

The Church Guardian.

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."—Eph. vi. 24.
"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."—Jude: 3.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1879.

One Dollar a Year.

REV. JOHN D. H. BROWNE,
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LOCK DRAWER 29, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,
MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK,

EDITORS.

LORD CHELMSFORD, when at Aberdeen, characterized General Wood and Colonel Buller as two of the bravest men in the British Army.

A SAVOY paper states that a French Government engineer has received instructions to make a preliminary study of a project for tunnelling Mont Blanc for a railway.

HARDLY has the Zulu war come to an end by the capture of Cetewayo, than news reaches us of troubles with the Pondos, and some other tribes, and fears are entertained that before long more British blood will be shed in Africa.

A GERMAN paper strongly advocates an alliance, offensive and defensive, between Germany, Austria, and China, and argues that these powers have common interests, which means that they all can take sides against Russia—and that, in such an alliance, Europe may hope for the assurance of continued peace.

THE Victoria Cross has been conferred upon Captain Lord William Beresford, 9th Lancers, for having, at great personal risk, during the retirement of the reconnoitering party across the White Umvolosi River on the 3rd July last, turned to assist Sergeant Fitzmaurice, 1st Battalion 24th Foot, (whose horse had fallen with him), mounted him behind him on his horse, and brought him away in safety under the close fire of the Zulus, who were in great force and coming on quickly. Lord William Beresford's position was rendered most dangerous from the fact that Sergeant Fitzmaurice twice nearly pulled him from his horse.

THE unhappy massacre of our fellow-countrymen at Cabul has led to a very general feeling in England that something must be done to protect the lives of those who represent the country there in the future. Many of the papers advocate English occupation, amounting to annexation of the Territory. The Ameer is thought to have been implicated, although he has made strong protestations of innocence, and has expressed himself most anxious to do all in his power to bring the guilty ones to justice. There can be no doubt that, whether guilty or innocent, he has not the influence over his people that he should have, and must therefore necessarily be removed.

THE Nova Scotia Provincial Industrial Exhibition was duly opened by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, in the presence of his Excellency the General, his Lordship the Bishop, and a large and fashionable assemblage, on Tuesday. The building is quite handsome, and of considerable size. The exhibits are numerous, and many of them very fine. This is particularly true of the fruit, a collection which would do credit to any country in the world. The stock is also good, especially the cattle and sheep. There are a number of very good horses, and a fine display of poultry. The display of manufactured articles, especially in woolen goods, proves that Nova Scotia is making advances in this important direction. Altogether, the Exhibition is a decided success, and has been visited by a very large number of people each day. We shall enter into fuller particulars next week.

THE Convention of the Diocese of New York, which is soon to meet, will, it is thought, take action for the erection of a Cathedral Church, to cost several millions of dollars.

NEXT Wednesday, the Synod of Fredericton meets for the transaction of business. The discussion on the proposed Canon for the election of a Co-Adjutor Bishop will make its sessions more than ordinarily interesting.

THE York Diocesan Conference is fixed for Wednesday and Thursday, October 29th and 30th. Conferences are also to be held this month in the dioceses of Carlisle, Chester, Ely, Oxford, Lincoln, Chichester, Manchester, and probably two or three others.

THE large increase in the acreage sown in wheat this year, both in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the success in its growth, justify us in announcing that, in a year or two more, these Provinces will raise their own breadstuffs, and have a margin for exportation.

SEVERAL delegates are on their way from Europe to examine and report upon Canada as a field for European emigrants of the Agricultural class. There is no doubt as to the North West soon becoming largely populated with an excellent class of old country farmers, and the Pacific Railway, heavy a burden as it must be upon the whole country for a time, will not be built any sooner than it is needed.

WE have to record two interesting anniversaries in connection with the Church, which have recently been held, the one in England, the other in the United States. Canon Harvey, in the first-named Country, and the Rev. Dr. Shelton in the latter, have each completed fifty years of ministerial work, each, we believe, retaining the parish to which he was first appointed. They were both the recipients of many congratulations, and of handsome and valuable gifts.

IN the recent Lulu campaign, Lord Beresford had a horse poisoned by tea, given to it dry, by mistake, with fodder. It was eaten greedily, and produced most startling results. The animal plunged and kicked, and ran backwards, at intervals galloping madly around, finally falling into a donga, where it lay dashing its head on the rocks, and was despatched by an assegai thrust through the heart. The *post mortem* appearances indicated extreme cerebral congestion.

SO little is generally known of the Italian literature of our own day, possessing, though it does, great interest and attraction, that we hail with pleasure the translation into English, by an excellent Italian scholar, of the works of the famous novelist, Salvatore Farina, who holds a place in the estimation of his country people equal to that of Dickens among ourselves. The Charing Cross Publishing Company has just published the first of a series of his novels, entitled "Love Blinded," to be shortly followed by a second called "From the Foam of the Sea."

Foreign Missions.

AFRICA.

BISHOP CROWTHER: HIS LIFE AND WORK.

ABEOKUTA—(CONTINUED.)

It is not possible, in these short biographical chapters, to enlarge on the trials and triumphs of the Mission at Abeokuta. In all of them, for several years, Samuel Crowther bore his part; and the practical wisdom manifested by him again and again was gratefully acknowledged in the Instructions of the Committee delivered to him on his return to Africa after a short visit to England in 1851. The motto of those Instructions was, "Sent forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves: but beware of men." And the Committee referred to Mr. Crowther's dealings with the chiefs of Abeokuta, with regard to certain national superstitions, the persecution of the converts by the *babalawos* or priests of *Ifa*, &c., as illustrations of his having combined the wisdom of the serpent with the harmlessness of the dove.

The persecution here alluded to had occurred two years before. For a while the converts had been forbidden to communicate with the missionaries on pain of death; and Crowther's house was watched day and night. Ultimately he (in conjunction with Mr. Muller and Mr. Hinderer—Mr. Townsend was away) persuaded the head chiefs to interpose. The steadfastness of the Native Christians and the discomfiture of the *babalawos* greatly strengthened the Mission.

On his return to Africa, Samuel Crowther made a short stay at Sierra Leone, preaching in the different churches, relating his missionary experiences in the Yoruba country, and everywhere exciting the greatest interest among the now large Native Christian population.

In June, 1852, he rejoined the Yoruba Mission. This time he landed, not at Badagry as before, but at Lagos, no longer a great slave-trading centre, but a gate for lawful commerce into the interior, owing to the action of the British squadron referred to in our last number. Crowther had not been there since, as a little boy, he was shipped as a slave thirty years before.

On June 14th (he wrote) our little schooner anchored off the place from which I was shipped for the Brazils in 1822. I could well recollect many places I knew during my captivity, so I went over the spots where slave barracoons used to be. What a difference! Some of the spots are now converted into plantations of maize and cassava; and sheds, built on others, are filled with casks of palm oil and other merchandise, instead of slaves in chains and irons, woe and despair.

For the next two years Mr. Crowther continued his varied labours at Abeokuta. To this period belongs the very interesting picture of the Mission drawn by Dr. Irving, R.N., as he saw it on visiting the town with Captain Foote, by desire of the British Admiral on the coast, in January, 1853. He thus describes a service conducted by Crowther:—

We entered the church, which is well lighted, and ventilated, if necessary, by eight windows on either side and two at the end, where is the communion-table, enclosed by a railing; at one side is the

pulpit. On entering we found a full congregation, the male portion occupying the rows of cross benches on the one hand, and the women on the other. There might be, in all, about 300 present, generally cleanly dressed, and many in costume. At one end of the church, where we took our seats, were placed about fifty children of the school, under the eye of the schoolmistress. The service was performed by the Rev. S. Crowther, being in the Yoruba tongue, we of course could not understand what he preached. But from the text (Luke iv. 15—17), which I could not help thinking was an exceedingly felicitous one, and appropriate to the circumstances and situation, it was not difficult to conceive its general tenour. The Yoruba language is full, soft, and sweet; and, delivered in the affectionate and impressive manner of the preacher, seemed to us peculiarly so. The general expression of his hearers was that of grave, serious, solemn, rapt attention; their bearing not abject, but quietly composed. Each, as he took his place without noise or haste, arranged the folds of his country cloth and prepared to listen. It had a strange and most pleasing effect to hear the voices of so many men, women, and children uniting in the service of the true God, rising in the midst of a population degraded, ignorant, superstitious—the slaves of the rites of fetish—with so much earnest humility; and it would be a good thing for the would-be knowing men of the world, who sneer at missionary labour, to take a lesson from the church of Akè.

In November, 1854, Abeokuta was favoured for the first time with an Episcopal visitation. Bishop Vidal of Sierra Leone went up from Lagos, and found in the town and its out-stations, after nine years' labour in a country which had been the chief seat of the slave-trade, more than a thousand Natives worshipping the true God and reading the Scriptures in their own tongue. He confirmed more than five hundred of the converts, and ordained two African catechists.

But Crowther was not at Abeokuta when his old friend the Bishop visited it. He was away up the Niger, whither he had accompanied another expedition sent to open up the river to trade, the first that had dared to ascend it since the disastrous attempt of 1841. But of this journey we shall speak hereafter.

Two years, from June, 1855, to June, 1857, were spent at Lagos; and the journals of the period show the same activity as before at Abeokuta. The work at Lagos itself was trying in many ways, owing to the motly character of the population of a place which was rapidly developing as a mercantile port; besides which, the stations at Badagry and Otta, and two in the Jobu country (since given up), had to be superintended and visited. In December, 1856, Mr. Crowther had the joy of welcoming an old friend in the second Bishop of Sierra Leone after the visitation mentioned above. This was none other than the old West African missionary, Mr. Weeks, from whom Crowther had learned carpentering as a boy, and under whom he had afterwards laboured at Regent. But he too was soon to lay down his life in the cause of Christ and Africa. After a happy visitation of the Yoruba Mission, Bishop Weeks sailed from Lagos, fell ill on the voyage, and died a few days after his return to Sierra Leone.