The Provincial Wesleyan.

There is often a great deal of glory spoken of as attaching to the missionary character. I think myself it is the highest office in the Christian ministry. But perhaps there is such a halo of glory about it that we are apt to keep out of sight some of the difficulties. You are going to meet difficulties. It is not a pleasing thing to leave your country—the land of your birth. It is not a little thing to tear yourselves away from your friends; it is not an easy thing to launch forth on the ocean to meet its storm and perils; and to be confined in a vessel for three or four months together, and often in danger. It will not be an easy thing when you have reached your sphere of labour to sit down for months poring over a Chinese grammar or dictionary. You will often be faint in your minds; and if you acquire a facility of speaking to the people by and by, you will meet with so much ignorance that you will be scarcely able to make the people understand your message. You will find a great deal of stupidity, a great deal of unconcern. You may go out as it is reported young Melancthon did in the height of his zeal, thinking that he had got a story to interest everybody. But he came back and said that "old Adam was too strong for young Melancthon" What says your Master? "If any man will follow me, let him hate (comparatively) father and mother and wife and children, and sisters and brothers—yea, his own life, if he will be my disciple" I need not remind you of what men have done with far inferior motives to yours. I need not tell you what love of science has achieved. I need not tell you how Herschell could plant his telescope on the sands; how Franklin and his brave associates could go to find a grave amidst northern snows. I need not tell you how many of your countrymen under the influence of patriotic feeling have gone and sacrificed themselves in the East; and how many of them are now wearing out their lives in the trenches. The love of Christ does not constrain them. But go ye in the name of the Lord. "Lo," said Christ, "I am with you always even to the end of the world." You have many, you have rich encouragements. You are four young men who have not had much experience of the world, and you may think you cannot accomplish very much. Three of you are going amongst 400 millions of Chinese. Your reading will bring to your recollection the story of the general of old, who, wandering through the tents the night before the battle, listening to what was passing between the soldiers. He heard them express great amazement that their general should go against so superior a force. He said to the men—"You are few, but how many do you take me for?" That one word inspired them with zeal and with courage; and they went and conquered. If you are feeble how many do your count your Master for? Christ is with you, he is your strength, your refuge in every time of need. Cast your care upon him. You go forth with our blessing, our affections, our prayers. We will think of you; I may say that this congregation will think of you at the family altar. I may say more. While they are praying for you they will not fail to support you. You may go forth without fear upon this subject. It is a remarkable fact, very striking to my own mind, that amidst all the difficulties we have had to encounter the last four years—amidst the convulsion in many Circuits, and the desertions of many who used formerly to be friends to our cause, the improving zeal has never abated; the Missionary contributions have never failed. This cause lives in the affections of our people, and you may go forth with confidence that the people of God will think of you. Go, my young friends, and may God preserve you! May your lives be precious in his sight! May you go forth to be eminent Ministers of the Cross; and may you be instrumental in his hands by turning many from darkness to light!

A Hymn was then sung, and the Rev. William Arthur closed the meeting with prayer.

London.

Rev. Dr. Green's Letter—Continued.

Few places in Europe impressed my mind so deeply with recollections of the past as did WESTMINSTER ABBEY and the TOWER OF LONDON. The former as the place where many illustrious heads had been *crowned*, the latter where a much greater number had been *cut off*. In the Abbey the great and mighty ones of the nation were buried when they died; in the Tower the great, but unfortunate victims of the mighty were worse than buried while still living. I approached both of these places with feelings of awe and veneration which I need not describe. A mixed assemblage of historic facts, suggested by these places, came rushing into my mind, while many of the great events of the Empire seemed to pass in review before me.

THE TOWER presents many memorials of thrilling interest. Here the history of a nation is written in characters of blood, but the mementoes of barbarous cruelty and oppression are highly suggestive. While we look upon the blocks on which multitudes have been decapitated, and the instrument of cruelty by which many innocent beings have been wantonly maltreated, we have much reason to be thankful that we have fallen on better times. In itself the tower of London is far from being imposing; there is nothing commanding in the huddled up mass of buildings; but as a depositary of many ancient and curious articles, this tower is replete with interest. It is now more than thirty years since it was used as a state prison; but the room is seen in which Sir Walter Raleigh was confined for 12 years. Here is also the block on which Lady Jane Gray was beheaded. In the *Horse Armory* we see a long line of British Monarchs and Heroes on their war-steeds, and cased in complete panoply so as to furnish an interesting history of all the changes made in armour from the time of Edward I. to the present period. Here are also preserved the different kinds of fire-arms used since the discovery of gunpowder; with swords, helmets and shields.

In another room are specimens of the various kinds of weapons in use before the discovery of fire-arms, together with a vast number of antique curiosities. THE REGALIA itself well repays a visit to the Tower.—Here are the different crowns worn by our monarchs, with the sceptre, bracelets, sword of State, &c., &c. The beautiful crown made for the coronation of her present majesty at a cost of £1,000,000, eclipses all the rest.

Since my previous visit to this place the *Beaucamp Tower* has been restored to its original state. On removing the plaster several very interesting inscriptions were found cut in the wall by the unfortunate inmates of these dreary dungeons during the sixteenth century. In some instances the name of the prisoner, merely, with the date of his confinement, is given; in others, a passage of Scripture, a verse of poetry, or the family crest. ROBERT DUDLEY has cut his name in large letters. This nobleman, it is well known, was the third son of the Duke of Northumberland, who was arrested for high treason, in 1553, for attempting to put the crown upon the head of his daughter-in-law, Lady Jane Gray. Robert was also arrested, imprisoned, and condemned to be hanged, drawn through the streets, and quartered; but through the clemency of bloody Mary, he was saved, and afterwards enjoyed the highest honours which Queen Elizabeth could confer upon him; elevated from a dungeon almost to a throne.

The EARL OF RUNDELL, who was confined here for aspiring to marry Mary, Queen of Scots, has left a beautiful inscription over the fire-place as follows: "The more suffering for Christ in this world, the more glory with Christ in the next. Thou hast crowned him with honour and glory, O Lord! In memory everlasting, he will be just"—signed Arundel, June 22, 1587.—Over the signature of CHARLES BAILLY, who, it will be remembered, was employed by the friends of Queen Mary, during her imprisonment, to conduct the correspondence of those who conspired in her favour. When taken, his pockets were full of letters in cypher.—Some unprincipled wretch betrayed him, and he learned prudence when it was too late, to keep his own secrets. Hear what he says and be instructed. "I. H. S. 1571, Die 10, Aprillis—Wise men ought circumspectly to see what they do—to examine before they speak—to prove before they take in hand—to beware whose company they use, and, above all things, to whom they trust." Few will doubt the wisdom and propriety of these beautiful aphorisms, but it is only in the school of adversity where they can fully be learned and perfectly realized.

We may form some idea of the learning of some of the clergy in those days by the following inscription, cut by the Rev. Thomas Clarke in 1578—which I give precisely as it appears on the wall:

"Hit is the peynt of wyse man to try and then trust;
For happy is he whom fyndeth one that is just."

And again—"I leve in hope and I gave credit to mi frinde in time did stand me moste in hande sa would I never da again, except I hode him sure in hande, and to all men, wishe I sa unless ye sussteine the leke lose as I do. Unhappie is that mane whose actes doth proever the miseri of this house in prison to endure." There was one name, in bold relief, unaccompanied with date, or verse, or sentence, which affected me very much; that name was JANE. It is supposed by Mr. Dick, who has taken drawings and given descriptions of these very interesting memorials of illustrious prisoners, that this inscription was designed for the lamented Lady Jane Gray, and cut by her husband, LORD GUILDFORD DUDLEY. Jane, with much difficulty, was induced to accept the title of Queen, which she enjoyed only for eleven anxious days, days of conflict, less miserable only than those which immediately succeeded them, when she and her admiring lord were cast into this dreary abode, to be relieved only by the axe and the block. Their execution took place on the 12th Feb. 1554. Who that reads the history of this amiable lady but deplores her fate? I will trouble the reader with but one more motto from this interesting spot, though there are nearly one hundred left upon these admonitory walls. This was cut by the unfortunate Earl of Rundell in the year 1587, and is worthy of being written in letters of gold. Hear his Lordship's testimony, not written in a moment of excitement, but carefully carved on the wall—"It is a reproach to be bound in the cause of sin; but to sustain the bonds of a prison for the sake of Christ, is the greatest glory."

In the yard, which is paved with stones, there is one spot where these stones are of a dark colour; here King Charles was beheaded, and there is a tradition among some of his admirers that the stones turned black, as a testimony against the wickedness of that act. The Traitor's Gate is now closed up, there being no more use for it. Formerly traitors were sent from Westminster Hall down the River, and taken in, through this gate, under the wall. In the Chapel are buried many persons of renown who figure in English history. Lady Jane was probably buried here, though the fact seems not clearly to be established; but here lies her husband, as well as Essex, the favourite of Queen Elizabeth. Before the altar sleep the two ill-fated wives of Henry the 8th,—Anne Boleyn and Catharine Howard, with many other distinguished personages. But we must leave the Tower, with the thousands of interesting objects it contains, and historic facts it records, to spend a few hours in

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—I was anxious for reasons which I have already stated, to give my children ample time to linger and survey, and take notes and meditate in both of these places, No history of England can be written that does not make frequent allusions to both of these buildings. The Abbey is a venerable and beautiful structure, first erected by Hebert, in the seventh century (610) but was subsequently destroyed by the Danes, and long continued a mere mass of ruins. Edward, the confessor, rebuilt it in 1066, when Pope Nicholas II constituted it the place of the inauguration of the Kings of England, and gave it the form of a cross, which thenceforward became the pattern of cathedral building in England." In Clark's description of London we are told that "*Henry the Third* greatly enlarged this Abbey in 1245; but the most remarkable addition made to it was the Chapel of Henry VII., which, though in itself an architectural gem, unequalled in England, does not harmonize with the original design." In the general plunder of church property which characterized the reign of Henry VIII., and of Cromwell, this building suffered much, but the re-edification of it was committed to that great architect, Sir Christophrr Wren, who added the two beautiful towers on the west and gave to this venerable edifice its present beauty and grandeur. It is built in the old Gothic style; the windows are of stained glass. In one of these windows is a representation of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, of Moses, Aaron, the twelve Patriarchs, &c., &c. In another is our Saviour, the holy Virgin, John the Baptist, Edward the Confessor, and St. Augustine. In another, the Saviour, the twelve Apostles, the four Evangelists, &c., &c. From the steps of Henry's chapel to the west door of the church is 375 feet, its width is 200 feet, and the height from the pavement to the inner roof 101 feet. The Monarchs of England are all crowned in the choir of this Abbey.

There are nine chapels connected with the building designed as burial places for the illustrious dead. That of Henry the VIIth is rich and beautiful beyond anything I ever saw. It cost £200,000, and was designed as a place of sepulture for himself and the blood-royal of England. The foundation was laid in 1503 and the Chapel finished in 1511. The ceiling is of stone, wrought with such exquisite taste and ingenuity, and with such design and variety of figures as beggars all description. The stalls are of wainscot, with Gothic canopies beautifully carved, the floor is made of black and white marble. In this chapel stand two *old oak chairs* such as would scarcely be used by any respectable family in Canada. In one of these chairs, suitably dressed up for the occasion our beloved Queen was crowned, as were all the Monarchs of the nation who have reigned since the days of Edward I. Under the *Royal chair*, and fastened to it with cords, is a common dark-looking limestone about 18 inches long, 10 wide, and 6 or 7 thick, with an iron ring in each end, called the stone of Fate. There is an old tradition, not very reliable I should think, that this is the precise stone which *Jacob used at Bethel first as his pillow and then as a pillar*, setting it on end and pouring oil on the top of it. (Genesis 28, 18.) That it was first brought to Jerusalem; then, after many years, removed to Spain, thence to Ireland, then to Scotland, and on it, the Scottish Kings sat to be crowned. Hence their Leonine verses expressive of confidence in it—

"Or Fates deceived, or heaven decrees in vain;
Or where they find this stone, the Scots shall reign"

Edward I. took it from Scotland and placed it under this old chair, where it will probably remain so long as there are British Kings to be crowned. Eight years ago, when visiting this chapel, I was invited to sit down in this memorable chair, which, of course, I did, not to receive a crown, but to reflect upon the short-lived honours of earth, while I looked around upon the tombs of kings and nobles who have long been slumbering in the arms of death. This honour is not proffered to visitors now, the chairs being placed behind a palling; to be seen, *not used*.

In one of these chapels, on an elevated tomb or marble bed, prepared for three persons, lie two statues, designed, I believe for the Earl of Exeter and his first wife; the space on his left being vacant. On enquiry, I was informed by our guide, that this nobleman had two wives, he prepared this monument and placed his first wife on the *right* directing that he should occupy the centre and his second wife the *left*—but oh! the vanity of mortals! Pride follows the ambitious even to the gates of death. This *amiable lady* refused to lie by the side of her husband at all unless she could lie at his *right hand!* hence the space remains unoccupied, a perpetual monument of her bad taste and unyielding pride.

In this noble Abbey are deposited the mortal remains of England's Royal Family, from Edward the Confessor down to George II. Here too, lie most of the nobility, statesmen, philosophers, warriors and poets. In one place is a monument to the immortal Wolfe who stained our Canadian soil with his blood, contending for the Plains of Abraham. In another place is a marble statue of Sir Isaac Newton whose giant mind traversed the ample fields of nature, discovered and defined the laws by which matter is controlled, and bequeathed to mankind a key by which to unlock the mysteries of creation. Milton and Cowper and Dryden are here, whose poetic effusions have charmed the world and gained for them an immortality of fame. Over one of the doors, in his white marble drapery, stands the memorable Pitt, one of England's greatest statesmen. He is stretching out his arms as if to electrify the Parliament with his overpowering eloquence. Indeed, it is quite impossible to walk through the spacious nave, tabular inscriptions or statuary, the subjects of which are in some degree, interwoven with the history of a nation's greatness. It is profitable to linger and meditate amidst these admonitory mementoes of former ages. There are few monuments here on which we may not look without any humiliating reflections to dampen our national pride; but many well calculated to awaken our gratitude and strengthen our courage.

Immediately opposite to the Abbey, on the other side of the street, stands the splendid

WESTMINSTER HALL AND WESTMINSTER PALACE,

This Hall is said to be the largest room in the world unsupported by pillars. It is two hundred and thirty-eight feet long, sixty-eight broad, and ninety in height. The splendid Gothic roof is richly carved and supported by arch resting on arch, presenting the appearance of majestic splendour. Here, on coronation days, the Nobility of England used to banquet, and here, too, many distinguished Peers and politicians have been tried for high treason and other criminal offences. In this hall Charles I. was brought to trial in 1656, and afterward decapitated on Tower Hall. This noble hall is generally open when the House is in session; members and visitors pass through it to the lobby.

THE NEW PALACE or Parliament buildings extend from the Hall to the River. It is built of a light coloured limestone from Yorkshire, the bearers of the floor are of cast iron, the entire roofs of wrought iron covered with cast iron plates, galvanized. No timber is used in the general frame work of the building. The foundation must be firm, as the entire edifice stands on a bed of concrete 12 feet thick. The frontage on the river is 1000 feet long. The exterior of this vast palace is rich and splendid in the extreme. It presents a forest of towers and fretted turrets too numerous to mention, the Victoria tower is now about 100 feet high but when finished it will be 346. Whether such a profusion of fretted work on a public building of that description, adds to its real beauty, or not, depends entirely upon the public taste. Nothing, however, could be more agreeable and suitable than the interior arrangements. On passing through the magnificent hall, up the beautiful steps you enter the porch which leads to a central hall, an *octagon*, of 70 feet square. From the centre a corridor leads to the right into the lobby of the House of Peers and from that into their legislative chambers, and another corridor on the left leads, in like manner, to the Commons lobby and House of Commons. The room where the Peers meet is exceedingly grand. On the right of the throne is a stall for the Prince of Wales, on the left is another for his father, the Prince Albert. The Speaker occupies the *woolsack*. The room where the Commons meet is large and commodious, fitted up with long cushioned seats. The reporters and spectators are accommodated in the galleries. The Speaker's gallery, into which none are admitted without a ticket from himself, is in the front. The entire building contains 14 halls, galleries, vestibules, or other apartments of great capacity, 20 corridors and eight official residences, (each ample and splendid. The entire building contains nearly 600 apartments appropriated to sundry purposes. Its cubic contents exceed 15,000,000, being one-half larger than St. Paul's Cathedral.

Through the kindness of Mr. Peto, who is a partner with Mr. Jackson in the *Grand Trunk* enterprise, we were presented with tickets of admission to the Speaker's gallery. We were fortunate enough to be present the evening of the debate on the *war question*. The Ministry were very much blamed for not acting with more energy and promptness in prosecuting the Russian war; but the principal artillery of the assailants, seemed to be levelled at Lord ABERDEEN, who, in the estimation of some of the speakers, appeared to be little better than a traitor. Lord DUDLEY STUART, Sir John Shelley, Mr. Layard, and a few others, led off in the opposition; but the Secretary of War, (Mr. S. HERBERT,) Lord JOHN RUSSEL, and Admiral BERKLEY, assisted by Mr. Peto and several others, defended the Administration with great ability and with complete success. Mr. Sydney Herbert is a sprightly, active gentleman, youthful in appearance, but eloquent and powerful as a speaker. Lord John is a nobleman venerable in appearance, deliberate and dispassionate as a speaker, but statesmanlike and comprehensive in grappling with a difficult subject. His Lordship is not a pleasant speaker, and yet everybody listens to him with apparent pleasure and marked attention. He has a weak voice, somewhat monotonous. He frequently steps up to the table, puts his hands upon it, and then steps back to his seat again, and this backing up and then advancing a step or two, constitutes the principal motion of his Lordship. There is a vast difference between Lord John and Mr. Herbert as orators. They are nearly of one height and size; both stand erect and appear well on the floor; but their oratory has scarcely one feature of resemblance. Mr. Herbert is florid, Lord John is plain—the former is impassioned, the latter is very calm—the one is verbose, flowery, caustic, and pours forth such a torrent of eloquence as to captivate the audience and storm the feelings, while the judgement holds back in suspense, until the storm is over—the other reasons clearly, argues conclusively, and seldom uses a word merely for the sake of ornament. Lord John never surrenders. He is mailed all over, and has few flaws in his armour through which the arrows of objection may penetrate and wound. He is not what the world would call an eloquent man; he lacks that ebullition of passion, that bounding of the heart, those flights of imagination which flash forth in the pompous oratory of some; but he is a statesman of great wisdom; he goes directly to the point, says only what is necessary and says that well. Few listen to him without being convinced.

LORD DUDLEY STUART* is but an ordinary speaker. He led off in the debate of the evening, but seemed to make no impression by what he said. As an orator he was greatly outdone by Sir J. Walsh, Mr. Hildyard, Mr. Wilkinson, or Colonel Dunn.

ADMIRAL BERKLEY is a short, thick set man, well advanced in years and head snowed with the frost of many winters. He has a full sonorous voice, a good delivery, and speaks with apparent ease and propriety. We were fortunate in getting good seats and more fortunate still in being in company with a gentleman who knew most of the members, and kindly pointed them out to us, or such of the leaders as we were anxious to recognize. Lord Palmerston, Sir James Graham, Mr. D'Israeli, and other members of note were present but took no part in the conflict. In the opposite gallery to us, but behind a screen, so arranged as to enable them to see, and not be seen, were several ladies listening to the eloquence of the evening.

* Since writing the above, the news of his Lordship's death has reached us; an event much to be deplored. He is cut off in the midst of his years

Provincial Wesleyan

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We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of statements of correspondents unless editorially endorsed.

Correspondents are respectfully requested to condense their communications—and write the names of *persons* and *places* very legibly.

The *Provincial Wesleyan* is the largest, and, for its size, the cheapest of the Religious papers of the Lower Provinces. Subscribers will confer a favour by recommending it to their neighbours.

Prospects and Progress of the War.

We withdraw other matter prepared for the columns of our paper this week in order to place before our readers as full a statement as possible of the latest intelligence from Europe. The latest date received by the Steamship *Africa*, which came up our harbour unexpectedly on Tuesday morning, is January 20th.

It will be seen that confidence is expressed in the Czar's desire for peace. For ourselves, we profess no faith in the speedy abandonment of hostilities. How the Allies, if true to themselves, can acquiesce in terms such as the Czar would be willing to accept, or Nicholas agree to be bound by such restraints as it is the duty of the Allies to impose, it surpasses our powers of comprehension to understand.

We give the news, however, as we have it, endeavouring to indulge the hope, sincere, though based on a feeble foundation, that a way of escape from the further accumulation of the evils of war may be provided without leaving it in the power of the Northern aggressor to disturb again the tranquillity of Europe.

Wilmer's European Times has the following:

We have reason to know, from a source of unquestionable authority, that the British Government are fully convinced of the sincerity of the Czar's desire for peace, and it is more than probable that the forthcoming Congress at Vienna may really settle the question. The pride of the Emperor Nicholas has been sadly lowered by his readiness to accept terms now, which he rejected with scorn nine months back; and to do this while the Allied forces are in possession of his own soil, adds, of course, to the humiliation. But the fact is undeniable that he *desires peace*, and will even go beyond the four points in order to secure it. He is willing, we have been given to understand, to exceed the four points by consenting to a large maritime reduction in the Black Sea, and to the presence there of a maritime force in the interest of the Western Powers. He desires, nevertheless, to retain Sebastopol; and if the allies now succeed in destroying that fortress, he will not pledge himself not to rebuild it. This information has reached us from a quarter so high that it may be relied on as the exposition of the Czar's feelings at the present time.

The latest direct advices from the Crimea extends to the 11th. Omar Pacha had had a conference with the allied generals on the 5th, with a view to future movements, after which he left for Varna, and would return in a few days to Eupatoria to aid in carrying out the plans which have been agreed upon. This delay, for which, we presume, some good reason can be assigned, will evidently retard the attack to a time much later than was anticipated a week or two back. The weather was fine, but there was snow on the ground, and the mercury had receded below zero. A temperature so low has its good as well as its evil features. It will harden the roads, and thus render more easy the transport of the munitions and the commissariat, but it will also add greatly to the sufferings of the men, whose health already enfeebled by the damp weather which had so long prevailed, will with difficulty sustain this hardly less rigorous change. The accounts of the condition of the English troops are very distressing.

The best proof the excellent constitutions of the soldiers is a fact mentioned by an army surgeon—namely, that, notwithstanding the wet and cold, the diseases of *the lungs* are very few, and the complaints from cold and rheumatism are still more rare. He states that bowel complaints are most prevalent, caused by the salt rations, the bad water, loss of rest, and the cold, and damp of the situation,—causes, any one of which will account for this terrible mortality, this wasting away of the vital energies amongst men who must have possessed iron frames to have endured such sufferings so long.

It seems to be understood that the representatives of the Western Powers at Vienna have received from their respective Governments the necessary powers enabling them to treat for peace with Russia. The Turkish minister has not yet been so commissioned, but will, it is believed, speedily receive the required plenipotentiary authority; but the strangest feature of all is, that Prussia insists upon her right to be present at this conference. She grounds her right in her capacity as a great power, and as one of the parties to the treaty of 1841, with which this congress will have to deal. The Western Powers decline to admit Prussia unless she will give in her adherence to the treaty of December 2nd, which she refuses to do, and Prussia protests against the exclusion. As showing the sincerity of the Austrian Court to the Western Alliance, it is stated that at Constantinople recently the Internuncio. M. Bruck, gave a grand diplomatic dinner, at which he proposed as a toast, "the Sultan and his brave army, who are the admiration of Europe." In the course of his speech, he declared that the Turks in every action had defeated the Russians—that Turkey had nothing to fear from Muscovite ambition—that the Western Powers and Austria were willing to fight for the rights of Turkey—and that as Russia was no longer to be feared, she must yield. The adherence of Sardinia to the treaty of the 2nd of December, and the offensive and defensive treaty which she has made with England and France, are announced as facts of importance; but the most important fact of all is, that she has engaged to furnish 15,000 men, who are to be immediately sent to the Crimea—a proof of earnestness in the cause which leaves no doubt of her hearty co-operation.

THE RECROSSING OF THE DANUBE BY THE RUSSIANS.

VIENNA, Jan 15.—The following is official:—During the night of the 7th inst., a Russian detachment crossed the Danube, and advanced as far as Babadagh. The Russians captured 83 Turks and one flag. After this the whole Russian detachment returned to Ishmail, in Bessarabia. The Turks had a few men killed, and the Russians also suffered a small loss This is the truth of the passage of the Danube, which has caused such a sensation.

BRAILOW, Jan 12.—The number of Russians who have entered the Dobrudscha is 20,000. 15,000 men, with 50 guns, are advancing towards Baltschik.

ENDEAVOURS TO OBTAIN AN ARMISTICE.

We learn from Vienna and Berlin that great efforts are at this moment brought to bear to obtain the consent of the Western Powers to an armistice. The Emperor Napoleon's address to the Imperial Guards, the reinforcements sent by England, and the treaty which France and England have concluded with Sardinia, have been regarded at Berlin and St. Petersburg as evidences of an intention to complete the work commenced before Sebastopol, irrespective of the general professions, more or less sincere, made in the name of the Czar. The Berlin cabinet is urging with peculiar earnestness the necessity of suspending hostilities until the belligerents shall have pursued further the recent endeavour to arrive at an understanding It is believed that the recent irruption of Russian troops into the Dobrudscha was mainly intended to demonstrate to the Allies that the advantages offered by an armistice were not monopolised by Russia. It is not certain that the Austrian Government was not a party to the manœuvre.

Religious Prospects in France.

Our most recent intelligence from France is of a character somewhat more encouraging than we have been of late accustomed to receive.—The numerous petitions and addresses presented to the French Government by the various bodies of Protestants in France, respecting the persecutions which they have for some time past had to endure, seem to have produced in some degree the desired effect. To one of these documents, which, in the shape of a memorial of grievances was addressed to the Emperor on behalf of the various non-conformist Churches of France, including the French Methodist Conference, His Majesty replied, through the Minister of public worship and instruction, in terms of which the following is stated to be a faithful though brief summary:—

'The Minister is directed to say, that the Emperor had read the address with interest and carefully examined the demands of the memorialists. He recognises, it is said, to all his subjects the full liberty of conscience; but cannot, in anywise, recognise a full and unlimited liberty of worship as a right. But he is willing to concede as a favour what cannot be granted as a right. The Emperor is disposed to believe that there may be conscientious seceders from the Reformed Church, as by law established, and is disposed to allow the opening of places of worship for their use, wherever it can be shown that this religious dissent does not contain, likewise, purposes of a political character.'

An answer like this it must be admitted was not calculated to afford full satisfaction, or remove every doubt from the minds of the non-conformists as to their future freedom from interruption and annoyance in their religious services; nor do subsequent events tend to confirm the views of those who regarded it as a guaranty of complete removal of the disabilities under which our brethren in France laboured; but it is at the same time evident that a very gratifying change has taken place in the treatment of these worthy men. The extent of the toleration afforded appears to be this: that among their fellow Protestants the non-conformists are free to labour, but not to extend their efforts to the popish populations. The following extracts from the Parisian correspondence of the London Watchman contains some statements of interest:

Shortly after the period when the Minister of Public Worship had written by order of the Emperor, promising, practically, religious freedom to the Nonconformist Bodies, an influential Pastor, in fact, the President of the French Methodist Conference, called upon the *Prefet* of one of our midland departments or counties, in which evangelical labours have lately been commenced. It so happened that the Prefet, himself a Protestant, was personally acquainted with Dr. Cook. The reception was, therefore, most cordial and friendly. But when the subject of religious liberty was mentioned, the Prefet expressed himself with much reserve as to what he was able to do in our favour, notwithstanding the orders from Paris. He summed up his remarks, in fact, much in the following style:—"I can do little to serve your cause. There is great objection to Protestant labours among our Catholic populations; and on that subject you must be cautious and reserved. I am unable to meet all your wishes in that respect."

At the same period, one of the Evangelists of the Methodist Conference called upon the Prefet of the department in which he labours in the South. The object was to inform the Prefet of his intention of establishing a religious meeting in a village to which he had been invited. The reply was: "I received yesterday instructions from the Minister as to religious liberty. The Government will, on no account, put obstacles in your way. Besides, no man in the world has a right to interfere between God and another's conscience. When you get home send me your demand, and in a week you shall have what you request." Our friend did so, and obtained the required authorisation; the Prefet replied: "In answer to yours of the 10th Nov., by which you ask me an authorisation to hold, at Comps, religious meetings, I have the honour to inform you that so long as you restrict yourself to the preaching of the Word of God, not only will the superior authorities authorise your meetings, but you may, besides, reckon on their protection."

This functionary is the same whom I mentioned to your readers a year since, as having closed several meetings in his department, and having stated most positively, that out of the official temples, no meetings would be allowed. Now, the altered tone is clearly to be attributed to the ministerial instructions from Paris of which we have spoken, and in this case, at least, they seem to be explicit and peremptory.

REVIVALS IN FRANCE.

Several of our Protestant Churches are enjoying showers of blessings from above. In the North, notwithstanding the several difficulties with which evangelical labours have to contend, there is progress, both in the number of hearers at the congregations already formed, and in the number of places from which calls for help are sent. If the priests manage to keep up their craft by processions, and the prestige of the civil power, they are far from carrying with them the hearts of the people.

Your readers are aware that in the department of Saône-et-Loire, four Preachers of the Gospel have been imprisoned, for holding what are called illegal and unauthorized meetings. Well, these very trials have turned out for the furtherance of the truth: our opponents are fairly ashamed of their own acts; the prisoners are now treated with kindness and even respect, and their friends and families are allowed free access to the prison. On the other hand, the populations of Louhans, Branges, and the neighbourhood, where our friends resided and laboured, are so favourably impressed in favour of the Protestant prisoners and their teachings, as to afford hope that, at no distant period, Rome will lose, in that fair portion of France, more adherants than she had even dreamt of, or feared.

But what is better still, the Spirit of God is being poured forth especially in the South, upon our congregations. I allude principally, though not exclusively, to those of the Methodists. For three successive winters, we have been favoured with baptisms from above Last year, this gracious visitation began in the mountains of Dauphiny,—spread into the vineyards of Languedoc,—and came among the hills of the Cevennes. This time, the revival begins with the Cevennes, and seems likely again to spread throughout our Circuits. Revival services, and penitent prayer meetings, furnish us with means of awakenings and conversions, and these take place by tens and twenties. Members of other congregations come occasionally among us to get good, and take with them, I trust, sparks of that holy fire which will kindle many a heart in their respective folds. The spirit of Yorkshire and Cornish Methodism is felt even in the distant hills of the south; or rather, it is the same Lord who is rich unto all that call upon him; it is the same Spirit that breathes and works in the hearts of men:—

"Oh, that all might catch the flame,
All partake the glorious bliss!"

Let the world frown; let the Pope fulminate; let prohibitions, fines and imprisonments abound; let all the glitter and all the terror which Satan possesses, be put forth: we heed it not, if only the Spirit's energy be displayed in our midst. So do we all devoutly pray.

[FOR THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN.]

The Patriotic Fund.

MEETING AT MAITLAND.

According to previous notice a public meeting of the inhabitants of Maitland was held in the Temperance Hall on Monday evening the 8th inst., to take into consideration the propriety of adopting means for obtaining aid to the Patriotic Fund. Nathan Smith, Esq., was called to the Chair, and Archibald Frame requested to act as Secretary. After prayers by the Rev. Mr. Tuttle, the Chairman opened the meeting in a neat and pertinent speech, explaining the object for which the meeting was called, and urged upon all present the necessity of contributing according to their means.

It was moved by the Rev. Mr. Tuttle, and seconded by Capt. Alexander McDougall:—

Resolved, That we gladly embrace this opportunity of expressing our undiminished attachment of loyalty to our Gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, her Crown and Government.

Moved by Mr. Isaiah Smith, Jr., and seconded by James Putnam, Esq.:—

Resolved, That the present state of our fellow subjects, who compose the British Army and Navy in the East, demands the sympathy of all Nova Scotians.

Moved by A. M. Cochran, Esq., and seconded by David Frieze, Esq.:—

Resolved, That it is very desirable that vigorous measures should be immediately taken to aid our fellow subjects throughout the British Empire, and its dependencies, in making provision for the widows and children of the soldiers, marines and sailors, who have fallen or may fall in the present war.

Moved by Mr. Wm. McDougall, and seconded by Mr. Stephen Graham:—

Resolved, That a subscription be now opened in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

The meeting was addressed by the gentlemen who proposed and seconded the resolutions, by Mr. R. H. Smith, Robert Logan and others. A subscription was at once opened, and a Committee appointed to solicit subscriptions. The meeting then adjourned to m et at an early day to receive the report of the Committee. The deepest interest was manifested throughout, and an excellent feeling prevailed.

Mr. Editor,—Please publish the above, and give information through the columns of your paper as to whether an authorised and responsible medium has been appointed through whom the monies paid into the Patriotic Fund in Nova Scotia may be transmitted, and where such medium may be found.

ARCHIBALD FRAME, *Secretary.*

We presume all remittances should be made through His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and that the proper course for local committees will be to forward the contributions entrusted to them to the Provincial Secretary.

Missionary Report (Canadian) for 1853-4

From this report which has just been published we learn that the amount contributed to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, by the various circuits and stations in Canada West, during the past year is, £7,539 14s 4d, an advance of £1,866 14s 10½d, on the contribntions of the preceding year. The expenditure of the year in carrying on the extensive operations of the Society were, £6,559 13s 7d; leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer, last June, with which to commence the present year. The extent and state and prospects of the work under the superintendance of the Wesleyan Missionary Society in Canada, are exhibited in the following extract from the interesting Report of the Committee:

"The Committee have great pleasure in stating that the AUXILIARY SOCIETY IN CANADA last year supported 15 Indian Missions, 62 Domestic Missions, 21 Missionaries to Indians, 79 Ministers on the Domestic Missions, 16 Day School Teacher. 6 Interpreters, 15 Day Schools, two of which are large industrial; and that there are on the different Missions 10,624, Members of the Church, 1,142 of that number Indians; and that the increase during the year is 1,330 Members. Such are the results, under the blessing of the divine Spirit, of the application of the truths the Society's Agents inculcate, and of the uniformity on all the Missions of their instructions. An unlettered Namacqua forcibly said on a Wesleyan Missionary occasion in Africa, 'All our Teachers preach the same Gospel: yes, though there are many Teachers, the word is the same.'

This is a summary only, and the Committee invites the close and candid attention of the Supporters of the Society to every particular it contains,—to the character of the facts, and the bearing of them; the numerous and diversified agencies employed, and the talents called forth; the labours continually extending, and the toils endured; the families to be supported; the schools to be furnished; and the necessity for untiring pecuniary means. It is a simple statement that a certain place is an Indian Mission; but at that Mission there are perhaps, two, three, or more ordained labourers, besides teachers and interpreters Another place is spoken of as a Domestic Mission; yet two Ministers are employed among a people who would not have the truths and ordinances of religion but for them, and travel where traveling is almost impossible over four, six, or it may be ten townships. Indeed it is difficult to estimate the value of the ministerial acts performed, or the inconvenience, privation, and labour of the evangelists of this Society in serving those who need them most.

The Committee is gratified to know that a large number of the inhabitants of Canada, of every Christian Church, sincerely and highly appreciate such endurance and effort, and their salutary and saving tendency; and freely, and with marked catholicity of tone, acknowledge the claims of the Society to their countenance and aid; and that among its increasing contributors are persons of every station, condition, and age. The Financial part of this Report which has received much attention, gives information of an extraordinary increase of funds, while the Mission Stations now published shew that the monetary increase has encouraged the Society to select additional posts of labour, and add to the number of its labourers. There are no fixed boundaries to the settlements of this prosperous Country; and while the Society's friends continue to abound in their liberality, the work of God will be without limitation.

It is very satisfactory to witness the almost universal favour with which has been received the Committee's Resolution of last year, relating to the smallest amount to be inserted in the Annual Report, and the cheering effect of that resolution.

Though it was with reluctance the half dollar subscriptions were placed in the "small sums," because of the expense of publication, hundreds who gave that sum formerly have given five shillings this year. This fact, and another, that the Society has now a larger number of new subscribers, will still make the Report an expensive publication. This is said to the honour of the subscribers. It will be seen that a pleasing feature of the Report is, the growing assistance of Juvenile Friends,—indicative it is thought, of the solicitude of Christian parents, Ministers, and Sabbath School teachers, in behalf of the Society's interests. To ensure a settled system on all the Circuits and Missions, and give greater efficiency to the benevolent efforts of the Collectors and Subscribers, there are being prepared a Collecting Book, an Address, and a new Juvenile Card, for gratuitous distribution, and immediate use of all the Branch Societies; and it is hoped that the Local Officers will faithfully secure their universal and constant adoption."

In the concluding part of the report reference is made to the important enlargements which have taken place in the Missionary work and field of operation during the past year, by the union of Canada East with the Wesleyan Church in this province, and the transfer of the Wesleyan Missions in the Hudson's Bay Territory to management of the Society. Three Missionaries with their families have gone to that Territory, the openings for new missions, which have already been ascertained will require a large addition to the number of labourers in that country in order to supply the wants of the vast numbers who are anxiously desiring religious instruction.—Very properly then does the Report conclude with the following stirring exhortation to the friends of the perishing heathen and those who are destitute of the ordinances of Christianity.

"To action then—action, immediate, commanding! The speed of the age rebukes indolence. The Methodism of Wesley in Canada has one creed, one system, one heart. Never had the society so wide a field of operation. The prospect vivifies. Consecrate all to Christ. Study the commands and promises of Christ. Carry more frequently to the Throne an ignorant and sinful world redeemed by Christ. The nations are wonderously waking up to the excellence and claims of Christianity. The Holy Spirit post-pones his best effusion till the Churches are prepared with more earnest intercessions, and a nobler energy and generosity. Act for the fulfilment of inspired millenial predictions. Christ WILL triumph. His own emphatic declaration is,—and let the Church