

practical joke cost the inventor the king's patronage and favor; his majesty being afterwards so ashamed of his own cowardice, that he would never again look at the mirror or its owner.

THE ANT AND THE BUTTERFLY.—"Thank heaven I have reached home at last," said a female ant, alighting to the earth; and as she spoke she pulled off her wings, and prepared quietly to retire to her cell underground. But before doing so, she looked up for the last time, and saw, on a bough overhead, a butterfly, which had just burst her cocoon, but which, instead of tearing off her wings, like the ant, was momentarily expecting to mount to a higher life. And her wings, every instant, grew larger, brighter, and more beautiful. "You say you have reached home?" said the butterfly, "and, thank kind heaven, so have I;" and even as she spoke she mounted skyward; but her home was not on the cold, dark earth, but in the boundless air, beneath the sun's bright eye, and on the balmy breath of heaven. And should not all good Christians keep constantly in view two homes, of which the two just described may serve as fitting types.

GAS AND GAS METERS.—A singular fact has just been brought to light in London, in regard to gas metres. A careful examination of the gas works in London has established the fact, that "the lower the quality of gas, the greater the velocity with which it flows through the metre; that is, the quality registered is increased in proportion as the quality is deteriorated."

A NEW KIND OF SLAVE TRADE.—A letter from Callao (Peru) says:—"The only business transacted at present is the selling of Chinese slaves, landing from American and English ships. Language is inadequate to express the horrible condition of these miserable wretches. Stolen from their homes and families, smuggled on ship-board without their consent, on the passage treated like brutes, they are brought to this coast and sold to men who have no mercy, for a nominal term of eight years, although in some instances no term of service is mentioned. An American ship sailed from China with 605 Chinese and landed 404—leaving 201 who either died or drowned themselves on the passage. The average price realized for this cargo of human flesh was \$250 per head. The horrors of the African slave trade were nothing to be compared to this, for in other countries there are laws for the protection of the slaves; but here the master is clothed with absolute authority, and can govern his slaves as he sees fit."

CRIMEA.—On the 4th of Feb. Fort St. Nicholas was blown up. Early in the day General Pelissier was seen driving his four greys, and with his staff took up his position on Frenchman's hill, General Codrington and the English officers on Cathcart's hill. The Russians evidently saw that preparations were making for some event or other, and commenced firing at the docks, expecting operations there, not aware of their destruction. The best account is given by the *Daily News* correspondent, who tells us that it was scarcely possible that a more favourable day could occur for such a spectacle:—

"The air was so brilliantly clear that every outline was sharply defined of the buildings in the town, and every fort and earthwork on the north side was plainly visible. The water of the roadstead was as smooth and as calm as a lake. The topmasts of the sunken ships, and in some instances the yards and cordage, stood out of the water without the slightest evidences of movement, or causing the least ripple of the surface. The sea outside seemed equally smooth; its uniform dark blue colour being broken only by a white line where the waves were breaking on the shoals beyond fort Constantine." A sudden exclamation drew all eyes towards Fort Nicholas. "The gaze of the enemy was equally fascinated towards the same direction, and all firing from their batteries ceased. From the west extremity of the long fort, partly concealed from our view by other buildings, was slowly rising and swelling a huge dense cloud of smoke, which, as it rose and spread, enveloped all the neighbourhood in a thick fog. At the same time came a slight sensation of trembling of the ground, and a dull rumbling sound like a distant clap of thunder. It was not loud, and there was no echo. While watching this scene the massive looking east end, where it turned round toward the south harbour, and the arched galleries for some distance toward the centre—all very conspicuous as the sun was lighting up the white stones of which they were built, and without anything to intercept a full view of their structure—appeared suddenly to be split and rent asunder, and as the walls fell and dissolved away, great blasts of smoke and dust rose out of the

ground and stood in their stead. It was a most exciting sight to witness such destruction accomplished noiselessly, as it seemed at a distance, and as if by magic, for there was no visible human agency, in the midst of a bright still atmosphere, and therefore without any of the usual concomitant circumstances of a natural convulsion.

"The cloud which rose from this end of the building was very dark—almost black in the centre. It rolled and dilated over the ground from whence it had issued, but ascended very gradually. A thick sprinkling of white spots in the water of the roadstead showed that fragments of stone were falling there; and as they continued for many seconds after the explosion, some of them had evidently been projected to a great height. Nearly five minutes must have elapsed after this second discharge, the great canopies of smoke were bending over towards the town, the spectators were marking that only the two ends of the fort had been blown up, when another explosion took place on the west side, and was succeeded almost immediately afterwards, by a fourth, at what remained of the east end. The two reports from these explosions seemed louder than the reports which had followed the two former blasts. Still a part of the fort remained upright, and between the dark folds of drapery which shrouded the wide spaces left vacant by the two wings, might still be seen though mistily, the high central tower and observatory. These did not exist long. A fifth and then a sixth mine was sprung, and the whole of the gigantic work which, not long ago, stood offering defiance to the navies of the whole world, was levelled to the ground. The clouds of smoke cleared away slowly, and, driven gently by the breeze from the north, passed over the ruins of the town, for a time enveloping it in fog and throwing it into dark shadow. The removal of the accustomed outline, and the long gap which was left by the destruction of the fort, was then seen to have changed in its most striking feature the aspect of the whole town of Sebastopol, and to have left it more wrecked in appearance than ever.

"As an engineering operation the success was complete. Not one stone is left above another to define the nature or form the building which so lately existed on the site of the long line of ruined heaps left by the explosion. The destruction of Fort Paul, at the opposite point of entrance to the south harbour, was a comparatively easy task; The French engineers say that Fort Nicholas was by no means so solid and firm a structure as it appeared to be, for the cut stone was confined in a great degree to the outer walls, and to other parts where deception could not be easily practised. The interior, and occasionally large spaces in the masonry of the walls, were filled up with rubble and small loose fragments of stone. It has also been stated by Polish officers who have fallen into the hands of the allies, and who have been quartered in this fort, that experiments were made, when the invasion of the Crimea was first talked of, to ascertain what amount of concussion the building could stand, and it was then found, with one gun only in every third or fourth casemate, that the wall suffered very considerably.

"The Russians did not resume firing from the north side for some considerable time—nearly half an hour—after the blowing up of Fort Nicholas."

"The *Times* correspondent—a fanciful impression:—Immediately over the eastern explosion there hung for some seconds what seemed a mighty grey lion, with head, mane, and body perfectly defined in shadowy delineation. Others besides myself recognized the fanciful image, acceptable as the emblem of dissolving Russian strength, and presently replaced by other vague shapes."

It is said that 119,000 lbs. of gunpowder were used in the explosion.

FIRST ENGLISH BIBLE.

In the year 1535 this most invaluable work in the English language was completed abroad, under the direction of Miles Coverdale, a man greatly and deservedly esteemed for piety, knowledge of the Scriptures, and diligent preaching; on account of which qualities King Edward the Sixth appointed him Bishop of Exeter. This first translation of the whole Bible ever printed in English is generally called 'Coverdale's Bible'; it is a folio volume, and from the appearance of the types, it is now generally considered to have been printed at Zurich, in the printing-office of Christopher Froben. The following is the title-page of this extremely rare and curious volume:

Biblia. The Bible, that is, the holy Scripture of the Olde and New Testament, faithfully and truly translated out of the Douche and Latin into Englishe. M.D.XXXV.

This translation is dedicated to King Henry the Eighth, whom Coverdale in his dedication honestly tells, that the Pope gave him the title of *Defender of the Faith*, "only because his Highness suffered his bishops to burn God's word, the root of faith, and to persecute the lovers and ministers of it;" but at the same time he intimates his conviction that this title will prove a prophecy; that, "by the righteous administration of his Grace the faith shall be so defended, that God's word, the mother of faith, should have its free course thorow all Christendome, but especially in his Grace's realme." As to the translation itself, he observes in his dedication and epistle to the reader, that it was "neither his labor nor his desire to have this work put into his hands; but when others were moved by the Holy Ghost, to undertake the cost of it," he was the more bold to engage in the execution of it. Agreeably, therefore, to desire, he set forth this "special" translation, not in contempt of other men's translation, or by way of reproving them, but humbly and faithfully following his interpreters, and that

under correction. Of these, he said, he used five different ones, who had translated the Scriptures not only into Latin, but also into Dutch. When Coverdale's translation was finished, and presented to Henry VIII., he gave it to some of the bishops to examine. They kept it so long, that at last Henry had to call for it himself. When they delivered the book, he demanded their opinion of the translation. They answered, that there were many faults in it. "Well," said the king, "but are there any heresies mentioned in it?" They replied, "There were no heresies they could find." "If there be no heresies," said Henry, "Then in God's name, let it go abroad among our people." Coverdale called his version a "special" translation, because it was different from the former English translation: its nobility, simplicity, perspicuity, and purity of style, are truly astonishing.—Blessed be God for the Bible!

Correspondence.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

Halifax, 13th March, 1856.

MR. EDITOR,

Hastily scanning over the summary of proceedings in the House of Assembly a few days ago, I noticed some observations relating to a memorial concerning "Church lands" in Lunenburg. On enquiry I found that the memorial was from the Church Wardens of St. John's Church, and had reference to a Bill, which had been introduced, affecting their right to the trust of the Lot of Land on which the Church stands. I was also informed that the object sought to be affected by the Bill was the appointment of Trustees to hold and manage the said Lot for the public.

Often, in my travels to and from the Western shores of the Province, have I observed the marked difference in appearance between the Lot alluded to and the two adjoining Lots or squares.

The Church square is surrounded with trees, and fenced to keep cattle out, and prevent their injuring the trees; having turnpikes at the crossings. In summer, when the trees are in life and full foliage, the effect is cheering and beautiful to the beholder, and adds greatly to the beauty and appearance of the town. The two squares adjoining are lying desolate and waste—no sign of beautifying or improvement to be seen—nothing to relieve the eye—no fence, no trees, and with the exception of a School House on one end they remain in the same primitive state as when the woods were first cut off them—an eye-sore to every lover of the picturesque and beautiful.

The trust of the Church square is claimed by the Rector and Church Wardens, I am informed; and about 23 or 24 years ago, they caused the ground to be levelled, the trees planted, and the whole enclosed by a fence. The question naturally arises, why is it sought to throw the improved square back into a state of nature like the others, when, as at present held and occupied, it is an ornament to the town, and a means of enjoyment to the inhabitants generally, who all use it alike without distinction of creed. It is true that, for the purpose of attending divine worship, the Congregation of the Church have to use it more frequently than others, as their Church stands in the middle of the square near one end, having been placed there by the British Government 102 years ago. The memorialists against the Bill, besides claiming their right to the trust, state that if the trust be disturbed they fear the improvements will be destroyed, and that the Lot will be reduced to the same state as the other two; as it lay for near 80 years previous to their improvements. They further complain that under the Bill they may be denuded of their rights, or arbitrarily annoyed, and perhaps driven to a Court of Law to secure their peaceable enjoyment and occupation of the Church—standing, as before stated, in the middle of the square, and the Bill excepting nothing but "the Church and the site on which it stands."

I do not pretend to know the merits of the claims of the contending parties, or who are the movers and instigators of this movement, but I am very much mistaken in my opinion of my brother Christians, altho' they may differ on minor points or faith from the Church of England, if they commend the unchristian spirit exhibited in this transaction.

The instigators of this measure say in fact and effect, "the building and the spot of ground on which it stands we will not take from you (how grateful should the Churchmen feel), but your ingress and egress we will control; and even in case your building should require repairs, you must ask us for liberty to use the ground around it." This is indeed a beautiful example of Christian liberality!!! Pass the Bill and make Trustees of such men, and then a clause might be added, closing the Established Church of England in that locality.

What would be said of Churchmen acting in this way towards any other religious denomination.

It is said that the Church Wardens have legal and equitable claims to the trust, which they will defend at the proper time and before the proper tribunal. I have only considered the expediency of the measure, and treated it as a social question of taste and convenience; and must still hope that the measure may be stayed. Litigation will thus be prevented, and the community at Lunenburg spared the pain of witnessing their beautiful square destroyed—an act which would only be contemplated with pleasure by Goths and Vandals.

TRAVELLER.