

EAST THE BREAD UPON THE WATERS.—The Rev. John Keorest, one of the Assistant Chaplains at the Hospital of the British army in the East, thus writes to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, by whom he was sent out:—

SMYRNA HOSPITAL, March 31, 1855.

On Saturday I entered on my duties, and cannot express to you how deeply interesting they are to me. The men are most willing to converse, and are easily induced to enter upon religious subjects. I was very much struck with their humility (for I can call the feeling by no other name.) The common expression, "I know I'm a sinner, but thank God, I am no worse than my neighbours," is never heard; on the contrary, the soldier speaks of himself as having sinfully neglected the opportunities that have been afforded to him, and thinks that nothing can justify his past indifference. Those who are most penitent express great fear lest they should relapse into a state of ingratitude and sin. I hope I may be guided aright in what I say to them, for great caution is required in our intercourse with them.

Another pleasing circumstance is that we are placed in a position to witness the good effects of instruction, given in other places, and perhaps many years ago. One fine fellow, with a beard and moustache of Crimean growth, told me that when he began to recover of his fever, his thoughts first reverted to the days when he attended "the catechisms of Dr. Hook, in the parish church of Leeds." Another spoke with hearty warmth of the time "when he used to hear the best man that ever lived, Mr. Champneys of White-chapel." A third, quite a youth (now dying, I fear,) could not refrain from tears when he spoke of receiving early impressions from the advice of a lady in Camden-town, whose zeal in school-teaching and district-visiting I have myself been privileged to witness. We have every encouragement to realize the Scripture promise, that the bread cast upon the waters will return, though it may be after many days.

I hope, if you can, you will send me some more Prayer Books; they are in great request.

The *Liverpool Times*, gleans from a letter which has appeared in the official organ of the French Government, some reliable statistics respecting the military strength of Russia. According to this statement, the whole military force of Russia amounts to 620,000 men. In the eastern provinces of the empire there are 120,000 men, but these are too remote from the seat of war to take part in it. The army of the west, commanded by Paskiewitch, which numbered 150,000, has been reduced to 110,000, in consequence of 40,000 having been despatched to the Crimea. In the Crimea there are at present 150,000 men, 40,000 being sick and wounded, and the remainder are scattered through Asia and numerous other points of her extensive frontier. So severely is she pressed for men, that at Cronstadt, according to the testimony of a deserter, the garrison consists for the most part of old grey-headed soldiers and mere boys. In fact, considering the enormous expansion of the Russian empire, and the places at which it is vulnerable, this force of 620,000 men is utterly inadequate for her immediate wants, and a thirteenth levy for the recruitment of the army has been resolved upon. Russia, in reality, is a weak military power when compared with France or even with England. At present she is numerically overmatched in the Crimea, and, as long as we have possession of the sea, the transport of her troops, from one extremity to another, will involve a loss of life which must still more seriously affect her crippled resources. These numbers, given to the world by the *Moniteur*, afford the most encouraging hopes of the ultimate subjugation of the great fortress in the Black Sea."

DESTRUCTION OF AN ELEPHANT.—The large elephant, 120 years of age, late the property of Mr. Wombwell, being incapable of locomotion from diseased feet, the present proprietor gave directions for its destruction in the easiest manner possible. Accordingly, Mr. E. Price, veterinary surgeon and Mr. Hewitt, chemist, of Birmingham, proceeded last week to carry his wishes into effect. In ten minutes from the application of chloroform the animal became totally insensible; prussic acid was then administered without effect, and two large doses of strychnine without producing any perceptible feeling of pain. Not succeeding in these endeavours, a continuous application of chloroform was made, in the hope that the animal might sink under it; but, after three hours' perseverance in this course, no difference of respiration being observed, the administration was stopped,

and in an hour and a half all effects of it had passed away. The only known means of destruction left were the knife and the bullet. The latter was first tried (the animal being again chloroformed) and wounded a branch of the carotid artery, from which blood flowed in a tolerably sized jet. The opening was then enlarged by a knife, and the artery fully divided. In a few minutes the huge animal ceased to live, having died without a struggle, or evidencing the slightest feeling of pain.

EXTRAORDINARY, IN TRUTH.—The *Bedford Times* relating a circumstance of an extraordinary character which occurred a short time since in one of the flourishing towns in one of the midland counties. A clergyman died, and his wife and daughters on the third day of his decease, recollecting that no likeness remained of the once cherished son and brother, it was agreed, ere the grave closed over him, that the body should be unshrouded and a portrait taken. A young lady of some professional celebrity was engaged for the task. She, with the assistance of the attendant, took off the shroud and placed the body in the requisite posture; but other duties requiring the artist's attention, the sketch was deferred till noon. About twelve o'clock at the foot of the bed, the lady commenced and went through an hour's work on this image of death. At this stage of the proceedings, by some unaccountable motion, the head of the deathlike figure fell on one side. Nothing daunted, the artist carefully took the head to replace it, when, lo! the eyes opened, and staring her full in the face, "Who are you?" The young "professional," without trepidation, took the bandage from his head and rubbed his neck. He immediately saw the shroud and laughed immoderately. The artist quietly called the family—their joy may be imagined but cannot be described. That evening, he who had laid three days in his shroud, bemoaned by mother and sisters with agonising tears, gladdened their hearts by taking his accustomed place at their tea table, and at this moment is making an excursion in North Wales.

"I LOVE TO STEAL."—An amusing incident occurred in one of our downeast churches some years ago. The clergyman gave out on a pleasant Sabbath afternoon in July:

"I love to steal awhile away
From every cumb'ring care,
And spend the hour of setting day
In humble, grateful prayer."

The regular chorister being absent, the duty devolved upon the good old deacon M., who commenced:

"I love to steal!"

and then boggled down, and raising his voice to a still higher pitch, he sang,

"I love to steal!"

and as before, he concluded he had got the wrong pitch, and deploring that he had not his "pitch tuner," he determined to succeed, if he died in the attempt.

By this time all the old ladies were tittering behind their fans, whilst the faces of the "young ones were all in a broad grin. At length, after a desperate cough, he made a final demonstration and roared out,

"I love to steal!"

This effort was too much; every other but the godly and eccentric parson was laughing, who rose, and with the utmost coolness, said:

"Seeing our brother's propensities, let us pray!"

It is needless to say that but few of that congregation heard the prayer.

THE PENSIONS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.—The finance accounts, just published, give the following as the "annuities" of various royal personages charged on the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom, viz.:—That of the Duchess of Gloucester, £16,000; the King of the Belgians, £50,000; the Duchess of Kent, £30,000; Prince Albert, £36,000; the Duke of Cambridge, £12,000; Princess Mary of Cambridge, £8,000; the Dowager Duchess of Cambridge, £6,000; and the Princess Augusta of Cambridge, Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, £8,000.

DETERMINATION.—"The longer I live," says Sir T. F. Buxton, "the more I am certain that the great difference between men—between the feeble and the powerful, the great and the insignificant—is energy. Inevitable determination, a purpose once fixed on, and then death or victory. That quality will do any thing that can be done in the world; and no talents, no circumstances, no opportunities, will make a two-legged creature a man without it."

General Sir George Brown is staying at Leamington, and the inhabitants have thought proper to recognise his services in the Crimea by a public address which was presented on Saturday; the gallant soldier took the opportunity to rebuke a prevalent feeling in some quarters for extensive alteration in the material of our officers:

"It is a mistake and misrepresentation to assert that the officers of the army are generally and habitually inattentive to their duty, or that the condition of the troops would be improved by having a larger portion of them drawn from the ranks; for it is precisely because they are gentlemen that the men are so much attached to them. Although, therefore, far from meaning to speak in disparagement of individuals who may have raised themselves by their own merits, many of whom I know to be in the highest degree respectable, I assert that the military services of this country would be less popular, and discipline would not be so well maintained, if the majority of officers were of this description. Look at the proportion borne by the officers to the men, in the returns of killed and wounded, in all the actions that have taken place. It is always nearly double what it ought to be. Look at the very last affair—that of the 18th of June, upon which we find a list of ninety-three officers to some 18,000 men; the number which would have answered for 3,000. And why is this? Because the officers, being English gentlemen, are accustomed to set an example to them, and the men, although ready enough to follow, always expect to be led. Depend upon it, the less they interfered with the constitution of the British army the better it will be for the troops as well as for the country, and I myself have always considered it a subject of regret that the Committee of Inquiry which has been lately sitting, instead of examining witnesses who were not in a position to know much of what they were questioned about, had not sent to Paris, or brought over some French officers who had associated with the English troops; they would have found that our allies have formed a very different estimate of the merits of our troops from that which has been formed by some of their own countrymen."

There are two things that speak as with a voice from heaven, that He that fills that eternal throne must be on the side of virtue, and that which He befriends must finally prosper and prevail. The first is, that the bad are never completely happy and at ease, although possessed of every thing that this world can bestow; and that the good are never completely miserable, although deprived of every thing that this world can take away.

THE CROWN OF THORNS.—It is a mistake, that a lust for power is the mark of a great mind; for even the weakest have been captivated by it; and formulae of the highest order, it has no charms. They seek a nobler empire within their own breast; and as that best know what was in man, would have no earthly crown, but one that was platted with thorns!

UPRIGHT BENCH.—A "shoemaker's upright bench" has lately been patented, and by it the work of shoemaking can be carried on better in a standing than in a sitting posture.

Reputation, is what people think of us; character, is what we really are.

Correspondence.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL, McNAIR'S COVE.

A Public Examination of the *Colonial Church Society's School* at McNair's Cove, was held on Thursday the 16th inst., when several of the parents of the children, and others interested in the cause of education, were present. The Rev. J. S. Smith performed the part of Examiner. The children evinced an acquaintance with the Scriptures quite unusual for their age, acquitted themselves very respectably in English Grammar, Geography, Spelling, Written and Mental Arithmetic, and answered a number of questions in Natural Philosophy and Astronomy, in the most clear and satisfactory manner. Some excellent specimens of Penmanship were also exhibited, and the Copy Books of several of the children, who eight months ago could not make a letter, were really creditable. All who witnessed the exercises seemed much gratified, and some expressed their approval very warmly.

The progress of this School will appear the more remarkable, when it is observed, that it was opened only last January, and that for some time previous there had not been a School of any kind within the District. And its present satisfactory condition must therefore be ascribed to the admirable system of teaching adopted by the Society, and the unwearied exertions of Miss Bent, the much-respected Teacher. The Society's usefulness is being sensibly felt here, and it is to be believed that whithersoever its influence is extended, its usefulness will be felt and acknowledged.

The Examination was closed with a brief address, and with prayer, by the Missionary of Melford; Melford, Aug. 21, 1855.