855, of the Emperor

Alexander II. to the Russian throne, the area of the Slavonic Empire has increased some two hundred million hectares (one hectare is equal to 2.47 English acres), or about four times the size of France. During the same time the population increased by 22,546,000, making the present population 87,746,000 souls, or equal to the joint population of France, Belgium, Portugal, Spain and Italy. The debt of Russia during the same time was decreased some fifty millions of roubles, of 73.4 cents each. The present debt is 1,494,070,791 roubles, (\$1,097,047,960). The revenues of the State have increased by 205,000,000 roubles, and at the present time amount to 559,861,197 roubles (\$410,872,118). From 1856, in 1855, the number of factories has increased to 18,892, their annual productions amounting to 443,000,000 roubles, as compared with 157,000,000 roubles heretofore. The value of the imports is about 280,000,000 roubles, and of the exports 165,000,000 roubles.

The report given by the "Connecticut Courant" of Dr. Hamlin's speech before the American Board represents him as giving strong evidence in favour of the Turks. It says:

The next speaker was the Rev. Dr. Hamlin, president of Robert College, Constantinople. He was to speak in behalf of the Turks, he said. He had seen various English newspapers of late, which had commented largely upon the Turkish troubles, and he had never seen such a draft made upon the resources of the English language as these newspapers had made by the way of abuse to the Turks. It is only fair, however, to say that it is true even of the Turks. From an experience and knowledge gained by a residence of thirty-eight years among them, by personal contact not only with the lowest, but with the Sultan himself, Dr. Hamlin said he felt justified in claiming to know something about the people. That knowledge he would summarize as follows: First, there has never been any unevangelical people on the face of the earth which protected missions and missionaries as this government which is called accursed has. Three hundred years ago it received and protected the missionaries from Rome, and afterwards extended the same protection to other missionaries from England, America and Germany. Not an instance is known of the Turkish government persecuting Christians, and where such persecution has taken place, it has been done at the instigation of the nominal Christians. The speaker had obtained, during his many experiences before the courts, more of justice than he could have got from any other non-Christian government. Is not this something to be said in favor of the Turkish government? Again, during 500 years, it has been the most tolerant government on the face of the earth, not excluding England, America's record not of course going back 500 years. Still further, Turkey has established a better government for the organization of village communities, and a better system of holding individual property, than existed on the face of the earth at the time. It was the first to give to the peasant class the right to hold individual property in land. It was an original step, and one of the secrets of the strength of the empire. Now these are some of the peculiarities of this "accursed government." Turkey is no worse than some of its neighbors. Dr. Hamlin then went on to describe the terrible atrocities and cruelty to which Russia had subjected the Circassians, and also the investigations which Turkish agents had made among the Bulgarians to sweep these Circassians from the face of the earth. He did not believe the stories of outrage or murder of children; he had exposed too many false assertions already to believe this. It is a staple of the Greeks to put every kind of atrocity at the door of the Turks. The Turks are fierce in war, and civil-war is always bloody. Remember your own Andersonville and Fort Pillow. Can you expect Turks to be more civilized than you? In closing Dr. Hamlin said that he hoped that the American Board would not desert Turkey, for the people only needed Gospel influence to bring them up to an equality with any nation in the world.

We have received a curious proof of the progress of Christianity and civilization among the isles of the Pacific in the shape of a copy of the Tonga Government Gazette Extraordinary, containing the following proclamation:—

"PUBLIC HOLIDAY."

JUBILEE, 1876.
"Secretary's Office, Nukualofa,
June 24th, 1876.

"In consequence of Wednesday, the 28th inst., being the anniversary of the arrival, fifty years ago, of the Rev. John Thomas, the founder of the Wesleyan Mission in the Friendly Islands, and in consideration of the many advantages derived from the establishment of that mission, and the progress which has been made, His Majesty has been pleased to proclaim

Wednesday, June 28th,
as a public holiday. All the Government offices will therefore be closed; and His Majesty requests that all foreign residents trading here and employing Tongan labour will observe the holiday as far as practicable.

"A gun will be fired at sunrise, and one at sunset; also, a royal salute of 21 guns at noon.

By His Majesty's command,
"J. P. MILLEN,
Secretary to the Privy Council.
"God save the King!"

Tonga, as our readers are doubtless aware, has become so thoroughly christianised that even the practice of the ancient heathen rites at funerals is strictly prohibited. And the mode the Government have adopted of expressing their sense of the inestimable religious, moral, and social benefits which the country has derived from the introduction of Christianity, is by commemorating the first advent of the missionaries as a great and joyous national event. Tonga has not only a Christian king and constitution, but a legislature, a native Premier (David Uga), and an excellent code of laws. Facts like these are the best reply to those who sneer at the labours of the teachers of Christianity in the South Seas. In little more than a generation the Bible and the missionaries have changed a semi-savage and idolatrous race into a God-fearing, peaceful, and civilized one, possessed of the machinery of a regular Government, and able to use it intelligently. We observe with pleasure that traders are forbidden to sell any imported intoxicating liquors to the natives under pain of imprisonment for not less than two years nor more than seven. This is an admirable regulation, and if strictly enforced will save the Tongans from the curse which fire-water has brought on so many of the aboriginals of Oceania. As evidence of the zeal of the Government for education, we may state that every youth must attend a public school till he can read and write, and work sums up to compound division—the State paying the fees if the parents be unable.—*Melbourne Spectator.*

FROM BAD TO WORSE.

Some months ago we noticed that Dr. Eggleston, of "Circuit Rider" notoriety, had about abandoned the Methodist Church, after having received status and ordination from it, and after making no little fame and money by serving up its eccentricities and weaknesses in the most romantic style. It would appear that in his new role, he is not afflicted either with compunctions for the past or Christian scrupulousness in the present. The *Central Advocate*, in its New York correspondence, gives this paragraph, which plainly implies that Dr. Eggleston will make another step downward soon, if he has not already done so:—

On Saturday evening, the local papers of the section of Brooklyn in which Rev. Edward Eggleston, D. D., preaches—he shall have his full title here—announced the subject of the Sunday evening's sermon. Not in a month of Sundays could the reader guess its tenor, much less its title. We could hardly believe our eyes, but there it stood in plain type. "Lessons from Daniel Daronia." Now, we do not deprecate the least Dr. Eggleston's ability. He has shown genius in many ways. Moreover, he is in part one of us, for no man could have written "The Circuit

Rider" without having some leaven of Methodism in him. But how to reconcile such a topic with the simple teaching of Christ must have been a task worthy of "The Church of Christian Endeavor," as the congregation to which he preaches would seem to be fully named. It is a part of the system we so earnestly deprecate, and which to a greater or less degree, brings disgrace to the cause it assumes to espouse.

CHEAP WEEKLY PAPERS.

Referring to this subject of cheap weeklies a correspondent of the Chicago *Christian Advocate* recently says: "The publishers of the latter erect or rent buildings, and purchase presses and type for their dailies. They also have to maintain a corps of editors and printers, and secure and set in type the reading matter expressly for them. And then they regulate the prices of their dailies and the advertisements in them so as to make them pay the expenses of their publication and a handsome profit. If these establishments then wish also to publish a weekly, for the purpose of extending their influence, advertising their dailies, and increasing their profits, they can do so without incurring much additional expense. They can also use the reading-matter already put in type for the daily, so that they need only pay for the blank paper and press-work. Indeed, it is said by those who are acquainted with the business, that the advertising in these weeklies more than pay the cost of the paper to the publishers. But before a religious weekly can be issued, suitable buildings, presses, and types must be secured, editors and printers must be employed, and contributors must be engaged, and often liberally paid. And, besides this, the paper and print of religious papers is usually much better than that of secular weeklies. We may also add, that the secular weeklies publish more advertisements, and the circulation and the character of many of their advertisements is such as to enable them to charge a higher price for them. All these things more than account for the difference in the price of religious weeklies and those that are published in connection with the large dailies."

"If you want to hear news about home go from home" has almost passed into a proverb. This is strikingly illustrated in the following piece of startling intelligence, which the *Montreal Witness*, on the authority of some special correspondent, has given to the world:—
(Special to the Witness, Sep. 7.)

SPREAD OF RITUALISM.—A letter received here from England represents that Ritualism is spreading not only among Episcopalians, but Methodists, and states that, in all Saint's Church, in London, in which are displayed numbers of crosses, and which among other things has stained glass with the crucifixion on it, the Rev. W. Morley Punshon, who was so popular in this country three or four years ago, was one of the six clergymen who officiated, arrayed in white surplice.

As we read this, we rub our eyes, and ask whether we are dreaming. Dr. Beau mont once asked in the Conference, "Is this a real world in which we live, or is it a confused bundle of sentimentalities?" We suppose there may be credulous people in America who will believe this, and the Claimant, and the stories of Sinbad the sailor, and the adventures of Baron Munchausen. As to our readers at home, we need scarcely do more than assure them that, to the best of our belief, Dr. Punshon has not yet gone mad, and that the whole paragraph must be the Saturday night invention of some exasperated penny-a-liner.—*Recorder (London).*

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