

"There is a prophecy current among the Turks that their empire in Europe will last four hundred years. As Mahomet II. took Constantinople on the 29th May, 1533 (old style), this period will terminate on the 10th of June, in the present year. To corroborate this we have 'the sixth Angel poured out his vial on the great river Euphrates, and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the Kings of the East might be prepared'—Rev. xvi. 12. Commentators are all of opinion that this passage relates to the destruction of the Turkish Empire. Now if we consider the Turkish power to have commenced in the year 611, when Mahomet said he received his first revelation, and add 1260 years to it, deducting 28 years on account of the difference between Julian and Prophetical years, we arrive at the year 1883, and certainly present appearances seem to justify this conclusion. If we consider the Turkish power to have commenced at their celebrated era, the Hejira or flight of Mahomet from Mecca to Medina Friday, July 16th 622, this will bring the destruction of the Turkish Empire down to the 28th July, 1864."—*Correspondent of the Harbour Grace, Newfoundland Weekly Herald.*

SATURDAY EVENING REFLECTIONS.—Another week is gone, and what has been done? Have I discharged my duty? What if this were my last Saturday evening, is all well? Am I ready to say that I love God? Reader what have you been doing since our last interview? I have seen the sinner weep, and heard the believer rejoice—should I not love God?—He promised to be with me, if I discharge my duty.—He has never failed me—should I not love him? He has made me heir to a brilliant crown of imperishable splendor. O, my soul bounds to be with my Lord.—But here I will stay till my work is done, and then, with those who love God, my happy spirit shall dwell forever in the realms of bliss above. Reader, love is the bliss of life; do you enjoy its satisfying and life-giving beams? Christ left the glory he had with his Father, to purchase this boon for you. Love—the food of angels—the strength of saints. O, dying man, think!

When we consider how weak we are in ourselves, yea, the strongest of us, and how assaulted, we may justly wonder that we can continue one day in the state of grace; but when we look on the strength by which we are guarded, the power of God, then we see the reason of our stability to the end, for omnipotency supports us, and the everlasting arms are under us.—*Leighton.*

COURTESY IN CLERICAL EXCHANGES.—When the country parson intermits preaching, he is ever very well supplied by some able man, who treads in his steps and will not throw down what he hath built.—*George Herbert.*

News Department.

From Papers by the R. M. E. America, June 29.

HOUSE OF LORDS, FRIDAY, JUNE 17.

THE BISHOPRIC OF SYDNEY.—The Earl of Redesdale said the question which he had intimated his intention to put to the noble duke at the head of the Colonial Department had reference to the appointment of a successor to the late Bishop of Sydney. He was anxious to ascertain the cause of the delay, being unwilling that a bad precedent should be created. A whole year had elapsed since the death of the late bishop, and he could not understand what had become of the emoluments of the see during that period. He hoped no further delay would take place in the appointment, now that public attention had been called to the matter.

The Duke of Newcastle did not believe that the noble earl intended to impute any blame to the Government. He concurred with the noble earl that it was extremely inconvenient that a practice should be permitted to prevail of leaving a colonial see vacant for a longer period than was necessary. Shortly after the death of the late bishop he had had a communication with a right rev. prelate, who told him that it was under consideration whether some change should not take place, and that the matter was then under the consideration of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Under these circumstances, he did not think it advisable to recommend to her Majesty to fill up the see immediately.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MAY 20.

THE CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.—A vote of £7647 having been proposed for the charge of the ecclesiastical establishments in the North American colonies.

Sir J. Walmsley said he did not think that that vote was consistent with the policy which the House had lately determined on adopting in the case of the clergy reserves in Canada.

Mr. F. Peel said that the question raised by that vote was not of the policy of supporting a

Church established in the British North American colonies. That policy had formerly been pursued by this country; and when it had been pursued a number of clergymen had been induced to proceed to the British North American colonies on the distinct understanding that as long as they might continue to officiate there they should receive a certain allowance. If the Committee should refuse to pass the present vote, a direct breach of faith would be practised on those parties.—There was no intention on the part of the Government of making any further provision for clergymen in North America; no new appointments were to be made and no vacancies among the recipients of that note, were to be filled up. The amount of the vote was thus becoming gradually diminished, and in the course of time it would necessarily cease altogether.

Sir J. Walmsley wished to know if it was to be distinctly understood that there was to be no fresh sums voted under that head?

Mr. F. Peel replied in the affirmative.

Mr. McGregor said, he should support the vote solely for the purpose of maintaining the faith of Parliament.

Mr. W. Williams would not oppose the vote after what had fallen from the hon. gentleman the under secretary for the colonies.

The vote was then agreed to.

The royal christening is fixed to take place on Monday the 27th inst., in the presence of the whole of the royal family, including the King and Queen of Hanover. The infant prince will be christened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of London. The Sponsors will be the Princess of Hohenlohe, the Princess of Prussia, and the King of Hanover. The names to be given to the prince will be Leopold George Duncan Albert. The Queen will give a grand banquet, at which the Cabinet Ministers and great Officers of State who have been invited to the ceremony will be present.

THE DARIEN SHIP-CANAL.—The subjoined interesting letter is from Alexander von Humboldt on the subject of the projected oceanic canal across the Isthmus of Darien. The importance of the undertaking is fully admitted by the learned baron: and he urges the necessity of constructing a canal without locks as the only medium of communication suitable for the accommodation of the trade of the world. It is now said that it was to the absence of this important feature in the Nicaragua ship-canal-scheme that the failure of that project was mainly owing:—

Potsdam, June 4, 1853.

"Sir—I am very much to blame for having so long delayed an answer to the agreeable and interesting dispatch that you have been kind enough to forward me, by the hands of Mr. Augustus Peterman, so estimable by his character as well as by the solidity of his geographical labours. Dr. Cullen cannot doubt the high importance that I would attach to the merit of his courageous and useful investigations in the eastern part of the Isthmus of Panama. Knowing my position and my octogenarian age, he will receive with indulgence even so late, the expression of my lively gratitude.

"After having laboured in vain during half a century, to prove the possibility of an oceanic canal, and to point out the Gulf of San Miguel and Cupica as the points most worthy of attention—after having regretted almost with bitterness, in the last edition of my 'Aspects of Nature,' that the employment of the means which the present state of our knowledge affords for obtaining precise measures has been so long delayed, I ought, more than any one else, to be satisfied to see, at last, my hopes for so noble an enterprise revived. By your publications, and by that of Mr. Gishorne, will be originated the great work of changing an important part of the commerce of nations, and of rendering more accessible the rich countries of Eastern Asia and the Indian Archipelago. The undertaking is by no means above the intellectual and material power which civilized nations have attained to. The work should be one to last for ever—it should not commence with a canal with locks like the magnificent Caledonian Canal—it must be a really oceanic canal without locks—free passage from sea to sea, across which the speed of the navigation will be modified, but not interrupted, by the difference in height and non-coincidence of the tides. Receive the expression of my highest consideration. Yours, &c., ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT.

"Dr. Edward Cullen, Strand, London,"

PATAGONIAN CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—A most interesting meeting was held on the evening of Friday last, in the hall of the Collegiate Institution, Liverpool, in aid of the above Society—a Society of which little was known until a melancholy event with which all our readers are long since familiar—the death of Captain A. P. Gardiner, R. N., Rev. Mr. Williams and six other missionary associates on the shores of Patagonia. The chair was occupied by Edward Heath, Esq. The Rev. J. Marsh, of Blesby, Nottinghamshire,

brother-in-law to the lamented Captain Gardiner; the Rev. George Pakenham Despard of Bristol, honorary secretary to the Society; and the Rev. G. Robinson, of Birmingham, attended as a deputation.

The Chairman, in his preliminary speech, gave a succinct sketch of the missionary endeavours, and said, yet cheering end of the heroic Captain Gardiner—of the vast field of heathenism yet unoccupied by the preacher of the Gospel, which it was the wish of that good man to illuminate with the light of Christianity—and of the too general but mistaken opinion of the world, that the last fatal mission had been undertaken in a rash moment, and without due attention to the safety of the little band.

The Rev. Mr. Marsh, a brother-in-law of the late Captain Gardiner, then gave an interesting account of that true Christian and zealous missionary; and in the course of his speech made an interesting allusion to Mrs. Gardiner and her family, whom he had met a short time ago on the evening of their departure for Cornwall, whither they went to visit the surviving relatives of those brave men who had perished on the Patagonian coast with Captain Gardiner.

The Rev. G. P. Despard, the honorary secretary, delivered a most interesting speech, in the course of which he mentioned the fact that a Liverpool merchant upon whom he called had given him the munificent sum of £100 for the Patagonian mission, and had advised him to get a mission-vessel built, furnished, and provisioned at Liverpool. So that, even in Liverpool, they had acquired aid and agencies to keep them on in the work of evangelising the remote nooks of Heathendom.

The Rev. Mr. Robinson and the Chairman afterwards addressed the meeting; and at the conclusion of the proceedings a handsome collection was made in behalf of the Society.—*Liverpool Standard.*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.—The East Indian Court of Directors, after two days' debate, came on Tuesday to the conclusion to urge immediate legislation. Approving of the double system of government, they hope to see Sir C. Wood's bill amended in committee, so far as it abridged the powers of the directors. The same day the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, at the instigation of Mr. Bright, came to resolutions in opposition to the bill, the hon. member promising that the rejection of the bill on the third reading would not endanger the Ministry or lead to a dissolution.

BERKELEY COLLEGE, BERMUDA.—On Monday last a meeting was held at Willis's Rooms, in furtherance of the Berkeley College, at Bermuda, for the education of negroes—the Earl of Harrowby in the chair. The Earl of Shaftesbury and the Rev. W. Ward, of Canada, enlarged upon the equality of the coloured and white sections of mankind, and their capability of equal intellectual development; and the latter gentleman being a man of colour, and, as far as a clever speech goes, a full exemplification of the truth of his statement. Lord Harrowby, as chairman, and Mr. Dowding, as principle mover and secretary to the future of the college at Bermuda; and Judge Haliburton, in a dry and cautious speech, gave in a tardy adhesion to the plan, protesting however against aiming so high at first. Other speakers were Dr. Vaughan and Lord Denman, both of whom warmly advocated the object of the association.

ARCHBISHOPRIC IN AUSTRALIA.—It has been settled by Government that the diocese of Sydney shall be formed into an archbishopric. It is probable that the first archbishop will be the Rev. Thomas Jackson, rector of Stoke Newington.

PITCAIRN'S ISLAND.—The friends of the Rev. G. J. Nobbs, chaplain of Pitcairn's Island, will be glad to learn that, by the last accounts of him, he was in good health, and about to quit Valparaiso in her Majesty's ship *Portland*, Admiral Moresby, for Pitcairn. Mr. Nobbs, after traversing the Isthmus of Panama, had suffered from fever, partly the effect of the climate, and partly of anxiety at the temporary loss of a box which contained among other articles of value the silver communion-plate for the island church, and which was afterwards recovered. He expected to arrive at home about the 18th of May. A gloom had been spread over the island in consequence of a melancholy accident which occurred at the end of January. With a view to saluting the *Virago* on her departure from Pitcairn the grateful and kind-hearted people had prepared a fire off the old gun of the *County*. In ramming down the powder with a piece of wood which had a nail at the end of it, Matthew McCoy the chief magistrate of the island, was killed. Two other persons were seriously injured. The friction of the nail had caused the powder to explode. In so small and united a community, the sorrow occasioned by the event is deep and sincere.