

to ourselves any scene of sensual pleasure like the Paradise of the Mahometans, yet it is impossible to conceive it other than (as our homely styles it) "a place of rest, pleasure and consolation." For if it is an abode from which gloom and obscurity are banished, then surely too it is no great sleeping-chamber where the souls of the blest slumber tranquilly, but where they live in a state of felicity and confident hope. For if Paradise was girdled about with all that is lovely, yet its delights would be thrown away, if the souls which inhabit it were asleep. But that this is not the case, is plain from what has been before said; for when for a moment "a veil was drawn aside, and the Apostle was caught up thither, he "heard unspeakable words;" and therefore it is no dormitory for the soul, but words are uttered there—"unspeakable words," which disembodied spirits are enabled to hear, but which cannot be uttered here below, or which, if they could, it would not be lawful for a man to utter."

And if we turn to the Book of Revelations, (Rev. vi. 9,) we shall find that the martyred saints offer prayers to God; for when the fifth seal was opened St. John says—"I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held. and they cried with a loud voice saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them: and it was said that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren that should be killed as they were should be fulfilled." Where we find "the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and who were under the altar" ("under the protection of Christ—under the powers and benefits of His priesthood, by which He makes continual intercession both for them and for us") so far from being asleep, crying with a loud voice for the accomplishment of that time, when vengeance should be fully acted on their murderers.

(To be concluded next week.)

News Department.

From papers by R. M. S. Canada, August 18.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—As we announced last week, upon the faith of our private letters from the Baltic, the British and French fleets have attacked the fortress of Sveaborg; and, as we ventured to predict—on the faith of the spirit, zeal, and gallantry of the officers and men of the united Navies—the attack was signally successful. In far less time than could have been reasonably anticipated the fortress was destroyed; and, what adds to the splendour of the victory, without detracting from its value in any respect, it appears to have been unattended with the loss of a single life to the assailants. Sveaborg no longer exists as a fortress; and Helsingfors stands helpless at our mercy. Thus the achievement which last year appeared to Sir Charles Napier too formidable to attempt with the ships and the men at his disposal, has this year proved of easy accomplishment to Admiral Durdas and his brave companions. It is possible that Sir Charles Napier was right in 1854, and that he had for his purpose neither proper ships nor properly-disciplined crews. If this be the correct state of the case, it shows that the interval has been well employed, and that no time has been lost in the Baltic since the deficiency was made manifest. But, if Sir Charles Napier were wrong in his estimate of the means at his disposal, what account shall he render to his country or his conscience? Success in 1854 would not only have been more glorious than it is in 1855, but would have been accompanied by the additional loss to the Russians of eight ships of the line, which, pending Sir Charles Napier's inactivity, succeeded in making their escape to the securer fortress of Cronstadt. On this point, however, even if Sir Charles were to blame, which we by no means allege, it would be ungenerous at this moment to dwell. It is sufficient for the country to know that opportune victory has rewarded the energy and skill of its champions. The destruction of Bomarsund was no mean blow to the power of Russia; that of Sveaborg is greater still, that of Cronstadt, for which the public appetite is whetted by the last news from the Baltic, will be greatest of all. Not even the overthrow of Sebastopol itself would transcend in importance; for, with Cronstadt annihilated, there would be nothing to stop the Allies from taking possession of St. Petersburg. This is perhaps too much to hope for, during the short interval that yet remains before the commencement of the Baltic winter; but in every case the country will be satisfied with what has been done, especially on reflection that not only by battle, but by blockade, the enemy is beaten and hu-

milited, and that, as a naval and maritime power, Russia is annihilated by the mere presence of our squadrons in the Baltic and the Black Seas, and that neither her hostile fleets nor her peaceful merchant-vessels dare to show themselves in any sea or ocean of the globe, with the sole exception of the landlocked Caspian.

From Sebastopol there is nothing new; but it is evident that a decisive movement, first against the Malakoff, and next against the town, cannot be far distant. It was not by accident, but by design, that the last great attack was made on the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. Neither will it be by accident if the next attack should happen to be made on the 18th of this month. That day is the fate of Napoleon—a day which the French army would be but too happy to render more memorable than it is by a deed of glory, and in which the British, we are equally confident, would be quite as happy to aid them.

Thirteen officers and midshipmen of the *Ziger* have recently been liberated by the Czar, in exchange for Russian officers. They arrived at Stettin, on their way home, last week.

It is stated that on her Majesty's return from France, his Royal Highness the Prince Consort will take a trip up the Baltic in the Royal yacht.

Amongst the clergy of Bristol who now have recourse to the practice of open-air preaching may be numbered the vicars of St. James and St. Philip and Jacob, the Revs. W. Bruce and S. E. Day. The practice has also been commenced by laymen, both of the Church and Nonconformist; amongst the former is Dr. Bernard, of Clifton; and amongst the latter, Mr. Richard Ball, of Kingsdown.—*Bath Chron.*

At the approaching civic elections, David Salomons, Esq., being the senior alderman below the chair, will, according to the practice of the Court of Aldermen, be called to fill the office of chief magistrate for the year commencing the 9th of November. Mr. Salomons will be the first Jew Lord Mayor of London. No opposition is anticipated.

RUSSIA.

Highlights above Sebastopol, July 27, 1855.

From the activity which the French are showing in pushing forward their works, it seems pretty certain that in the meantime there will be no change of plan, as far as the siege of Sebastopol is concerned. Their batteries are assuming the shape of a crescent or semi-circle round the front of the Malakoff, and if we may judge by the incessant cannonading kept up by the enemy against these extended works, with a view to dismantle them, they must be deemed to be of a very threatening character.

Before this letter reaches you, it is not improbable that the electric telegraph may have conveyed to England intelligence of another more formidable attack on the redoubtable fortress, and of a still more determined resistance on the part of our heroic foes than those of the 18th of June. The battery for the destruction of the Russian shipping, it is supposed, will open simultaneously with those placed against the Malakoff. The British, it is supposed, will have their share of work. The Redan will be, as before, their point of attack.

"Our great anxiety to escape another winter here, I am afraid will not be gratified. The capture and occupation of Sebastopol and all its surrounding forts is the very least amount of success which will justify the discontinuance of the war, now that an amicable concession to our demands, on the part of the Russians, has been refused.

"Knowing how much we dread the rain, frost, and snow of the Crimea, and also looking to the enormous loss of men and money which the winter here will cost us, they will struggle on, month after month, to render our occupation of the military posts in and around Sebastopol as incomplete as possible. Although the loss of their stronghold may seem quite clear, yet the Russians hold on, in spite of reverses and defeat.

"The damage which the winter will do us will be considered as a sufficient compensation for the loss sustained by them for continuing a hopeless struggle.

"We are reasoning, however, on the hypothesis that Sebastopol must yield to the overpowering force of artillery and numbers of the allies. But for such a hypothesis there is actually no proper foundation. We believe that there is no accurate information to be obtained by any one as to the true condition of the Russians and of the stronghold in which they are now resting. We have met with no person who knows anything more about these matters than what a man's eyes, with the help of a glass, may procure for him, by going to Cartwright's Hill, the Telegraph, the Mamelon, and the other

points of view in front, and looking at the position of the enemy. Our conclusion, therefore, as to the result of a determination on our part to put forth our whole strength against the place in a series of attacks, must be merely conjectural.

"The health of the army is so far satisfactory, that there is no raging disease in it. Seldom has any large body of men from the north and west of Europe traversed or remained in this part of the world, without being attacked at this season of the year with plague, or some malignant disorder, in the form of pestilence.

"The cholera last year among the French and British at Gallipoli, Varna, and in the Dobrudja, was not a calamity out of the ordinary course, but only one of those common scourges which are almost sure to break out among armies and multitudes of people assembled in the East, and to sweep away a very considerable portion of them. We overlooked the probability of such an evil, because our medical-sanitary arrangements and our mode of provisioning and clothing our army were considered superior to the way in which Oriental troops were looked after in these respects; but may not the fact of the natives being acclimated, and their temperate habits, be reckoned as a set-off against our more civilised treatment of our troops, so that we and they are upon much the same footing as to the liability to these dreaded visitations.

"I wish I could say that the religious state of the army was as much a matter of congratulation as its physical state. People at home think that the daily perils the officers and men have been exposed to since the commencement of the expedition, and the frightful mortality the survivors have witnessed, have awakened religious feelings in the minds of those susceptible of such sentiments, and must have checked those of a contrary nature in others previously regardless of religious sanctions. They also infer, from the religious strain of the many letters which appear in the newspapers, and the undeniable fortitude with which their severe and protracted sufferings have been borne, that Christian principle has a strong hold over the minds of our military men in general.

"We remember Mr. Sidney Herbert calling the attention of Parliament, to indications of the pervading influence of Christianity, to the absence of all impiety and profanity and immorality among our troops in the Crimea.

"Of theoretical or speculative infidelity there seems to be very little. But I speak advisedly, when I say that the recognition of religious duty is grudgingly, sparingly, and, I fear, in a manner little else than compulsory, made; and whoever has to live in the camp for two or three days, and listens to the common language there used by all classes, cannot fail to infer that practical religion is at a far lower ebb than it is among communities at home. In this sheet I shall not have room to set before your readers the causes of such a deplorable state of things, but may do so in another communication.

"It is very much to be regretted that in a place where clergymen are so much required, many should speedily lose their health, and become unfit for further duty. Within the last four weeks, the Rev. Messrs. Hayward, Preston, Hamilton, and Frémantle have been compelled to relinquish their posts of duty, and to seek for change of air and scene. The Rev. Mr. Hewlett, from Kululee, is the latest arrival we hear of. May the field of labour soon be more fully occupied."—*Correspondent of London Guardian.*

The *Indépendance* of Brussels and some of the Berlin papers state, as news from St. Petersburg, that orders have been given for the construction of a floating-bridge, to extend from Fort Michael, on the south, to Fort Nicholas, on the north side of the roadstead of Sebastopol, so as to assure the retreat of the garrison in case of need. There is some error of detail in this announcement, Fort Nicholas being on the south side of the roads; but the character and object of the new construction corresponds with the statement from the *Vienna Gazette*, whose correspondent at Odessa also thus writes touching the situation of Sebastopol:—

"By our most intelligent military men it is universally admitted that if the allies push forward as energetically as they have hitherto done, the south side of Sebastopol must in the end inevitably fall. The garrison's heroic self-sacrifice and contempt of death delay, but cannot avert, the steady, if slow progress of the besiegers, who day by day gain ground upon them. All the various reports of the French and English journals about interrupted communication between the north and the south side, terrible epidemics which rage amongst the besieged, 15,000 sick in Sebastopol, want of provisions and ammunition, and so on, are