

## News Department

From Papers by R M S Canada, Nov 11

## ENGLAND

Meetings have been held in all the principal towns of the Kingdom to collect subscriptions for the Patriotic Fund. The subscriptions in London, up to the 8th Nov amounted to £10,000. At Leeds the mayor, a Quaker, opposed any subscription. At Bradford, Mr. Harris, also a Quaker, gave 100*l.* for his firm, and another 100*l.* as his personal subscription—the largest given. The clergy have taken a prominent part in these meetings, and many of them have preached sermons in aid of the fund. Dr. Hook, of Leeds, collected 57*l.* At Manchester the Bishop, and Canons Stowell and Clifton were present. Subscriptions were subsequently announced to the amount of 4,842*l.* At the Preston meeting 741*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* was collected. At Sheffield 356*l.*

**THE OLD PATRIOTIC FUND.**—The Governor and Company of the Bank of England headed a voluntary contribution to the revenue with a subscription of two hundred thousand pounds. "The house of Peels (sic) and Co., at Manchester (we are told), has subscribed £46,000 towards carrying on the war." The Marquis of Buckingham gave £10,000 a-year so long as the war lasted. Robert Peels, Esq. of Manchester, for himself and partners, gave £10,000; the Duke of Queensberry, £5,000; the Marquis of Stafford, £6,000; the inhabitants of Patricbourne, near Canterbury, £165. That was what our fathers did, as we find the unvarnished tale in the *St. James's Chronicle* for 1798.

**DESTINY OF MR. WILBERFORCE.**—As we all a-long anticipated, and more than once hinted to our readers, the ex-Archdeacon of the East Riding has gone to his own place—in other words, his perversion has at last landed him in the Roman Catholic Church. It appears that he left London last week in company with the Rev. Dr. Grant of Southwark, and some other Roman Catholic clergy, for Paris, where his reception took place. We believe that viewing Mr. Wilberforce's recent conduct, this intelligence will create no surprise whatever.—*Ch. & St. Gaz.*

**RENUNCIATIONS OF POPERY.**—Forty-six persons renounced the errors of Popery in St. Paul's, Bermondsey, since the last published return of July this year. Several of them were of the better class. Six of them had been perverts, and several more such are under instruction preparatory to taking the same step.

**MEDICAL HEROES AND MARTYRS.**—Dr. R. R. Mackenzie, of Edinburgh, attracted by the prospects of an active campaign, resigned a lucrative practice, went out to the East, and devoted his services to the relief of the suffering, where his attention, especially to the Highlanders, was so unremitting, that after the battle of the brigade, with one voice, asked permission to give him three cheers as he came up the hill. Dr. Mackenzie is now dead, carried off by cholera after a few hours' illness; and it is said that his loss was more severely lamented than that of any man who fell at the Alma. After the battle of the Alma the plain is covered with wounded Russians, seven hundred and fifty wounded are still on the ground, and the Allied force can do nothing for them. Unable to proceed with the troops they are left on the field, but not altogether friendless. There is one there—an English surgeon—who cannot be daunted even in the face of the foe. He voluntarily and cheerfully incurs the risk of being left behind among the wounded enemies of his country, seven hundred and fifty strong—his servant being his sole companion. This was Dr. Thomson of the 44th Regiment. He completed his duty, returned to his regiment, and the next day, worn out by fatigue, fell a victim to the cholera.—*Medical Times.*

**THE FLEET AT PORTSMOUTH.**—It might have been supposed that the immense fleets which have been furnished for the Baltic and Black Seas, would have completely exhausted our naval resources; but a statement recently published shows that this is by no means the case. At Portsmouth alone we have a fleet sufficiently powerful to give a satisfactory account of intrusive foes. This fleet consists of twenty-one war vessels, the majority of which have steam power carrying upwards of one thousand guns. In addition to this there are at the present moment seven steamships of war, of fifteen hundred horse power, and carrying two hundred guns fitting for war service.

**AN ANCIENT ANCHOR.**—An anchor was fished up and brought in by the boat men of Broadstairs last week, supposed to have been under water upwards of two hundred years. It had the appearance of a mass of rusted iron being entirely covered with flats of all sizes.—*Dover Chron.*

## FRANCE

The *Gazette* of Marseilles says:—  
"The arrival in this city of fifty English ladies going to the East to attend the sick and wounded, has produced a profound sensation. It has long been a subject of regret that the English nation did not follow the example set by our heroic sisters of charity; the want has however at last been heard. Some time ago a young lady, Miss Nightingale, had founded in London an institution of nurses for the sick. What we have heard of this lady and her companions heightens the merit of their mission, to which the Government has attached a sanction which does it much honour. Possessing all that could make life happy and brilliant, Miss Nightingale has devoted herself to a life of self-denial, and after having created in London one of those institutions of which the true spirit of Christianity inspires the idea, she has quitted England, after the example of our own Scourge, for a new field of charity and privation. Twelve sisters of the Convent of Norwood have joined themselves to the companions of Miss Nightingale. Nothing is better calculated than charity to dissipate those differences of religious opinion, the ardour of which should disappear when the question is how best to relieve suffering humanity; and such is the neutral ground on which a rivalry honourable to all religions is about to establish itself between the Sisters of Norwood and the companions of Miss Nightingale. . . . To-day, at three o'clock, the English ladies attached to the service of the hospitals, traversed our city to embark on board the *Vesitas*.—Captain Powell received these ladies with the greatest courtesy; the whole vessel wore the air of a festival, and the travellers were welcomed on board with all the respect due at once to their sex and the touching mission on which they are bound. The simple and suitable dress of these ladies was much remarked; those under the direction of Miss Nightingale, who by her elegant manners and her physiognomy might be taken for a Parisian, wear a brown dress, a grey shawl, a black bonnet, and grey mantle. The Roman Catholic ladies wear a more monastic costume; their dress is a white robe, and a black cap envelopes their close white head-dress.

*Extracts from Gen. Canrobert's despatch, dated before Sebastopol, Oct. 18.*—Monsieur le Marechal.—Yesterday at sunrise we opened fire in concert with the English army. Matters were going on well, when the explosion of a powder magazine belonging to a battery which, unhappily was a large one, created some disturbance to our attack. This explosion had the more effect, as our batteries were accumulated round the spot where it took place. The enemy took advantage of it to increase their fire, and after consulting the general commanding the artillery, I deemed it advisable to suspend our fire to repair our damage, and complete on our right, by new batteries, nearer to the English lines our system of attack.

This delay is certainly much to be regretted, but cannot be helped, and I am taking every means to render it as short as possible.

The city has withstood the fire much better than was expected. The incense, in its enormous development in a straight line, carrying all that it can receive in heat, calibre from the fleet, allows it to prolong the struggle.

I have received nearly all the infantry reinforcements I expected from Gallipoli and Varna. General Le Vaillant has just arrived with his *etat-major*, which increases to five divisions of infantry the army I command. The health of the troops is very satisfactory, their moral condition excellent, and we are full of confidence.

## From Vice Admiral Hamelin.

"If the Russians had not blocked up the entrance to Sebastopol by sinking their five ships and two frigates, I have no doubt that the ships of the squadron, after a trial of the first fire, might have entered the passes successfully, have reached the bottom of the harbour, and put itself in communication with the army. They would not perhaps have lost many more than we have now to regret; but the extreme measure adopted by the enemy, in sacrificing a part of his ships, obliged us to limit ourselves to fighting for five hours against the sea batteries of Sebastopol, with the view of succeeding in silencing them for a greater or less period, in occupying a great many of the gunners in Sebastopol, and in thus lending both a material and moral assistance to our army.

## GERMANY.

Positive orders have been issued that the whole of the Austrian army must be prepared for action by the 31st of January. A new levy of 100,000 men is to take place. Large purchases of horses have been ordered. A convention between Austria and Bavaria is rumoured, by virtue of which 20,000 Bavarians would replace the Austrian troops in Northern Italy.

The *Fremden Blatt* of Vienna publishes a letter from St. Petersburg, in which it is stated that on the 27th Oct. the Czar refused an audience to the Prussian ambassador.—A circumstance that Prussia will not fail to boast of as proof of her impartial neutrality—a purpose it may have been intended to answer.

## UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK, Nov. 21.—A SURPLUS REVENUE.—The great accumulation of specie and bullion in the hands of the government, under the operation of the present tariff system, has recently created a great deal of conversation in financial circles. During these times of pressure and contraction, such an extraction of coin and precious metals from the channels of commerce becomes particularly onerous, and serves materially to check and obstruct the natural legitimate operations of trade. The sub-treasury contains at this moment about twenty-eight millions of coin and bullion, and it continues to increase with a rapidity that is continually felt by all classes. While the government is hoarding this amount of treasure, at great loss of interest, there is an outstanding debt amounting to upwards of fifty millions of dollars, drawing interest at the rate of six per cent per annum, adding an item to expenditure which might just as well as not be dispensed with. The gentle mistake made by the Secretary of the Treasury, which we pointed out at the time, was the establishment of a fixed price for purchasing government stocks, instead of being governed by the market rates, whatever they might, from time to time, be, and taking all that may be offered. It might not be considered the wisest policy to materially change the commercial system by which this enormous revenue has been collected, until the public debt is liquidated; but the surplus is already equal to more than fifty per cent of the debt, and every dollar now in the treasury could, without danger, be appropriated to the payment of that portion more immediately arriving at maturity. It would not be advisable to commence with any very important alterations, in the present tariff; but such changes should be made that would, in the shortest possible time, bring the public revenue down to the standard of public expenditures. The government has no right to draw from the hands of the people, and from the channels of commerce, such an enormous amount of capital. It is, in fact, two or three times as much for all the purposes of trade as the amount actually locked up in specie.—While every interest of the country is at all times more or less restricted for the want of capital, we find the government hoarding up nearly thirty millions of dollars in gold.

An attempt was made during the last session of Congress to devise ways and means to reduce the enormous revenue from customs, and the Secretary of the Treasury addressed circulars to merchants and manufacturers, requesting them to furnish him with such facts connected with their line of business as would be a guide in furnishing proper information to Congress on the subject of duties, &c., but he did not accomplish much by so doing, and his report relative to modifications in the tariff, was a miserable, flimsy affair throughout, and attracted no attention in or out of the House of Representatives. It is highly necessary that this important matter should be approached in the most cautious manner.—The simplest alterations will prove most effective. The system need not be touched.—Everything required could be accomplished by adding annually to the list of free articles, until the revenue was reduced to a proper standard to meet the current expenditures of the government. The tariff is no more or less than a system of taxation, and it is just as absurd for the government to draw a large surplus from the pockets of the people under a tariff on imports, as it would be for the corporation of the city of New York to levy a tax that would yield an income of five million of dollars per annum, more than was required to meet the annual expenses. It is entirely inconsistent with the character and spirit of our institutions that such a system of finances should exist, and it has been carried so far that no time should be lost in providing a proper remedy.

The first movement made should be in relation to the present surplus. The twenty-eight million of dollars must be returned to the sources from which it was derived, and then the necessary measures taken to prevent another accumulation. We know of no more immediate method of getting rid of the plethora in the public treasury than by purchasing government securities at the market price. It is certainly most feasible, and would afford instantaneous relief to the government and to every important interest of the country. The government of Great Britain has a broker continually engaged in purchasing the public debt. He enters the market at any time, and purchases to the extent of available funds, on government account. In this way the public revenue is always active, and public stocks always find purchasers. There is never any combination to put up prices to corner the government broker, for he is just as ready to purchase at high prices as at low prices, when provided with funds.—No one in the market knows when such will be made, but they generally have a favorable effect on prices. The adoption of such a system here would do away at once with all the difficulties now experienced, and be of immense advantage to the whole community. The plan now in operation, devised by the present astute Secretary of the Treasury, only liquidates an average of \$50,000 per day—a sum not equal to the daily increase in the surplus revenue. The evil is therefore, not at all removed, and it is of the most vital importance that either the English system should be adopted, or some new one be invented.

During the past year we have exported about forty millions of specie, and added to our surplus income in the sub-treasury about four more, making an aggregate of forty-four millions of specie extracted from the channels of commerce. It is true that upwards of thirty millions of dollars have been received from California, which, fortunately, furnished supplies for a large portion of the drain. This shows a reduction