

**CONVERSIONS**—On Sunday evening last five persons publicly renounced the errors of Popery in St. James' Church, Latchford, Warrington, and were received into communion with the Church of England by the Rev. James Wright, incumbent. This is the seventh time during the last fifteen months the rev. gentleman has performed a similar pleasing ceremony.

**CHAPLAIN OF CHOBHAM CAMP**.—We are gratified in hearing that the Rev. G. W. Langmead has been appointed by the Right Hon. Secretary at War to be staff chaplain to the army encamped at Chobham. The duties of Plymouth garrison during his absence will be taken by the Rev. G. Fortescue.

**THE NATIONAL ORPHAN HOME** has at length been brought so efficiently and deservedly under public notice, that it has attracted the most distinguished patronage. We have reason to believe that the philanthropic individual referred to in the advertisement, which will be found in another column, is the Reverend Joseph Brown, Rector of Christ Church, Blackfriars-road, whose benevolent exertions on this and other occasions give him a title to have his name inscribed on the same page with "Howard" himself. With such an array of influential personages as are now desirous of supporting the Orphan Home, and who are to assemble on Saturday week, no doubt need be entertained that the institution will flourish.

**SHOCKING ACCIDENT**.—PORTSMOUTH, JUNE 22.—A frightful accident occurred on board H. M. S. *London*, 90, Hutton, during her passage from Lisbon, and which resulted in the immediate death of seven individuals. The accident occurred on Wednesday morning, the ship at the time being in tow of the *Imperieuse*, 50, screw frigate, Captain R. B. Watson. The tow-rope from the *Imperieuse* was joined to the *London's* chain messenger on the lower deck, the latter being made fast to the ringbolt. The messenger does not seem to have been properly secured to the bits, and a sudden strain taking place, the ringbolt was carried away, and the cable flew round with tremendous velocity, and force, killing six men who were sitting down at their dinner at the time, and Lieut. Chapman, and wounding nine others.

**BOMBAY, MAY 23**.—The past fortnight in India has been as barren of incident as the one that preceded it. The season is said to be the hottest on record during the last 15 years, and every one who can get away from the plains has departed for the nearest hill station. There is nothing new from Burmah, except the evidence of a disposition on the part of the authorities to keep the public from ascertaining the true state of affairs. The insurrection in Pegu is said to be checked for the present; it was headed by the ex-Tseetkays of Martaban and Beling, the latter named Pang-tha; a third chief, named Morry Goore, with a large body of Burmese, threatened Sitang, but succours were despatched from Shogyin, and drove him off. These leaders are said to be acting under orders of the Court of Ava.—On the re-capture of Beling, Pang-tha took to the jungles, and applied for assistance to a chief, who thinking that to conciliate the English was the more prudent course, had him assassinated, and sent his head "preserved with salt in a box," to the British Commissioner of Beling. Nothing further has transpired regarding the progress of our negotiations with the Court of Ava. The Burmese Commissioners have been allowed 30 days to sign the revised treaty. Opinions differ regarding the probabilities of an accommodation, but, should the Burmese not have signed the treaty by the expiration of the term allowed them, an advance on Ava will take place. It would appear that an unfavourable reply is not thought an impossible event, for the superintending engineer at Rangoon has received instructions from the Commodore to get all the small steamers ready in case of an advance on Ava. From the north-west frontier there is nothing of any moment to communicate. At Cabool, Gholam Hyder Khan, the son of Dost Mahomed, has pitched his camp near the city, with the view of going to Kandabar to aid the chiefs against the intended march of the Herat troops. The King of Bokhara is said to be threatening an attack upon Balk, which belongs to the Dost, in revenge for the murder of Mahomed Khan by a Cabool chief. The Nizam has decided upon ceding to the British Government the territory which it demanded of him, in lieu of his debt and stipulated annual payment to the contingent. The terms of the agreement are certainly favourable to his Highness: in consideration of a revenue of 36 lacs of rupees (£360,000) being given up, the English Government foregoes the entire debt due by the Nizam, and remits an annual payment of 40 lacs (£400,000). The newly-ceded district, Berar, is a continuation of the valley of Kandeish; it immediately adjoins the Company's collectors of Kandeish and Ahmednugger, and is the richest cotton district in India.

**THE OPERATIONS AGAINST MEATOON**.—Sir J. Cheape's despatches relative to the operations against Meatoon have been published; they are extremely val-

uminous, and are thought by no means satisfactory. It is very remarkable that no private accounts of this action have as yet transpired. Our loss seems to have been as follows:—Killed and wounded, 143; died of cholera, 103. Total, 246. Sir J. Cheape assembled his force at a point eleven or twelve miles distant from Meatoon's main position, which was near Koomenzeen. There were two routes leading to the enemy, of which he selected the most northerly. The force was divided into two columns or wings, the right commanded by Major Wigston, consisting of Her Majesty's 18th Royal Irish, Her Majesty's 80th, and the 4th Sikhs, with a detail of Sappers and Miners; and the left commanded by Lieut.-Col. Stuart, and consisting of the 58th Light Infantry and the 67th Bengal Native Infantry, with the guns and irregular cavalry. These columns were to advance *en echelon* each leading alternately, and one always covering the rear of the other. Major Wigston, with the right wing, opened the ball. At 2 p. m. on the 17th he left Sir J. Cheape and the left wing, and advanced three miles in the jungle, stormed a breastwork occupied by the enemy, and bivouacked for the night within it. Early next morning Sir J. Cheape and the left wing advanced in their turn, passed the right wing, which became the rear guard, got over about a mile more of rough road, much entangled with wood, halted for an hour at noon near some water, and, after struggling on another mile, were brought to a standstill by a heavy fire on the left flank and front, proceeding from a breastwork covered by an abattis, the whole much obscured by the smoke of fires the enemy had lighted for the purpose of concealing their position. The 67th and the Rifles kept down the enemy's fire on the left flank, while a path to the front was cleared for the guns and rockets. The 51st Queen's and 67th Native Infantry then advanced to the attack, and carried the breastwork with great slaughter of the enemy. Ensign Boileau, fell on this occasion. The enemy were followed up on the open road for about a mile, and then Sir J. Cheape and the left wing halted for the night, about three miles from the enemy's position. It was now again the turn of the right wing to lead, and early on the morning of the 19th they passed the left wing and advanced to the attack of the enemy's main position, the road lying along the bank of a stream flowing on their right, at the head of which, and parallel to its course, Meatoon's position was situated. The right wing would therefore first come in contact with the left flank of the enemy's position. Meatoon's position extended about 1,200 yards from the head of the stream, which our right wing was following up. His left rear was covered up by an extensive impassable marsh; his position was only defended by a breastwork covered by an abattis, but the jungle was so tangled that it was difficult to comprehend the extent of his position in the nature of his defences. The path along which the right wing advanced was narrow; the 80th Queen's was leading. On coming opposite the enemy's left flank the firing commenced, and rapidly became very heavy. Major Wigston of the 8th was struck down.—Major Armstrong, with the 4th Sikhs, was sent in support of the 80th, the Sappers and Miners meanwhile, working away at the path to allow of the advance of the guns. Major Armstrong, the commander of the Sikhs, was also wounded. Lieut. Johnston, the only remaining officer of the 4th Sikhs, "persevered most bravely, but it only increased the loss." (From this it would appear that the 80th had dispersed or abandoned the point of attack.) Sir J. Cheape now arrived at the front; he perceived that the 80th and Sikhs had dispersed in a jungle in the hope of getting around the enemy's extreme right. The 18th Royal Irish now came up "and the fire of grape and musketry was so heavy that they also got scattered, and sustained great loss." Sir J. Cheape at last succeeded in ascertaining notwithstanding the smoke and fire, "that there was no water or obstruction that might not easily be surmounted, if the troops could pass through the enemy's fire, a distance of 20 or 30 yards. The assembly was accordingly sounded, with a view of getting together. Major Reid now brought up a 24-pound howitzer, which was opened on the enemy's breastwork, within 25 yards, with marked effect. Major Reid was immediately wounded, but the fire of the gun was kept up by Lieutenant Ash. Finding that he could not re-assemble a sufficient number of the right wing, Sir J. Cheape now ordered up a reinforcement from the left wing, which, uniting with the men of the right wing, who had been collected by Major Holdich, "advanced in a manner that nothing could check," and carried the breastwork at once. Lieut. Taylor and Ensign Worsley fell in this last charge. Lieutenant Trevor, of the Engineers, was the first who entered the enemy's breastwork.

## FOREIGN.

**CIRCULAR NOTE OF THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TO ITS DIPLOMATIC AGENTS**.—The *Journal of St. Petersburg*, of the 12th of June, publishes an important document. It is a circular note, dated the 11th of June, relative to the Turkish question, and addressed by the Russian Government to all its diplomatic agents abroad: to be communicated by each of them to the Government to which he is accredited. In this circular note the Government protests energetically against the ideas of invasion attributed to it, and affirms that in the complications which have arisen in the East, it is only a question of the Holy Places. It passes in review all the incidents of the question, and endeavours to demonstrate that the protectorate claimed by the Czar over the Greeks in the East cannot be contested either in principle or in fact. The note then declares that the want of sincerity displayed in this question by the Turkish Government, which had acceded to Russia and France respectively contradictory firmans in favour of the Greeks and Latins, obliges the Russian Government to demand guarantees for the future. It demanded at first to have these guarantees inserted in a formal convention between Russia and the Porte; but afterwards, from a spirit of conciliation, it successively reduced its demand to the *Sened*; finally to an engagement taken by the Porte, in the shape of a note addressed by the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia. This note, the Russian Government declares, contains the extreme limits of its concessions, and that if within the delay of eight days the Porte does not accept purely and simply that proposition, which has already been the subject of the last communication of Prince Menschikoff to Reschid-Pacha, and on the first refusal of which it determined the departure of that envoy, Russia will be obliged to take the necessary measures to cut the knot which it would have been her earnest desire to loose peacefully; but it throws upon the Porte and those who have encouraged it to resist the demands of Russia, the responsibility of all the fatal consequences which the resistance will engender for the peace of the world.

**TURKEY**.—The Porte maintains a resolute attitude, and has addressed a note to the representatives of foreign powers at Constantinople, in which Prince Menschikoff's demand is alluded to as impossible to be complied with. "However great" says the Sultan, "may be the desire of the Porte to cherish and preserve more and more the most amicable relations with Russia, she can never engage herself by such a guarantee towards a foreign Government, either concluding with it a treaty, or signing a simple official note, without compromising gravely her independence and the most fundamental rights of the Sultan over his own subjects." The note then proceeds to speak of the preparations on the part of Russia which are going forward on a large scale in the localities bordering on the Ottoman empire, and says in conclusion that "the Porte, animated by no hostile intention, and as a simple measure of prudence, feels compelled to take measures of self-defence. She declares then, from the date of this note, that she intends to reinforce her army, and to take all necessary measures of self-defence, and she makes an appeal to the Powers who signed the treaty of 1841, cherishing the firm hope that on this occasion these Powers will decide that right and justice is on the side of the Porte." It is needless to add a single word in praise of the moderation and good spirit of this note. Meanwhile the preparations are, as the note intimates, proceeding rapidly; and M. Lacour, in virtue of instructions he has just received from Paris, has officially declared to the Minister of Foreign Affairs that France will side with the Porte. Lord Stratford has not yet received his despatches to enable him to act decidedly at so un contemplated a crisis.

On the 29th, the Sultan having come to the important decision of sending his fleet into the Black Sea, a couple of steam tugs commenced the operation of towing the three-deckers in the direction of Bayukdere. The fleet is composed of 27 vessels, large and small, carefully equipped, and well manned. The greatest activity prevails at the arsenal to fit up two frigates and the 110-gun man of war, to be ready for the middle of next month. The Minister of War has sent out an immense quantity of ammunition and clothing for the redifs, who have now begun to pour in from all directions. It is well known that the whole of the militia, amounting to 200,000 and odd men, have been called under arms, and will be organised as regular troops. Namick Pasha is appointed to the command of the troops on the Danube.

There is some ferment at Milan; and new arrests, with a concentration of troops on the neighbouring frontier of Ticino, are mentioned.