

the Liberia Mission, were present. Addresses were delivered by them, and a collection taken up amounting to about \$350. — Zion's Herald.

THE TENNESSEE CONFERENCE closed on the 24th ult., after a most harmonious session. Nett increase of members 2,400. The collection at the missionary meeting was 645 dollars, 235 of which were raised for the Galveston Church.—Id.

Miscellany.

POPERY AND SPAIN.—For the following well-written article on these topics, we are indebted to the editorial columns of the "Christian Advocate and Journal," N. Y., of the 24th ult. :—

"We are accustomed to hear the Romanists in this country deny the Pope's authority over them, in any thing which relates to them as citizens. They only submit to his authority in spiritual things; he exercises no power over them, they allege, in temporal affairs. As head of the Church, however, his authority must be the same everywhere, over those who admit the pretension; and if we can find what the civil authority, now claimed by his holiness is, in any other part of the world, except that portion of Italy over which he reigns as absolute sovereign, in regard to both temporal and spiritual power, we shall find exactly what he claims in the United States, and would exercise, too, if his spiritual subjects were sufficiently numerous.

"Let us look to Spain, then, and inquire, what are the powers which the Pope claims over that country, as the "successor of St. Peter." His pretensions are not at all ambiguous. He does not condescend to Bishop Hughes' nice, and indefinite distinctions between civil and spiritual authority. On the contrary, his spiritual authority is like Aaron's rod. It eats up all that withstand it. It covers all that it may be necessary for the Church to claim, whether it be to bind or loose the sinner, or to possess his estate, and have and hold it to St. Peter and his heirs, for ever and ever. Civil laws and human governments are mere gossamer webs, when they oppose this pretended spiritual power; or, like flax before the flame, they are instantly consumed, when touched by the fire of the Babylonian furnace. Were it not that the press, the great reformer of the present day, has found its way into Spain, and poured a steady blaze of light upon her ancient superstitions, illuminating the gross darkness of centuries, and exposing the nummery and the wickedness of the priesthood, so that thousands upon thousands turn from it with disgust and loathing, Spain would at this hour be suffering all the horrors which England endured under the Pope's interdict, during the reign of King John: and we doubt whether the Regent Espartero would obtain absolution on the terms upon which John received it—the kissing the Pope's toe, and making the kingdom over in fee to St. Peter and his successors.

"Every step in the progress of the liberal party in Spain has been opposed by the Pope, and the principal clergy, the monks, and the friars; and these possessed great influence, not only on account of the veneration of the people for their sacerdotal character, but from the immense wealth they had accumulated. Those who can open and shut the gates of heaven at pleasure, have a sure means of obtaining riches. However even avarice may cling to its possessions in life and health, the terrors of futurity, and the promises held out by the priesthood, in the awful hour when eternity comes within the view of the dying man, with all its tremendous realities, seldom fail to unlock his grasp, and he lets them fall, without reluctance, into the lap of any one of that holy fraternity who claims the power to bind or loose, in heaven as in earth. Thus the secular clergy, and the religious orders, as they are most facetiously called, had come to constitute a very considerable portion of the population, and to possess a still larger proportion of the lands, and other property, of the kingdom. It is true, that many of the priests were found in the ranks of the liberal party; but as they were soon placed under the interdictions of their superiors, their influence was greatly weakened. The superior clergy and the great body of monks and friars,

taking the lead of the party which advocated despotic government, and ecclesiastical prerogative, gave to their adherents the name of "apostolicals." The liberal party had nothing left to them but the unpretending appellation of "Christians."

"At the death of the late king, the crown descended, according to the fundamental laws of the realm, to his daughter, Isabel, who was an infant. Her uncle, Don Carlos, raised the standard of revolt, and, protesting against the innovations made by the Cortes, or Congress, in favour of popular rights, and promising submission to the Church to the full amount claimed by the Roman pontiff, he was enabled, by the aid of priestly influence, over the superstitious populace of some of the provinces, to maintain a long and bloody contest; in which scenes of horror were exhibited which shock all the feelings of humanity.

"The rebellion was subdued, however, and Don Carlos was driven out of Spain. Yet the Cortes found themselves in no enviable condition. The profligate life of the queen-mother was so open and notorious, that the national honour and public welfare required that she should be removed from the regency, and that her children should be placed under the care of those whose reputation would afford a better guaranty for the good education, and the future moral character, of those on whom the government of the kingdom must devolve. Espartero, the general, to whom, principally, Spain owes her deliverance from the despotism of Don Carlos, was appointed regent, and suitable persons were provided, to whom the care of the young queen, and her sister, were intrusted. The debt incurred by the long wars, first to drive out the French, and afterward to drive out Don Carlos and his party, was enormous. The revenues from South America had long since been cut off, by the revolutions in the Spanish provinces in that quarter; and the resources at home were greatly diminished, by the desolations of conflicting armies, which, as they alternately prevailed, burnt and destroyed, without pity or remorse.

"The Cortes took a bold step. They laid hands on the possessions of the clergy, and the religious orders, and appropriated them to the necessities of the state. They had been guilty of treason, and their property was justly liable to confiscation. They had plotted, in the monasteries, the very treason which enabled Don Carlos to deluge the country with blood. They had, some openly, and some more covertly, aided the rebellion which had so greatly added to the national debt, and now the monasteries were suppressed; but the law generously provided for the support of a sufficient number of clergy to meet the wants of the population, out of the national income. But the Cortes gave even greater offence than this to the Church. They took a step or two in favour of liberty of conscience. They gave countenance to the circulation of the Bible, and the diffusion of religious tracts, and other publications; and the newspaper press discussed, both the subject of religion and of politics, with great freedom."

(To be concluded in our next.)

THE NIGER EXPEDITION.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Thomas Dove, dated Freetown, Sierra Leone, 27th July, 1841.

"The arrival of the Expedition bound for the Great Golliba, or Niger, excited in the colony of Sierra Leone extraordinary interest. We had a day of special prayer for the success of this noble undertaking. Our colonial Chaplain, the Rev. D. P. Morgan, delivered a very appropriate sermon on the occasion, and, in the afternoon of the same day, prayers, fervent and devout, were offered to the Father of the spirits of all flesh, that His blessing might rest upon all engaged in this work of highest mercy, that they might find favour in the sight of the people on the banks of the Niger,—that they might prepare the way of the Lord, and make in the desert a high way for our God, &c. &c. Suitable addresses also were delivered by Captain Trotter, W. Allen, W. Cook, Rev. J. F. Schon, Rev. T. O. Miller, myself, and others, at St. George's Church, when the nature and importance of the object was clearly and distinctly stated; and, in the evening of the same day, the same sort of service was held in four of our own chapels in Freetown. Such a glorious gospel-day was never before known in Sierra Leone. There was no market on that day; indeed it was observed

with as much sacred solemnity as that of Sunday. I believe that the services of that day were not only pleasing, profitable, cheering, and refreshing to the souls of the hundreds who joined in that worship and service, but that it was also pleasing and acceptable in the sight of God our heavenly Father, whose name is mercy, and whose nature is love. The three steamers, viz. the Albert, Wilberforce, and Gordon, left us on the morning of the 21st instant, being followed by the prayers and good wishes of thousands. You will read, as per enclosed, of their safe arrival at Iabaria. May the great Head of the Church be the head of that heaven-projected enterprise, and then all will end in glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will to Africa's insulted and much injured race. Many of our members of different tribes are gone with the Expedition, as interpreters." &c.—Watchman.

Letters have been received from Cape Coast Castle, dated 27th July, reporting the steam-vessels composing the expedition to have arrived there from Sierra Leone; the Soudan on the 15th, the Albert on the 10th, and the Wilberforce on the 24th of that month. Every thing relating to the expedition is represented as being in as flourishing a condition as its most sanguine friends could wish for. The apprehensions entertained by some persons, previous to its departure from England, that the expedition might arrive at the mouth of the Niger somewhat late for ascending the river at the best period possible, appear to have been groundless, as, from information gained on the coast from persons who had been up the Niger with Lander, it is found that large vessels would be unable to proceed above Ibra at an earlier period than the month of August.—Hampshire Telegraph.

TEMPERANCE.

A Select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed some time ago "to inquire into the extent, causes, and consequences of the prevailing vice of intoxication, in the United Kingdom," have produced in their report, the following medical declarations, of the first eminence:—

DUBLIN.—"We, the undersigned, hereby declare, that, in our opinion, nothing would tend so much to the improvement of the community, as the entire disuse of ardent spirits."

Signed by Alexander Jackson, State Physician; John Crampton, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica; R. Carmichael; Philip Crampton, Surgeon General; J. Cheyne, M. D., Physician General; A. Colles, Professor of Surgery; H. Marsh, M. D., Professor, Medical Practitioner, College of Surgeons; J. Kirby, J. C. Brennan, Cusack Rooney, Maurice Collis, R. Collis, M. D., Master Lying-in-Hospital, Francis Barker, M. D., Professor of Chemistry, T. C. D., and by thirty-six other medical practitioners, in all, forty-nine.

EDINBURGH.—"We, the undersigned, do hereby declare our conviction, that ardent spirits are not to be regarded as a nourishing article of diet; that the entire disuse of them would powerfully contribute to improve the health and comfort of the community."

This was signed by four Professors of the Medical faculty in the University; eleven members of the College of Physicians; by the President and twenty-seven of the Royal College of Surgeons, and by thirty-four other medical practitioners, seventy-seven in all.

LEITH.—"We, the undersigned, do hereby declare our conviction, that ardent spirits in any form, are highly prejudicial to health, and that they contain no nutritive quality." Signed by Charles Anderson, M. D., Robert Simms, M. D., Charles Cheyne, surgeon, George Kirk, M. D., J. S. Combe, M. D., Thomas Letts, M. D., Thomas Craze, M. D., John Coldstream, M. D.

YORK.—This certificate declares, that ardent spirits are, to persons of health, unnecessary, and, almost without exception, pernicious, that their disuse would greatly contribute to the health, morals, and comfort of the community. Signed by twenty-four medical gentlemen.

BRIGHTON.—The certificate from this town is to the same effect as that of the above, and signed by forty-two names. That of Bradford to the same effect, is signed by thirteen; that of Berwick-upon-Tweed, is signed by eleven; that of Chel-

tenham, is signed by twenty-six; that of Derby, by thirteen; that of Leeds, by forty-seven; that of Manchester, by seventeen; that of Nottingham by twenty-six; that of Worcester, by thirty-five; that of Gloucester, by fifteen; that of Birmingham, by eight; that of London, by twenty-two. To the preceding attestations, we have to add the opinion of Mr. Anley (corps. Med. &c.) writes,—"No person has a greater facility to draw drinking than myself; however that I never suffer ardent spirits in my house, thinking them evil spirits, and if the poor could witness the whole here, the dropsy, the shattered nervous system, which I have seen, as the consequences of drinking, they would be aware that spirits and poisons are synonymous terms."

Edward Turner, M. D., P. R. S. M., London and Edinburgh, Professor of Chemistry in the London University, writes,—"It is my firm conviction, that ardent spirits are not a nourishing article of diet, that in this climate they may be entirely dispensed with advantage to health and strength; that their habitual use tends to undermine the constitution, enfeeble the mind and degrade the character."

The Committee, in their report to the House of Commons, state, that spirits produce "the following evils, among others:—"The destruction of an immense amount of wholesome and nutritious grain, given by a bountiful Providence for the use of man, which is now converted by distillation into a poison. The highest medical authorities, examined in great numbers before the Committee, are uniform in their testimony, that ardent spirits are absolute poisons to the human constitution, that in no case whatever are they necessary, or even useful, to persons in health, that they are always, in every case, and of the smallest extent, deleterious, pernicious, or destructive, according to the proportions in which they may be taken into the system." (Page 4, Parl. Rep.) In corroboration of this report, may be added the unerring test, practical experience. They give instances of habitual free "bottle goers" abandoning, at an advanced age, the use of spirituous liquors, not only without injury, but with visible advantage to health.—Athenaeum and Gazette, quoted from Toronto Examiner.

THE NAVAL SUPREMACY OF ENGLAND.

(From Alison's History of the French Revolution)

These maritime transactions conduct us to an important epoch in the war—that in which the French and Spanish navies were TOTALLY DESTROYED, and the English fleet, by general consent, had attained to UNIVERSAL DOMINION. There is something solemn, and apparently providential, in this extraordinary ascendancy acquired on that element by a single power. Nothing approaching to it had occurred since the fall of the Roman empire. Napoleon afterwards acquired important additions of maritime strength. The fleets of Russia, the galleys of Turkey, the impotent rage of Denmark, were put at his disposal: but he never again adventured on naval enterprises; and, with the exception of an unhappy sortie of the Brest fleet, which was soon terminated by the flames of Rasque roads, no sea-fight of any moment occurred to the conclusion of the war. Fearless and unresisted, the English fleets thenceforward navigated the ocean in every part of the globe, transporting troops, conveying merchantmen, blockading ports, with as much security as if they had been traversing an inland sea of the British dominions. Bauded Europe did not venture to leave its harbours; all apprehensions of invasion disappeared, and England, relieved from all danger of domestic warfare or colonial embarrassment, was enabled to direct her undivided attention to land operations, and launch forth her invincible legions in that career of glory which has immortalized the name of Wellington. * * * * *

Doubtless the highest praise is due to the long line of brave and illustrious men, who, during a series of ages, reared up this astonishing power. It was not, like the empires of Napoleon or Alexander, constructed in a single life-time, nor did it fall with the fortunes of the heroes who gave it birth. It grew, on the contrary, like the Roman power, through a long succession of ages, and survived the death of the most renowned chiefs who had contributed to its splendour. So early as the time of Edward III., the English navy had inflicted a dreadful wound on that of France: thirty thousand