

To the Wesleyan Ministers of the N. S. District.

REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN.—You will have the goodness to bring to the District Meeting the Deeds of Chapels, Parsonage Houses, or other Property on your respective Circuits, with a correct statement of the Debts, Income, &c., and the names of successors to the original Trustees, with the date of their appointment, and such other information as may be necessary to place before the Meeting the present state of our Church property throughout the Province.

In the next number of *The Wesleyan*, I hope to be able to lay before you a copy of an Act passed at the recent session of the Legislature, incorporating the respective Trusts, providing remedies for defective Deeds, and making what I trust will prove useful provisions for the future more convenient creation and perpetuation of Trusts for our Church purposes. To the Act I beg to call your careful attention, and that of the Trustees and others concerned. I am, Rev. and Dear Brethren, Yours, truly,

EPHRAIM EVANS.

Halifax, April 30, 1851.

Protestant Movements of the Week.

Foremost, perhaps not less in importance than in order of time, amongst the anti-papal demonstrations which have marked the week, has been the noble assemblage at Hastings on Wednesday evening. The inhabitants of that borough have had several opportunities afforded them for the declaration of their sentiments, since the commencement of the Protestant defensive movement nearly six months ago; and on every occasion the unmistakable expression of their views was such as might naturally be expected from those in whose vicinity Popery is more largely and undisguisedly developed than in most other localities in the south of England, and who, consequently, can testify that like the other special forms of "vice" referred to by the poet, "to be hated" it "needs but to be seen." The demonstration of Wednesday, however, appears to have surpassed all former movements of the kind in that vicinity, in the numbers which composed the assemblage, the practical character of the speaking, and the hearty enthusiasm which blended together the diverse elements of different religious creeds and all shades of party politics into one unanimous and energetic expression of the determination of the whole to preserve unimpaired the liberties enjoyed by every Protestant subject of the British Crown. Wesleyan Methodism and the House of Commons were worthily represented by JAMES HEALD, Esq., in whose speech we notice a reference—the first we have observed made by a public man—to the London organization of a general Protestant Defence Association. We hope to see that united body agreed upon the principles of its League, and putting those principles out in action, without much further delay. The country ought to hear its voice, and the great organs of public opinion and intelligence, to disseminate its Manifesto, before Easter. The Hastings meeting, itself, is in some respects hardly to be considered as a demonstration of local feeling merely, as, not only had some of the speakers no more direct connection with the locality than that arising from the invitation to attend and assist at the proceedings, but the meeting itself is, we believe, but the first of a projected series, which will shortly test the correctness of the statement hazarded by some honourable gentlemen, that the feeling of the country on the papal question was fast subsiding.

The great metropolitan borough of Lambeth, too, has just given forth a glorious utterance. The noble room at the Horns, though packed as it had seldom been before, was unable to accommodate, by some thousands of multitudes who pressed to witness and take part in the proceedings, which were presided over by the veteran champion of Protestant faith, the Earl of Winchester. The United Kingdom probably does not contain a borough, the constituency of which are divided more widely on questions of mere party politics, than that of Lambeth, yet here every antagonistic element neutralized, and the feelings and energies of all combined and absorbed in their one great and grand object.

Our readers will not have forgotten the noble meeting at Freemasons' Hall in December last, at which an address to the Queen, from the laity of the Church of England was agreed on. The address subsequently received the signatures of above three hundred thousand lay members of the Church, including some hundreds of the members of both Houses of Parliament. Her Majesty has just written to the Archbishop of Canterbury, through the medium of the Home Secretary, transmitting the address for the consideration of his Grace; the Archbishop of York, and the suffragan Bishops of England and Wales, and expressing her conviction that they will unite in the endeavour, by a judicious exercise of their authority and influence, to uphold the purity and simplicity of the faith and worship

of our Reformed Church, and to reconcile differences among its members injurious to its peace and usefulness.

The caution which it is necessary to observe in wording of all such documents emanating from the Sovereign, causes the Royal letter to be couched in general terms; but it is impossible to deny that Her Majesty, by the course she has adopted in the original address, endorses the sentiments which it contained relative to the Tractarian teaching and practices prevailing so largely in the Established Church. The transmission of the document, with her Majesty's letter from which we have quoted, is in purport, an injunction that immediate attention be paid to its paid to its prayer.

Though not exactly falling under the designation of the "Protestant movements" which have marked the week, the movements—not simply toward, but—in Rome, of certain parties who once were called Protestant, cannot be considered out of place here. No less than seven clergymen of the Establishment, in or near Leeds, and some twelve or fifteen lay members of their congregations,—alas! for the congregations of whom such men are the teachers,—publicly renounced "the faith once delivered to the saints," and proclaimed their adoption of the idolatry and superstition of the apostate church whose God is the Pope, in a body, on Thursday last, in that town. More lately still, the elder brother of the Bishop of Oxford, is stated to have similarly fallen; and on Sunday last, Archdeacon Manning, his Lordship's brother-in-law, under the name of the Romish Cathedral, in Lambeth, the rites of initiation into the same communion.—*London Watchman*, April 9th.

The Episcopal Address.

TWENTY-Four Right Reverend Prelates,—those of Bath and Wells, Exeter, Hereford, and Manchester, not being of the number,—have at length spoken on one part of the Tractarian heresy. With the courtesy and gravity which might have been expected from such a body, they have addressed the Clergy of the two provinces of Canterbury and York concerning "the introduction of ritual observances exceeding those in common use." So far good. The innovators deserve a far more severe criticism than can be found in this document, and even if so criticised their zeal might rather have been fanned up into a more intense fervour. Men who will hazard a child's "temporal life" by having it half undressed in church and dreaming it in water, rather than suffer any uncertainty as to the communication of spiritual life by an insufficient quantity of that element are not to be deterred by the gentle dissuaves of their Bishops from prosecuting the rapid career which must now have led a fresh hundred of their brethren from Oxford to the Vatican, besides a number from Cambridge not yet ascertained. Eight perverses we count this week. At such a time, the best things that can be said about mere ritual excesses are too little. The doctrine of sacramental grace lies at the bottom of every excess, and to scuffle with surplises and candles is a miserable waste of time. But there is no apparent disposition in the Archbishops and Bishops to discountenance that fundamental error. Not a syllable have they written which could give umbrage to those who hold it, while they acknowledge themselves to have regarded the entire controversy as one that should be settled by "mutual concessions." Now, there can be no mutual concession in a war of opposing principles. The believer in salvation by faith can yield nothing to him who preaches and acts upon the contrary doctrine of salvation by sacraments, any more than MARTIN LUTHER could have entered into a friendly understanding with CLEMENT VIII. or ALEXANDER VI.; and if the notion of such concessions has been admitted by the fathers of the English Reformation, certainly we should have had no Protestant Church in England. But now, in addition to this proclaimed indifference to the essential doctrine of the Gospel, the Prelates may point the hopes of any who might have expected better things, by acknowledging an "undoubted identity of the Church before and after the Reformation," an undoubted identity of a Church holding evangelical doctrines in her articles, and offering spiritual worship where she is not corrupted, with the Church which she has heretofore denounced as idolatrous and anti-Christian. The folly of apostolical succession may have led them into the greater folly of laying down to their Clergy a Romish premiss, and advising them to argue on to a Romish conclusion, and so far the defectiveness of their encyclical may be brought under the shade of an apology; but it is impossible to repress a feeling of regret at seeing the heads of what was once a Reformed Church first utter counsels no less doubtful than their silence, and then, reflecting the whole question of ritual to a mere affair of prudence, take up common ground with those who regard the Church of England as identical with the Church of Rome. When about the entire body of Bishops avow this undoubted identity, any will take that to be a confession from their lips which, when spoken by others, they had resented as a calumny. Henceforth it may be understood why so many advocates of the Church of England in their flat outcry against the "Protestant movements" treat it only as an attack upon

our own hierarchy, and coldly overlooked the higher motives which ought to have nerved them to such a method of resistance as would have engaged the union of all moderate men,—extremely ecclesiastical politicians, as ever, being exempted from this category. This address, then, like many other doings which have been prompted by external influence, turns out to be powerless; and if it can be possibly turned to any good account at all, it will be by deepening the conviction of Christians of every denomination that the battle of the Reformation is to be fought over again by those who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and have courage enough to place the interests of his kingdom in advance of every other consideration.—*Id.*

Good News from Germany.

The German correspondent of "The Evangelical Christendom" gives, in a recent number, the following gratifying statement of the progress of Evangelical religion in some parts of this country:—

At Stolzenberg, near Königsberg, in Prussia, there has been, during the last eighteen months, such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit accompanying the preaching of the Gospel, that one hundred and thirty sinners were converted to Christ, who are now united in the bonds of church-fellowship.

At Memel, Elbing, Stettin, and other places along the Baltic, we meet with much success; and nothing is wanting but a greater number of devoted men, to gather in the precious sheaves ripe for the harvest.

At Hamburg we continue to enjoy much encouragement. Upwards of eighty converts have been added there during the present year; and the church is increasing its efforts among all classes, to spread the Gospel of Christ. Not less than forty brethren are engaged on the Lord's day in going two and two, from house to house, to speak with the inhabitants on the great affairs of the salvation of the soul, to supply them with Scriptures and tracts, and to encourage them to come and hear the Gospel.

Around Hamburg we have twelve preaching stations, which are regularly supplied; and two colporteurs are constantly engaged in the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, both on the land, and on the water among our seamen. Our Female Missionary Union is also actively engaged in labouring for the spiritual good of our citizens. By this means, during the last five months 10,000 tracts were circulated, and nearly 600 copies of the Holy Scriptures were sold.

Among the soldiers of the Schleswig-Holstein army, 2,000 New Testaments have been recently sold. In Hanover, Hesse, Oldenburg, Mecklenburg, East Friesland, and other parts to which our labours extend, we meet with much encouragement.

Summary of News.

BY THE R. M. STEAMER.

The R. M. Steamer *Ningara* arrived at this port on Tuesday evening last about 6 o'clock. We give the usual synopsis of news:—

In Parliament Lord John Russell's Ministry still maintained their position, they are well sustained on the Papal Aggression Bill, and on the assessed taxes Bill they had a majority of 73. Almost all the Bishops had issued circulars, expressing a firm determination to resist the Papal Aggression.

Colonial questions, of great magnitude and importance, have been recently discussed in both Houses of Parliament. The tone in which the discussions have been conducted has been for the most part of an elevated kind. The indifference of the general public on such matters is gradually disappearing. With the expansion of our colonial empire throughout the world, the home sympathies, so to speak, have largely increased, and the day, we suspect, is not distant, when public opinion will be as concentrated on the well doing of the colonies as on that of the mother country itself.

The duties on Foreign Timber have been reduced one half.

The Government have narrowly escaped defeat on a motion of Mr. D'Israeli in favour of landowners. The Government majority in a crowded house was only 13.

The Irish Parliament had adjourned for the Easter holidays, and would reassemble on the 23rd, when the Income Tax Bill would be read a second time. The 5th May was appointed for the further consideration of the Papal Aggression Bill.

Mr. Rushton, the well known stipendiary magistrate of Liverpool, died on the 4th April, after a short illness. The intelligence of his death occasioned a universal feeling of regret. Mr. Rushton's estimable personal qualities, as well as his ability and uprightness as a magistrate, having rendered him deservedly popular among all classes of his fellow townsmen.

The Liverpool Courier announces that Capt. Matthews, late of the Great Western, and City of Glasgow, has accepted the command of the steamship *Great Britain*, which is expected to resume her trips across the Atlantic in the course of a few months.

The Great Exhibition is to be opened by Her Majesty in state, on the 1st of May—the public to be excluded until the ceremony is over. There will be 30,000 troops within 5 miles of Hyde Park.

The schism in the Established Church is widening. The Bishop of Exeter proposes the convening of a "Diocesan Synod." The Goteham question is the foundation of the difficulty.

Lady Franklin is again fitting out the "Prince Albert" for a voyage to the Arctic, in search of the missing expedition.

Lord Londonderry, it is said, has been endeavouring to induce the President of France to release Abdel Kader.

The official return of the revenue for the quarter ending April 5th shows an increase over the same quarter of 1850 of £283,051; surplus revenue in hand £2,779,619.

Government is determined to change the present route of the British Mail-packets to and from the United States. The packets will not discontinue running from and to Liverpool; but they will be ordered to call at Holyhead in going out and coming home, for the purpose of receiving and landing the mails.

Subscriptions are being actively raised for the establishment of a tribunal of commerce in London.

Great alterations will shortly take place in the dress of the army. It is in contemplation to supersede the scarlet shell jacket of the infantry by a frock-coat of the same colour, and the "bobtailed" coats of the heavy cavalry by a full-skirted one.

It is in contemplation, says the *Morning Herald*, to reduce the naval forces in the Mediterranean from five sail of the line to four sail of the line. Her Majesty's ship *Caledonia*, 120, is ordered to England to be paid off.

The accounts from all parts of Ireland show that emigration is still proceeding on a vast scale.

The British forces had obtained a decisive victory over the Kaffirs at Kat River, still there was little prospect of a speedy termination of the war.

Trade is dull in France. Wheat is still lower in the agricultural districts. Raw Silk has receded in price. The Assembly has granted 200,000 francs to celebrate the anniversary of the Republic. The Press favourable to the Ministry, urges presentation of petitions for a revision of the Constitution. The President has changed many of the judicial functionaries in the departments. The Conservatives have gained signal triumphs in the Municipal Elections recently held in Chateauroux, Figeac, and the Aube.

The Berlin Ministerial paper states, that besides England and France, Russia, too, has remonstrated against the Austrian annexation scheme. Russia has likewise desired that all the German States should accede to the Frankfurt Diet.

It is stated that the Austrian Government is inclined to accede to the Frankfurt Diet.

The Government demands from Sardinia, a passage for its troops in case of a rupture in France.

Russia is expected to evacuate the Danubian principalities on the 27th inst.

An insurrection, headed by the Duke of Saldanha, broke out at Cintra—insurgents 5000 strong.

Negotiations have been entered into between Austria, Tuscany, and the States of the Church, for the construction of a railway between Rome and Vienna, which will give an uninterrupted railway communication from Rome to Bologna.

Austria will undertake this line, provided the projected line from Bologna to Rome, Ancona, and St. Umbrin is given up. By this means, the harbours of Trieste and Leghorn will undertake the transport of goods to the Roman States, from the railway communication with Northern and Midland provinces.

Letters from Trieste state that the formation of an Austrian fleet greatly occupies the attention of the Emperor. It is currently reported that Austria has offered to purchase the whole of the German fleet.

The last steamer arrived at Marseilles from Alexandria brings the rumour of a formidable insurrection having taken place in the province of Senaar, in Egypt. The troops of the Viceroy are reported to have been defeated by the insurgents. Fresh troops had been ordered to the theatre of the insurrection.

The insurrection in Bosnia is nearly quelled. Immense damage has been done in Sicily by a late storm.

Some disturbances still continue in Turkish Croatia.

A French Company has obtained a contract from the Pontifical Government for lighting Rome with gas.

On the 30th ult. the Pope performed the ceremony of the benediction of the Golden Rose in the Chapel of the Vatican.

India remains undisturbed. A skirmish had taken place at Burrow, in the mountains near Kohat, between some robber hordes and a Punjab regiment, in which the former were defeated and driven back.

From China the accounts state that the murderers of Decosta had been taken. Four piratical junks had been captured.

A conspiracy had been discovered in Nepal, the object of which was to murder General Jung Bahadur. The general is a favourite of the army, whom the conspirators endeavoured to gain over.