

has simply preached to them from Sunday to Sunday the same discourses which he delivered in his parish church, and which were chiefly prepared with reference to his own people. But while only a few of them appear to have been savingly benefitted by his faithful ministrations, the walls of the prison have been witnesses to the tears and confessions and resolves and vows of more than seventy convicts. I say more than seventy; for, after the final adjournment of the Convention, the Bishop, accompanied by two or three clergymen, proceeded again to the penitentiary and administered the solemn rite of confirmation to four female prisoners, who had previously manifested unfeigned contrition for their past misdeeds, and an earnest desire, to lead a new and better life. How many of all these are really sincere, and how many will escape further contamination, and persevere to the end, is known only to the All-wise Disposer of events. That many of them are sincere, and will persevere by the helping grace of God, there can be no reason to doubt; and no man can possibly calculate the benefits which will result, not only to the individuals immediately concerned, but to society at large, from the solemn transactions which have recently passed within the prison walls of the Penitentiary at Alton.

### News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. America. Nov. 24.

#### ENGLAND.

We find, as we were led to expect, that the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has determined to send out two clergymen to Constantinople for the spiritual benefit (in the first instance) of the large number of English sailors, agents, and traders who have been collected together at Pera by the war. It is hoped that they will be able to gather a congregation, and prepare the way for the erection of a church, which may become a permanent witness to the Turks of the truths of Christianity, and to the Greeks of the orthodoxy of our own communion.

Sir Charles Napier was returned yesterday, without opposition, for Southwark. The irate Admiral condemned the recent operations in the Baltic, and promised to call the authorities to task for not having provided a hundred gun-boats for the attack on Sweaborg. Two hundred would not take it next year. He would have all officers who had returned home, except for ill-health sent back to the Crimea, and stay there till the close of the war. The common soldier should be made an Associate of the Bath for distinguished service, with a pension of £25 a year, and hundreds would obtain it. Then we should have an army capable of resisting the enemy, instead of the children now sent out. He would make Russia pay the expenses of the war. As to the Ministry, the new Colonial Secretary Sir Charles considers "a very good man," and Lord Palmerston "I think is the man we must support for the present."

At Woolwich, on Thursday, one of the cast-iron guns taken at the capture of Bomarsund underwent an experimental trial. The gun, a 56-pounder, has been bored for our Lancaster shells, which on this occasion were heavily filled with lead to the weight of 2cwt. 8lb. each shell, and fired with 7lb of powder. The Russian metal, contrary to all expectation, withstood the experiment unharmed, when a second round was fired with the same result. A few more of this class of guns, likewise captured at Bomarsund, are lying on the arsenal quay, and are to be subjected to a like change in their calibre. Colonel Wilmot, Captain Boxer, and the officers who accompanied them in their inspection of the continental foundries, have returned to Woolwich with the conviction that our foreign neighbours are supplied with gun materials far superior to our own.

Our clandestine trade with Russia was frankly confessed in a case which came before the Southwark magistrate, on Wednesday, in which a labourer was charged with stealing a quantity of Russian tallow from Mark Brown's wharf in the city. Mr. Combe asked who the tallow belonged to? One of the owners of Mark Brown's wharf said that the tallow had just come from Russia, consigned to an English firm; and it was unloading at this wharf, to be bonded for the owners:—

"Mr. Combe—'You say this is Russian tallow, and unloading from a vessel just arrived: how is it that you have Russian tallow from that country when we are at war?' Wharfinger—'Easy enough, sir. We have large dealings with Russia, although we are at war, and our money is extensively received there in return. Nearly all our tallow comes from Russia.' Mr. Combe—'How does it come from Russia, when all her ports are blockaded and the war is proceeding?' Witness—'It comes through Prussia, your worship. The tallow in question came from Memel, in a Dutch

vessel. Mr. Combe—'What part of Russia does this tallow come from?' Wharfinger—'From St. Petersburg. It is there sold by the merchants on English account to the care of a Prussian firm, who convey it through Russia and Prussia to Memel, where it is publicly shipped to England. Not only tallow comes into the market largely from Russia, but hemp, flax, and dyewoods. We are constantly receiving those sort of goods; but tallow is declining, so much so that the prices are much higher, having risen to 7s. the cwt.'"

The prisoner was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

#### DRUNKENNESS IN THE ARMY.

To the Editor of the Guardian.

SIR,—The enclosed extracts are taken from a letter written by my brother, Captain Preston, of the 90th, in February last. He has fought a good fight, his day's work is over, and his soul is, we hope, in peace in the hand of a merciful Father. I am encouraged to send these extracts because so much might be done during the coming winter for the instruction and spiritual welfare of our brave soldiers. Surely it is a sad thing to leave those who love God, and who cling to Him the closer amid danger, disease and death, un comforted and unsupported by those holy ordinances which He has appointed. Yet I do not say so much for them; they "are the salt of the earth;" they have that within them which may survive even this. But to leave the indifferent, the degraded, the drunken and depraved, unchecked in these sins is most awful. Shall no effort worthy of England be made to save those whose bodies we bring under discipline, and send forth to fight our battles? Shall we permit our soldiers to die as we will not our felons, without the benefit of clergy? Punishment has been found quite insufficient to stop the sin of drunkenness alone. Can nothing else be done? Is the Church powerless in this? Wealth unequalled has been poured into our country from every clime under the sun; yet a Minister lately insulted the Church and nation by saying that England was unable to pay the small allowance made to a colonial Bishop. Is the same excuse to hold good with regard to our army? Can England send thousands to support her own honour, and so few to support the honour of God? Surely, if victory be indeed in the hands of God, we may well submit to some sacrifice to obtain His blessing. Something has undoubtedly been done since February last, more especially by the noble Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, but a Christian nation may and ought to do more.

I am, yours faithfully,

Warcop Hall, Nov. 19.

C. M. P.

"Camp before Sebastopol, Feb., 1855.

"My dear —, I received your considerate and welcome letters about the 20th, as I was sitting in a hole or the hill-side among the snow, on outlying picket. A slight thaw had come on and the snow was dropping into our den, gradually making the floor into cold thick mud, and I was eating my dinner, which consisted of cold creamless tea, a few slices of cold fried bacon in a pewter tawcer, and a mouthful of stinky ration biscuit, when my faithful Ockates produced your letters. I immediately said to the officer on duty with me, 'Well, I don't care for dinner now, as a letter from home is both meat and drink,' and forthwith proceeded to masticate the contents, charitably dropping any stray crumbs of news into my friend's anxious ear. I had been accustomed to say to any one who asked me, except my mother, brothers, &c., that I was a wanderer on the face of God's earth; furthermore my heart was hardened with humanity; the more I examined it in the profession I had chosen, coarseness, brutality and debauchery running riot, without a spark of high-mindedness, disinterestedness and virtue. If a man tried to do well, his company was avoided. I prayed to God, and said,—'My Father, is this the battle of life, and the beginning of my journey; give me, I pray Thee, one friend.' The merciful God hearkened and gave me a friend who was the same in joy and sorrow, in honour and dishonour, and who was a comfort to me in those dark moments (the lot of every creature) when the sunshine of God's Spirit is turned to darkness. Then I rejoiced and praised God in a loud voice when I was alone, and with a low and heartfelt whisper among men, for what He had done. But now it appears that He has granted more benefits to me, who am stubborn and wicked, and has shown me that I have relations and the kindest of friends who before were hid from me."

After some description of the state of things, then he says—"As for looking after our souls, I have only seen a chaplain twice since landing (the 4th December), once to speak to G—, who was sick, and on Christmas day to administer the sacrament to him.

"Again, I am afraid our prayers are hurried and few, but God knows our hearts. I look upon it as a national sin, for a great people to send out a large and Christian army, and make so much noise about their being clothed properly as to their bodies, but have lost sight entirely of their being in a state of the most frightful destitution in regard to their souls. I look upon the many disasters of shipwreck, death, and mismanagement in the light of punishments for the great sin of the nation, not thinking it worth while to look after so momentous a matter. Perhaps the chaplain may visit the hospital once in three weeks; say 100 men have died in that time, struggling at their last gasp with the pains of diarrhoea and cramps, together with the anguish of an unburthened soul. It is not the fault of the chaplains, for they are good and devoted men, but there is not one quarter enough of them. I am far within my mark when I say, one man in every fifty who die may receive spiritual comfort "H. P."

On Friday evening, the 20th, Pearson, a private 4th Light Dragoons, arrived back from the Crimea by the 8 o'clock evening train, at Pen-ith, his native place. He was met at the station by a multitude of his fellow-townsmen and the yeomanry band. This hero of Balacava—one of the very few who survived that fearful onslaught—was at once chaired and carried shoulder-height through the town to his poor mother's residence. During the procession from the station the crowd swelled into thousands, music with unceasing cheers rent the air, and every heart beat high in joy at this soldier's return from the war. Few there be in this district who on their return from the East have received this truly expressive congratulation of the people.—*Local Paper.*

It has been decided by the Court of Queen's Bench, in Dublin, that a clergyman of the Church of England, can legally marry himself. The case, *Beamish v. Beamish*, was decided on Saturday. The plaintiff was *Albert S. Beamish*, son of the eldest son, and the defendant, *Henry Albert Beamish*, second son of Dr. John Swane Beamish; and the two parties each laid claim to the property of the latter, who died intestate. The point for the decision of the Court was, whether the plaintiff was legitimate, his father, the Rev. S. S. Beamish, a priest of the Church of England (Dr. Beamish's eldest son), having himself performed in a private house in Cork the ceremony of marriage between himself and *Isabella Frazer*, the mother of the plaintiff; no other witness having been present, except that a woman, named Catherine Coffey, saw what was going on from an adjoining yard, &c. did not hear the words. The facts, however, were not disputed. The Court (Messrs. Justices Crampton, Ferrin, and Meera,) gave an unanimous judgement that the marriage so performed was valid, and the plaintiff entitled to the property.

A sharp controversy has been going on and still rages respecting an alleged case of "Bible burning" at Kingstown, in Ireland. The persons charged with this act of impiety or indecency, who seems by his name to be a Flemish Redemptorist, denies it strenuously, and asserts that nothing was burnt by his direction but "immoral books." True or false, the story is believed, and has created so much excitement that Mr. Keogh has been induced or ordered to direct a prosecution to be instituted, in the hope of getting at the facts, a hope in which, considering the imaginative temperament of Irishmen, we are hardly sanguine enough to share.

#### FRANCE.

The following is the Speech of the Emperor of the French at the close of the Paris Exhibition:—

"Gentlemen—The Exhibition now about to close offers to the world a good example. It is during a serious war that, from all points of the universe, men the most distinguished in science, arts and industry, have hastened to Paris to display their labours to the world. This concourse, under such circumstances, is due. I have the pleasure to believe, to that general conviction that the war which is now carried on is attended with no danger save for those who have been its cause; that it is prosecuted for the interest of all; and that Europe, so far from regarding it as danger for the future, considers it rather as a pledge of independence and security.

"Nevertheless, on beholding the many marvels spread before our eyes, the first impression is a desire for peace. Peace alone, in fact, can develop to a greater degree these remarkable products of human intelligence. You must, therefore, like myself, entertain a wish that this peace may be speedy and durable. But to be durable, it must decisively solve the question upon which war has arisen. To bring it about speedily, Europe must pronounce itself: for without the pressure of general opinion, struggles between great