

know; and that they received these on their first arrival at Sheerness. This afforded me an opportunity for speaking of the privilege of possessing the New Testament, and their duty and interest in making themselves acquainted with its contents, and obtaining an interest in the blessings it reveals. One man wished to raise a discussion on the cause of the war, asserting whereas the English rely on the French, the French on the English, and the Turks on both—their Czar relies on God alone, and is fighting only in the cause of religion;—a delusion into which the poor fellows have been cheated. I declined to discuss the point with them, but reminded them of the fact, that by the providence of God they are here, and have important time and opportunities afforded them, which I besought them diligently and faithfully to improve. I repeated my visit to them in the afternoon, with similar results.

On Sunday morning I took with me a parcel of tracts, which had been kindly supplied by the Religious Tract Society. I remained with them till dinner time. These tracts contain in them the grand distinguishing truths of the Gospel, with earnest exhortations to repentance and faith. They were received with avidity, and I earnestly hope that a blessing will attend the perusal of them to many. Surrounded by group after group, I distributed the tracts, and then successively addressed them on the great subjects which they contain. This I thought, for the present, at least preferable to holding a more formal service with them.

I repeated my visit on Monday, and distributed the remainder of my tracts. One ward contains Jews alone. They are chiefly Poles, but speak the Russian language with fluency. I had a long discussion with them on the merits of the New Testament. They, alas, discover much of the hardness and unbelief of their forefathers. They point to the Russians, as if they were a fair specimen of the holy religion of Jesus. They, as a people, give too much occasion to blaspheme that holy name, by which they call themselves. The Jews, however, received some tracts, which they promised to read.

On the whole my visit, as an introductory one, has been very encouraging; and I think the way has been paved for repeating it with advantage.—I am, dear Sir, very truly yours,  
EDWARD STALLYBRASS.  
Mr. W. A. Blake.

**Free Church Presbytery of Edinburgh.**

We have no heart to dwell on the extraordinary proceedings of the majority in the Free Presbytery of Edinburgh on Wednesday last. They must have produced throughout the Church and country—we can answer for it in this quarter—one uniform feeling of disgust and indignation at their unfairness and pusillanimity. But such scenes of remorseless partisanship, in which good and able men are so far left to themselves as to disregard public opinion, forget what is due to venerable age and gravity of Christian character, and set at naught the labours and sacrifices of long years for the purposes of the hour, are calculated to affect the mind of the Church with a deeper and more enduring sentiment. Every member of our communion must blush and hang his head in shame and sorrow for this humiliating exhibition of human frailty, and acknowledge before God and man that it is but the natural result of self complacency and self-exaltation which

have too often characterised the Free Church. Her great spiritual Head is now teaching her by a process of stern discipline to "cease from man." The breaches of the Disruption have scarcely been built up, and the walls of our beloved Zion consolidated, when she is torn by internecine dissensions, all the more bitter and inexorable that they involve not the shadow of a principle, but are the ebullitions of unhallowed ambition and personal jealousy. In a time of peace without and prosperity within our Free Church, her rowers have rowed into the great waters, and embarked her spiritual interests upon a controversy the most gratuitous that ever afflicted a community of rational men. From this miserable and humiliating contention the thoughtful members of the Church will turn with heavy, but not hopeless hearts to the only Source of peace and comfort, and seek with greater earnestness than ever, for our Church and its counsels and counsellors. "The wisdom that is from above," which is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."—*Scottish Guardian (Free Church Paper.)*

**THE SCOTCH IN LIVERPOOL.**—A fact not a little creditable to the working-classes in Liverpool, belonging to Scotland, was mentioned last week by a member of the Relief Committee there. "Mr. Thomas Grey calculated that only 0.2 per cent. of the whole Scotch population had obtained relief, because their national independence of character prevents them asking for assistance under the deepest privations, and he proposed to raise a small fund for the express purpose of rendering aid in those cases where poverty exists among the Scotch poor."

**News of the Month.**

We are sorry to inform our readers that the prospect of peace seems to be still distant. The new Russian Emperor appears determined to prosecute the war with the utmost vigour, and great preparations are being made on both sides for the summer campaign. The state of the Allied army is now vastly improved, and is being daily reinforced. As soon as the Sardinian contingent reaches the Crimea and some regiments which are on the way from India, it is confidently expected that something decided will take place before Sebastopol. The Baltic fleet is again on its way towards the Russian strong-holds in the North, fitted out with gunboats and floating batteries to act in the shallow waters. So grand and thoroughly equipped a fleet never before sailed from the shores of Britain and the nation thinks of it with pride and confidence. In the mean time negotiations are going on at Vienna, but there is little hope of their leading to a satisfactory termination. The German powers are still vacillating and fears are beginning to be entertained in many quarters that Austria will ultimately take her stand on the side of Russia. The best understanding still prevails between France and Britain. Great preparations were being made in England for the reception of the French Emperor and Empress who were about to pay a visit to Her Majesty. The

New British Ministry appear to be animated with the determination to uphold the national honour and all parties seem disposed to give them a fair trial. Some of the usual irreligious measures have again been pressed upon the attention of the House of Commons. A Bill to throw open public places of amusement on the Sabbath was brought forward and we are happy to say rejected, and it is a gratifying circumstance that only one Scotch member voted in its favour. Leave has also again been granted to bring in a bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister, although both established churches and dissenters generally look upon such marriages as incestuous. The Lord Advocate has again brought forward an Education Bill for Scotland similar to that which was rejected last year, and we are happy to see that it is again likely to meet with the determined opposition of the church and to be defeated. A new Education Bill for England has also been brought forward by Sir John Pakington which seems to be liable to similar objections as the Lord Advocate's.

In our own province the most exciting topics at present are the dissolution of the House of Assembly, and the General Election which is to take place in the end of this month. As is usually the case both political parties are sanguine of success, and no doubt strenuous efforts will be made on all sides to return their favourite candidates. The prospects of the spring are cheering, and the agricultural labours of the season have been renewed after the long winter.

**Liberal Donation.**

A lady has sent to the Rev. Dr. Craik, of St. George's, Glasgow, the sum of £100 for the following schemes of the Church of Scotland:

The Education Scheme	£20	0	0
The Home Mission	£20	0	0
The Colonial Scheme	£20	0	0
The Jewish Mission	£20	0	0
The China Mission	£20	0	0

We are glad to learn that His Excellency Sir Gaspard Le Marchant has appointed Friday the eleventh of May, to be observed as a public day of solemn fast and humiliation throughout this province, that so we may humble ourselves before Almighty God, in order to obtain pardon of our sins and send up our prayers to the Divine Majesty for his blessing and assistance on our aims, and for the restoration of peace to her Majesty's dominions. We feel assured that this will be hailed by the population of this province as a most proper and Christian step on the part of our rulers, and that they will feel it both a duty, and a privilege to devote the day to this sacred object.

It is not for a Christian people to forget that God is the ruler of the Universe, that the destiny of Empires is in his hands and that he has promised to honour them that honour him. Thank God our church has no sympathy with those who hold that the chief magistracy of a Christian country is stepping out of his sphere when he calls the attention of those over whom he rules to the propriety of publicly acknowledging their sinfulness and seeking the mercy and favour of the Most High.