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OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

THE KAFFIR WAR.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—The unsettled condition of affairs in Kaffirland occasions much anxiety at home. In the midst of the all-absorbing interest of the Eastern Question, the trouble in Africa is not as frequently referred to, as its importance demands, but it is already compelling the despatch of extra troops and munitions of war. The disaffected tribes have made a successful raid into a peaceful territory and carried off large numbers of cattle, attacking and driving back the escort of the mails. We hear of an engagement with 700 of the Gaiques, and of their defeat with a loss of 100 lives. They are yet sufficiently strong to cause much apprehension, and the war will inflict much suffering on a wide district of country, by the loss of valuable crops and cattle, and also seriously retard some portions of missionary work in that quarter.

THE ROYAL MARRIAGE

at Madrid has been an event of wide-reaching importance. The young King has firmly adhered to his choice of a consort in the face of much opposition. The marriage is said to be one of deep and true affection, and in this respect contrasts favorably with other Spanish marriages of which the world has heard so much. The bride is of the Montpensier family and cousin to her husband. The family are liberal in their views, and on this account the match has been bitterly opposed by the deposed Isabella, the King's mother, and the ultra-despotic party which sighs for the return of the days of absolutism and persecution. The marriage festivities were disarranged by the spectacle of a bull fight on a splendid scale, and full of cruelty to the tortured and half-maddened beasts. Spain is not yet freely open for evangelistic work and Bible circulation. There are so many restrictions, the little local authorities have so much power, and the priestly element is so universal, that very much yet remains to be conceded before Spain is as free and accessible as Italy. Protestant agencies are not driven out, but they are impeded on every hand, and the work has to be done in silence, concealment, and other very harassing limitations.

THE EASTERN QUESTION

has been of absorbing interest since I last wrote, and every hour that passes, brings into view some new phase of affairs. The Russian armies have been wonderfully active and successful. All the while that negotiations for an armistice have been in progress, they have been busily pushing forward, overpowering all resistance, until to-day there is but a small portion of Turkey of which they are not in possession. So rapid and determined has their advance been, that it was believed that Gallipoli and Constantinople were in danger.

THE ENGLISH FLEET

was suddenly ordered to enter the Dardanelles for the protection of British interests. The war cloud hanging over us, was indeed dark and threatening, and there seemed but little prospect of escaping the sad embroilment. Then the fleet was recalled, and the nation became excited over the resignation of two distinguished Cabinet Ministers who were opposed to Lord Beaconsfield's policy in regard to the fleet. Lord Carnarvon left the Cabinet but the Earl of Derby was induced to withdraw his resignation. The Government demanded a vote of

£6,000,000

for war stores and preparations, and intense excitement was manifested. The proposal has been met in Parliament by a determined opposition on the part of the leading members of the Liberal party, and the debate is still dragging its slow length night after

night in the House of Commons. It is probable that the money will be voted as the Tory majority will hold together, yet there will be a formidable minority.

THE ARMISTICE

has been signed and the mandate has gone forth for hostilities to cease throughout the entire field of war in Europe and Asia. Just at the last, Ezeroum fell into the hands of the Russians, and another important gain in Asia was thus effected.

THE TERMS

of peace are not fully known, but they are generally represented as very hard upon Turkey. This is not to be wondered at, when the terrible losses of Russia are considered and the entire collapse of the military power of the Porte.

THE CONFERENCE

of the Great-Powers to finally decide upon some of the proposals is the next part of the exciting business, and this will be a concern of very great delicacy and difficulty. Russia, not unreasonably, looks with suspicion upon the eagerness of the European Powers to enter upon a Conference to settle a great question, for which they have not spent a farthing or lost a man. It is from their point of view looked upon as a mere device to deprive Russia of what she has gained at a tremendous sacrifice of blood and treasure.

Feb. 7, 1878.

"B."

GRACIOUS WORK IN CARBON-
EAR, N. F.

CARBON-EAR, N. F., Feb. 17, 1878.

DEAR BRO. NICOLSON.—I send you the enclosed which I have cut from the *Public Ledger*, of Feb. 1st, sent by one of our Carbon-Ear friends:—

CARBON-EAR, JAN. 23, 1878.

MR. EDITOR.—We have for the past fortnight or more been favored with a visit in this town from Messrs Hutchison and Bromley, the Evangelists, who labored with so much success and acceptance with you in St. John's. We are happy to state that their labors among us have been crowned with the Divine blessing. Our spacious Wesleyan church is thronged to overflowing night after night, and although the services have now been held over two weeks the interest does not in the least abate. As we have seen the congregations thus assembling from night to night we have asked ourselves, What is it about these services that is so attractive? Certainly the preachers are in down right earnest but are they the only ones that are such? We are happy to state they are not. There is, I believe, Mr. Editor, in this island labouring in the Evangelical churches as earnest a band of workers in the Lord's vineyard as can be found in the whole world. Is it because they preach another Gospel? Nay, it is the old, old story, of Jesus and His love. Salvation alone through Christ Jesus which is the glorious theme proclaimed from Sabbath to Sabbath in all our churches. Is it the songs of Zion which they sing and the very popular ennobling music to which these songs are set? This may, I have no doubt, have a wonderful effect upon the masses, and we see from day to day that it has, but after all I do not think this is the grand moving cause. What is it then you ask? I answer it is concentrated effort in full dependence upon the promised aid of the Divine Spirit to bless the church and to save precious souls. Did you ever see the churches more united in St. John's than these two brethren beloved continued when these two brethren beloved continued their services there? and so it is everywhere they labour. It is Christians laying aside their minor differences, and pleading earnestly with God to save the souls of perishing sinners. It is the churches putting forth their united strength to batter down the walls of the kingdom of Satan. This, I think, is the grand reason why evangelism is so successful. Hitherto their labors have been owned by the Great Head of the church in other places, and we are expecting great things in Carbon-Ear.

A young men's meeting has been organized and is very well attended. Already there are quite a number that have become decided as to religion. It is very pleasing to observe the great interest manifested by some of this class in their services. Some that before now scarcely ever attended such means of grace are now seldom absent. Such conduct cannot fail to be productive of good. There is a fine lot of young men in Carbon-Ear, as is to be found in any part of this island. May they all become the true followers of Christ.

The children's meetings, which are held on Saturday's at noon, have been delightful seasons and highly appreciated by the juveniles. The stirring addresses delivered by the ministers of the circuit, and the Evangelists were well received by the little ones, and the singing is delight-

ful. No doubt good will result from such services. The noon-day prayer meeting, is also well attended. Requests for prayer are numerous. The prayers are distinguished for brevity and earnestness, and the union of the Holy one rests upon the gatherings.

AN ATTENDANT UPON THE SERVICES.

Since then these two brethren beloved have labored continuously every night except one which was stormy, and have ministered to overflowing congregations. Last night there was not less than 1600 persons assembled to hear them. A great number of persons have professed conversion, most of these are men and most of these men are young. Not that a great many women have not believed. It rejoices one's heart to witness all classes and ages flocking to the Saviour. Not a few grey headed Gospel hardened sinners have felt the power and force of the Gospel hammer breaking in pieces their stony heart. This is the fifth week that these Evangelists have labored here. They are to continue with us another week, and then they propose to visit Brigus, Harbor Grace, Hearts Content, &c. May God bless them wherever they go.

I am pleased to inform you that God is graciously pouring out His Holy Spirit upon the churches in this island. Very few circuits had indications of the presence of Christ the Master, who is owning the labors of his servants. At Brigus Bro. Ladner is experiencing the soul converting power and numbers are being saved. At Blackhead and Western Bay many have lately found peace with God. At Hants Harbor some are deciding for Christ. The Random Sound missions is being successfully worked by two earnest young brethren, whose only danger is in doing more than can be expected from any preachers of the Gospel. One of them writing me on the 3rd of last month, states—"My colleague preached forty-seven times during the months of November and December, whilst in the same period of time I preached fifty-four times. All these are exclusive of meetings for prayer, class meetings, meetings for building purposes, &c. &c." This will prove to you and your readers that the toilers in the Master's vineyard in this island are doing their utmost to save precious immortal souls. I believe when we meet at Conference, whatever our financial condition be, our hearts will be cheered by the reports of showers of blessing descending upon God's heritage in this island.

I am sorry to inform you that two of our brethren are far from being well. Bro. Reay of Bonavista is suffering from ophthalmia. The worst is that the dear brother lost the sight of one eye when he was a boy, and now that the other is affected it renders him in a poor state to do his work. I am glad however to learn that Mr. Deakins, an evangelist, has gone to Bonavista which will be of great service especially at this juncture. May it please God soon to restore this dear brother to his beloved toil. Bro. Currie of Island Cove is laid aside. He has been ailing some time. He is suffering from general debility brought on by indigestion, and which was caused by the large amount of salt food of which he had to partake at one of the circuits to which he was appointed. He is excessively weak and has not left his home for the past three weeks. It will be some time before he will be able to preach. May I ask the prayers of God's people on behalf of these two dearly beloved brethren.

We are having a wonderfully mild winter, no snow worth speaking of until last Wednesday. On that day we were visited by a very severe gale and snow storm. The wind was N. N. E. A good deal of damage was done to the shipping in this and other harbors, but as far as I have been able to learn no lives were lost.

JOHN GOODISON.

Bishop Haven has started again on a leisurely trip towards his home in Atlanta, proceeding southward as his health permits. He is by no means strong. A little exertion renews his serious spinal attack. A judicious forbearance on the part of ministers in pressing a willing man to public service, will continue a valuable life to the Church, which hangs now by a slender and unravelled thread.—*Zion's Herald.*

TURNING THE TABLES.

It is sometimes said by confident Episcopalians that Methodism will return in due time to the fold of its fathers. We find this paragraph in English correspondence of the "Nashville Advocate," and give it as a set-off to the churchy notion:—

"Methodism is in full activity in many centers. Special services are meeting with encouraging success in some localities, and not a few new chapels and parsonages are in active progress. The signs of the times in this respect make it much more probable that, ere long, ordained clergymen of the Established Church will be seeking the pulpits of Methodism, instead of the stupid nonsense we have heard so much of from speculative ritualists, inviting Methodists to join the church. Be not surprised if the first step in that direction comes soon, and when the rubicon is once passed, all the Bishops on the bench will not be able to resist the current when it has once set in. One Saturday afternoon, when I was preparing material for my History of City Road Chapel, I was in the vestry, when Dean Stanley entered the chapel with Mr. Bruce, then Home Secretary, and when the Dean stood up in the pulpit, he spoke from it these words: 'Bruce, I would give £100 to preach from this pulpit.' He may yet preach there without having to pay the premium he volunteered. Chapel debts are being cancelled, large new chapels are being multiplied, and preachers' salaries increased; these signs are being carefully noted by the church."

WORDS OF WARNING.

The Leicester Rationalistic Conference was only the outward and visible sign of error which is spreading within the enclosures of English Congregationalism. It is said by those who ought to know that Deism and Rationalism are spreading among the Nonconformists. Only the other day we heard of a young Congregational minister who apologised for using the word "hell" in the pulpit. It is rumored that a committee has met in London to consider the theological dangers of Nonconformity. If this be so, it is only a further and stronger indication of the perilous condition of Independency. Judging from the signs of the times we are driven to the sorrowful conclusion that the Nonconformists are entering on a period in their church history which must end in a great theological disturbance. Sooner or later the tempest will come, and great will be the devastation. Would that it were otherwise!—*Watchman* (London.)

INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE LESSONS.

FIRST QUARTER: STUDIES ABOUT THE
KINGDOM OF JUDAH.

B. C. 742. LESSON IX. AHAZ'S PERSISTENT WICKEDNESS; OR, RUIN FOR THE TRANSGRESSOR. 2 Chron. 28, 19-27. Commit to memory verses 22-24. March 3d.

EXPLANATORY.

THE LORD BROUGHT JUDAH LOW. His chosen people were precious, and, therefore, when they sinned he would not refrain from the rod. He who loves must nevertheless punish sin. It is not safe to sin, trusting in the illimitable love of the Father. Because of Ahaz. The land suffered for its ruler's misdeeds, because it abhorred in them. Men are linked together in character and destiny. Every noble soul leads others upward; every wicked man draws others downward. King of Israel. Israel and Judah were so closely identified that this term is applied no less than six times to the kings of the southern tribes. Naked. Wicked Judah became weak, and, stripped of honor, stood shivering, in shame and disgrace. Transgressed sore. 1. He abandoned God's service. 2. He introduced from every adjoining nation its idols. 3. He sank into the grossest superstition and the most revolting crimes, even burning his

own children on the idol altars. 2 Kings 16, 3, 4. He was hardened and impenitent under the warnings of the prophets, and the blows of adversity.

TILGATH-PILNEZER. Elsewhere called Tiglath-pileser. He was a usurper who succeeded Pul on the throne of Nineveh, reigning B. C. 747-730. He founded a dynasty which greatly widened the Assyrian empire. Come unto him. While Philistia and Edom were harassing the southern boundaries of Judah, on the north its very existence was threatened by an alliance between Israel and Syria. Other kings had prayed to their fathers God, and found their foes discomfited; but Ahaz could think of no resource except to call the conquering Assyrians to his assistance. Distressed him, but strengthened him not. He impoverished Judah by quattering his armies upon its cities, and taking its treasures in tribute, and robbed it of honor by reducing it into subjection. Ahaz escaped the yoke of Syria only by wearing the heavier yoke of Assyria. He that seeks the world's assistance becomes its slave. [Teacher, suggest the thought that none can be associated with evil without becoming subject to evil. Boys who play with bad companions place themselves under their power.]

OUT OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD. How many thus pay their debts to the world, at the expense of their contributions to God's cause. Princes. The nobles who have led their kings into evil practices must share in his losses. Sin has its price, always heavier than godliness. One night of dissipated pleasure often costs more money than a year of attendance at church. Helped him not. He relieved Judah of the nearer foes, but riveted his own shackles on the kingdom. He found it free, and left it tributary. Contrast with this bitter bondage to the world the yoke which is easy and the burden which is light. Distress, though pass yet more. The hardest and most impenitent natures are those which will not yield even to sorrows heavy hand. Alone in the line of Judah's kings, this is that king Ahaz, of such intense depravity that he was made worse and not better by trial.

GODS OF DAMASCUS. He strove to propitiate and win over the gods of his oppressors, as if they were mightier than the God of Israel. So ancient nations were wont to offer sacrifices to the divinities of their foes, that they might seduce them to leave the guardianship of their own land. Ruin of him. God may permit those whose all is in this life to succeed while in sin, but will not allow his own people to enjoy the pleasures and profits of iniquity. Vessels of service. He robbed the temple of its golden ornaments, broke up the brazen laver, took away the twelve bronze oxen from beneath the "sea," and plundered the house to spend upon his sins. Shut up the doors. Not only neglecting and dishonouring God's house, he forbade others to enjoy its privileges. Altars in every corner. While putting out of sight God's altar, he kept every where in view idol altars, to tempt and mislead his people. [Teacher, remind your scholars of the altars of king Ahab, which stand at every corner in our cities.] In every city. Thus breaking up the unity of the nation, which was secured by one altar and one worship.

THE REST. See 2 Kings 16. Much of his atrocious record has been suffered to drop into oblivion. The chronicler lingers long on the good reigns of Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah, but passes rapidly over the dark days of Ahaz and Manasseh. Evil men may leave a greater influence, but the good have a longer memory. Slept with his fathers. A death without hope after a life without penitence. Not into the sepulchers. Even those who had shared in his sins despised him, and refused to place his ashes beside the graves of David and his kingly descendants. [Let young people remember that no one is honored by sin, but every one disgraced, even in the opinion of the world.]

GOLDEN TEXT: And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the Lord: this is that king Ahaz. 2 Chron. 28, 22.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION: Intensity of depravity.

The next lesson is 2 Chron. 29, 1-11.