

These are they who get into their heads false ideas of charity, as they call it. They would fain please every body, and suit every body, and be agreeable to every body. But they forget they ought first to be sure that they please God.

These are they who dread sacrifice, and shrink from self-denial. They never appear able to apply our Lord's command, "to cut off the right hand and pluck out the right eye." (Matt. v. 29, 30.) They spend their lives in trying to make the gate more wide, and the cross more light. But they never succeed.

These are they who are always trying to keep in with the world. They are ingenious in discovering reasons for not separating decidedly, and in framing plausible excuses for attending questionable amusements, and in keeping up questionable friendships. One day you are told of their attending a Bible reading; the next day perhaps you hear of their going to a ball. They are constantly laboring to persuade themselves that to mix a little with worldly people on their own ground does good. Yet in their case it is very clear they do no good, and only get harm.

These are they who cannot find it in their heart to quarrel with their besetting sin, whether it be sloth, indolence, ill-tamper, pride, selfishness, impatience, or what it may. They allow it to remain a tolerably quiet and undisturbed tenant of their hearts. They say it is their health, and their constitutions, and their temperaments, and their trials, and their way. Their father, or mother, or grandmother, was so before themselves, and they are sure they cannot help it. And when you meet after the absence of a year or so, you hear the same thing.

But all, all, all may be summed up in one single sentence. They are the brethren and sisters of Lot. *They linger.*

Ab! reader, if you are a lingering soul, you are not happy. You know you are not. It would be strange indeed if you were so. Lingering is the sure destruction of a happy Christianity. A lingerer's conscience forbids him to enjoy inward peace.

Perhaps at one time you did run well. But you have left your first love,—you have never felt the same comfort since, and you never will till you return to your first works. Like Peter, when the Lord Jesus was taken prisoner, you are following the Lord afar off, and like him you will find the way not pleasant but hard.

Come and look at Lot. Come and mark Lot's history. Come and consider Lot's lingering and be wise.

Conclusion next week.

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Arabia, March 4.

ENGLAND.

THE RUSSIAN FLEETS AND OUR MEANS OF MEETING THEM.—The Earl of Ellenborough on Monday night, drew attention to some information from St. Petersburg to the effect that twelve Russian frigates and corvettes were in preparation for sailing on the breaking up of the ice in the Baltic, and pointed out how easy it would be for this squadron in two weeks time to go round by the north of Scotland and Ireland and capture our merchantmen. His lordship also drew attention to the number of Russian ships at various parts of our colonial stations.

Admiral Dundas's fleet is a match for anything afloat in his quarter of the world. He has ten good sail of the line, and two heavy fifty-gun frigates, with a dozen heavy steam-frigates and sloops. His ships are nearly all well manned with the best seamen in the world. Eight months since, and Lord Ellenborough's observations were most applicable. In the Mediterranean we had not force sufficient to keep the Russians from seizing the Dardanelles had they been so disposed; and, as there was not a single man of war of any force between the Lizard and Besika Bay, the enemy might have made the Mediterranean a Russian lake, and the ill-defended islands of Corfu and Malta might have been starved into capitulation.

Again, six months since, and had the Russians so determined, nothing could have prevented their egress from the Baltic, their cruising in our Channel, and their progress to the Mediterranean, to have co-operated with the Black Sea fleet in the capture of the Dardanelles and in keeping possession of their acquisitions. The "show fleet" at Spithead, when her Majesty reviewed it was a mere demonstration. The ships led by the Queen to sea could no more have aided to the locality of mimic conflict than they could

have proceeded overland to India, for, after denuding all the ships at the home ports of their men, they were not half manned, and out of her whole complement the Duke of Wellington had not on her books one hundred able seamen; but it is not the case now.

Since that time we have called into active service amongst others the following:—

St. Jean d'Acro (screw)	101 guns.
Royal George (screw)	121 "
Princess Royal (screw)	91 "
James Watt (screw)	91 "
Nile (screw)	91 "
Cæsar (screw)	91 "
Cressy (screw)	81 "
Majestic (screw)	81 "
Neptune (screw)	120 "
St. George (screw)	120 "
Monarch (screw)	84 "
Doscawen (screw)	70 "

But not only in ships of the line have we almost doubled the strength of the navy within the last twelve months, but we have commissioned some twenty smaller ships, screws, paddles, and sailing vessels for the emergency that has arisen, including the fifty gun screw-frigate *Lurgatus*, *Dauntless*, thirty-three guns, with *Pique*, forty; *Diamond*, twenty-eight; *Juno*, twenty-six; and nine steamers, screw and paddle.

As regards the Russian squadron, we may remark that we have little to fear if only ordinary precautions be taken. Lord Ellenborough seems to have forgotten the existence of Rear Admiral Corry's fleet, and to have no notion of what may be done in a fortnight.—Already we have the *Duke of Wellington*, *St. Jean d'Acro*, *Prince Regent*, 90; *Hogue*, 60, screw; *Blenheim*, 60, screw; *Ajax*, 60, screw; *Edinburgh*, 58, screw, with a dozen others of the smaller classes of screw and paddle-wheel ships, that are either fully manned or could be fully manned, that could be en route to the Baltic in the course of two or three days; and we have, at least, four screw ships of the line that could follow them by the end of the week; but we trust that before the end of March we shall have no less than nineteen British sail of the line and two screw steam frigates equal to any Russian sailing seventy-fours, equipped in every respect for action, and proceeding to blockade if not to fight the Russians at their own ports, and of these, excluding the frigates, no less than thirteen are screw line-of-battle ships, and of the whole five of them three deckers.

As for the Russian squadron, we are well assured they have already been cared for, and we trust the few Russian frigates at our foreign stations have also been disposed of in the new arrangements. But we cannot help repeating that the men must still be found—the fighting men we mean—and there is very little time left to find them if war is at length our game. We may add that the whole war-of-war force on the Brazil station is eleven vessels, seventy-two guns, and 1,120 men.—*Herald*.

PROPOSED BISHOPRIC OF JERSEY.—Memorials are in course of signature in the several parishes throughout Jersey praying that tithes in the Island, which were alienated before the Reformation, and since they have formed part of the Governor's salary, may, now that this appointment is vacant, and is not to be filled up, revert to the parishes for the sacred and charitable purposes to which they were originally dedicated, or to the foundation of a bishopric, the island being almost entirely cut off from the advantages of the episcopacy in consequence of its connexion with the see of Winchester. The new bishopric—if the consent of her Majesty's Government can be obtained for its formation—will, in all probability, include Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark. Jersey contains ten rectories, some of them of considerable value, with several incumbencies. It has also a dean, who is the rector of St. Saviour's, and indeed all the faculties for the establishment of the episcopate. In Guernsey there are six rectories, one or two vicarages, and several incumbencies. In Alderney and Sark there are also rectories and vicarages. The number of the clergy in the islands is about sixty; but it is expected that there would be a great accession to the clerical staff if proper episcopal supervision were provided. It is admitted on all hands that it is impossible for a bishop, however active he may be, adequately to discharge the duties which extend from the Channel islands to Lambeth, Southwark, and Rotherhithe.—*Morning Chronicle*.

In the House of Commons, Feb. 24, in answer to Mr. Macartney, Mr. S. Herbert said it was usual, when a regiment was removed for ordinary foreign service, to allow six women to every hundred men; but as the

troops in the present instance were about to go to particular foreign service, the number of women and children was reduced, for it was found that it was only with great difficulty that the women could keep up with their husbands, while as the march was prolonged, the children gradually disappeared, from which it was inferred that they died of suffering or starvation. Under these circumstances the Home Guards had thought it advisable to reduce the number from six to four. Provision would be made for the support of the other two wives and their children, who, under an ordinary removal, would have been entitled to accompany their husbands. The wives remaining beyond the number of six were, in the every day cases of removal, conveyed to their friends at the expense of the State, where they had any, or to their parochial settlement, where they had none, but no permanent provision was ever made for the indeterminate support of soldiers' wives who were sent on foreign service. If such universal provision were made it would hold out such an encouragement to the soldier to enter the marriage state, that there would be no end to such claims upon the public purse.

SUMMARY OF MEMBERS OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY. JANUARY 1854.

	Members of Convocation	Members of the Books
1 University	142	272
2 Balliol	196	353
3 Merton	103	185
4 Exeter	270	487
5 Oriel	215	406
6 Queen's	158	273
7 New	102	196
8 Lincoln	123	212
9 All Souls'	88	116
10 Magdalen	150	200
11 Brasenose	286	431
12 Corpus	103	145
13 Christ Church	444	777
14 Trinity	172	290
15 St. John's	205	329
16 Jesus	83	167
17 Wadham	171	305
18 Pembroke	102	218
19 Worcester	171	351
20 St. Mary Hall	49	119
21 Magdalen Hall	128	265
22 New Inn Hall	19	45
23 St. Alban Hall	10	18
24 St. Edmund Hall	58	94
	3,546	6,259
Matriculations, 1853		406
Regents		247
Determining Bachelors in Lent, 1853		354

THE APPROACHING WAR.—The Governments of England and France have resolved to address to the Emperor of Russia a formal summons, calling upon him to give within six days from the receipt of this communication a solemn promise and engagement that he will cause his troops to evacuate the Principalities of the Danube on or before the 30th of April. The couriers who are the bearers of this despatch from London and Paris started on their journey on Monday morning. They will pass through Berlin and Vienna, whence it is understood that similar demands will be forwarded at the same time by the Cabinets of Prussia and Austria. The refusal on the part of Russia to comply with this just demand, or to return a fitting answer, will be regarded by the Powers as a declaration of war. It is calculated that this communication will reach St. Petersburg in nine or ten days.—*Muterial Paper*.

THE WELSH CHARITY SCHOOL.—On Tuesday the Loyal Society of Ancient Britons, in consequence of St. David's Day this year being Ash Wednesday, celebrated the 139th anniversary of the foundation of the Welsh Charity School, for clothing, educating, wholly maintaining, and apprenticing the children of poor Welsh parents, born in and near London. There was a splendid banquet at the Freemasons' Tavern, Earl Grosvenor presiding, supported by some of the most influential of the Welsh nobility and gentry.

The Duchess of Gloucester continues much indisposed. The duchess was so unwell on Saturday that her royal highness was unable to see the Queen, who called to make personal inquiries after the health of her venerable aunt. The members of the royal family met at different periods during the day to ascertain the bulletin of their relative's health, and many of the nobility call personally at Gloucester House.

The Duke of Sutherland has given £200 for the relief of the wives of the 93d, or Sutherland Highlanders, lately embarked at Plymouth.

The Duke of Buccleuch has contributed the sum of one hundred guineas towards the fund for the endowment of the Bishopric of Natal.