

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Europa, July 10.

ENGLAND.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE, JUNE, 1853.—A letter was read from the Lord Bishop of Colombo, dated N. Eliya, Ceylon, March 23, 1853. The following is an extract:—

"I sent you not long since an account of the opening of two native churches in the Society for Propagation of the Gospel Mission of Milagraya, near Colombo, which, with the timely and generous aid of your Society, the Rev. J. Thurstan has completed. A third is now ready, but the villagers are desirous of connecting their secluded village with the main road, to make their church more accessible before it is open, and for this purpose are themselves now engaged in constructing a branch road under his guidance. On my return to Colombo next month (if all be well), it will probably be prepared for my visit and Confirmation through the rural districts south of Colombo.

The Mission has been lately extended, and embraces several large and populous villages, not before included within its limits, each having its own little chapel and school, served by Mr. Thurstan and his ten assistants, as either catechists or schoolmasters. It is very gratifying to me to inform the Society that within this mission Divine Service is solemnized in the Sinhalese language not less than sixteen times every Sunday, and eight catechetical lectures are held weekly in the respective villages, for instructing the candidates for confirmation and adult baptism, and explaining and enforcing on their immediate attention the obligation of sponsors and parents of Infants to be baptized.—There are, moreover, thirteen Sunday, and seventeen day schools within the district, including one industrial boarding School, which has by his judicious superintendence and patient perseverance been made almost self-supporting; a new feature in Ceylon both in respect of maintenance and residence. Including the schoolmistresses there are thirteen labourers employed wholly in imparting Christian instruction daily, under the energetic and quiet superintendance of this single missionary.

A letter was read from the Lord Bishop of Antigua, dated London, June, 1853. The following is an extract:—

"I beg to send you a statement of the English congregations in the Danish Islands, exhibiting the virtual extension of my diocese beyond its legal limits as defined by my patent.

"We have in St. Croix two clergymen—one in St. John's district, one in St. Paul's district; and a third in St. Thomas', All Saints: 5000 members and 1200 communicants in St. John's district, and 829 under school instruction in infant and Sunday schools, with 91 teachers. In St. Paul's district we have 3000 members and 600 communicants, and 500 children under school instruction as above, with 52 teachers. In the Island of St. Thomas', All Saints, we have 1500 members and 417 communicants; 351 children under instruction, with 29 teachers. I have to add that all the communicants have been confirmed before admitted to the Holy Table; and that for the most part the teachers in the Sunday Schools give gratuitously their time and attention, and are of a respectable rank in life, the greater number females. In our own English colonies we could not so well succeed on the voluntary system. I have a hope that this statement will be satisfactory, and afford the hope that something on a more limited scale, like the above, may in the end be effected at St. Bartholomew's, the Swedish island."

SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH TO AMERICA.—Arrangements are far advanced towards completion for laying down a submarine telegraph between the United Kingdom and America. It is intended to connect the two countries, or rather the old and new worlds, by means of Galway and Halifax—these being the two nearest points? The perfect practicability of the thing has been guaranteed under the hand of nearly all the eminent engineers of the day, and various parties have sent in estimates for the execution of the work. These estimates vary from £290,000 to £300,000 and it is a remarkable fact that some of the lowest estimates have been sent in by some of the most respectable firms in the country. When this extraordinary project has been carried out, we shall be able in half an hour to send messages from London to New York, and receive messages from the United States in about half an hour; and not, we ought to add, from New York alone, but from the interior of America, the electric telegraph being laid down for upwards of two thousand miles up the country.

attention to one other most remarkable discovery that has been made in these mysterious mounds. In a passage of the south-west corner of the Konyunjik palace, Mr. Layard stumbled upon a large number of pieces of fine clay, bearing the impressions of seals, which there can be no doubt had been affixed, like modern official seals of wax, to documents written on leather or parchment. The writings of themselves have, of course, decayed, but curiously enough, the holes for the string by which the seal was fastened are still visible, and in some instances the ashes of the string itself may be seen, together with the unmistakable marks of the finger and thumb. Four of these seals are purely Egyptian. Two of them are impressions of a Royal signet. It is, says Mr. Layard, 'one well known to Egyptian scholars, as that of the second Sabaco, the Ethiopian of the twenty-fifth dynasty. On the same piece of clay is impressed an Assyria', with a device representing a priest ministering before the king, probably a Royal signet.' We entreat the readers' attention to what follows. Sabaco reigned in Egypt at the end of the seventh century before Christ, the very time at which Sennacherib ascended the throne.

"He is probably the So mentioned in the second Book of Kings (xvii. 4.) as having received ambassadors from Hoshea, King of Israel, who, by entering into a league with the Egyptians, called down the vengeance of Shalmaneser, whose tributary he was, which led to the first great captivity of the people of Samaria. Shalmaneser we know to have been an immediate predecessor of Sennacherib, and Tirakhaah, the Egyptian king, who was defeated by the Assyrians near Lachish, was the immediate successor of Sabaco II. It would seem that a peace having been concluded between the Egyptians and one of the Assyrian monarchs, probably Sennacherib, the Royal signets of the two kings, thus found together, were attached to the treaty, which was deposited among the archives of the kingdom."

"The document itself has perished, but the proof of the alliance between the two kings remains, and is actually reproduced from the archive chamber of the old Assyrian king. The illustration of Scripture history is complete, and the testimony in favour of the correct interpretation of the cuneiform character perfect.

"A new chamber, opened in the north-west palace at Nimroud, had, in the meanwhile, exhibited remains of a totally different character. Here were discovered bronzes of various kinds, caldrons, bells, rods, cups and dishes, besides several hundred studs and buttons in mother-of-pearl and ivory, with many small rosettes in metal. The caldrons were full of the smaller relics, which had, no doubt, served as ornaments of horse and chariot furniture—the caldrons themselves being constantly represented as part of the spoil and tribute obtained from conquered nations in the bas-relief of Nimroud and Konyunjik. Some of the cups and bowls are elaborately ornamented with the figures of men and animals, and the execution as well as the design of the subjects argue well for the taste and skill of the ancient artist. The execution, it may be remarked, is purely Assyrian; the inside, and not the outside of these vessels, is ornamented, and the embossed figures 'have been raised in the metal by a blunt instrument, three or four strokes, of which, in many instances, very ingeniously produce the image of an animal.' Many of these bronzes are already in the British Museum, undergoing the process of restoration. When first obtained by Mr. Layard, their embossed designs could not be made out through the rotten crust with which the lapse of ages had covered them. By dint of the greatest ingenuity and skill on the part of the workmen at the Museum, the restoration is in many instances complete; but, in too many cases no possible effort can prevent destruction. Bronze specimens, sealed up, and jealously excluded from the atmosphere, daily decay and rot. The relics which, for thousands of years resisted the influences of time in the Assyrian mounds, perish in the course of a few months, in spite of every care, under our English sky. Mr. Layard indulges in a pleasing fancy when contemplating these bronze remains. The tin used in their formation was probably obtained from Phœnicia. The seamen of the Syrian coast sought this metal on the distant shores of the Atlantic, and disposed of it to the Babylonians and Assyrians. 'Who shall say,' he asks, 'that the bronzes were not exported nearly three thousand years ago from the British Isles?'

TO BE CONTINUED.

No cause is ever made better but always worse by a falsehood. Even where detection does not follow, suspicion is almost always created.

DIVISION IN THE MORMON CAMP.

On the 27th March President Brigham Young addressed the saints assembled in the tabernacle in Great Salt Lake City, for the purpose of warning them against the apostates in their midst who were trying to rise up and usurp Joseph's (Joe Smith's) place. "What do we see here? (exclaimed the prophet.) Do we see disaffected spirits here? We do. Do we see men that are following after false and delusive spirits? Yes.—When a man comes right out, as an independent devil, and says 'curse Mormonism and all the Mormons,' and is off with himself, not to Texas, but to California—(you know it used to be Texas)—I say, he is a gentleman by the side of a nasty sneaking apostate who is opposed to nothing but Christianity. I say to him—'Go in peace, sir—go and prosper if you can!' But we have got a set of spirits here worse than such a character.—When I went from meeting last Sabbath my ears were saluted with an apostate crying in the streets here. I want to know if any one of you have got the spirit of Mormonism in you—the spirit that Joseph and Hiram had—or that we have here, would say, 'let us hear both sides of the question: let us listen and prove all things.' What do you want to prove? Do you want to prove that an old apostate, who has been cut off from the Church thirteen times for lying, is anything worthy of notice? I heard that a certain gentleman, a picture-maker in this city, when the boys would have moved away the waggon in which this apostate was standing became violent with them saying 'Let this man alone these are saints that are persecuting (sneeringly.) We want such men to go to California, or anywhere they choose.' I say to those persons, you must not court persecution here, lest you get so much of it you will not know what to do with it. Do not court persecutor. We have known Gladden Bishop for more than twenty years, and know him to be a poor dirty curse.

"I dreamed that I was in the midst of a people who were dressed in rags and tatters—they had turbans upon their heads, and these were also hanging in tatters. The rags were of many colours, and when the people moved they were all in motion: their object in this appeared to be to attract attention. Said they to me.—'We are Mormons, Brother Brigham.' 'No you are not,' I replied. 'But we have been,' said they, and began to jump and caper about, and dance, and their rags of many colours were all in motion, to attract the attention of the people. I said 'You are not saints you are a disgrace to them.' Said they 'We have been Mormons.' By and by along came some mobocrats, and they greeted them with, 'How do you do sir, I am happy to see you.' They kept on that way for an hour. I felt ashamed of them, for they were in my eyes a disgrace to Mormonism. Then I saw two ruffians, whom I knew to be robbers and murderers, and they crept into a bed where one of my wives and children were. I said, 'You that call yourselves brethren tell me is this the fashion among you?' They said, 'Oh! they are good men they are gentlemen!' With that I took my large bowie-knife, that I used to wear as a bosom-pin in Nauvoo, and cut one of their throats from ear to ear, saying 'Go to hell, across lots!' The other one said, 'You dare not serve me so!' I instantly sprang at him, seized him by the hair of the head, and bringing him down, cut his throat, and sent him after his comrade; then told them both that if they would behave themselves they should yet live; but if they did not I would unjoint their necks. At this I awoke.

"I say, rather than that apostates shall flourish here I will unsheath my bowie-knife and conquer or die!" (Great commotion in the congregation, and a simultaneous burst of feeling assenting to the declaration.) Now, you nasty apostates, clear out, or judgement will be put to the lie, and righteousness to the plummet.—(Voices generally, Go it, go it!) If you say it is right raise your hands—(all hands up.) Let me call upon the Lord to assist us in this, and every good work."

"The 'saints' appear to have other causes for fear than for 'apostates in their midst.' There were said to be in the territory 'a horde of Mexicans, or outlandish men, who were infesting the settlements stirring up the Indians to make aggression upon the inhabitants, and who were also furnishing the Indians with guns, ammunition, &c., contrary to the laws of this territory and the laws of the United States." President Brigham Young has issued a proclamation ordering small detachments of "military" to "reconnoitre the country" for the purpose of arresting and keeping in custody every strolling Mexican party, and furnishing information to head quarters.

THE RUSSIAN NAVAL AND LAND FORCES.—We take the following from the London Times:—Some information concerning the Russian Navy and Army,