

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, DEC. 29, 1855.

THE OLD YEAR.

THE year has gone by like a tale that is told—and 'eventful indeed' has been its history. The seasons have followed each other in their natural progress, according to His word who has promised that seed time and harvest shall not fail. The harmony of the universe has been undisturbed. Yet events that are happening among the children of men lead to the belief that the hour that no man knows of may not be far distant, when the heavens shall depart as a scroll, and the time of the second advent of the Son of Man with power and great glory, shall be fulfilled.

While nation has been warring against nation, and our Fatherland has been making vast sacrifices, both of men and money, and united with neighbouring nations, has waged successful war with the despotism and against the ambition of Russia, it becomes us as a dependency exempt from the burden, and in a great degree from the responsibility of the struggle, to be most thankful for our happy condition. Here but few mourn the loss of friends fallen in battle, when compared with the affliction that has visited the homes of Britain with mourning and lamentation; altho' with a melancholy satisfaction we may point to the fallen heroes of our own little Province, to show that there are among her dead who have done service to their country in the deadly breach, while there still live to do her honor in the armies of England, many more who will emulate their brave example, and who will count their lives as nought when called upon in the cause of truth and justice to oppose her enemies.

If the evils of war have been far from us, the blessings of peace have been abundant. Trade and commerce have flourished. The labour of the husbandman has been blessed with increase. Famine has been far from our dwellings. Public improvement is progressive. If we are not making rapid strides, there is a perceptible advance in Provincial prosperity.

Nor amongst our other blessings ought we as Churchmen to forget that much has been done during the past year to give stability and endurance to our ecclesiastical polity. The Diocesan Church Society, whose Report has been recently published, shows that an increasing energy is manifested by the laity. The Diocesan Assembly or Synod, which will more effectively engage the cooperation of the laity in the Church's work, is so far useful, that its next meeting will be one of much interest, and of much good to the whole Church. A few cavillers within, and a few senseless bigots without her pale, may decri improvement, or misrepresent her intentions—but the tree will be known by its fruit—and the hidden things of darkness will not prosper. There is a work before her, that her children should not be slack to encourage—there are many destitute of the gospel within this Province, that would eagerly hail her ministrations, could they be made to reach them—there is spiritual instruction to be imparted to her aged and neglected members in desolate places, and education to the young—in all of which all her energies will find a vocation—and there is above all, a Providence that has so attempted our Society, as to have given to one part of it, the pecuniary ability that can most effectually compensate the wants of the destitute. May He who has given largely of this world's wealth, give also the mind that deviseth liberal things.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

Our readers will recollect that a short time since the British government was said to have directed a powerful naval reinforcement to the West Indies, as a reply to the action of the United States government upon the Foreign enlistment scheme. The alleged reason was so inadequate that it caused the utmost astonishment, and Lord Palmerston gained credit for more than his usual eagerness to thrust himself into an awkward scrape. We thought at the time that the true cause of this naval demonstration might be resolved into the indirect meddling of the U. S. Government in the concerns of Central America, and subsequent events are rather corroborative of the supposition than otherwise. Having chided Mexico out of Texas, quite easily, there could be no scruples of conscience with the less important states of Central America, the only difficulty being that in the latter England had some slight interest, and therefore a greater degree of caution was necessary. The game went on however as well under the circumstances as could reasonably be expected. An American Consul (Borland) used the

authority of his nation to screen a murderer, and out of this affair grew the valiant Hollins' bombardment and destruction of defenceless Greytown, and his immortal bravado of the commander of H. M. Schooner *Bermuda*. Great Britain opened her eyes, but gave no further immediate indication of being wide awake. Next, a gallant Colonel (Colonel Kinney) of the U. S. militia or regular army, it don't matter which, becomes an agent in a purchase of thirty-six millions of acres of Mosquito territory, a tract of land which Great Britain has an interest in protecting—and then we begin to find some symptoms of the latter's uneasiness at the experiment, and we dare say a gentle hint from Mr. Crampton at Washington, that Uncle Sam was not doing the genteel thing by a friendly country, stopped the project in its fullest sense—i. e. it was bereft of the countenance of an open departure from an American port, and the open sanction of the American government, and some steps were taken against the emigration projectors to save appearances. Still the game continued to be played under disadvantages. The bandit Col. Walker, who had been worsted in a buccaneering expedition to Lower California, in some invisible way acquires sufficient means to try his unscrupulous hand on Central America. His lands with fifty six men, and finds a democratic party, evidently a nominal one, in Nicaragua, which he makes the best use of to serve his purposes, but depends a great deal more, upon the reinforcements of desperate characters which his means, however furnished, allow him to engage in his enterprise; and by their aid, and the surprise of the occasion, for there appears to have been very little fighting, he makes the conquest of Nicaragua, or what amounts to pretty much the same thing, occupies its capital, and establishes a Walker government, in which Rivas a democrat enacts President, and Walker significantly takes office as Commander-in-chief, shooting off out his way, a very popular minister at war, who had been simple enough to place himself, seemingly with the best intentions in behalf of his country, in his power. Now it so happened that about the time of this consummation, the Baltic fleet was returning to Spithead, and as Central America is a very important country, and Great Britain is bound by treaty to its protection, and British interests are largely engaged therein, and British her-self has preferential claims—altho' John Bull has never pretended to make a national or warlike occupation or conquest,—and the Baltic fleet was fully manned and equipped and equal to any emergency, and British sailors love employment, Lord Palmerston very naturally took the opportunity of showing that John Bull was wide awake and ready for the occasion. The demonstration appears to have answered its purpose, for neither the United States government, nor the Press, nor the people, can imagine why it should have been made! Mr. Crampton is still at Washington, and it is impossible to discover that there was ever any intention of dismissing him! The Foreign Enlistment hubbub has been *evanescent*! We have to go all the way to Nicaragua to discover that it made any impression at all. There we find that Col. Wheeler, the American minister, at a grand reception, had recognised *in behalf of his government* the independence of the state, with General Walker as commander-in-chief, and Col. Kinney the emigrationist, a great man—also that a minister had been despatched to Washington. We now learn by the latest advices from Washington, that the surrounding states of the confederation are making common cause against the revolutionists, and that the American government has issued a proclamation cautioning its subjects against engaging in any filibustering schemes in Central America—and that Col. Parker H. French, the accredited minister from Col. Walker's government has arrived, and that his credentials do not appear to be of the most approved quality. What the Baltic fleet demonstration may have had to do with all this we do not pretend to say—but we confess it does not appear to be quite so much a puzzle to us as to what President Pierce is driving at, as it is to the New York *Herald*, from which we quote as follows, on the subject.

"PRESIDENT PIERCE'S PROCLAMATION AGAINST THE NICARAGUA FILIBUSTERS.—Considering the lateness of the season for the proclamation of the President of the United States against the Nicaragua filibusters, many of our innocent readers will perhaps be puzzled to understand what Mr. Pierce is driving at.

"For six months past, Gen. Walker has been permitted, without molestation, to collect his troops in California, and ship them off to Nicaragua, in that great enterprise of the liberation and Americanization of that benighted country, and of the equally benighted regions that surround it. Why did not the President issue this proclamation of his six, four, three or two months ago? Why does he issue it now, when it is like locking the door after the horse has been stolen? *Cui bono?* What's the use of a proclamation after Gen. Walker has conquered Nicaragua, and ac-

cured North American troops enough to conquer all Central America? We suspect that Mr. Pierce does this to throw dust into the eyes of John Bull and the slippery Northern democrats of Congress. To the former he desires to show how scrupulously our neutrality obligations are respected, in contrast with Crampton's enlistment outrages; to the latter he desires to show that he is really opposed to the filibustering subjugation and absorption of Central America and Mexico for the benefit of the South. Furthermore we imagine that this proclamation is intended as a gentle hint to Col. Parker H. French, the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Gen. Walker's government to ours, that he can't con a in. Certainly for all other purposes this dainty proclamation is behind time. It comes out after the filibusters have gone in."

The Bishop requests the Clergy, in filling up their annual returns, to be particular in stating how many times the Holy Communion has been celebrated during the year in each of their Churches, where there is more than one within the Parish or Mission, and also to be as accurate as possible in the amounts contributed towards Church objects under their proper heads.

The Colonial Church Chronicle, London, for November, noticing the arguments alleged against the management of the affairs of the Church by Diocesan Synods, rejoins the Wilmot protest with the following remark:—"So, according to the good people of Wilmot, the Bishop of Nova Scotia, and we suppose the Bishop of Melbourne also, are Tractarians. This is news in England."

D. C. S.

4th Rule of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund: "Every Clergyman of the Church of England in the Diocese, wishing to avail himself of the benefits of this fund, shall, within six months from the 10th Octr. 1855, or within one year from taking orders, or from his admission into the Diocese, apply to the Sect'y for a Certificate of pension, and shall pay the annual sum or premium therefor, as hereafter mentioned."

The above limited time expires on the 10th of April, 1856.

5th Rule. "Any applicant after such period of time, shall only be permitted to receive such Certificate at the option of the Sub. Com., and upon such terms as they shall direct."

The premiums for 1856 on Certificates already issued, are due on the 1st Jan'y, 1856. The last day on which such premiums can be received is Saturday, 9th Feb'y, 1856.

EDWIN GILPIN, Jr. Sec'y.

D. C. S.

Subscriptions to W. & O. Fund at Manchester.

Myers, Lathrop	£0 10 0	Leary, Mrs.	0 2 6
Carr, John A.	0 5 0	Leary, David	0 5 2½
Carr, Robert	0 10 0	Henderson, W.	0 2 6
Porpor, Fredk.	0 10 0	Harte, John	0 5 0
McKay, John	0 5 0	Sieck, John	0 5 0
Carr, James	0 5 0	Gilly, Wm.	0 5 2½
Carr, J. W.	0 10 0	McPherson, Mrs. J.	0 1 3
Porpor, Danl.	0 5 0	Wilcox, R.	0 1 3
Porpor, Mrs. D.	0 1 3	Wilcox, Rich'd Jr.	0 1 3
Cummins, Lucy	0 1 3	Wilcox, Wm.	0 1 3
Lopsett, Jared	0 1 0	Cummins, John	0 1 3
Lopsett, Ann	0 1 3	Marshall, J. Esq.	1 0 0
Carr, Mrs. P.	0 2 6	Marshall, Mrs.	0 10 0
Leeto, Paul	0 7 6	Hall, Hugh	0 2 6
Seranton, Thos.	6 5 0	Late, John	0 3 1½
Seranton, Mrs. T.	0 1 3	Simpson, Mrs. W.	0 2 6
Seranton, Mrs. D.	0 2 6	Carr, Peter	0 0 7½
Seranton, H. A.	0 1 3	Carier, Geo.	0 0 7½
Seranton, Sophia	0 1 3		
McPherson, John	0 3 9		£8 0 9½

The people of St. Margaret's Bay are making a contribution, as a Thank Offering to God, for success in the fishery, towards a Parsonage for St. Peter's Chapel in that parish. A few have already subscribed £50, which is nearly all paid at once.

St. Margaret's Bay, Dec. 20, 1855.

DAY OF THANKSGIVING.—The Day appointed for General Thanksgiving was pretty generally observed by the closing of shops and places of business. There was Divine service at St. Paul's morning and evening. At St. Luke's morning and afternoon. At St. George's in the morning. Also at Dartmouth in the morning. The day was very cold, but a great number of persons went up the road in the rail cars, and spent the time in frolic and amusement.

We are requested to mention, that owing to mistake, the name of His Excellency Sir Gaspard Le Marchant was omitted from the List of Subscribers to the Diocesan Church Society, in the 1st Annual Report.

William Cunard Esq. has been appointed Austrian Consul at this Port.