

Stationary Intelligence.

April Meeting Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

The Secretaries reported that, since the last meeting, supplies of Bibles, New Testaments, Prayer Books, and Books and Tracts from both Catalogues, had been dispatched, for the use of soldiers in the East, to Balaklava, Scutari, Smyrna, &c.

The applications received by the Society for books for Balaklava have been from the Assistant Adjutant-General, in behalf of the 2nd Division; and from the Chaplain-General, requesting a supply for the camp and hospital.

Fourteen cases were sent, consigned to the care of Messrs. Hayter and Howell, of Mark Lane, viz:

On March 19, four cases, containing 3000 New Testaments and 3000 Common Prayers.

On March 30, two cases, in which were 11,175 Books and Tracts, and 100 Common Prayers, large type. These, as well as the foregoing New Testaments and Common Prayers, were addressed to the Senior Chaplain, Balaklava.

On March 30, 4133 Books and Tracts, and 50 Common Prayers, large type, for the 2nd Division in one case.

On March 19, in two cases, for Scutari Hospital, 5600 Books and Tracts, 56 New Testaments, and 250 Common Prayers. And between March 15 and 27, five cases, for Smyrna Hospital, containing 3921 Books and Tracts, 230 Bibles, 35 New Testaments, and 336 Common Prayers: addressed to Dr. Meyer, and to the Resident Chaplain.

Besides the above, the Senior Chaplain at Scutari forwarded, from the hospital there, several boxes of the Society's publications to the Crimea; 800 Books and Tracts were recently sent to the Chaplain of the "Naval Brigade;" and large numbers of the Society's tracts have been distributed by others, both in camp and hospital.

A moiety of the cost of 3000 Common Prayers and 3000 New Testaments was defrayed by the Crown: but all the other books here specified were gratuitously supplied by the Society, mainly from the fund of "Clericus."

Books sent for the hospital at Scutari, and received by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1854-5:—

The following were (with enclosures from private donors) sent in ten cases to H. M. dockyard, Portsmouth, a portion being shipped in the "Cosmopolitan" for Miss Nightingale. Also for Rev. J. Lewis, Common Prayers and Psalters, 57 Library Books, 200 Tracts and Turkish Common Prayers. C. Bracebridge, Esq.: 150 Library Books. Rev. J. E. Sabin: 280 Bibles, 275 Common Prayers, 224 Library Books, 3627 Tracts.

In addition to the above, a supply of books has been despatched to the Chaplain of the hospital at Kullee. In each instance the Secretaries, in communicating the transmission of the books to those to whom they were consigned, have expressed the readiness of the Board to attend to further applications, should such be made.

Many benevolent persons have furnished from their own funds, from the Society's stores, presents of books for the troops at the seat of war and in hospital.

The last packet of this class sent to Scutari was the gift of M^s. Lawton, Lawton Hall, Chesham: Prayer Books, and the Bishop of London's Manual of Prayers, to the value of £11 12s 10d.

The Rev. J. E. Sabin, Senior Chaplain, Scutari, Feb. 22, 1855, wrote as follows:—

"I am very thankful to have received from your Society many contributions of books: they are of great use to us and our poor men, and afford true comfort to the sick and dying. I have sent six boxes to Mr. Hayward at Balaklava.

"I regret to say that I am pressed for time, but hope soon to write you a longer letter.

"We are improving here in every particular, and though individual cases are dreadful, as the Times describes, yet, on the whole, there is great comfort, contentment, and improvement."

A letter was read from the Rev. J. M. Lewis, General Hospital, Scutari, Feb. 22, 1855. The following are extracts:—

"It is now about three months since I received from you a very kind letter, stating that, without waiting for a meeting of the Society, you had in reply to my application forwarded a box containing books for a lending library, a well-printed octavo Prayer Book, and some

Turkish and Arabic Books. Although many boxes have arrived from the Society, I do not find upon inquiry at the barracks where they were unpacked, that any one has arrived answering the description in your letter. Ours I applied you before, had reached this hospital.

"We have some of us formed the acquaintance of the Armenian Archbishop at Scutari, and also with one of the colleges of Derivshet. The latter received us always most kindly, and sometimes come to see us at our quarters. This they do knowing us to be Christian Papas. I have often wished I had a Prayer Book or New Testament in their tongue to give them. I am sure they would receive such a present gratefully. They profess to be tolerant of all forms of religion but idolatry, and one of them told us a few days ago that they were suspected by the strict Mohammedans of being Gaiours.

"Should you be sending out at any time another parcel, I think a few Turkish, Armenian, and Arabic books might be useful.

"We have now a large library, increasing weekly: and large numbers of the Society's tracts have been distributed. As these parcels will of course have been duly acknowledged by the Senior Chaplain, I need only add my thanks for so liberal a gift.

"The mortality is still very great here. It had sunk below 30 a day, but yesterday it again rose to 45. Yet in this hospital I am happy to say there are now several empty beds; the return of frost and snow on Tuesday, after an interval of really summer weather, may however bring another shipload from the Crimea; if the long water proof boots have not been generally served out.

"You will be glad to hear that the burial-ground where so many of our poor fellows lie is to be enclosed and a chapel built within it."

The Secretaries stated that Turkish and Arabic books, with other publications, had been sent since the receipt of Mr. Lewis' letter.

Selections.

A JAMAICA MOUNTAIN CURACY.—The following account of the operations of the Anglican Church, among emancipated negroes, which we extract from the *Colonial Church Chronicle*, has a two-fold interest with the Church in this country:—

The Church (the only one connected with the island establishment within an area of more than ten miles), was erected during slavery, and is capable of seating from 300 to 400 persons. It is accessible by a mountain track, maintained by a parochial assessment, and traversing scenery, both varied and picturesque. The approaches, North and South, are intersected by rivulets, which, during heavy rains, become swollen to rapid and dangerous torrents, forded at considerable risk.

The congregation, consisting of black and coloured persons (late slaves), attend Divine Worship, chiefly on foot—none but the most thriving peasants being proprietors of horses or mules. Distances varying from three to seven miles interlie the mountain villages and the Church, whither a bell summons to service at 11 A. M. on Sunday. Morning Prayer is followed by a Sermon. The chants and metrical Psalms are led by amateur singers of the congregation, unaided by instrumental accomplishment. (Sacred music has peculiar charms for the warm and rapturous feelings of the Negro.) Adult and children's Bible classes are then formed, and taught by the more intelligent worshippers, under clerical superintendence. At 3 P. M. Evening Prayer precedes a homely exposition of one or other of the Daily Lessons. To this service most of the morning congregation remain, and are dismissed in time to reach their homes before night-fall. The Holy Communion is administered twice a quarter, to numbers varying from 250 to 300, who have been examined previous to admission. Public Infant Baptism takes place once a month, on Sunday, between the services.

A school, in connexion with the Church, stands close to it, having a daily average attendance of seventy negro children, taught by a native schoolmaster, who is paid by a grant of a local Society. The parochial vestries of Jamaica have withdrawn all school grants; and the House of Assembly contributes only £200 per annum, and exclusively for the Kingston schools. A strong desire to educate their children is manifest among the peasantry, some of whom, being parents, can themselves read, though imperfectly. As an opportunity of further improvement, the schoolmaster teaches a weekly adult class, to which all that will come are admitted gratis.

The Clergyman's house is three miles distant from the Church, and on the higher mountains, beyond which principles, in scattered villages, the bulk of the congregation, who are invited to, and avail themselves once a week of, a meeting in the open air, for prayer and expounding the Scriptures.

Twelve district visitors, or "helpers," of good reputation, and resident among the congregation, aid the Clergyman by surveillance over the communicants, and by reporting cases of sickness requiring parochial visiting. Early meetings, before day-break on Sunday, for prayer and praise, are sometimes conducted by these visitors.

As a body, the people are anxious for religious enlightenment; are kind and considerate to their pastor; and, in the absence of resident educated families, or of a constabulary force, i. e., of either a moral or civil check—their orderly conduct is praiseworthy in the extreme, and so far they "adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour." They labor on the coffee estates (when employment and prompt payment are to be had) on four days consecutively every week; and devote the remaining two working days to the cultivation of their own provision grounds, and to making a journey to Kingston (about twenty miles distant), where they purchase supplies of imported salt fish, pork, rice, &c., to defray the cost of which their head-load of native grown yams and plantains more than suffices.

Extracted from a Melbourne paper.

OUR OLD FRIEND.—Every man who is possessed of a friend—one whom he has tried and proved, and who has stood by him in the time of difficulty, as well as in the season of prosperity—naturally feels himself subjected to a loss when compelled to part with him. That loss is doubly severe in a strange land, where the race of this world's mammon is hot, and the battle of life is fierce; for what is life without happiness? and how can man be happy without a friend to comfort or advise? Of late we have been compelled to part with some of our oldest and best friends, and now three of our highly esteemed companions, Mr. E. Solomon, Mr. W. Metzler, and Mr. John Pernetto, Nova Scotians—gentlemen whom we have known for a considerable time and who are greatly respected by all who have the honor of their acquaintance—are on the eve of departure for their native land, America. While we congratulate them upon the prospect of a speedy voyage and a happy reunion with those with whom they are united by family ties, we deeply deplore the loss of their society, and feel that the blank which their departure will occasion will not be hastily removed.

Wherever they go our best wishes will follow. May prosperity and happiness attend them.

Melbourne, Australia, Feby. 1855.

THE CRIMEA.

The *Moniteur* advises the arrival, on the 9th, of General Marmon with 4,000 Piedmontese troops, and this is the sum of the news of the week that has been received. Prince Gortschakoff tells us, on the 8th, that the fire of the enemy (the allies) is moderate, and in his more detailed despatches, of earlier date, that the damage done by the bombardment during the day is repaired at night. Private letters in the French papers confirm this statement, and declare that the virtual abandonment of the siege is determined upon, 30,000 troops are to be left in charge of the works, whilst the main body take the field, and after encountering and disposing of the main army of Liprardi, proceed to invest the place. That this is probable would appear from the following account given of the construction of new works by the Russians after the taking of their advanced rifle-pits in front of the Redan, on the 19th ult. They are thus described by the *Daily News* correspondent, writing on the 28th, nine days later—

"The general form of the new work is that of a crescent, and it is placed across the upper part of the quarry. It does not consist of a single line of work, but is composed of a series of smaller crescentic walls, each not unlike in shape an ordinary rifle-pit, joined together at the free extremities of their arcs. The parapets appear to be solid and high. A covered way leads on the left down towards the left ravine, and there appears to be also another line of communication, more in rear, towards the suburb of small houses which are thickly spread between the earthworks of the Redan and the battery. A trench is also being carried on from that part of the new work which faces our right. The position of this work is itself commanding, and it is not improbable that it is projected by some of the guns on the Malakoff or Malakoff.