

contentment, unless we have a steadfast hope in the all-protecting arm of Providence. With this hope we may pass joyfully through life, without fearing any of the dangers with which we are encompassed. But losing sight of our Maker, and trusting in ourselves for support in the time of trial, we must sooner or later realize our weakness and the folly of our conduct. From the cradle to the grave, we are dependant upon the bounty of God, and all that we have and enjoy is an evidence of his goodness. If we could think of this, as we should, we would be more ready to show forth our gratitude, and we would have no disposition to deny our indebtedness to One who is so watchful of our welfare. Always feeling and acknowledging our dependance, we would be always prepared for the reverses of life, and no forebodings of evil could disturb our minds in prosperity, and no adversities, however great, prostrate us utterly beneath their power.—*N. Y. Churchman.*

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Asia, June 9.

THE EXPEDITION TO THE SEA OF AZOFF.

The expedition to the Sea of Azoff has been attended hitherto with complete success. Welcome news, communicated, we can easily believe, with very sincere "pleasure" by Ministers, and received with equal gratification by a depending public, has greeted us day by day during the past week, and has found our appetite for it undiminished by the repetition. Kertch, Yenikaleh, Berdzanski, Arabat, and Yenitchek or Genitchi, have been visited in succession by the allied squadron, and the result has been a vast destruction of the stores accumulated by the enemy, a serious crippling of his means of transport, and a loss to him of materials of war not unimportant. The allies have destroyed or captured, in corn and flour, 6,000,000 of rations, or supplies for an army of 200,000 men for a month; they have sunk and burnt 240 merchantmen used in conveying food to the Russian forces in the Crimea; they have caused the destruction of four war-steamer, and have captured from ninety to 100 guns. And—what is most surprising—all this has been done at a cost to us of one man wounded! Kertch and Yenikaleh, the two forts commanding the Sea of Azoff, were occupied by our land force "without a casualty." The shipping at Berdzanski, on the northern coast of the sea, and at Arabat, near its south-western extremity, was destroyed by our fleet with equal impunity. At last, in a combined attack upon the forts and stores at Genitchi, which commands the entrance of the Putrid Sea from the Sea of Azoff, a single sailor was hurt. For once, the Russians seem to be taken off their guard, and have shown a numerical weakness which the displays at Gambia-Carleby, at Petropavlovsk, and in the White Sea, had not led us to anticipate. This is the more remarkable, as by the sailing of the former expedition, which was recalled, full warning had been given to the enemy, and ample time allowed him to accumulate troops at the points threatened. The only explanation that can be given of the facts (besides the palpable one—that the Russians are scant of men in the south) is that, on occasion of the original expedition to the Crimea, the very transparency of our tactics deceived the foe, who could not believe that we should so manifestly indicate the object of our menace, if we seriously intended to put it in force.

The real aim of the expedition does not seem to be as yet fully indicated. To cut off the enemy's supplies and interrupt one of the main lines of communication by which the garrison of Sebastopol has hitherto been victualled, would of itself no doubt be an important object. But this object might have been effected by the fleets alone, and cannot either justify or explain the employment of a land army, amounting (according to some accounts) to 35,000 men. These troops are too many to be intended as a mere garrison for Kertch and Yenikaleh, while they seem to be too few to take the offensive and advance into the interior. It is not improbable that they will be strongly reinforced, and the original scheme of the Emperor Napoleon carried out by an advance from the east upon Simferopol by way of Karzau-bazar. The Russian troops which evacuate Yenikaleh and Kertch, and now posted at Aghin, halfway between Yenikaleh and Kassa, are far too weak to offer opposition to such a movement, and it is doubtful whether there are any sufficient forces to the west of Simferopol to make its execution seriously hazardous. The possession of Simferopol would be decisive of the fate of Sebastopol, which receives the whole of its supplies through that city.

Unless a movement of this sort is intended, we

may expect to see shortly the return of the greater portion of the troops under Sir George Brown to the main army. A few thousand men may hold Kertch and Yenikaleh, and the interruption of the enemy's communications may be permanently maintained by the fleet. The expedition, even if it has no other result than this, will still have been of very great use. No one probably suspected, before it was made, the enormous extent to which supplies were introduced into the Crimea by the route of Arabat. It is in this way that, by means of a water carriage, the whole surplus produce of the eastern provinces has reached the seat of war. The Don itself, and its tributaries, drain a tract of country little inferior in size to France, and furnish an outlet to its surpluses. But this is of small importance compared with another fact. With the Don is connected the Volga, by a short land transit, and thus through the Don flows the whole commerce of that mighty stream, the largest of the rivers in Europe—American rather than European in its character—with a course extending above two thousand miles, and a basin estimated at one-fifth of our quarter of the globe. By occupying the Sea of Azoff we prevent all supplies from either of these streams from reaching the Crimea, unless by a very difficult and circuitous route, involving 400 or 500 miles of land carriage. We have also, it is clear, destroyed or taken a very appreciable portion of the food actually available for the Russian armies until the next harvest. Greater results even than those already reported may perhaps reach us in a few days, for Taganrog and Mariopol, the main ports of the Sea of Azoff, remain to be visited, and are likely to contain magazines at least as well stored as those of Genitchi and Kertch.

It has been suggested that the expedition may still further interrupt the Russian communications by penetrating into the Sirwach or Putrid Sea, and destroying the wooden bridge, 200 toises long, by which the Russians are said to have carried their third or intermediate road into the Crimea across the shallow lagoon. This line of road, as yet unvisited by Englishmen, is supposed to be not more than twenty or twenty-five miles distant from Genitchi, where our steam squadron was at the time of the last despatches. The entrance into the lagoon is said to be deep, but the water inside can scarcely be expected to float our steamers, even those of the lightest draught. Nevertheless, a boat attack may perhaps be feasible, though probably hazardous in the extreme. To leave the Russians but one road into the Crimea is an object which might justify some considerable risk; but we cannot bear without apprehension of an expedition in boats against an enemy so generally well prepared, and so unparing in the use of their preparations as the Russians. Hitherto Sir Edmund Lyons has effected important services at a marvellously small cost of life. We trust that he will continue to combine caution with daring, and that no second Gambia-Carleby will occur to tarnish the brilliance of his achievements on the shores of the Meotis.—*London Guardian.*

THE RIGHT OF NEUTRALS.

It appears the Russian Ministers have published a manifesto, declaring that England has departed in the Black Sea from the policy laid down last year of respecting neutral flags, basing the charge on the declaration of the blockade in the Baltic by Captain Watson of the *Imperieuse*. The circumstance was noticed in both houses on Monday, and denied by the Government; Sir C. Wood, Earl Granville, and Lord Harrowby giving explanations received from Captain Watson.

The first lieutenant of the *Imperieuse* was sent into Port Lata, where he met the civil governor on the pier, and told him for what purpose he had come—that vessels then in the harbour must leave in ballast, or with whatever goods they had on board; but that they would not be allowed to take in further cargo after the intimation of the blockade. The officer in company with the civil governor, then visited every ship in the harbour, and found that only two had any cargo—one a Dutch vessel laden with lime, and another a Danish vessel laden with spirits, both Russian produce, and probably the property of Russians. He never inquired to whom the property belonged, but merely said that these vessels, being loaded, might go out, adding that such vessels as might be loaded after the date of his visit would not be allowed to leave the port. No questions were asked as to the ownership of the property, and thus it would be seen that the principles contained in her Majesty's declaration that the flag should cover the cargo, had not been at all interfered with. The governor asked Captain Watson if some small Russian fishing-vessels which were in the

harbour might go out. His answer was, "We have never interfered with these small fishing vessels, which may go out as before." No such question was addressed to him as that put into the mouth of the Russian governor by Count Nesselrode, and there was no foundation whatever for the statements of the Russian Government. Another statement had been made with reference to a request made by the civil governor of Captain Watson, to allow four Russian vessels to proceed to Riga. What Captain Watson said on this occasion was, that the vessels were free to leave so far as he was concerned, but that he could not say whether the Commander-in-chief of the fleet, who was coming up the Baltic, might not interfere with them.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA TO THE PROPRIETORS, AT THEIR NINETEENTH YEARLY GENERAL MEETING, ON TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1855.

The directors stated in their last annual report that the profits of the bank during the year ending 31st December, 1854, amounted to £100,500 17s. 10d., which they considered as affording satisfactory evidence of a general extension of the business of the bank in every department.

The statement of accounts for the year ending 30th December, 1854, upon which it is their duty now to report, presents an amount of net profits very nearly approaching that sum, say £99,691 17s. 2d., but in reality representing the result of still more extended business, attended however, from the peculiar state of the North American trade, with an increased amount of doubtful assets, and requiring that, in addition to the sum written off for ascertained bad debts, a larger amount of reserve should be made to cover losses which may hereafter arise.

Notwithstanding the deductions which they have thus deemed it prudent to make, the balance of undivided profit remaining in the hands of the bank on 30th Decr. 1854, after payment of the year's dividends, and the bonus declared at the last annual meeting, amounted to £140,041 7s. 2d., being an increase in the rest of £14,691 17s. 2d. over that of the previous year.

Acting, therefore, on the principle they have heretofore avowed of increasing or reducing the distribution of profits as the state of the accounts from time to time warrant, the directors have great satisfaction in stating that they are now prepared to appropriate, in addition to the dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, a portion of the undivided profits to the extent of £50,000, being 30s. per share, or 3 per cent. on the capital stock of the bank.

It becomes now the painful duty of the directors to advert to the death of their late and most esteemed friend and secretary Mr. Attwood; and they feel that this cannot be more appropriately done than by inserting in this report the very words of the minute in which this melancholy circumstance stands recorded in the proceedings:—

"The court met as usual on Tuesday, the 24th of April, and proceeded to the business of the day. The secretary had begun to read the minutes of the previous court, when he was most suddenly arrested by the hand of death.

In recording this very solemn and melancholy event, the Court would desire to express their deep sympathy with the bereaved family of Mr. Attwood, and the sincere regard which, collectively and individually, they entertained towards him.

Mr. Attwood took part in the formation of this bank, having been one of the original committee, and subsequently, on the 21st of November, 1836, he was appointed secretary.

During a period of nearly 20 years he devoted himself most assiduously to the duties of the office, exhibiting in their discharge a singular equanimity of temper and the most strict truthfulness and integrity.

In his unexpected removal from the midst of them, the directors feel that the intimation has been deprived of the services of a valuable officer, and that they have lost the society of an esteemed personal friend.

The directors are strongly impressed with the conviction that the death of Mr. Attwood, under such peculiar circumstances, demands from the bank more than the expression of sympathy and respect. Mr. Attwood devoted his life and talents to the bank. The disease which removed him so suddenly from his family and from the bank had for years rendered it impossible for him to provide for his bereaved widow and children by life insurance, which, under feelings of deep anxiety for them, he had frequently attempted in vain, and they are now without the means of support. The directors have, therefore, determined to give this a special and exceptional case, and to recommend that out of the balance of undivided profits a sum of £2000 should be granted for their benefit, and applied in such manner as, after consultation with the friends of the family, the directors may deem best for their interests.

UNITED STATES.

THE KNOW NOTHING PLATFORM.—The following is a synopsis of the platform and principles of the regular Convention of the Know Nothing Party in Philadelphia: First, an acknowledgment of the Almighty King, who has in every step by which we have advanced to the character of an independent nation distinguished us by some token of Providential agency; Second, cultivation and development of a sentiment of cordially intense American feeling; Third, the maintenance of the Union of the States as a permanent political good; Fourth, obedience to the supreme laws of the