

## News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Canada, to Feb 4.

Previous to departing once more for China, Dr. Bowring attended, on Friday, a meeting of the members of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the Commercial Association, to address them on our commercial relations with China, and on the decimal coinage. Mr. B. Nicholls, the mayor, presided, and Messrs. Korshaw, J. Heywood, and C. Hadfield, M. P.'s, were present. Dr. Bowring described China as—

"A vast field, occupied by one-third of the whole human family, employing beneficially between £30,000,000 and £40,000,000 of British Capital—giving to the revenues of Great Britain and India one eighth of their gross receipts amounting to more than £10,000,000 sterling annually—taking from us millions of pieces of the produce of the neighbourhood that surround us—taking from British India a value exceeding £3,000,000 sterling of raw materials, furnishing a value of more than £3,000,000 sterling of raw silk, and developing itself to an extent which I venture to say, has exceeded the most sanguine anticipation of those who look at the opening of China as one of the most remarkable and interesting events of modern times."

It was an interesting thing to see the effect of Free-trade on our commerce with the hugest of empires. He remembered the time when the East India Company, the most gigantic monopoly ever created, had declared that the removal of their monopoly would be the ruin of our China trade:—

"At that time the export of tea from China was about 33,000,000lb., and it was represented that it was only owing to the influence of that huge body that that great quantity could be obtained, that prices were kept at a moderate rate, and that the quality was secured for the English consumers. Now, gentlemen, that monopoly, great, gigantic and powerful as it was, was overthrown by the greater power of public opinion, and by the energetic demands of intelligent commercial men. When I left China, she was not only able to export 33,000,000lb., of tea, but 100,000,000lb., in the year 1852, and not only has the price not been raised but it has been considerably lowered to the British consumer, and, so far from there having been any deterioration of quality, I venture to say that no better teas have ever come into the markets of the world than those which have been produced under this diminished of price and this augmentation of demand."

Dr. Bowring thus describes his present mission:—

"In returning to that country which we only touch upon at five isolated points, I look upon it that I am charged with the mission as far as I am able of opening that country, which is as yet unopened to the future demand of the merchants and manufacturers of this country. There are some very remarkable circumstances connected with the character of China. We touch five of its ports, but it is a singular fact that there is no great population on the seaboard of China—that there is no populous city that is not far removed from its coast. Canton is a considerable distance inland, the importance of Amoy depends upon its adjacency to a city which I have visited, called Chang-chon, with a population of 300,000 to 400,000 persons. As we have got more and more access to these great seats of production and commerce, our trade has gone on increasing. The third port is that of Foochow, a city which has probably 600,000 inhabitants, and is also a considerable distance from the coast, which I look upon as a port likely to be one of future great importance.—Ningpo is the next, and it was probably not very sagaciously chosen, inasmuch as a port which is near to it—Shanghai, and which has become one of our most important positions in China, has far greater facilities of communication with the great cities of Foochow and Nankin than Ningpo possesses, and the trade of Shanghai, may be considered not to have taken away or destroyed or to sometimes represented, the south trade of Canton but as, in fact, adding to the trade we enjoyed in China when Canton was our only port of access. My object will therefore be, in order to give to commerce the advantages which it is entitled to claim, to reach those great seats of population, and I am happy to say, having lately had an opportunity of intercourse, not only with the Emperor of the French, but with his minister, and also with the American Commissioner, who has lately been nominated by the United States to represent the greater interests of America, second only to those of England—I am glad to say that, in reference to our future in China, I have every reason to believe that those Governments will be willing to unite with us in kind and cordial co-operation."

With regard to the decimal system, which had excited in China from time immemorial, he said there was no period known in which the ounce of silver, the integer in China, had not been divided into thousand parts. As for himself—

He had come to the conclusion that the recommendations of the committee were most sound and judicious, and that to leave the pound sterling untouched, and only operate upon the copper currency, was the true, intelligible, commercial, and philosophical system. He proposed that the pound should be divided in 2,000 parts, and, as far as regards the name, the name of the amount represented the value. He would be very glad to suggest the substitution of the word 'mill' for farthing, and to see the word 'cent' taken for 10 of these 'mills,' and the word 'dime' for 100—that word, revived by the Americans, being in reality one of our oldest Saxon words.

Its only effect upon the well being of the people would be, that instead of forty-eight farthings for every shilling, they would get 60, and instead of 24 far every sixpence they would have 25; taking the value of the copper coin in circulation at £750,000, the question at issue being a question of value between 600 and 1000 farthings, the loss on the whole of the copper coinage throughout the United Kingdom would only be £30,000, while the gain in facilities to education and calculation would be incalculable.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Bowring was then passed, in acknowledgment of which he made some additional remarks.—

"Such was the population of China, that there was scarcely a foot of it but was cultivated. Such was the over-population, in fact, that, notwithstanding the most violent interdicts against emigration, its surplus streams were overflowing the countries of the East. In the island of Java he found 25,000, in the islands of the Indian Archipelago he believed there was not less than 70,000 Chinese; while in San Francisco there had been settled 25,000 more; and greater numbers were emigrating to Australia and the islands of Polynesia, or wherever there was a field of labour open to them. It appeared to be a law of Providence that the superior races of mankind should supplant the inferior, and they saw in the progress of time the inhabitants of the West India Islands swept away, and that the Anglo-Saxon population was invading and removing (he would not say destroying) the Red Indian tribes of America. So the Chinese race was settling aside the Malay."

Some alarm had been expressed, he said, that the supply of tea might fail: but the quantity we use was but a drop in the bucket to what the Chinese themselves used.

LORD DUDLEY STUART AND THE POLISH LANCERS.—Extract of a letter from Lord Dudley Stuart, dated Constantinople, Jan. 14, 1854:—

"We met Caliquoun at a klan on the road, and with him sat in the new year. We spent two days at Senukta, where the most marked attentions were paid us by Omor Pacha, whose conversation we found most interesting, and whose superiority of intellect was apparent. Thence we proceeded over the redoubtable pass of the Balkan mountains to Adrianople, where we spent a day with Mehemet Pacha (formerly ambassador in London), who lodged us in his house and entertained us sumptuously. Here, finding my time run short and being anxious to get back for the meeting of Parliament, I left my companions (two sons of the late Sir Alexander Johnstone), and started a franc etrier with K—alone for Constantinople. Having ridden thirty hours without stopping, we were within twenty miles of the capital when we saw at a distance troops descending a hill. The red pennons of lancers fluttered in the breeze. On they came, and as they approached we perceived that they were Sadyk Pacha (Czajkowski) and his Cossacks on their march to the Danube. You will readily imagine that when I was recognised the troop came to a halt. A few words from Sadyk persuaded me to turn back and accompany them a little way on their road. I was made to exchange my post horse for a fine grey charger with military trappings, and, riding side by side with Sadyk, at the head of his Polish troops, I re-entered Bock-est-medjie. I dined at mess and slept at their quarters. Sadyk's officers are fine fellows—Poles, Cossacks and Wallachians—and I found Prince Stourza, who is temporarily attached to them, a most superior man. Next morning they were all drawn up in a line, and, having sung their Polish and Cossack songs and greeted me with a hearty cheer, they proceeded on their march, their banner, on which are emblazoned in significant conjunction the Cross and the Crescent, floating above them. We rode on to Constantinople."

[The troops met by Lord Dudley are volunteers—there are no volunteers in the Czar's ranks. Amongst these volunteers are many Christian Wallachs who fight under the Crescent, though the Czar declares he is in the Principalities for the defence of the Christians.]

The Bishop of London has approved of a plan which has been submitted to him by the Rev. Charles Hume, M. A., Rector of St. Michael's, Wood-street, for removing some of the churches in the City, with a view to a supply of some of the suburbs. The rev. gentleman states that a small number of the City churches have considerable and encouraging congregations, two or three of them amounting to nearly three hundred. On the other hand, the attendance at some falls below sixteen, and there are many at which it does not amount to fifty—the average attendance at the churches proposed to be removed being only thirty-three. While such is the state of things in the City, it has been shown by a return made to the House of Commons by the sub-division of parish commissioners, that no fewer than fifty-eight new churches are required in the diocese of London. Of this number forty-nine are required for the metropolitan district and immediate suburbs, and nine for towns and districts within eight miles of St. Paul's. Mr. Hume contends that less than twenty churches would meet the wants of the population within the City of London union, and consequent-

ly at least thirty eight churches might be advantageously taken down, and rebuilt in such other parts of the metropolis and its environs as are deficient in church accommodation.

The following are the details of the plan. The number of churches proposed to be dealt with is fifty: it is proposed to remove (at present) thirty, and to retain twenty, the parishes whose churches are removed to be consolidated with those which are left standing. In arranging the incomes for the consolidated parishes, the rule would be this:—To every parish, the population of which exceeds one thousand, £400 per annum to be assigned: for every additional hundred parishioners add £12 a year. The aggregate income of the fifty churches is £20,500: the aggregate income of the twenty proposed consolidated parishes would be £11,353: there would remain to the thirty churches to be removed £9,207, giving £806 and a fraction to each. The additional sum required to make up a sufficient income for a clergyman, from £500 to £1,000 should be made up in the new locality to which the church is removed.

The following particulars are given of the visit of the *Retribution* to Sebastopol, the famous Russian port in the Crimea:—

"The *Retribution*, when sent to Sebastopol with the notification to Prince Menschikoff of the entrance of the Black Sea, arriving before break of day off the entrance of that port, and the fog being very thick, she was in the very centre of the port before she was discovered from any of the batteries. On the fog clearing away, all the forts fired guns with blank cartridge, in order to stop her advancing further. Having arrived as far as he wished, the captain immediately came to anchor. The *Retribution* was very soon after boarded by a Russian officer, who told the commander of the frigate that he had entered further than was allowed, and signified to him that he must retreat. Captain Drummond replied that he had come on a special mission, to deliver some despatches to the superior authorities. The Russian officer said that he could not even listen to that explanation until the vessel had quitted the interior of the port, and had retired beyond the reach of the cannon, and that the captain must immediately give orders to get under weigh, or the regulations would compel the frigate to sink him. Captain Drummond said that he could be very sorry to infringe in any way on the established regulations, and gave orders to get under weigh. This was, however, a work of some time, for the anchor held so fast that it was difficult to start it. When at last under weigh, the *Retribution*, going at a slow rate, ran along the whole of the fortifications, and again came to anchor at the spot which had been pointed out to her captain. When there, a Russian officer came on board to inform himself of the object of the arrival of the vessel, and said that the Admiral and the Governor were both absent, but that there would be plenty of time for them to be informed of his arrival before the English frigate had performed her quarantine. This Captain Drummond refused to accede to, saying that his mission was confined to delivering his despatches, which he did in exchange for a receipt, and soon after left to join the combined fleets at Sinope. This is the first time that a frigate of war has been enabled to enter the port of Sebastopol, and there is every reason to believe that the English officers not only carefully examined the fortifications of the place, but also took a plan of them."

Messrs. Marsden, of Sheffield, have executed in order for a pair of skates for the Queen, which are worthy of the royal feet. In lieu of straps across the feet each skate is provided with a patent-leather band. These boots are firmly attached by a strap of polished silver to the clogs, which are of satin-wood highly polished. The skate-irons terminate in front in an appropriate and graceful form of a swan, and the sides are elegantly chased. The cup that forms receptacle for the heel is silver plated, and decorated with the design of the rose, thistle, and shamrock. The same design is embroidered in white silk on the black patent-leather, to which it forms a pleasing contrast. The size has been regulated by a foot worn by the Queen. Messrs. Marsden have previously the honour of making several pairs of skates for the late King Albert and the royal children, but this is the first evidence we have had of the Queen herself setting an example to womankind of acquiring a graceful accomplishment hitherto confined almost exclusively to the country (at least, to the sterner sex.—*Chambers's Sale Gazette*).

AN AGED AUTHOR.—The Rev. Dr. Rock, venerable President of Magdalen College, Oxford, has just completed a work consisting of extracts from the lives of the ancient fathers, with an original introduction. It is intended as an appendix to the larger work which he compiled some years ago, entitled "The Sacred."