

where the Congregation were silent in the Responses. When he came to the Apostles' Creed, he repeated the first clause over three times, and then making a pause, he looked round the Church and exclaimed, "What! Is there no one but me in this vast assembly who believes in God the Father Almighty?" He then repeated the clause again, and soon found that he was not left alone this time.—*From the English Churchman.*

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Asia, Feb. 3.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Jan. 25, Lord Lyndhurst gave notice, that he should, on Friday, the 2nd of February, move the following resolution:

"That, in the opinion of this House, the expedition to the Crimea was undertaken by her Majesty's Government with inadequate means, and without due caution or sufficient inquiry into the nature and extent of the resistance to be expected from the enemy; and that the neglect and mismanagement of the Government in the conduct of the war led to the most disastrous results."

It has since been postponed till Monday.

There was a debate on Monday night, (Jan. 29) in the Lords, on a recommendation of Earl Grey to consolidate the war offices under a board like that of the Admiralty, for the purpose of administering all the business connected with the military service in all its branches. He would have the commander-in-chief a member of the board *ex officio*, but without having the chief authority. To this board he would entrust the patronage of the army. The Duke of Newcastle objected to the proposed board, that it would be inefficient to perform the duties that now fell on the various departments, while it would involve a dangerous division of responsibility. His Grace and Lord Hardinge pointed out many improvements made and in contemplation. The Commander-in-Chief defended the present administration of the army; and attributed the superiority of the French in matters of detail to the great experience they had acquired in the wars in Algeria. The Earl of Ellenborough thought the failure had arisen in the Crimea rather than at home, and considered the motion ill-advised at the present moment; and, on the suggestion of Lord Campbell, Earl Grey consented to its withdrawal.

The same evening the Duke of Newcastle announced that it was the intention of the Government to institute a new order of military merit, which should be attainable by every man, from the highest general to the humblest private. The principle of a jury of soldiers of the same rank as the individual proposed to be rewarded, would be adopted in selecting those worthy of decoration, to be afterwards confirmed by the home authorities.

The Balaklava charge was the subject of questions in both houses. The Duke of Newcastle refused to enter upon it before a correspondence with the Earl of Lucan, which had taken place, could be laid upon the table. Mr. Sidney Herbert gave a similar answer to Mr. H. Berkeley, at the same time remarking that he thought the hon. gentleman might have found some other term than "melancholy disaster" for the brilliant charge of the light cavalry. Mr. Berkeley promised to move for a select committee on an early day.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Shafto Adair, a member of the finance committee of the Patriotic Fund, stated, in answer to Col. North, that the question of allowing foreigners to participate in the fund had not yet been decided. With regard to English officers, it was proposed that the widows and orphans of such officers whose pensions exceeded £60 should be allowed one-third of that amount—when the pension was below £60 one-half would be given; but in every case this was to be subservient to the requirements of the private soldiers.

Dr. Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand, has not yet taken his departure from England for his distant diocese, but will do so in the course of a few days.

The late Mrs. Grooby, of Swindon, relict of the Rev. James Grooby, twenty-five years vicar of the parish, has left upwards of £10,000 to charitable purposes, including—To the Church Building Society, Clergy Orphan Society, Clergy Society, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, £2,000 each; to the Church Missionary Society, £1,000. She also leaves funds for a new window of coloured glass, to be placed in the chancel of Swindon Church, in memory of her husband.

The Lords of the Admiralty have issued an order to all the dockyards for the whole of the ships now

under repair which formed part of the Baltic fleet of 1854 to be expedited in their refitment, as they are required to be ready for service by the end of February and to assemble in the Downs by the 1st of March, where it is deemed probable the fleet will be inspected by the Emperor and Empress of the French, en route from France to England. Rear-Admiral Martin, Superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard, is publicly reported to be the intended Commander-in-chief of this fleet, and Rear-Admiral Michael Seymour second in command.

One consideration adds to our anxiety as to the question of the new Ministry—Convocation meets on Tuesday next, and the attitude a new Premier may hold himself in, respecting its continued deliberations on the important reports of the committees. We pray that we may have nothing to regret on this head.—*The Guardian.*

Prince Napoleon arrived in Paris from Constantinople on Monday night. His father had gone as far as Châlons to meet him. His Imperial Highness has really suffered a good deal from illness. He has been attacked by a complication of maladies—typhus, cholera, diarrhoea, and gout. He is said to be much changed, and from a robust man has become thin and bent.

It appears that a treaty between France and Switzerland has been actually signed, pursuant to which an army of forty thousand men will march across Switzerland to the Danube next month, and will be reinforced by a Swiss contingent of fifteen thousand men. The fact was not known in Paris till the full particulars were given in the *Suisse de Berne*. One of the articles provides that grants of land in Algiers, or the French colonies, may be made to soldiers of the first and second legions who may have distinguished themselves in the service of France by bravery or good conduct.

Another decree, dated Paris, Jan'y the 17th, nominates the Swiss General Ochsenbein, a French general of brigade on foreign service.

"Crimea, Jan. 22.—The weather is very fine and temperate. Our army is still sickly. Abundant supplies of all kinds are arriving. There is no progress to report in the siege. The French have taken most of our right attack. Shot, shell, and warm clothing go to the front daily; but no huts. The *Emeu* has arrived with the 14th Regiment, but neither that nor the 39th have yet landed. The *Gorgon* and *Highflyer* have arrived at Balaklava. The Russians are said to be in want of ammunition. They show, however, no signs of want, but fire briskly. Sebastopol received supplies on Wednesday, the 17th of January."

The report of Prince Menschikoff is only to the date last mentioned, at which time he says the besiegers make no progress, and adds that in a sortie on the 15th the Russians made fourteen English and nine French prisoners. The *Times* despatch from Balaklava of the 16th, confirms this account, which is, no doubt, the sortie mentioned by Lord Raglan, with an addition.

"On the morning of the 13th the Russians, after a furious cannonade, assaulted the English and French lines, but were speedily repulsed. There are fourteen English missing. One officer and nineteen men were wounded."

The *Mentor*, which arrived at Marseilles on Monday with advices to the 15th, brings intelligence that, "A council of Generals had been held at Lord Raglan's. It was thought that the assault would be made as soon as the weather permitted it. Warm clothing had arrived out for the English troops."

The *Vienna Military Gazette* states that the Grand-dukes Michael and Nicholas have quitted St. Petersburg to rejoin the Russian army in the Crimea. They were daily expected at Odessa.

In consequence of the difficulty of filling up the ranks of the army, the Emperor has ordered that men shall be liable to the age of thirty-seven instead of to that of thirty, as heretofore. Those sons of aged or widowed parents hitherto exempted are also now ordered to serve, forming separate corps.

"January 12.—The suffering and misery endured by portions of the British army at this moment is beyond imagination. Sick men are lying in tents exposed to the weather, with nothing but a piece of canvas between them and the heavens. Here are the remarks of a medical officer of the 2nd Division. Dr. Marshall in a letter to Dr. Hall, writes, 'I beg to report that gangrene of the feet, from severe cold, is becoming of frequent occurrence among the men; five cases occurred last night (8th January) in the 35th Regiment alone. I regret to say that many men in this division have not yet been supplied with warm clothing, and in many cases men have only one blanket.' The lament-

able result of exposure to the weather is here evident, and I am afraid that the cold to-day is more intense than ever."

The Turkish troops in front of Sebastopol are described by the same writer as being in a most wretched condition. "Osman Pacha, their commander, says, that out of 2,160, composing his five battalions, there are 1,000 sick; of the remainder 120 are officers, and 520 are employed in attending on sick, procuring fuel, cooking, and other necessary duties, so that there are less than 600 left. He has lost 938 out of 3000, his original strength. You may guess from this that his army is not much help here."

Subsequently he gives, under the same date, the 12th, a numerical list of the troops which have sailed from Constantinople to the Crimea (including sick men recovered, from the latter place, and reinforcements from England, Marseilles, and other parts) between the 5th of November, 1854, and the 1st of January, 1855. "They are as follows:—English 16,600, French 15,000, Turks 40,000. Thus you see that a good round number have joined the army since the former date."

The correspondent of the *Herald* still complains of deficient clothing, horses, and butting; 500 fur coats and 50 huts being all he has seen at Balaklava, while 300 horses from Eupatoria proved to be in such a state on their arrival that they were of no use:

"At Balaklava everything remains in much the same state. There is the same dirt, the same misery, the same suffering, and the same want of everything approaching to arrangement and system or organization. Biscuits, warm clothing, hay and provisions of every kind, are still landed in the mud, and saturated by the rain when it falls. It would be impossible for a worse state of things to exist if we were only the remnants of a badly-levied force, which had been beaten, routed, and all but destroyed."

London, Jan'y. 21

The most important news from the Continent this morning is a despatch from Bucharest, forwarded by the Vienna correspondent of the *Chronicle*, stating that "the Russians have received considerable reinforcements, and Omer Pacha has tendered his resignation in consequence of the refusal of Ismail Pacha to obey his instructions at Roumelia."

The *Vienna Presse* contains intelligence from Odessa to the 21st January. It was well known that a strict blockade of all Russian ports in the Euxine and in the Sea of Azoff, excepting Eupatoria, Stereltzka, Kariesch, Kasatch, and Balakava, would commence on the 13th February.

At Eupatoria the allies have captured several thousand sheep.

Prince Menschikoff telegraphs to St. Petersburg under date of *Sebastopol Jan. 22*:—"On the night between the 19th and 20th we made a successful sortie against the left flank and against the trenches of the French. The enemy suffered considerably. We took two officers and some soldiers prisoners. Being in want of firewood, the allies have not even respected the old Church at Chersonesus, but have stripped the roof and cupola, and taken away all the ornaments from the interior."

GERMANY.

The confidential despatch of Count Buel to the Members of the German Confederation is published, in which Austria, contemplating the possibility of an adverse vote in the Frankfort Diet, says:—

"We do not hesitate openly to ask our confederates if, in that case, they will grant sufficient confidence to Austria to join her destinies; and if, in case all our endeavours to obtain a solid and sure peace should fail, Austria may in the most extreme eventuality equally count upon their active co-operation."

"The Imperial Court would, in such case, give the most solemn assurances to guarantee their territorial possessions and position against every eventuality, and moreover, to grant them their share of advantages resulting from the war in proportion to the number of troops employed. In exchange, Austria must put the condition that a body of troops, to be determined upon, should be at once made ready for service, and claim that [here comes the name of the Government of the State addressed] shall express to his Majesty the Emperor the confidence of placing, in case of appeal, the direction of their contingent under the superior command of His Imperial Majesty."

Should the vote be favourable to the Austrian proposition, the next proposal will be to place the Emperor Joseph at the head of the Federal army.

A Vienna despatch, dated Monday, has the following:—

"General Count de Renneville, the Austrian Min-