

Our London Letter.

(From our own Correspondent.)

LONDON, March 29, 1881.

The news of a peace having been arranged by England with the Boers has no doubt been wired to you ere this. The state of affairs in this country is viewed with mingled feelings. Patriotism and Humanity struggling to gain the ascendancy, in the face of the humiliation of the English arms in South Africa. "Jingoism" views the failure to obtain a vindication of English authority as a national calamity, and the Peace-at-any-price party looks upon a cessation of hostilities as a triumph of humanity, to them patriotism counting for a thing of very little worth. But between these two extremes there must be a mean—a state of mind that will look with all jealousy after the national prestige and maintain the interests and honour of the country at any cost, but at the same time as jealously guard against anything that is unfair, inhuman and inconsistent with honour. I shall not here enter into the merits of the present Government's policy in connection with the Boers, as it is now become a party question, and will be debated on the floors of the Houses of Parliament, but that there is a strong feeling in this country that English honour has been sacrificed is beyond question. It is also felt that before long the whole question will again be opened, as that which is dishonourable can never be lasting. The correspondents at the Cape describe the state of feeling there as verging something upon a panic, and also as being one of deep disgust and shame at the action of the Home Government.

The recent death of Nelson's reputed daughter, and an allusion to the figure of the Hero of Trafalgar in Westminster Abbey have recalled the circumstances which led to that figure being placed there. The particulars may be of interest to your readers. The fact is curiously illustrative of the state of Church matters at that time. St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey were rival shows at the time in the Metropolis, the income of the Minor Canons and Vicars-Choral of both establishments being more or less dependent upon the payments made by visitors. The attraction of Nelson's car, which, after it had carried his body to St. Paul's, was deposited and exhibited there—proved so attractive that Westminster was comparatively deserted. But the happy thought to add to the figures which formed the great attraction to the majority of visitors, a figure of the Hero of Trafalgar suggested itself to one of the sufferers of the Westminster Abbey staff. To further his object he managed to secure the hero's coat. This was done, and Nelson in his habit as he lived proved more attractive than the car which carried his remains to their last resting place. The figure had a very life-like effect, and it is said that the verger who acted as showman to visitors used to call their attention to a pin inserted in the left shoulder, which was placed to mark the precise spot where the fatal bullet had entered. Surely Barnum has not the monopoly of the showman's inventive genius.

Dean Howson, *apropos* of the publication of the Commissioners' report upon the prevalence of political immorality at Chester, has relieved himself of the load of shame that this, another Cathedral city, should add to the mass of electoral corruption that so extensively prevailed at the last election. He does not try to extenuate the political infamy in which his own city is thus involved. The burden of his pastoral is to enforce the wisdom upon the clergy generally of withholding from political partisanship altogether. He does not say whether he thinks that the presence of the clerical influence conduces to the corruption; he so feelingly laments, but by a logical deduction his advice must resolve itself into that conclusion. But whatever may be the forces at work to bring about the lamentable result, there the fact still remains, that the Cathedral cities figure most prominently in the electoral corruption brought to light;—Canterbury, Lichfield, Chester, Norwich, Oxford, and Gloucester, all figure most miserably in the list of delinquents. According to the Commissioners' report just issued, Gloucester was a most flagrant case. Out of about 5,000 electors who voted they state that they have evidence that some 3,000 were either bribes or bribers. I imagine they will not have an opportunity for some time to come to again exercise the privileges of the "free and independent elector."

Father Ignatius has lost no faith in the reported apparitions which occurred to certain of his devout followers at Llanthony Abbey, but he finds it difficult to induce the religious public to partake of his belief. His last eight days' mission at Bournemouth was a comparative failure. Instead of carrying away valuable offerings as on a former occasion, he received barely enough to cover his expenses, leaving nothing for his proposed shrine at the scene of

the apparitions. Looked at in a commercial light the diversion of pilgrimages from the shrines of France or Ireland to the Welsh mountains is a "consideration." Not that the Father need be accused of mercenary motives; indeed, to put it in his own words, these "visions" are either a fact, a delusion, or a lie. It will be better, perhaps, to adopt the medium course, and call them delusions.

The Week.

HOME NEWS.

Messrs. Esson & Co. advertise the first lot of sugar manufactured by the Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery Company.

St. John, N. B., April 8.—Work will be commenced next week on the new wing to the Penitentiary at Dorchester.

The Nova Scotia College bill was defeated in the Legislative Council by a majority of one, the casting vote of the president.

Mr. Kirkpatrick, M.P., is the president of the new company controlling the Canadian Locomotive and Engine Works at Kingston.

Montreal, April 9.—The 6th Fusiliers have received an invitation to visit Louisville, Kentucky, from the Free Masons military of that place.

In the Newfoundland Legislature a Joint Committee of both Houses has been appointed to negotiate a railway contract, subject to the approval of the Legislature.

Halifax, April 9.—The vacancy in the Legislative Council, caused by the retirement of Hon. R. McCutler, was filled yesterday, when Wm. H. Owen, Q. C., of Bridgewater, was sworn in.

Senator Cochran's celebrated 'Duchess' gave birth on the 6th inst., to a heifer calf, which makes her eleventh. The amount netted by the Senator as the produce of this famous animal has been \$140,000.

The Prince Edward Island Legislature unanimously passed a resolution declaring that the passage of the Almon amendment to the Canada Temperance Act would be very prejudicial to the interests of that province.

Montreal, April 9th.—A census-enumerator was thrown down stairs by an irate French Canadian to-day, who took this summary method of getting rid of his interrogator. He will have to answer in the Police Court to-morrow.

Eight or ten tenders have been received by the railway department for the supply of about one hundred box, flat and coal cars, and ten locomotives for the Intercolonial Railway. The Canadian tenders are said to be lower than the American ones.

Montreal, April 9.—The locomotive and three cars of a mixed train got off the track on the Occidental Railway last evening, but no damage of any consequence was done. Freight room has been taken here for 10,000 head of cattle to be sent to Great Britain in May and June.

Ottawa, April 9.—Mr. J. B. Blanchard is building a large tug at his yard in Hull, at a cost of \$10,000, and two large barges with a carrying capacity of 250,000 feet of lumber each. He has contracted for the carrying of 30,000,000 feet of deals to Quebec for delivery during the coming season.

The Annual Report of the Library Commissioners and Librarian of the amalgamated Nova Scotia Historical Society Library and Legislative Library, has been received. The Report states that 10,000 separate works have been added to the amalgamated Library during the year, and the total number of volumes now numbers 25,000.

A resolution recommending total abstinence to officers and members of churches by the Toronto Presbytery was carried on Tuesday by a vote of seven to five. Rev. Mr. MacDonald afterwards moved a rider, which a temperance minister said would practically have the effect of nullifying the other, which was carried by nine to six. A resolution in favor of the Scott Act was defeated by the casting vote of the Moderator.

Toronto, Ont., April 9.—The *Globe*, this morning, contains the following special cablegram, dated London, April 9: "Sir Charles Tupper's health is better. He consults Dr. Andrew Clarke, and remains in London for the present. Sir Alexander Galt proceeds to Paris to-morrow to watch the interests of Canada in the commercial treaty negotiations between France and Great Britain.

The S. S. *Texas*, which arrived yesterday from England, has a large consignment of the finest thorough-bred cattle ever brought to this country, purchased for Senator Cochrane's farm at Compton, Quebec. There are 60 pure bred bulls for the Cochrane Rauche Farm, at Bow River. The cattle are of the Polled Angus, Hereford and Short Horn breeds, but principally of the former kind, specially adapted for beef cattle.—*Halifax Recorder*, 12th.

The International Freestone Company of New Brunswick and Massachusetts, with a capital of \$100,000, have filed a memorandum of association, in the Provincial Secretary's office, Fredericton. This company comprises some of the solid men of Boston, and intend operating on the lands of Fred W. Watson, of Harvey, Albert County. The stone has been pronounced by experts to be equal to the best ever offered in Boston, and in view of the large building operations in the United States, the company have a promising future before them. They expect to commence operations in about a fortnight, and will employ a large number of men.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

London, April 10.—Prince Pierre Napoleon died at Versailles on Friday, of gout.

Constantinople, April 11.—Brigands near Salonica have captured an Englishman, and demand £15,000 ransom for him.

Berlin, April 13.—Naru Kissar, the most advanced fort on the road to Merv, has been taken by surprise and captured by Turcomans. The entire Russian garrison was killed.

Chios, April 11.—A violent shock of an earthquake, lasting four seconds, and increasing gradually in strength, has just passed over the island, followed by the falling in of houses on all sides.

Iowa City, April 12.—Miss Hattie Dewell died at a quarter before one on Monday afternoon, having completed full 47 days in attaining death by starvation. She began her long fast 23rd February.

Constantinople, April 11.—Mr. Goschen, British Ambassador, has informed the Porte that he holds it responsible for the safety of Mr. Puter, and the payment of the ransom demanded for him by the brigands.

London, April 8.—Count Hamilton, Chancellor of the Exchequer University at Upsal, Sweden, has been arrested on a charge of forgery to the amount of £40,000. The names counterfeited include those of the King and Queen.

London, April 9.—Lord Carlingsford, formerly Mr. Chichester Fortescue, accepted the office of Lord Privy Seal, vice Duke of Argyll, and will take charge of the Land Bill in its passage through the House of Lords.

Eight hundred men are digging out the Chicago and North-Western Railway west of Sleepy Eye, Minn. It is stated that the Company has expended enough money shovelling snow on that line this winter to have constructed a new road.

St. Petersburg, April 11.—It has been known for some time that Lord Dufferin would be appointed Ambassador at Constantinople. Sir Augustus Paget will succeed him as British Ambassador here. Lord Dufferin will probably leave this city on Friday next.

There is a rumor of the betrothal of the Princess Louise, eldest daughter of the Prince of Wales, to Prince Oscar Gustavus Adolphus, the eldest son of the King of Sweden. The Princess Louise is fourteen years of age, and the marriage will not take place for two years.

London, April 8.—In the House of Commons to-day Lord Elcho (Liberal-Conservative) gave notice that he would oppose the land bill by an amendment that while the House was willing to consider any measure based upon sound principles, the present bill is economically unsound, unjust and impolitic.

St. Petersburg, April 12.—Nicholas Sudzellafsky, an important Nihilist, was recently arrested at Jassy by the Roumanian authorities. He was implicated in the peasant disorders at Ichigrin, but escaped punishment by decamping first to England and then to America. He afterwards returned to Roumania. He was formerly in Kieff University and was a companion of the notorious Nihilists, Deutsch and Stepanovitch. The Russian Government has taken steps for his extradition by Roumania.

London, April 11.—A Candahar despatch says General Hume published an order to evacuate Candahar, which was subject to the approval of the Commander-in-Chief; will commence on the 13th inst., final evacuation taking place on the 22nd inst.

London, April 8.—In the Lords to-day, the Duke of Argyll, Lord Privy Seal, expressed his deep sorrow at leaving the Cabinet. He said he did so because of the Land Bill alone. Although not opposed to the ownership of land by peasants, he was opposed to a bill which would destroy the ownership of land by other classes.

St. Petersburg, April 11.—Sentence of death was finally read to-day in the presence of the Nihilist prisoners. They were allowed twenty-four hours to appeal.—Professor Solovieff caused some excitement among the students at the University of St. Petersburg on Saturday by condemning capital punishment and expressing the hope that the Czar would show mercy to the prisoners.

From our Toronto and Ottawa exchanges we see that there has been quite a stir in musical circles over a particularly fine piano, the production of Messrs. Mason & Risch, of Toronto, which they made especially for Lady Tilley. The Ottawa "Free Press" calls it "a triumph of Canadian art." The Toronto "Mail" speaks of it as "a credit to Canadian manufacture." The Ottawa "Herald" says that "the country should be proud of it," and all agree that the instrument is quite equal to the best American productions in that line. We see from the St. John papers that Mr. Peiler has a similar instrument on exhibition at his warehouses, on the Market Square, and knowing that there are many among our subscribers who can appreciate a fine instrument, we mention this fact so that any of them going to St. John may take the opportunity to pay a visit to Mr. Peiler, who, we doubt not, will be happy to show the instrument.

BOOK NOTICES, ETC.

We are indebted to Ira Cornwall, Jr., Esq., late of St. John, N. B., but now of Liverpool, England, for a little pamphlet published by the S.P.C.K., containing two admirable addresses to the Clergy by the Rev. R. W. Church, A. M., Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. The subjects are "Temper," "Self Discipline," and both are treated in that clear and unaffected style, and with that earnestness and directness of purpose which happily characterize all the Dean's utterances.

We are also indebted to Mr. Cornwall for the Liverpool Church of England Sunday School Institute Report for the year 1880. It appears from the Report, which seems very complete, and easily understood, that there are in Liverpool 100 Church Sunday Schools, with 2625 teachers, and 36,198 scholars, showing an increase in the last four years of 21 schools, 875 teachers, and 14,165 scholars, a condition of things most gratifying.

Received from Anson D. F. Randolph & Co., 900 Broadway, New York, "Heart of Christ my King" and other Ancient Christian Hymns. Translated by Edward A. Washburn, D. D." This little collection of exquisite translations from Ancient Writers, by the late lamented Dr. Washburn, of Calvary Church, New York, is designed to serve as a simple Memorial for the Easter Season, as well as to partially carry out his own plan of collecting and publishing his numerous translations of Ancient Christian Hymns. It is in the form of a "ribbon book," a most appropriate Easter gift. Sent by mail, prepaid, on receipt of 50 cents.

THE ILLUSTRATED SCIENTIFIC NEWS.—The April number of this interesting and popular magazine is out. Among the various subjects illustrated in this number is an engraving of the late Emperor of Russia's steam yacht *Livadia*; a series of views illustrating wood working attachments for foot lathes; Prof. Secchi's solar photographic apparatus, with six distinct views of the sun taken by this instrument; engravings of the boats and apparatus used on Lake Geneva for determining the velocity of sound in water; a new machine for decorating enameled surfaces; engravings of several curious animals and objects in natural history, and an elaborately illustrated article on Bee Culture.

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