

occurrence of the catastrophe, a lake had then been formed by the constant influx of the river.

"Of this fact he quite incidentally informs us. The battle of the kings was fought in the vale of the Siddim, and the neighbourhood of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Gen. xiv. 8.) This vale, therefore, must have been some part of the great Plain of Jordan, now covered by the Dead Sea. Accordingly, Moses expressly tells us that the Dead Sea of his time coincided with the quondam vale of the Siddim.

"And these (kings,) says he, were joined together in the vale of the Siddim,—WHICH IS THE SALT SEA.—Gen. xiv. 3.

"The quondam vale, or plain-like valley, between the mountains of Judah on the west, and the mountains of Moab on the east had, when Moses wrote, become, by the constant influx of the Jordan, what he calls the SALT SEA.

"6. That M. de Sauloy discovered certain ruins on the blasted margin of the lake, and that the volcanic character of the margin is a most decided confirmation of the Mosaic account. I make no doubt: but such a discovery affords no very logical proof that they were the ruins of the destroyed cities."—*Episcopal Recorder.*

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. America, May 13.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MAY 8.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT—INCREASE OF TAXATION.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a committee of ways and means, proceeded to make his financial statement: reminding the house that towards the close of February, when it had become his duty to ask for an increase of taxation by means of doubling the income tax, he had informed them that the increase was not to be considered as calculated to meet the service of the country should war be declared, but was only applicable to the expenses of the expeditions which were then in the course of equipment, and that he should probably have to ask for additional estimates in the contingency he had named. War had since been declared, and he was now prepared to ask the house to agree to the necessary expenditure. The right hon. gentleman proceeded to defend the course he had pursued with respect to the reduction of the interest on Exchequer Bills, contending that, instead of a loss, he had effected a saving of £60,000 by that course. He replied to the attack made upon him by Lord Montague in the House of Lords for the amount of deficiency bills to which he had recourse, and quoted returns showing that he had only issued deficiency bills to the extent of £3,500,000, while the hon. and noble lord himself, when Chancellor of the Exchequer, had issued them to the amount of £4,500,000, to £5,500,000 per annum. The truth was, however, that he had never less than £1,160,000 in the Bank of England over and above the amount of deficiency bills which he had issued. Having thus replied to the attacks made upon his policy, he proceeded to state the nature of the new estimates which had been framed for the service of the navy, army, and ordnance departments, and said there would also be an addition of £500,000 for the embodiment of the militia, making a total of £6,000,000 for known charges. It would be, however, necessary to take a vote for unknown charges of £2,100,000, including a vote of £1,250,000 already granted under that head. He, therefore, proposed to ask a total increase beyond what was already voted of £6,850,000, and this he should propose to meet by increased taxation. The mode of doing so he proposed should be in the first place by doubling the income tax for the period of the continuance of the war, but still retaining the distinction of the fivepenny rate on incomes under £150 a year. In the event of the termination of the war, the income tax should at once resume the position at which it now stood. The entire increase of taxation he calculated would be about ten millions, which would meet about two-thirds of the expenditure. And then came the question how the balance was to be met. It would be too extreme to place it all upon the income-tax; nor was there any other direct tax which it would be desirable to increase. Neither would they propose to raise revenue by an increase of the rate of postage, or the duty on spirits, the repeal of which had led to benefits far outweighing any loss of revenue that might be sustained. They did not propose to alter the tea duties or the tobacco duty, which was progressive; and it would be, therefore, better to leave well alone, for tampering with it might break it down. He proposed to increase the duty on spirits in Scotland to the extent of 1s. a

gallon, and in Ireland of 8d., from which he estimated a gain of £400,000 to the Exchequer. He should also propose to make arrangements to classify sugars for the purpose of refining, and to re-arrange the duties, by means of which he calculated on an increase of revenue to the extent of £700,000, without any increase of price to the consumer. There would be still a considerable deficiency, and this it was proposed to make up by an increase of the duty on malt, which was an article of almost universal consumption, and which entered into competition with wine and spirits which paid duties out of all proportion to that paid by malt. From this he expected a revenue of £2,450,000 by raising the duty from 2s. 9d. to 4s. This increased tax, also, he proposed should cease with the war; but the spirit duties he proposed to be permanent. These duties, in addition to the increased income tax, would enable him to meet the increased expenditure of £6,850,000. He thought it necessary, however, to ask for power to raise a sum of between £4,000,000 and £6,000,000 on temporary securities, to meet emergencies which might arise before they could receive more than a small portion of the result of the new taxation. He should propose his resolutions with respect to the new taxes that night, but without intending to pledge the house to their adoption before they should have an opportunity of fairly discussing them. The right honourable gentleman deprecated resorting to loans to meet the expenses of the war, contending that the loan system was the error into which Mr. Pitt had fallen on the breaking out of the French Revolution, and which had produced such frightful consequences to the finances of the country. He believed it was not too much to say that £250,000,000 of the national debt had thus been created in the shape of bonuses for which the country had not received one shilling of value. The right hon. gentleman then concluded a speech of three hours and a half duration.

The resolution authorizing an additional duty upon spirits having been moved, Mr. Disraeli would not consent to the passing of the resolution without a distinct arrangement for discussing the extensive proposal of the Government.

It was agreed, after some remarks from the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lord John Russell, that the resolutions should be agreed to, the discussion to take place on Monday next upon the report being brought up. The income tax resolution was allowed to stand over. Objections were raised to passing the resolution on the subject of the issue of Exchequer Bills and Exchequer Bonds in its original shape. It was ultimately agreed to modify the resolution so as to embrace the acceptance of the £2,000,000 subscribed for under the conditions recently proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Sir J. Graham obtained leave to introduce two bills, one for the better manning of the navy, and the other for facilitating the payment of prize money.—The house then adjourned.

THE ARMY IN TURKEY.—Sir J. Graham stated, in answer to a question from Sir J. Walsh, that 2,200 horses had already been dispatched to Turkey for the use of the army in the East; and that their conveyance had, as far as it was yet known, been most successfully conducted. The right hon. baronet added that the *Himalaya* steamer was at present being fitted up for the transport, by way of experiment, of five hundred more horses to the same quarter.

DEATH OF A CLERGYMAN FROM ANXIETY.—The Rev. Mr. Ferguson, Episcopalian minister, who attended War. Cumming, lately executed at Edinburgh, and to whose active benevolence the exertions used to obtain a commutation of the sentence were mainly attributable, has died during the present week from an illness occasioned by anxiety and distress of mind on Cumming's behalf, aggravated by exposure to intense cold in the "lockup," on the night preceding the execution. The rev. gentleman, who was much beloved in Edinburgh, has left a widow and infant family to mourn his loss. The event is not the less painful from the fact, that a strong conviction now generally prevails that Cumming was innocent of the crime for which he suffered.

FRANCE.

The formation of the camps at Marseilles and St. Omer continues to occupy public attention in no ordinary degree, particularly the latter, as reflection has served to confirm first impressions that the assemblage of so large a force as 100,000 men, and in the north, is intended as a guarantee or menace against the German Powers. Indeed there is a rumour current of the Prussian minister having demanded explanations.—There is another rumour connected with the northern camp which is not devoid of probability—that it is the emperor himself who will take the command, with what ulterior views may be determined by the conduct of the German Powers. The Government is clearly determined on making up for lost time.

Louis Napoleon now moves fearlessly about the capital on foot. One day last week he escorted the Empress to the Panorama of the Battle of the Pyramids, and sent her back to the Tuileries from the Hotel des Invalides in the carriage, while he walked to the Dôme and Cour Vauban, and thence to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Subsequently he walked to the works in the Place de la Concorde and the works of the Louvre.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

Accounts from Gallipoli of the 25th state that the organization of the camp was proceeding admirably, and the disembarkations taking place with perfect regularity.

Accounts direct from Varna of the 24th ult. inform us that two English and two French ships of war are blockading the Sulina mouth, and a part of their duty is to keep up a fire on the Russians who may be engaged in blocking up the stream. Their first cannonade took place on the 20th, nor was the result unsuccessful, though it was vigorously replied to by the Russian strand batteries.

COPENHAGEN, MONDAY.—The British fleet has been reinforced by the *Prince Regent* 90 and *Cumberland* 70, both just arrived from England, and the French liner *Austerlitz*, 100, in company. They sailed from Ellsnabben on Tuesday morning. The French squadron did not anchor in Wingo Sound, but proceeded immediately up the Baltic to join the British fleet.

All things taken into consideration, our position as respects on the waters of the Baltic are satisfactory. The English fleet alone seems fairly able to keep its own against any force the Russians can concentrate against it; and, when joined by the French fleet, which it must be in the course of a few days at latest, the allied force will be an overmatch for the Russian. And if it be true that, with a view to bring the whole of the Russian fleet under the shelter of the forts and batteries at Cronstadt, the Helsingfors division have really ventured from the guns of Sweaborg, there is reasonable ground to hope that some of them at least will be caught by Sir Charles Napier before they can reach their destination. Indications alluded to above suggest a hope, that this preponderance of the sea at sea, may be about to be rendered more efficacious by associating a land force with the combined fleets in the Baltic, as well as with those in the Euxine.

THE BALTIC FLEET.—On the arrival of the *S. George*, the *Majestic*, the *Miranda*, and *Tartar*, the Baltic force will amount to forty-four ships of all classes, of which eighteen will be line-of-battle ships, twelve of them screw, with 2,000 guns and 20,000 men. Adding the French line-of-battle screw ship *Austerlitz*, we have now there, or en route, 19 of the line.

CONDESCENSION.—The Pope has announced his permission (?) to the German Powers to unite against Russia with those of the West.

INDIA.

The India mail arrived at Alexandria on May 13, with advices from Calcutta to the 6th April; Boraal still continues in a disturbed state. The electric telegraph between Agra and Calcutta, a distance of eight hundred miles, is completed. The Russian fleet left Manila for Batavia on the 18th March. The English steamer has not yet arrived at Alexandria.

The Superior Court of Canada has decided that a man shall not be compelled to take off his hat in the street when a religious procession is passing.

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1854

THE HALIFAX CATHOLIC.

THESE few remarks in our paper of the 20th ult. in reference to this publication, have procured to the distinguished honour of a copious notice in the issue of Saturday last.

Nearly a whole "broadside" of that Journal, comprising no less than nine separate articles, is devoted to our special benefit. We suppose that we ought to be duly thankful for these favours; and yet we cannot at such an extended and critical notice of one, who the Editors of that paper consider such a contemptible opponent. Truly it is a fearful odds. The whole Ecclesiastical force of St. Mary's down at once, is in hand, upon one poor wight who happens to edit a humble journal on the side of an "upstart and rebellious Church." Such an unmerciful onslaught has seldom been witnessed in our land. Off at a time, gentlemen, if you please. Not Archbishop, Vicar General, Priests, Deacons, &c., all opening fire at once. How could it be expected that the poor Church Times