

upon us such an observance of its sacred moments. And it is a shame and a guilt to squander any portion of it upon our indolence or convenience.

Diocesan Church Society.

LUNenburg COMMITTEE.

The Eighteenth Annual Meeting of this Committee was held at the Temperance Hall on Thursday evening the 24th inst., and was attended by a respectable assemblage of the Members of the Society, and others.

After "Old Hundred" and prayer, the President opened, by reading to the Meeting the Rules of this Committee, drawn up and agreed upon at its first meeting, held on the 12th July, 1837, only two months after the first meeting of Clergy and Laity of the Established Church, which was called together at Halifax by the late Bishop of the Diocese, to agree upon the plans and objects of a proposed Church Society.

The President was thankful to observe that out of 19 office-bearers in this Committee appointed on that occasion, only three have been removed by death, and nearly one half of them were still associated with himself in that Hall, in supporting and advocating the Society's designs.

The Secretary was next called upon to read his Annual Report, which imparted the gratifying information that the income both of the Incorporated Society and of this Committee are steadily increasing.

The adoption of the Report was moved in the 1st. Resolution, by Jno. Hockman, Esq., seconded by the High Sheriff of the County, both of them being among the first office-bearers, and ever since the consistent friends of the Society.

The 125th Hymn in the Nova Scotia collection having been sung, the Rev. W. H. Snyder, Rector of Mahone Bay, seconded by Joshua Kaulbach, Esq., advocated the adoption of the 2nd. Resolution, expressive of thankfulness to Almighty God for the measure of success hitherto vouchsafed to the Society.

Daniel Owen, Esq., seconded by Dr. Jacobs, and supported by C. E. W. Schmidt, Esq., called the attention of the Meeting to the 3rd. Resolution, acknowledging the debt of gratitude we owe to the Church Societies in England for past benefits and present support.

The Hon. W. Rudolf moved the 4th Resolution, reminding the Members and friends of the Church, that in consideration of the increasing claims of new Colonies and heathen lands, on British bounty, we are in duty bound to support among ourselves a Society intended to lighten and lessen our own demands upon them; which was cheerfully seconded by the son of the mover, Mr. Norman Rudolf, now on a visit to us from Pictou.

H. S. Jost, Esq. and H. M. Moyle, Esq., Collector of Customs at this Port, moved and seconded the next Resolution, suggestive of the fact that as the war taxes press heavily on the purses and pockets of our fellow Churchmen in the father-land, who are spared the pressure, while we share the benefits should increase our exertions toward self-support.

At this stage of the proceedings, the Meeting united in singing Bishop Heber's Missionary Hymn, ever beautiful and ever new; after which Benjamin Zwickler, Esq. of Mahone Bay, in the 6th Resolution, conveyed to the collectors, especially the Ladies, ever predominant in good, the thanks of this Committee for past services,—in moving which Resolution he was eloquently seconded by Dr. Drumm, who kindly came on a very short notice from Bridgewater to further the designs of the meeting.

Mr. James Dowling having moved the appointment of office-bearers for the ensuing year, the President expressed to the friends who had come from a distance to give their presence and aid, his own thanks and those of the Meeting for the valuable assistance they had rendered. In conclusion, subscriptions amounting to over £5, were handed in, followed by the usual collection, ascription of praise, and the Benediction.

And thus ended another Annual Meeting of this Committee, during which it is hoped that all present felt it a privilege and honour to be allowed of God to take part in a cause which has for its objects, God's Name and Word, the Saviour's love, the Spirit's work, the Church's co-operation, and the salvation of our world.

LAUS DEO.

Lunenburg, Jan'y 28, 1856.

The new iron steamship *Persia*, of the Cunard line, had arrived at Liverpool from the Clyde, under the command of Capt. Jenkins, of the *Arabia*. The *Persia's* speed from Greenock to Liverpool averaged sixteen knots an hour.

News Department.

From Papers by Steamers Africa and Baltic, at New York.

London, Friday evening, 11th.—The English funds to-day closed at a decline of 5.8 per cent. below prices of yesterday. Market still prejudiced by the discouraging prospects of peace; and the anticipation that the bank returns to-night would exhibit unsatisfactory returns, increased the tendency towards depression.

The monthly returns of the Bank of France are also unfavorable, and have exercised adverse influences upon both London and Paris markets. It is believed in well informed quarters that some definite intelligence from Vienna will probably reach the government on Monday.

The decrease in the bank of England's bullion is £283,000. The decrease of bullion in the bank of France, for the month, is £772,000.

Expectation is on tiptoe to learn the issue of the peace propositions to Russia. Rumors of all sorts are flying about, but the truth is, nothing can be known for some time to come, the term for Russia's decision having been extended to Jan. 18. Nevertheless, correspondents from Berlin and Vienna report advices already in those capitals, intimating that the Czar will make no further concessions. On the other hand, it is certain that formal conferences are in session at St. Petersburg, discussing peace proposals, attended by Nesselrode, Esterhazy, Seebach, and Sommer. The *Independence Belge* publishes the text of the allied proposals. The general impression is that Russia will neither accept nor reject them, but will send Count Stackelburg to Vienna with counter proposals.

The latest rumors speak more favourably of peace prospects.

Denmark announces her continued neutrality, and that she has no connection with the Swedish alliance.

Nothing from the Crimea. Omar Pacha remains at Redoubt Kale, shut up by winter and the Russians.

The Emperor Napoleon again threatens to go personally to the war.

Richard Cobden has published a new peace pamphlet.

The overland Indian Mail arrived at Marseilles on Friday the 11th.

The *London Morning Post* of the 12th has direct advices from Persia, which do not confirm the statement of the capture of Herat by the Persians.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 3.—The great council of war is concluded. It has transpired that Russian tactics for the approaching campaign has undergone important modifications. The orders sent from headquarters seem to indicate an intention to abandon the Crimea, a part of the troops having been ordered to reinforce Mouravieff, and others to join the grand army of the centre.

Keil, Jan. 3.—Our waters are still open, and trade between the lower Baltic ports and those of Russia is carried on with great activity. An American ship had arrived at Memel and was loading with hemp and yarn.

The first period allowed to the Russian cabinet for deliberation on the Austrian propositions has been extended from Jan. 5th, as first specified, to Jan. 8th. This arises from Count Esterhazy not having reached St. Petersburg so early as was intended. The second period is extended in like manner from the 8th to the 16th of Jan.

A telegraph despatch from Berlin declares that Count Nesselrode has privately declared to Baron Seebach, the Saxon envoy, that in his opinion Russia had made, in her declaration of Dec. 22d, the furthest concessions she can make. At the same time it is understood that Russia consents to negotiate, and offers in her turn plausible propositions, to serve as a basis of negotiations for a peace.

The *London Morning Chronicle* says that the Russian Reply will be sent to Vienna direct, and must not be handed to Count Esterhazy.

The return reply of Austria will be sent to Count Nesselrode. This mode of transmission will create at least a month's delay in the negotiation.

According to the Correspondence of the *London Times*, the acceptance or rejection of the proposition depends a great deal, if not entirely, on Prussia.—It is the knowledge of this fact which raises or depresses the expectation of the Austrian public, according to the tenor of the intelligence from Berlin. Meanwhile it is known that the instructions to the Prussian Minister at St. Petersburg were to give the most conciliatory counsels to Count Nesselrode, and it is moreover affirmed that the King of Prussia has addressed an au-

tograph letter very lately to the Emperor Alexander, to the same effect.

Our correspondence say that France and England are taking a very high tone with Prussia, and threaten to extend the blockade to her ports. Hence King Frederick's recommendation to the Czar to come to terms.

Our Berlin correspondences continue to intimate that there is no doubt Austria has fully determined to induce the Germanic Diet to make a manifestation on the eastern question. Count O'Donnell is commissioned to visit several of the German Courts to pave the way for this object.

A Vienna despatch adds—"Very favourable hopes are entertained as regards an understanding between Prussia and Austria respecting the mode of treating the peace question, both at St. Petersburg and at the Frankfort Diet, but little weight is attached to this vague surmise."

The Berlin correspondence of the *Emancipation Belge* maintains that the Austrian propositions are Austria's ultimatum, and on their rejection Austria will take the field. It is needless to say that this statement must likewise be taken as a mere guess.

Mercantile letters from St. Petersburg reach to the 1st Jan., and do not harmonize with the subsequent reports of the failure of negotiations. The arrival of Baron Seebach which had taken place two days previously, had been followed by considerable speculation in the funds by members of the court who might be supposed to have caught a glimpse of peace. Nevertheless the fear of an attack on the capital restrained the more cautious from investing too largely on such indication. The Danish government has sent a circular to the different States of Europe. In this circular the Danish government renews the declaration of its neutrality.

Denmark persists in maintaining the position of a neutral power, and admits no engagement on its side in relation to the treaty concluded on the 31st November between Sweden and the Western Powers.

A St. Petersburg despatch of the 8th says, Omar Pacha has fallen back on the Redoubt Kale. His troops suffer much from the inclemency of the season. The Russian detachments harass his rear. Constantinople letters of Dec. 28th say that the Russian have intercepted communications with Kutais, Suchum Kale and with the coast, and that he has applied to the allies for assistance.

The Emperor Napoleon has again taken the idea of assuming actual command of the army, and the report goes that he has stated to General Bosquet he should accompany him to Finland in the spring. Rumor goes further and says that the government will be administered in the Emperor's absence by a commission composed of Marshals Magnan, Valiant, Gen. Canrobert, Prince Napoleon and Count Walenski. The British Government is much opposed to these intentions.

THE VERY LATEST.

Berlin, Friday Eve., Jan. 11th.—It seems to be known here that the reply of Count Esterhazy's is far from a decided negative.

In our diplomatic circles a long series of negotiations is looked for.

The Prussian Ministry is getting exceedingly nervous about a threatened blockade of the Baltic by the allied powers.

It is said that one part of Col. Manteuffel's mission to Vienna, is to ascertain whether Austria will give her support to Prussia in case of such violation of her neutrality. Meanwhile Prussia is redoubling her efforts to induce Russia to come to terms.

The King of Holland has added his efforts to those of his relative, the King of Prussia, to urge on the necessity and policy of peace.

FROM THE CRIMEA.

Advices from Constantinople state that Marshal Pelissier will not quit the Crimea.

CAMP, SEDASTOPOL, Dec. 24. One of the five celebrated dry docks in the Karabelnara suburb of Sebastopol was demolished by the French engineers on the 22nd inst., by the explosion of mines. The destruction of the dock was fully accomplished, the blast having almost instantaneously reduced the massive fabric into a ruined and confused heap of stones. The mines were so laid that the effects of their explosion were confined to a very limited sphere of action.

The dock selected by the French engineers for demolition on this occasion was the one placed to the west of the lock through which vessels formerly entered into the great basin. In addition to this dock, the French have to destroy another dry dock on the eastern side of the entrance lock, the lock itself, which with its sides and foundation of cut masonry and mag-