

accounts from all quarters certainly convey the idea that the benevolent societies are under the necessity of husbanding their resources lest they should be too soon exhausted; and they clearly show that a much larger amount of relief could be furnished to great advantage.

The heroes of the southern epidemic are receiving but a scanty amount of attention because their heroism is so little known, and the instances of it only come out by accident. Many have sacrificed everything, even their lives, to stop the progress of the terrible pestilence. Occasionally the name of some one is brought forward whose death amounts to a real martyrdom. The Cincinnati papers mention a case, which they say is unusual, of the voluntary sacrifice of property to stop the contagion on the Upper Ohio. A certain Captain Porter brought the disease up by his barges. Having been cautioned by the health officers that his best barge, which cost eight thousand dollars, was a pest, he immediately burned it, setting it on fire with his own hands. The physicians of Cincinnati have publicly called attention to this act as one "deserving the lasting gratitude of the people of the Mississippi Valley." Many other sacrifices equally meritorious are known to have been made, although the account of them may not have reached the neighbourhood where this took place.

The Afghan question will probably occupy the attention of the civilized world to a considerable extent for the next few months. The feeling in England that Russia is backing the Ameer of Cabul in his refusal to allow the British Embassy, in charge of Sir Neville Chamberlain, to go through the Chyber Pass, has occasioned a variety of comments in the Russian press upon the whole subject. They insist upon it that the conjectures about the matter in England arise from the fact of the antagonism which existed during the late war. They declare with one voice that they have had nothing whatever to do in causing the insult to Great Britain. It appears that a Russian mission has recently been sent, however, to the Ameer of Cabul, but with what object is not stated. Reports have been circulated to the effect that England has demanded from Russia an explanation of the object of her embassy; and Russia is expected to reply that she is not bound to explain the object of her mission, and that in the event of war between England and Afghanistan she will observe the same degree of neutrality as was observed between Russia and Turkey.

The *Times* correspondent at Calcutta telegraphs as follows:—The Government will make Lahore their headquarters for the winter, and will not return to Calcutta. The Foreign Office has received orders from the camp at Lahore. This looks as though the Viceroy entertained no hope of peace. The Government are anxious to avoid acting harshly. The Ameer has still the chance of submission open to him. In any event, I doubt whether an attempt to invade Afghan-

istan, on a large scale, will be made until spring. Accurate information regarding the Ameer's strength is wanting, but it is known that he has a well equipped standing army after the European model, besides irregular levies. The most difficult question to be encountered is the possible hostile attitude of the border tribes. The faintest mistake in tact, or error of judgment, might excite a blaze of warfare along the whole frontier of 800 miles. It is estimated that these tribes can easily turn out 100,000 fighting men.

Another correspondent of the *Times* stated, some time ago, that it is indispensable we should possess a commanding influence over the triangle of territory formed on the map by Cabul, Ghuznee, and Jellalabad, together with power over the Hindu Kush. This would command the central routes of approach to India, indirectly cover the eastern and western routes, and at the same time enable us to threaten, if necessary, the whole line of Russian frontier. He said at that time we might hope to command this triangle with Afghan concurrence if the Ameer was friendly. Now, however, it has turned out that this individual is not friendly, it is not improbable that the whole power of the empire will be employed in order to obtain this advantage in spite of him.

The work of the Church among the men employed on railways is just now receiving much attention in England. In the County of Rutland, the scene of the Bishop of Peterborough's Railway Mission, a remarkable service has lately been held, showing the power of the Church to adapt herself to the varied conditions of life. The mission has been in active existence for more than two years, and its object is to supply the spiritual wants of a large number of railway men, with their wives and families. A special mission service has been held in a tunnel at Glaston, which is more than a mile long. A portion of it was lighted for the occasion with lamps and candles. Nearly a thousand of the railway population were present. The rendering of the service and the singing of some of the most popular Church hymns had a very striking effect. Before the service was concluded two special prayers were offered up, one for the workmen who had been engaged in the the work, and the other for the safety of all those who, when the line was completed, should travel by that way.

The advance of the Russian frontier in Asia has been a subject of repeated remark for some time. The fact is that for a couple of centuries it has been going on, and sometimes by rapid strides. At the beginning of the eighteenth century it was two thousand five hundred miles from the English. During that century it advanced five hundred miles, and in the early years of the present century that distance was shortened a thousand miles. Since the Crimean war the intervening territory has been narrowed by about four hundred miles, so that now the outposts of each power are only two hundred and fifty or three

hundred miles apart. The British Government is said to be in possession of evidence to the effect that it has been intended to approach nearer still to the Hindu Kush; and this information has caused a considerable army to be assembled near the north western frontier of our Indian possessions. Considerable apprehension appears to exist as to the defensibility of the Indian frontier. Vigorous measures are to be adopted, and probably a rectification of the boundary line. We cannot understand why an offensive and defensive alliance was not made long ago between England, Khiva, Cabul and Persia.

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

FOOD and raiment are essential in the present conditions of humanity for the performance of any of the duties of life, for the pursuit of any real or imaginary good, and even for the production of goodness and piety in the soul. "The tree must be rooted in the soil, before it can produce either flowers or fruit." And so our contemplations have lately been directed to the care that has been manifested by Almighty God to provide His creatures with these needful preliminaries for the Christian's pathway through the world. In the gospel teaching we learn how deeply and how fully impressed Christ was when on earth with all the requirements of our nature, and how feelingly He sympathized with all our necessities. Nor did His sympathy confine itself to the immediate needs of the body or of the soul. It extended itself to all the circumstances in which our lot could be cast. "He careth for you" was the sentiment impressed upon all His actions, the expression of all His intercourse with man in every condition of life. It was emphatically the central principle which was never absent from the Redeemer's heart. He was touched with a tender and affectionate feeling of all the infirmities, the afflictions and the bereavements connected with humanity; and perhaps there is not an instance of it more affecting than that in connection with the widow at Nain, the loss of her only son, and his restoration to his mother by the miracle wrought by Christ. "When the Lord saw her He had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not." This simple statement, so full of meaning, expresses the tender, condescending, sympathizing love which is ever felt by our blessed Saviour, our great High Priest, Who has passed into the heavens, and Who is as fully alive to every human woe on every part of the face of the earth, as He was in regard to those with whom He was locally present in the land of Judea, eighteen hundred years ago. It is not difficult to realize a faith in the care and sympathy of the Redeemer in the sunshine of our days, when we have hopes, friends, abundance, freedom from pressing care. It is not difficult to bless God amid tokens of temporal prosperity, although alas! as He very well knows, it is only too easy to forget Him. But faith in His compassionate care is most precious in His eyes when it is tested by adversity. To