

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1857.

CAPTAIN HEDLEY VICKARS.

The communication of a writer in the *Episcopal Recorder* of Philadelphia, commenting upon the war spirit which the Biography of Capt. Hedley Vickers is calculated to excite, as opposed to the spirit of Christianity, and a part of which struck us as so remarkable, that we published it, with a short preface containing our own views upon the subject, has not passed without a special reply by another writer, in the same paper. The latter controverts the position advanced by the former writer, that "there is not a single word in the teaching of the Saviour that will give countenance to the principle of any kind of war," by adducing the Saviour's example of the healing of the centurion's servant, soon after His sermon on the mount—and the instance of the first gentile convert, Cornelius. The argument, however, by which he supports his views, is not conclusive, and we shall avoid them, in like manner as we omitted the previous proposition. He further excuses the conduct of Capt. Vickers by the same process of reasoning as dictated our prefatory observations. There is indeed but one question, which this writer himself asks, that can be thought to bear by implication upon Hedley Vickers' character, and that may be answered satisfactorily in various ways. Thus, he says—"Why did not Capt. Vickers leave the army and enter the Church?" which he goes on to resolve—and the reply to which in our mind would naturally be, that *knowing himself and being known for what he was*, both his example and teaching were likely to have much more weight as a soldier, than they would have had in any other profession. In fact there can no imputation rest upon the motives of this Christian soldier, so far as his published history and private conduct declare, and none whatever upon his energy when the result of an important affair depended upon his resolution and the strength of his arm. His biographer, however, is not to be so easily excused, who putting him forward as a Christian example, brings into prominence certain actions which however necessary are opposed to Christian principles. These are in fact so boldly portrayed, that it inspires an idea that the Christian soldier was to be eternally rewarded for slaying the enemies of his country, or bravely falling in battle—a picture which however stimulating, partakes more of the coloring of the Koran, than of the milder tints of the Gospel of peace.

We had not intended to notice particularly the reply to the communication from which we quoted, but our attention having been directed to it, we give below that portion that we think most conclusive. No mortal ever yet attained to absolute perfection, and it is no reflection upon the Christian consistency of such an one as Capt. Vickers, that he did not attain to it in a greater degree than the sons of Zebedee or the apostle Peter. Nor do we think that any laboured argument on the part of his friends is necessary for his justification. Had the objectionable part of the "biography" been rendered in the words of this writer, it would not have been open to such severe rebuke, and would have been better calculated to instil the doctrine of peace as an appropriate part of the Christian character.—

"So long as God's judgements are abroad upon the earth, war—*one of the severest He has ever inflicted upon our race*—will undoubtedly continue; and Christian soldiers and sailors, as well as Christian clergymen, statesmen, and others, must do their duty in that state of life to which it has pleased God to call them. The path of duty would certainly be forsaken, were a soldier to desert his post in time of danger; and the officer is bound to use his sword in time of need, though not in anger. He may not only be free from anger at such a time, but be in a Christian frame of mind—ten thousand times more desirous to save his enemy (were it in his power) than to destroy him.

"I cannot describe my feelings as I read the remarks of 'Pax' upon the death of that gallant officer and zealous Christian, and think of him as I have seen him.

"I do not intend to dwell upon his character. It has been truthfully and fully portrayed in the memoir, which was written in prayer, which God is graciously answering in the conversion of many souls. It is my happiness to know the writer of that memoir, the betrothed of Captain Hedley Vickers, and the other members of that holy family of 'B.' Had 'Pax' been at my side one Sabbath evening, and witnessed one of the meetings of the Navvies and others frequently referred to in the memoir, methinks he would have suffered his right arm to be taken off, rather than pen such charges against the book; and, had he seen and heard one of the many blessed by that godly officer,

who hastened to me at the conclusion of that meeting, to tell me, with an almost broken heart, he had just come from the grave of that beloved one, he would feel guilty of having given an infamous character to one of the holiest, and, for the time he was spared, most useful men that ever lived.

"The question may be asked, 'Why did not Capt. Vickers leave the army, and enter the church?' 'To his own Master he standeth or falleth.' Who can read his memoir, and doubt that a man of such prayer asked his God to guide him in this important matter; and, if he felt it his duty to remain where God converted him, we may be at a loss to understand how it could be so, yet we dare not accuse him of sinning in not throwing off his uniform. Some of the most holy men in this country and in England have left the army for the church, and the Rector of 'B' is one of them. They felt it their duty to do so, and, feeling so, they could have sinned, had they not made the exchange; but this is no proof that all who love God and desire to serve him, should rush to the pulpit. No! The soldier, the statesman, the professional man, the merchant, the mechanic, the laborer, as well as the clergyman, have their duty to discharge to God and their fellow-creatures. The light of each must so shine, that others, seeing their good works, may glorify their heavenly Father. Hedley Vickers, as a good soldier of the cross and of his country, faithfully and zealously discharged his every duty. Fain would he have spent his time ministering to the sick and wounded, proclaiming to them that Saviour whose precious blood cleanseth from all sin; but he was ordered into the trenches. Attacked by the enemy, he bravely defended the post assigned him by his country, and fell at the head of the men placed under his command. His natural life, but not his "light" is extinct, and "he being dead, yet speaketh." When the last trumpet shall sound, many shall arise from their graves in various parts of the earth, and call that Christian soldier blessed."

The Ordination will be held on Sunday, March 8th, in St. George's Church. The Candidates and others will assemble for Prayer in the Bishop's Chapel on the mornings of Thursday, Friday and Saturday, at 9 o'clock—also on Thursday and Friday at a quarter past 5, and on Saturday at 8 p. m. There will be service with Sermon in the Chapel on Wednesday evenings during Lent, at half-past 7.

The Lent Services commenced at Christ Church, Dartmouth, on Ash Wednesday, when there was full Service and a Sermon in the morning at 11. In the evening the Annual Meeting of the Dartmouth Committee of the D. C. S. was held, which was well attended, and a series of Resolutions passed, bearing upon the objects of the Society.—There will be full service and a Sermon on Wednesday at the above Church, at 3 p. m. during Lent.

LEGISLATIVE.

SINCE the want of confidence debate, the business of the Legislature has presented but few points of interest. The new officials have been returned to their constituents for approval, and but little has been done beyond receiving petitions, to forward the business of the country. A good deal of discussion has occasionally taken place upon other matters, in which the disposition of the new administration to adopt the measures of public improvement pursued by the old, has been questioned, and their omission to send down important papers and despatches connected with the settlement of that long standing grievance—the Mining Co. monopoly—has been charged upon them as corroborative of a design to carry out a different line of policy. Whether there may be any truth in this surmise, time will show; but it is hardly to be expected that an Administration so new to Office, which in fact cannot be said to have secured it until its components have received the sanction of their separate constituencies, could have formed any settled policy as yet upon the important subjects that may come before it. The utmost that can be supposed under present circumstances is, that the private opinions and personal leanings of the members of government, may be considered as foreshadowing their future public conduct, and the opposition Press is making the most of their knowledge of all the particulars which have guided the conduct while out of office, of the parties now in power.

Several letters and addresses have also appeared in the papers. An address from Honble. J. W. Johnston to his constituency in Annapolis, in which the causes of the late dissolution are shown, and several important topics introduced, upon the non-committal principle. A letter from Hon. Joseph Howe, recommending the formation of a Protestant Alliance. Hon. J. W. Marshall's address to his constituents. Mr. Whitman's (the opponent of Mr. Johnston) address to his constituents. These are all indicative rather of a change of men than a change of measures.

We have published the reported discussion upon the demand for the despatches relative to the Mining Association.

The members of St. Luke's have just presented to their talented and amiable Organist, an elegant service of Plute, the object of which is expressed in the note from Rev. W. Bullock which accompanied it. We have been favored with a copy of this and the reply, which we have great pleasure in making public, believing that they will afford general satisfaction that the indefatigable and disinterested service of Mrs. Grigor has been so gracefully noticed.—

Halifax, March 2nd, 1857.

MY DEAR MRS. GREGOR,

The members of our Congregation could not have imposed upon me a more gratifying duty, than that of presenting to you the accompanying Testimonial, to be a small token of the sense they entertain of your good service, as their ready and effective Organist.

The members of the Choir of St. Luke no less than myself and my assistant in its Ministry, are fully sensible of the advantage we derive not only from your skill, but the prompt and amiable manner in which every thing is done by you, to make the service pleasant to the Choir, and beneficial to the congregation.

I pray God's blessing on your labor, by which it must be delightful to yourself, and am over your affectionate Friend and Pastor,

WM. BULLOCK.

REPLY:

MY DEAR FRIEND AND PASTOR,

It is with much pleasure that I acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday, in which you so kindly express for me the sentiments of the Members of the Congregation, the Choir of St. Luke, also those of yourself and assistant in its Ministry, for my very humble efforts in accompanying the Choir in the sacred services of our Church, and at the same time conveying the expression of your kindness and theirs by a testimonial of respect so far beyond my merits and powers to deserve.

Will you favor me, my dear Mr. Bullock, by conveying to them my best acknowledgments and thanks for so useful as well as valuable a present, and assure them with my warmest regards, that I have only been too happy in being enabled to enjoy the privilege of adding to that beautiful part of Divine Worship in which we praise the Lord in His Sanctuary.

With much respect,

Believe me,

Ever yours sincerely,

EMILY M. GREGOR.

Halifax, March 3rd.

[From last Saturday's City Edition.]

The Steamship *Niagara* arrived this morning, in 13½ days from Liverpool. Parliament was opened on the 3d inst. by Royal Commission. The Lord Chancellor read the Speech. It alludes to the principal events that have engaged the attention of Europe since the last opening of Parliament—the questions before the Paris Conference—and the Neuchâtel question—the former of which is settled, the latter in fair progress—notices the communications to the King of Naples of the French and English governments, the replies to which have induced those powers to withdraw their ambassadors—trusts that negotiations that have been entered into with the United States will remove all misunderstanding about Central America—notices also that a commercial treaty has been concluded with Siam—and bestows a few paragraphs upon the Persian and Chinese hostilities, which have been successfully prosecuted. The Speech concludes with Her Majesty's gratification, that notwithstanding the sacrifices attendant upon the late war, the resources of the country are unimpaired, and its industry unchecked.

The two Houses of Convocation for the Province of Canterbury, assembled on Wednesday, Feb. 4, for the despatch of business. A full report of their proceedings is given in the *London Guardian*. The principal topics of discussion in the Lower House were the admission of laymen, and the Constitution of a supreme ecclesiastical Court of Appeal; in the Upper, Home and Foreign Missions, and the means of providing for them.

In the House of Lords, last night, Feb. 10, the Lord Chancellor introduced his first instalment of promised law reform, in the shape of Bills dealing with the several jurisdictions of the Ecclesiastical Courts.

Lord Lyndhurst and Earl Derby again pressed for further papers, urging that it would be found that Dr. Bowring had sought a quarrel, in order to insist on obtaining entrance into Canton.

In reply to Mr. Layard, Mr. V. Smith stated that Feruk Khan, the Persian Ambassador to the Emperor of the French, had received from his court further and full instructions for negotiation with the British Government.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that half of the extraordinary expenses of the Persian war will be borne by the East India Company, and the other half by Government.

It was currently reported yesterday that a vacancy had occurred at the Admiralty by the resignation of