

unhappily existing in the infant, may not form a let or hindrance to the right receiving of the Sacrament? Who can say whether the absence of faith and repentance in those who profess it in the child's name, may not frustrate the grace of God? Who can answer whether the faith of the child or of the minister shall suffice, though there be no more faith on the part of parents or sponsors than there can be in the infant child? Upon all these points we form inferences, offer plausible arguments, and strong opinions; but we shall never satisfy those who refuse to be satisfied till we can prove from Scripture the unconditional efficacy of Baptism as plainly as we can show the general necessity of Baptism to salvation. Meanwhile it is surely one among the subjects which is calculated to excite, to minister questions rather than to give edifying. Practically, the two parties must be like-minded, though they do not say the same thing. All will acknowledge, that in those who are come to age, there must be signs of a death unto sin and a new birth unto righteousness, in order that there may be a well-grounded hope of God's mercy through Christ. All must agree that if no signs of this change appear, the man needs still to be converted, or perish. And whether that conversion be called regeneration or renewal, what does it avail where we know that God will judge of every man, not according to word or to name but to deed and truth; and that the regenerate man will be cast into outer darkness if his works are the works of the unregenerate.

### News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Africa, May 26.

#### ENGLAND.

The House of Lords last night discussed Lord Althorpe's motion for further restrictions on trading with Russia. The noble lord declared that this country contributed ten millions sterling last year to Russia towards the carrying on the war, by the purchase of tallow and hemp, an abundant supply of which might be obtained from the colonies. The President of the Board of trade, Lord Stanley of Alderley, replied that the restrictions imposed by the present blockade had reduced the trade 50 or 60 per cent. More stringent ones would only recoil upon ourselves; and it was impossible to stop trading via Prussia. After a debate in which the resolutions were supported by the Earl of Derby, and Lords Ravensworth and Colchester on the one hand: and opposed on the other by the Marquis of Clanricarde, and Earls Granville and Grey, the motion was rejected on a division by 46 to 31.

On the motion of Mr. Gladstone, an address was agreed to for copies of addresses from the colonial Legislature, touching the legal position of the Bishops and other members of the Church of England in Canada.

The report of the Colonial Church & School Society states that during the past year the society had 28 clergymen, 95 lay missionaries and schoolmasters, 36 female teachers—in all, 172, being an increase of 19 on the agency of the preceding year. The income of the society, it appeared, was £13,429 0s. 11d., being an increase of £1,316 13s. 9d. on the preceding year: the expenditure, £14,109 2s. 11d. The meeting was addressed by the Bishop of Meath, the Rev. C. F. Childs, the Bishop of Melbourne, the Rev. J. C. Hyle, and others.

The *Kentish Gazette*, after observing that no intimation has been received from Mr. Villiers with respect to the representation of Rochester, mentions that at a meeting of the Local Conservative Committee in that city, it was stated that Mr. Bodkin, Q. C., would come forward if another election was necessary, and it was the wish of the Conservatives that he should do so. We understand that the course by which seats in the House of Commons are generally vacated is not open to the Honourable F. Villiers, since, should he apply for the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, the Crown would not grant office to one whose character has become notorious.

The *Sinla* arrived last week from Balaklava, bringing home Russian prisoners, and amongst them the Governor of Balaklava, who was first seized by the English army. In the confusion of the capture the Governor lost his wife and daughter, and has never heard of them since. He appeared quite broken-hearted on account of his misfortunes.

Abd-el-Kader is to be one of the lions at Paris during the Exhibition; he has asked and obtained permission to visit the capital.

Count Nesselrode has published a circular note, giving a Russian version of the proceedings at Vienna,

the object of which is to show that the Conference were suspended by the allies and not by their opponents. He says—

"It was only with a view of exhausting all the means of negotiation in its power that the Cabinet believed it met the views of those of London and Paris, by proposing to them to open the navigation of the Black Sea to the flags of all nations. Their refusal to adopt this mode of conciliation completely exasperated the Imperial Cabinet from insisting on it. Far from that, more than one reason, in our opinion, combined to favour the principle of the closing of the Straits, which we had consented to renounce, not in the sense of an exclusive policy, but with reference to the graver considerations of the general interest.

"In this situation which resulted to us from the issue of the Conference of the 21st of April, our Plenipotentiaries, liberated from the obligation to plead the cause of opening the Black Sea, rejected as it was by our adversaries themselves, resumed at liberty to propose a new plan.

"This comprised two articles. The first confirmed the ancient rule of the closing of the Straits. The second left the Sublime Porte itself to be the sovereign judge of the cases in which the interests of its security might require exceptions from this principle, and in which it might feel bound to call upon, according to circumstances, either the fleets of the Western Powers or those of Russia.

"The French Minister for Foreign Affairs, reiterating the declaration that he considered his instructions to be exhausted, did not think himself authorized to discuss the project thus actually offered for deliberation. The Ottoman Plenipotentiaries abstained from giving an opinion upon its merits. The Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in taking into consideration this proposal, saw with satisfaction that in Article 1 the principle of the closing had been substituted for that of the opening of the Straits. He thought moreover, that Article 2, which reserved to the Sultan the power of eventually calling to his aid foreign fleets, and of exceptionally opening the Straits, was susceptible of a practical application. The proposal appeared to him to be legitimately open to discussion, and to comprise elements of which Austria might avail itself as a means of approximation; but in the crude state in which affairs still were, he could not consider it as a basis of solution.

"On their side, the Plenipotentiaries of Russia maintained that it was they who, in the twelfth conference, placed on the protocol the last proposal tending to resolve the third point of the negotiations: and, again, that they presented, with the same view, the new ideas which formed the subject of the thirteenth conference. They concluded by declaring that they had amply redeemed their word in thus proposing several modes of solution. This declaration, tendered by Prince Gortschakoff, closed the sitting of the 26th of April. On the following day the French Minister for Foreign Affairs quitted Vienna on his return to Paris.

"Such is the summary of negotiations up to the 16th (28th) of April. In order to preserve from this expose the character of simplicity and calmness which belong to a historical statement, we have been careful to keep clear of all recrimination. It was enough to establish the facts and their connection, to enlighten you as to the intentions which the Imperial Cabinet has prominently put forth upon each of the questions under deliberation. We will briefly recapitulate them.

"The first was one of political rivalry. The Emperor considered the matter in a higher point of view. He took it in the sense of the well-being of the Principalities, of which Russia had promised to guarantee the prosperity. She has kept, and will know still how to keep, this promise.

"The second was intimately connected with the general interests of commerce. The Emperor decided in favour of the commercial freedom of all nations.

"The third concerned not only the common equilibrium, but closely interested the dignity and honour of Russia. So our august master judged. The national feeling of the whole country will respond to this decision.

"The fourth was a question of religious liberty, of civilization, and social order, for all Christendom. In the judgement of the Imperial Cabinet, it was one which would one day be placed at the head of a treaty of general pacification that might be worthy of being invested with the sanction of all the Sovereigns of Europe. The Plenipotentiaries of England and France even refused to entertain this question of religious interests before the one that concerned the navigation of the Black Sea should be arranged.

"After this explanation, we have nothing to add to the recital which I have just made."

#### ITALY.

An eruption of Vesuvius having just broken out, a correspondent of the *Times* sends the following graphic account:

"You may conceive my delight this day last week, the 1st of May, when I came to dine at—, and the servants told me that Vesuvius had broken out in a violent state of eruption. I thought the dinner would have never ended, I was so impatient to go and see it; however, at nine o'clock—ordered his carriage, and we drove to Santa Lucia, which is, you know, the quarter of the Vesuvius side. It was a lovely night, without a cloud, and the moon as bright as in the month of August. As we turned the Chiatamone there was the mountain standing out of the plain against the blue starry heavens, and a broad stream of lava slowly rolling down its cone, and from the summit a thick cloud of smoke spread over it in the shape of a gigantic pine tree, the lower part of which, from the reflected fire, was red, while higher up a thick black layer of smoke, with a white top, lay curling over like the foliage of the tree. The lava was streaming in one broad flood from about half-way up the mountain's cone, whence, when it got to the bottom, it seemed, from the ground being less steep, to crawl along until it reached the edge of the old crater that forms the vacuum between Vesuvius and Monte Somma. Here it found itself arrested on the brink of an abyss some 200 or 300 feet wide; and from the distance we were at, we could see the stream of fire rushing over like a vast cataract, with immense boulders of red hot rocks hurled over, and chasing each other down until the ground got more even, and the speed slackened. From this point the lava crept on, but so slowly, that it was difficult to mark its progress; and the effect was beautiful as it burned the trees it met in its course, which flamed up with a bright blue light like Roman candles. The reflection of the burning mountain was thrown across the sea on the very edge of the spot where we were standing, and formed a lovely contrast to the beams of the pale silvery moon as they lit up Capri and the Sorrento coast. The best remains to be told.

—proposed going on to Portici to see the eruption nearer. When we got there I suggested Messina as preferable; and, in short, if ended by his taking a donkey we met, and I walked. So we proceeded, both of us dressed as we were, in thin evening shoes and light apparel, until we reached the summit of the mountain, after a severe tug of two hours. However, we were well repaid, and I shall never forget the scene, and we stood within a few yards of the cataract of fire which I mentioned before. A strong wind blew the smoke over Monte Somma, but the heat was terrible, for we were pretty near it, of which we may judge when I tell you that, *saute de mieux*, I lit a cigar from the edge of the torrent as it rolled over the edge of the mountain.

We remained there some three hours, which passed quickly enough, and as we descended the mountain we were gratified at seeing the eclipse of the moon, which took place at about three o'clock in the morning, and of which previously we knew nothing. In short, we were very fortunate in the night, for it was the only one on which the moon had shone since this day last week. As you may suppose, the lava has made great progress, and it does not seem to be diminished. I went again, but to another part, last Sunday night. It was then threatening a village called San Sebastiano, for it has already got into the plain, and had destroyed an infinity of property. I hear to day that the stream is 600 feet in breadth, and has engulfed three houses. They have sent firemen to build walls to try and turn the direction of the stream. However that won't do much good. When I was there last Saturday, it was a curious sight to see the wretched proprietors cutting down their vines and trees to save the wood. Thousands of people were standing in front of the advancing flood, for in the plain there is no danger, as it moves about fifty yards in five hours. When it is likely to cease nobody can tell, as every day the mountain opens fresh craters, and it is likely to continue to do so. To-day we have an awful storm, and it is thundering and lightning and raining torrents, such torrents as are only seen in Naples. If it clears up—and I am going this evening to see 'the village destroyed.' People talk of it as if they were going to the Surrey Gardens. However, it is a joke for the owners; and a branch stream has made a direction of its own towards a lovely villa belonging to the Marquis St. Angelo, and in all probability by to-morrow he will have an unpleasant neighbour in his flower-garden. This is the most popular eruption, they say, that has ever been known, and all the world goes to Vesuvius of an evening. The King and