

obliged if you would allow the following remarks to be read at that meeting:—

"I am fully sensible of the responsibility which I have taken upon myself in endeavouring to enlist the active co-operation of the laity in the affairs of the Church in the diocese. But I have not taken this step hastily, or without due consideration; nor without frequently directing the thoughts of the clergy of my diocese to the subject, from the first time that I had the opportunity of meeting them in diocesan Synod. You are, no doubt, aware that the canons of our Church do not contain any provision for admitting her lay members to take part in the ordinary conduct of her affairs. With the view of preparing the way for the eventual removal of the disability under which the laity thus lie, the Bishops of the Church, in the year 1862, adopted the following resolution:—"That the admission of the laity into ecclesiastical Synods, under certain conditions, and to speak and vote therein on a large class of ecclesiastical questions, is not inconsistent with the Word of God, and is not contrary to that pure constitution of the Church to which it has been the special privilege of the Church in Scotland to bear testimony." But until practical effect be given to this resolution, and which a general Synod of the Church alone can give, it is not within the power of an individual Bishop to invest the laity of his diocese with such functions as would enable them to act with authority, or to frame rules which should have the effect of laws even in the diocese. But although he is not able to confer on the laity synodical functions, it is, nevertheless, competent to any Bishop to convene the laity of his diocese, to invite them to afford him their counsel on many subjects affecting the welfare of the Church at large, and to seek their co-operation in giving practical effect to many schemes of usefulness in the diocese. If that indifference which is often complained of on the part of the laity, in the affairs of the Church, may, with any reason or justice, be attributed to their feeling that they are too little consulted on its affairs, I would endeavour to remove that indifference by inviting them to take an active part therein. I would seek to make them feel that they are not members only of their several congregations. That is the very spirit and principle of *Independence*, not of *Episcopacy*. I would seek to convince them that, as Episcopalian, they are living members of that larger body, the Church; that they are, with their clergy, members of that body, in union with their Bishop; that, as such, their duties and responsibilities extend beyond the particular congregation to which they may locally be attached; and I now ask them to afford me the advantage of their wisdom and talents; to assume, under due organization, what may be their legitimate part in the public cares of the diocese and of the Church; to become, by united action, fellow-labourers with their clergy and their Bishop, in promoting the glory of our Divine Master, in the edification and extension of His Church both at home and abroad. I desire to substitute, for that weakness and inefficiency which are the results of our present isolation, the vigour and strength which flow from organized union.

"I will now only add the expression of my hope, that no congregation will regard itself as too small in numbers to aid in promoting the union and well-being of the Church, by sending one at least, if not two, of its members to represent it in the Conference. Though small in numbers, it may contain some of the Church's best and wisest members. I am aware that difficulty may arise from the distance which some members may have to travel; but when it is considered that the Conference will meet but once a year, and that no really great object can be attained without some trouble and cost, I would fain hope that those who desire to see our Church put forth her real inherent strength, and that this branch of the vine, which Christ has so tended and so marvellously preserved in this country, may stretch forth to the right hand and to the left, will not refuse to submit to some sacrifice, or to undertake some trouble, once only in the year, for so good and so noble an object.—Believe me to be, my dear brethren, your faithful servant and Bishop.

"ROBERT EDEN,  
Bishop of Moray and Ross."

the death or resignation of any member, it shall be in the power of the communicants to elect a successor, who shall hold office until the period of the biennial election."  
At the meeting of the laity at which these rules were adopted it was resolved—"That the Bishop be requested to send a copy of the above regulations to the churchwardens or rectors of each charge in the diocese, with a request that they will lay the same before a meeting of the congregation, and communicate the result to the Bishop."

### News Department.

From Papers by R. M. Steamer Canada, Dec. 22.

AND.

The *Code*, reviewing the prospects of the next campaign, gives the following summary of preparations:—"In 1866 we shall make war with an army numerically proportioned to our position, and a fleet sufficiently large to accomplish anything that a fleet can well accomplish. Besides the large ships of this year's Baltic fleet, we have many new vessels, like the *Marlborough*, *Conqueror*, *Brunswick*, *Victor Emmanuel*, *Sulaj*, *Shannon*, and *Pearl*, which have first floated within the last few weeks, and will be ready for service when they are required in the spring. Each week that passes witnesses the debut upon the waters of some half-dozen little gun-boats—*Liters*, *Snappers*, and *Teasers*—whose deeds, we are sure, will not belie their names. Altogether, we may calculate upon having available next summer some forty-line-of-battle ships and heavy frigates of the new heavy-armed class, about twenty corvettes and smaller vessels of war, with not less than 170 or 180 gun and mortar-boats of light draught, each mounting from one to four guns of very heavy calibre. There will thus be at work in the Baltic some 230 vessels of all classes under the English pennant, propelled by steam, most of them expressly built for the peculiar service which they will have to accomplish, efficiently manned and carrying more than the usual force of marine artillery and marines, which latter admirably and most useful corps is now at its full strength, and in the highest state of discipline. With the powerful co-operation of the Emperor Napoleon, we may expect that the allied movements in the Baltic next year will be of a character to eclipse in interest and importance the operations hitherto carried on in the southern portion of the Russian empire. What those principally concerned expect in that quarter may be inferred from the exertions which are known to be at this moment made to fortify the Neva and the immediate defences of St. Petersburg. As regards the force under the command of Sir William Codrington, we may roughly calculate upon having it, exclusive of auxiliary non-combatant corps, at a strength of 169,000 fighting men, of which over 70,000 will be British soldiers, 20,000 Turkish Contingent, and about 10,000 or 12,000 German, Swiss, and Italian Legion. The 70,000 British we have at present between the Crimea, Malta, and the depôts at home, and few of them will encounter an enemy with less than eight or nine months' drill. We think we may now say that the arrangements for supply and land transport are on a scale fully proportioned to the wants of the army. Of the forces of our allies we can only speak generally, but we cannot exaggerate when we anticipate that French, English, and Sardinians will amount to considerably more than 200,000 men."

Of the small class of high-pressure screw gun-boats (230 tons) there are about thirty-six afloat, and between eighty and ninety in course of construction at the various mercantile establishments. By next March it is anticipated that we shall possess an equipped fleet of no less than 130 of this serviceable class. The class of gun or despatch-vessels have proved so useful, that sixteen more are being constructed, and when these are equipped (by next March), we shall have a fleet of twenty-two of this class. Two screw despatch-vessels of a larger class are also in course of construction at Mr. Scott Russell's works, and are likewise to be ready by March. In the course of two years three classes of gun and despatch-vessels, all propelled by steam screw power, and numbering at least 154, will therefore have been created; and in the course of another six months we may expect to see this fleet increased to 250, and a score of them at least of iron build. We have now about twenty-six mortar-boats afloat, and as many more building in various places in England and Scotland. Should the experimental iron mortar fleet at Portsmouth prove equal to its requirements, it is probable we shall have 100 mortar-vessels equipped by next March. At all events, it is said that more than 100 13-inch mortars are being manufactured under contract for the Ordnance Department.—*Herald*.

The *Gazette* contains an Order in Council, granting permission to the Bank of England to issue additional bank-notes, beyond the 14 millions prescribed by the Act, to the amount of £475,000, being within two-thirds of £712,625, the value of notes discontinued to be issued by private banks since 1844.

Viscount Sandon has been appointed Private Secretary to Mr. Labouchere.

This morning the Archbishop of Canterbury, accompanied by Dr. Travers Twiss, the Vicar General of the province, and Mr. Francis Hart Dyke, Her Majesty's Proctor, attended at the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster Abbey, for the purpose of further prosecuting Convocation, which stood adjourned until to-day from Wednesday, the 24th of October last. Mr. Dyke, at the Archbishop's request, read the schedule of prorogation, from which it appeared that the clergy of the province of Canterbury will be cited to appear for the despatch of business, in the Jerusalem Chamber on Friday, Feb. 1, 1856.

Samuel Rogers, the poet, died yesterday morning at his house in St. James's-place, in the presence of Dr. Beattie and Mr. E. Paine, his attendant. Mr. Rogers was born about the year 1760, and had therefore attained the venerable age of ninety-five. In 1787, after completing a course of travel, he published his "Ode to Superstition," and other poems; and five years later appeared his "Pleasures of Memory," by which his fame as a poet was established. In 1798 he published his "Epistle to a Friend," and other poems; in 1814 his "Vision of Columbus and Jacqueline," in 1719, "Human Life;" in 1822, the first part of his "Italy," on the illustration and printing of which he is said to have spent £10,000. Mr. Rogers's house, in St. James's-place, is a perfect treasury of art. The pictures are amongst the very best of their class, and, though few in number, are said to have cost £6,000.

We regret to record the death of Colonel Sibthorp, M. P., who expired at one o'clock on Friday afternoon, at his town residence in Eaton-square. The hon. and gallant member had for some months past suffered from delicate health; and at the close of the last session of Parliament he resorted to Brighton, but he derived little or no benefit from his visit to that watering place. Since his return to the metropolis the gallant Colonel has not appeared to get worse, and his medical attendants held out hopes of his ultimate restoration; but those hopes were not to be realized, for aggravated symptoms set in on Friday morning, and at the hour before named he died. The deceased was descended from an ancient family settled upwards of a century and a half at Canwick Hall, near Lincoln, many of whose members from time to time have represented that city in Parliament. His father, the late Mr. Humphry Waldo Sibthorp, sat for several years at the commencement of the present century. His son, Charles Dalat Waldo Sibthorp, was first elected in the high Tory interest in 1826, and with the exception of the brief Parliament of 1825-4, chosen under the excitement consequent upon the passing of the Reform Bill, he continued to represent Lincoln to the day of his death. Once, and once only, did the gallant Colonel's good fortune fail him, and that was, as we have said, in 1833, when a majority of eighty-eight displaced him to make room for Sir E. Bulwer. The gallant Colonel was born, we believe, 1782, and in 1813 married Maria, daughter of the late Mr. Ponsonby Tottenham, many years M. P. for the borough of Fethard, in the Irish House of Commons, and by whom he leaves issue several children.

It is rumoured (*says Notes and queries*) that the 25,000 copies of Macaulay which have been printed will not meet the supply on the day of publication, and that the press is already at work on a second impression. Our readers will share our surprise when they hear that the weight of the Macaulays to be issued to the trade on the 17th is estimated at no less than fifty-six tons. Surely this is a fact unparalleled in the history of publishing!

*Edward Haydon* was tried at Kingston yesterday for an assault upon the two Lawson's witnesses for the prosecution against the Rev. Mr. Fetcherine and the boy Hamilton for Bible Burning, charged with intent to do them grievous bodily harm; another count charged him with a common assault, and a third with riot. The jury found him guilty on the two latter points; and Mr. Baron Green sentenced him to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour—a sentence, says the *Times*, that created great consternation among the sympathizers present.

**MONKEY MARKET, One p. m.**—The fall of Kurs announced by the *Post* on Wednesday, produced a decline of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. from 88 $\frac{1}{2}$ —the opening quotation of that morning. They quite recovered, however, by the end of the week; and the announcement on Monday that Prince Esterhazy had left Vienna with terms of peace, caused an advance to 89 to 1-8. Yesterday some speculative sales caused them to recede to 88-3-8 to 7-8, which was the last official quotation.

A Cabinet Council, at which all the Ministers were present, sat for two hours and a half yesterday at the Foreign Office.