

axioms escape from grasp of the reason, but love appropriates them without the slightest difficulty."

This passage suggests naturally a reference to one of the most celebrated books in French literature; we mean Pascal's *Thoughts*. The idea which predominates throughout the work, of the great Port-Royalist thinker is precisely the same; the superiority of a heart religion; the humbling of the intellect; scepticism is stated out as the terminus of all speculative ideas.

### News Department.

from Papers by R. M. S. Europe, July 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS, JULY 7.

#### THE WHITE FEATHER.

At the earnest request of Lord Brougham and the Earl of Clarendon, the Marquis of Clanricarde postponed his motion with respect to the affairs of Turkey, it being alleged that the discussion of the subject would be mischievous at the present juncture.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JULY 7.

**THE WHITE FEATHER.**—Mr. Layard stated that the motion of which he had given notice for this day, with respect to the affairs of Turkey, would be for an address to Her Majesty, stating that the house had heard with regret that the Government of Russia had taken measures which threatened the integrity and independence of the Ottoman empire, and praying that Her Majesty would be graciously pleased to direct that every information upon the subject of the affairs of Turkey should be laid upon the table of the house as soon as it could be done without detriment to the public service. The hon. gentleman complained that during his absence his motion, which stood for this day, had been postponed until Monday, before he had answered an application made to him for that purpose.

Sir C. Wood explained that Lord J. Russell, finding himself too ill to attend to-morrow, had written to the hon. member, and he had not postponed the motion until the last moment.

Mr. Disraeli asked if the hon. gentleman would positively bring forward his motion relative to Turkey on Monday?

Mr. Layard said he should do so, unless the Government should show him such reasons to the contrary as would, in his opinion, be satisfactory to the country.

Mr. Liddell asked whether any instructions had been sent out by her Majesty's Government to enquire into the case of British vessels at present detained in the Danube, owing to the imperfect state of the navigation of that river?

Lord Palmerston said that obstructions had occurred in the navigation of the Danube, and the Russian Government had admitted that it was its duty to have them removed; but they arose from natural causes and must prove temporary. In reply to remonstrances from the British Government on the subject, the Russian Government said its efforts to clear the navigation were impeded by local and opposing interests.

**THE CAMP AT CHOBHAM.**—The camp was crowded on Friday morning by thousands of spectators, the great majority of whom had come by express trains from distant parts of the country to witness (as they expected) some grand manœuvring of the encamped army. After the duty of Thursday it is needless to state that the men were not subjected to a repetition of fatigue, and, as a matter of course, the disappointment to civilians was great.

On Saturday, at eleven o'clock, a visible stir at headquarters gave intimation of something about to be essayed, and a single bugle sound from Lord Seaton's position, re-echoed from position to position, brought all the infantry into line within a period of five minutes. The same signal summoned the cavalry to saddle, and simultaneously the whole army were ready for action in light marching order. No sooner had the troops been turned out, and the infantry formed into line and the cavalry into squadrons, than a flourish of trumpets announced the approach of Lord Hardinge and two French generals, Count Montebello and Viscount Rial. A series of manœuvres having been skilfully effected, Lord Hardinge, Lord Seaton, the Duke of Cambridge, the Count de Montebello, and Viscount Rial, with a staff of commanding officers, took up a position in front of the artillery camp, where they waited till the whole army filed past. The Count de Montebello, Viscount Rial, and Lord Hardinge, accompanied Lord Seaton to his tent, where they partook of luncheon.

Sunday the usual religious services took place. Monday was a busy day, but less so than Tuesday, when the long expected battle and pontooning affair came off

at Virginia Water in presence of Her Majesty and of an immense multitude, nine-tenths of whom saw nothing but smoke—but they heard all the noise. Wednesday was a day of rest and amusement.

In the House of Commons, Sir C. Goodman asked that the public might be informed of the appointed review days and night surprises, to which Lord Palmerston thus replied in his usual manner:—"I have simply to say that the main object of sending the troops into camp at Chobham is to prepare them, by previous instruction, for all the contingencies of war. One essential principle is, that they never should know beforehand what they are to do next day—(laughter)—and that they go to bed perfectly ignorant whether they shall be woke up in the middle of the night or at day-break; and it would be difficult, if they let the public into the secret) beforehand, to keep the troops in the dark (laughter). But I can state that those who are anxious to witness those interesting evolutions may be certain that every day when it does not rain—(laughter)—and nothing occurs to prevent the troops, with a due regard to health, from being led out of the encampment, those who visit the scene are perfectly certain to see things quite worth the trouble of going there."

**THE CITY CHURCHES.**—We have in London a spectacle more painfully ridiculous and a greater violation of common sense than is to be found in any human institution in the most backward and unimprovable countries. Here are scores of churches—handsome churches—with everything that money can give them, in admirable order, with well-conducted services, and no congregation. The model city church is a spacious, and indeed, a magnificent structure, with nave, aisles, chancel, vestibule, vestry, tower, bells, and the rest. Once in three or four years it is closed for a month to be repaired or cleaned, and fitted with a new warming apparatus, at a great cost. All its furniture is excellent: there is nothing wanting that comfort and a certain quiet civic taste can desire. It has the services of a well-paid clergyman, a well-paid clerk, a well-paid organist, paid singers, beadle, sexton, and pew-openers. The bells ring for a morning service on Sunday, and at eleven o'clock service begins. Count the congregation any time between eleven and one; include the minister, clerk, beadle, pew-opener, organist, the half-dozen school children—in a word, every soul in the place, taking care not to omit yourself, and you will find perhaps forty. We have made the reckoning many times in one handsome church without exceeding that limit. In a larger and handsomer church, in a well-known street, on a fine Sunday morning, we have made out twenty-two souls. The average in a considerable number of such churches is said to be fifty. In each of these churches the expenses, including the clergyman's income, and triennial repairs, and every other item are considerably over £500 a year, or £10 per head of the actual congregation. Yet there is not an improvement in London that has not been spoilt by these deserted structures, which divert a new thoroughfare as a rock will turn aside the most rapid stream. Many of these churches, besides handsome incomes for the clergymen, have large estates for the maintenance of the fabric.

The cause of this preposterous state of things is, that private houses have given way, and are still giving way, to shops, offices, and warehouses. The population either goes to the suburbs; or, if spending the week days in London, takes the opportunity of Sunday to get a mouthful of fresh air, and a few hours repose to the eye and the ear. The people are all gone where churches and clergymen are really wanted and are not, for they cannot be transplanted it seems, without fatal injury. The results are as lamentable as the appearance is ludicrous. The London clergy having so little occupation, and for obvious reasons, are generally non-resident. A young man employed in a warehouse extending into three parishes was seized with mortal illness and earnestly desired to see a clergyman. No one of the three was to be found, and nobody could even say where they lived, as they only made their appearance in time for Sunday service. We have been told that in eleven adjacent parishes on the south of Cheapside there is not one resident incumbent. There are populations, but they are of the class that does not go to church, and the clergy in the City of London does not go to them. Without going further into the religious condition of the City, it is at least evident by the admission of the congregations, that our churches are more than enough, and by the admission of the incumbents, that we could do with half the number of clergy. In fact, the clergy as well as the congregation are gone out of town; and all that we want is an arrangement to bring them into communication with one

another. The difficulties are partly material, partly sentimental. The former are easily got over—the latter are found to yield in the case of railways and other public improvements: so why should they not where the interests of religion are at stake? A sentiment which prefers a church without a congregation to a church with one, must be near akin to that which would give a child a stone when it asked for bread.

The cure of these enormous and increasing evils is the object of the Church Building Act Amendment Bill, which passed through committee in the Lords on Monday night. No serious objection was urged to the main provisions of the bill, except that the population might possibly return to the City parishes, when churches and clergy would once more be required. But if Lord Powis, who felt this scruple, will enter the City, and walk through the parishes in question, he will see that there is no more prospect of these parishes ever becoming again populous than of the pyramids or the area of St. Paul's ever permanently harbouring a large population. Vast piles of warehouses rise up, which will evidently contain nothing but bales of goods and offices as long as England lasts, and will only cease to do so when they become the abode of owls, and such other wild things as will take the place of man. The conversion of the City into offices and warehouses is a development inseparable from the growth of the metropolis, and must go on as that growth increases; for, the larger the population, the larger also must be the central mart for the exercise of their trades and the deposit of their stores. The measure in the House of Lords is resolved into a question of arrangement, and we only trust that it will be rendered as extensively available as can be; for there are many towns in the country and many agricultural districts that require similar treatment. Indeed, when it has been once established that churches are made for men, and not men for churches, who shall say where we shall stop?—*Times*.

The Queen and Prince Albert, according to present arrangements, will leave town on the 12th inst., for the purpose of honouring the Exhibition at Dublin with a visit. Her Majesty and the Prince will travel by the London and North-Western Railway from the Euston station direct to Holyhead, at which port the *Victoria and Albert* yacht will be in readiness to convey them to Kingstown. The Prince and Princess of Prussia, if in England, will accompany her Majesty; but, owing to the illness of the Grand Duke of Saxe Weimar, some apprehension exists that the Prince and Princess may be summoned to the continent. Her Majesty, it is anticipated, will sleep on board the royal yacht at Holyhead Harbour on the night of her arrival at that port. The return of the Court to town is not expected to be delayed beyond Saturday the 16th inst.

### CONTINENTAL CONFIRMATIONS.

BY THE BISHOP OF RIPON.

*The Leeds Intelligencer*, in stating that the Bishop of Ripon has completed his continental tour of confirmation, and was expected home on Monday last, gives the following particulars:—

"His Lordship has administered the rite of confirmation in Hamburg to twenty-seven young persons, in Hanover to ten, in Berlin to eight, (amongst whom was the daughter of Mr. Barnard the American Minister,) and in Dresden to twenty-six. The presence of a Bishop of the Church of England, being a somewhat unusual event in Germany, appears to have excited great interest in the several cities in which the sacred rite has been administered, and the solemnity has been numerously attended by pastors and members of the Lutheran Church, as also by the members of other religious bodies. It is gratifying to know that this truly episcopal mission has been attended with the happiest results, by drawing more closely within the bosom of our own Church those dispersed members of her fold, and affording them an opportunity of participating in the holy ordinance of confirmation. The devout and earnest manner of the candidates, as well as of those persons who attended to witness the ceremony—(which was generally acknowledged to present a favourable contrast to the manner in which the rite is administered by the Lutheran Church)—abundantly testified how much they were affected with the solemn and impressive manner in which "the laying on of hands" was administered by our excellent diocesan.

"We may confidently hope that the results of this and the preceding and succeeding visits will draw closer the links of christian brotherhood between ourselves and our scattered brethren on the continent, and that the pure and apostolic doctrines and ritual of our ancient and reformed Church may commend themselves to the judgement and affections of even such as are not