

amphitheatre formed by the Yaila mountains is expected to view—the lofty and rugged Chadir Dagh crowning the scene in the distance. Shortly before the hour of sunset this afternoon, when the sun which had been bright all the morning, had retired behind a thick canopy of grey threatening clouds—just as a cold cheerless breeze was springing up, and came as if complainingly, through the long lines of tents—and when a veil of mist and smoke, every minute becoming more obscure, was drawn over the town below, there advanced slowly and silently up the side of the hill a troop of Royal Horse Artillery, with a solitary gun carriage. On the gun carriage rested a rough plank coffin, enclosing the mortal remains of a good old soldier, General Fox Strangways. There was neither knell nor band, no funeral pall, no decorations, no attempt to cloak over the rough work of death. The dull distant boom of cannon, as gun replied to gun in the contending batteries, was the only music which accompanied the warrior to his last resting-place. The troops of a whole division under arms gazed at the sad procession as it slowly passed their front in solemn silence. They too had lost their leader. On the crest of this Russian hill, in the centre of this low-walled detached plot of earth, lies the corpse of another British soldier well known to fame; Sir George Cathcart."

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, DEC. 30, 1854.

THE CLOSING YEAR.

No thoughtful person will allow such a period of his existence to pass unheeded by. The rapid flight of so large a portion of his appointed time on earth, with all its golden opportunities of usefulness to himself and others, will give rise to very serious reflections, often of a melancholy cast, and cannot fail to bring the real Christian, in humiliation and repentance before his God. And, as he beholds another year opening before him, with all its coming events hidden from his view, in all the uncertainty of his continuance to its close, his hopes of earthly enjoyment will surely be chastened by the experience of the past, and feeling that "it is of the Lord's mercies that he is not consumed," he will be constrained to consecrate himself, and all his faculties of body and soul afresh, to the service of Him, who has "let him alone for another year."

The closing year has been more than its predecessors, marked by great and unexpected calamities. No one, indeed, can look back upon any expired year without noting its choquered features of trouble and of joy. Few can say, that in the course of it, no tender tie has been snapp'd—no dear friend removed to another world. But the year 1854 has been especially fertile in calamities of the most startling and harrowing description. The awful shipwrecks, attended with the most dreadful loss of life, have been beyond all former precedents, notwithstanding the varied improvements and scientific appliances of the times. Then the Cholera, the special messenger of the offended Ruler of the Universe, sent forth to chastise the rebellious nations of the Earth, has been abroad, in all its severity, sweeping off its hundreds of thousands, into an unexpected grave. And then again, the fury of War has been, after a long cessation, let loose with unexampled violence, and a contest is now going on, to which the past history of the world affords no parallel—one which has already brought lamentation and mourning and dole to thousands of families who began the year in joy and peace.

How completely applicable to the present aspect of the world, is the language of our blessed Lord: "Nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines and pestilences—and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."

Whatever difficulties there may be, in the application of prophecy to the events now crowding upon each other with such stirring interest, there can be no question, that "the signs of the times" are deeply momentous, and are calculated to arouse the slumbering attention of mankind, and fix it to the yet unfulfilled predictions of the Bible. While in these, there is much that is "hard to be understood," and upon which to dogmatise is but to show our folly and short-sightedness.—and while, in the language of one of the most patient and searching investigators of prophecy, "the only sure interpretation of it is the event which fulfill it,"—yet in one thing we cannot go wrong, and that is, in obeying

the Divine injunction to "watch and pray always, that we may be accounted worthy to escape those things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." How near His actual and second Advent may be, is comparatively of small importance to us who know that "there is but a step between us and death"—and that as that event finds us, so shall we appear before Him, "who will judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom."

In this quiet corner of the world, where our lot is cast, we have surely abundant cause of thankfulness to Him, who has crowned the year with his goodness, and whose clouds have dropped fatness upon our land. The storms of war, and the fury of civil commotions are only heard by us in the distance—we feel none of their ravaging influences in the interruption of the usual business of life—the laying waste of our fields—the burning of our villages, and all the other and concomitants of war. But while the Lord has remarkably blessed the labours of our hands, He has given us, withal, the inestimable blessing of peace for the enjoyment of their fruits. While pestilence has been at our very doors, east and west of us, desolating many a happy dwelling, it has not been commissioned to smite us. Surely then the review of our favoured position as a people ought, at this particular period, to open up anew the springs of gratitude within us, and cause us to bless the Lord for all his benefits. And, commencing as we shall on Monday another year of existence, over whose course hangs a veil, impenetrable to mortal eye, it strongly behoves us to begin it with God—in deep self abasement for past unprofitableness, and in fervent prayer for that grace, which will enable us to "walk circumspectly not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

In reviewing the past year with the eye of a Churchman, we have much cause for thankfulness in the general prosperity of our Zion. We have had peace within our walls, while elsewhere there have been and still are, unhappy divisions. Altho' of course we have our differences of opinion on certain points, they do not amount to any disturbance of the general harmony, nor do they affect the action of individuals when called to promote the general welfare of the whole body. This has been happily exemplified, during the year, by the unanimity which prevailed at the meeting of the Clergy and Laity, at the Bishop's Visitation, and also by the univeted readiness with which the call in behalf of King's College has been met, throughout the Diocese—the beneficial effect of which movement, no doubt, will be felt in all branches of our Ecclesiastical operations. It is highly gratifying too, to be able to record the steady progress of the great principle of *self-reliance* in reference to the support of our own Institutions, as well as the increase of our Churches, and of the Missionary band who are to supply them. It is to be hoped, that, under the blessing of God, such a spirit will pervade the hearts of our people, that none of these labourers will be allowed to suffer for lack of that provision which it is the duty and the privilege of the people to supply.

And last, though not least, among the topics of gratulation, which the retrospect of the year affords, we may mention the brightened prospects of King's College, Windsor, an Institution vitally important to the welfare of the Church, as well as to the interests of sound education in the country at large. "Old things have passed away and all things are become new." We have a new Board of Governors, strong men and true,—new Professors, in Theology, Mathematics, and Chemistry,—a new Principal of the Collegiate Academy, which has been revived under favourable auspices, and now invites the support of the Churchmen of Nova Scotia. So that the past year will indeed be memorable, in the annals of the Church in this Diocese, for the successful efforts which have produced such comprehensive additions to the means of religious and secular education for the youth of our land. It only now remains for Parents and members of the Church, generally, to rally around their own Institutions, which, tho' open to all, and unfettered by religious tests, have of course a primary demand upon the affections and the support of all who call themselves sons and daughters of the Church of England. If they second, as they ought, the exhortations which have been made, the year 1855 will see ten times the present number of students within the Halls of King's College; availing themselves of the important advantages now provided.

Henry How, Esq. from the University of Glasgow, and now Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in King's College, Windsor, arrived with his Lady in the *America*. Mr. How brings the highest testimonials from the first Scientific men of the day, in the United Kingdom and in Paris, and we congratulate the College on his accession to its Staff.

THE CONDEMNED.—We observe in the *Chronicle* a strong and able article, in reference to the case of Symes, the Sapper, now under sentence of death for killing his comrade. It will be remembered that the Jury recommended him to mercy, probably on the ground, that they entertained at least a doubt, whether the man was sane when he committed the act. The Judge ignored their recommendation, and told the prisoner "he must die," declaring that he would assume all the responsibility—and awful it certainly is. Without entering into the question of capital punishment in general, or the peculiar features of this case, it does not appear to us, that no Judge has a right to step in between the recommendation of a Jury for mercy to a criminal, and the Executive to whom belongs the power of life or death, even after the party has been convicted by the Jury, and sentenced by the Judge. It is for the Crown or its representative and not for the Judge, to say "you must die"—after duly weighing the recommendation, if any, of the twelve men who have under the solemnity of an oath, tried the cause. If there be any doubt whatever as to the sanity of the culprit, surely he should in the spirit of our laws, which are not those of Draco, have the benefit of it. Why should one man be unreluctantly doomed to die, though recommended to mercy, by those best qualified to judge the case, while another about the same time and for a similar deed, is permitted to live?

THE R. M. Steamship *America* arrived on Saturday last, 14 days from Liverpool. She brought dates to the 9th inst., embracing full details of all the news previously received by telegraph and otherwise. Some of these, of a graphic description, relating to the terrible battle of Lukermans, will be found on our fourth and fifth pages. The hurricane, in the Black Sea, on the 14th Nov. caused an awful destruction of life and property. The fleet and transports lying at Eupatoria, the Katcha, and Balaklava, were exposed to its fury, which resulted in the loss of at least 35 vessels, and the partial injury of many more. An Egyptian line of battle ship, was totally wrecked, and the *Henri Quatre*, (French) 100 guns, was stranded and is to be abandoned.

"The *Times* reckons the loss at not less than a thousand men, besides those that fell into the hands of the Comarcks. The greatest calamity, however, was the loss of the *Prince*, described as a magnificent new screw steamer of 2,700 tons, which carried on the other day to Balaklava the 26th Regiment, all the winter clothing for the troops engaged in the siege, including 40,000 great-coats, flannel suits, under clothing, socks and gloves; beef, pork, and other provisions; hospital stores for Scutari; and a vast quantity of shot and shell to carry on the siege. These are wholly lost, and nothing remains of the *Prince* but half-a-dozen of her numerous crew, who managed to get on the cliffs when she was "broken to powder" against them."

"Figures are but feeble language for the description of such a catastrophe, but the value of the *Prince*, as she floated, is put at £150,000, and her cargo at half a million. There must have been nearly 200 souls on board. The thirty transports utterly lost, with most of their crews, at Balaklava, are put down at £15,000 each. So here at once a million of money went to the bottom, in a form of which money conveys but a faint idea. The other losses enumerated above, the French ship of the line and war steamer, the transports lost on the western coast, the many vessels of all kinds disabled, make up another million to be added to the naked pecuniary estimate of the loss. Never was the ancient valour of our race put to so tremendous a trial. The tempest, which is said to have been the most terrible ever known in that part of the world, and which overthrew three of the masts of Sultan Achmet's mosque, at Constantinople, besides driving large vessels from their moorings before that city, did not spare the allies even on land. It blew down and greatly injured their tents, feebly protected as they are against the cold of a Crimean winter. At the height of 300 feet above the neighbouring surge. Such is the situation in which the army finds itself suddenly deprived of the much wanted supply of clothing sent out for the winter, and the equally essential ammunition for the siege."

The correspondent of the *London Chronicle*, says,— "Although we have every reason to be satisfied with the way in which the fleet behaved during the storm, yet it would be folly to expose them to another such trial. All the sailing transports are to proceed immediately to Buyukdere, the sailing liners to Sinope, the idea of Balaklava being abandoned as too exposed. For only from each fleet will remain at Chersonese, in one of the small harbours to the eastward. Report says that the *Britannia*, which laboured so hard as to have at one time more than four feet of water in the hold, among the ships to proceed to Sinope, the command in chief shifting his flag to the *Parthia*. Five French line of battle ships damaged, especially about the rudder and stern frame, have left for the Bosphorus. Admiral Balfour's flag is on board a steamer. Many of the ships, especially the steamers which have been through the whole campaign, from Balaklava onwards, are in want of a thorough repair, before undergoing the further changes of a Russian winter. Still there are plenty of fresh ones, both already arrived on the station and now in England, to supply their places."