

—a mark of our attachment to the Church, and our desire that her Scriptural doctrines, discipline and worship, may be extended to every place destitute of the means of Grace; but, above all, to awaken and maintain in our own hearts, a practical sense of what our duty is, not only to our neighbour but to ourselves and our God.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY.

We love Him because He first loved us.—1. John iv 19.

O God, in thy pervading love
We have our being live and move
Where'er I go, what'er I see,
Thy love turns back my heart to Thee.

I hear Thee in the thunder's crash,
I see Thee in the lightning's flash,
And sunny lawn and shady grove,
In silence speak in tones of love.

But love surpassing human thought,
The matchless love by Jesus taught;
The love in which He left the sky,
On earth to suffer and to die.

Spread wide thy wings O heav'nly Dove,
My heart baptize with fire of love,
And bind me to my Saviour-friend,
With cords of love that never rend.

W. B.

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 1855.

R. M. STEAM SHIP ASIA.

THE arrival of the R. M. Steamship *Asia*, on Wednesday morning last, in 10½ days from Liverpool, puts us in possession of British dates to Feb. 3. The news is important. The Ministry have resigned, consequent upon the previous secession of Lord John Russell, and a motion of Mr. Roebuck, on Friday, Jan. 28, for a select committee to enquire into the condition of the army, and the conduct of the war department with respect to its wants. The motion was debated and carried by a majority of 157 against the Ministry in a House of 453 Members.

It is difficult to assign any character to this debate. Party considerations appear to have given way to a vague feeling that a change was imperatively called for; but scarcely one of the speakers appeared to have a decided idea as to where the fault certainly lay; while all concurred in expressing an opinion of the general inefficiency of the Administration to conduct the war. As an exposure of the utter helplessness of parties, the present ministerial crisis, may read a lesson to the nation at large. Lord Derby had been sent for by the Queen and entrusted with the formation of a Ministry, but after consulting Lord Palmerston, and his Conservative friends, was obliged to decline the honorable task, and so things remained at the latest advices.

We hope that out of this seeming evil, good will be educed. Great Britain never entered upon any war, in which she trusted more in the "arm of flesh," or in which the counsel to her of the King of Israel to the proud Syrian, "Let not him that girdeth on his harness, boast himself as he that putteth it off," would have been more appropriate; and she has never engaged in a war, in which she has felt so utter a prostration of her high hopes, and so many providential interpositions to destroy her resources. It is only now, when her proud fleets have returned to her harbours, without being able to strike anywhere an effective blow—when a gallant army has been more than decimated by exposure and disease,—and when many a family has to mourn the loss of its members killed by the enemy,—and that the resources of two great empires have been found up to the present time unable to prevail,—and that the councils of the country have been disorganized,—that she will be able to realize that "the battle is the Lord's" and with that consciousness will order the human means with a more chastened judgment, and be less inclined to submit to the dictation of popular clamour.

It may be questioned if the Government are so much to blame as the tone and temper of the public press might lead us at this distance to imagine.—Whether or not they may be considered answerable for the general unbusiness of things, upon which they base an excuse for themselves, is another question, upon which we do not consider it necessary at present to enter. There appears to be a good deal of truth in the argument of Mr. Sidney Herbert, who was the first speaker on the Ministerial side in resisting the motion. He said—

"Sir, I confess that I approach this subject with unaffected feelings of pain. I am not about to attempt or pretend to bolster up a case by reading letters or extracts from letters, seeking to convey to the house impressions other than those that in my conscience I know to be correct. I believe that exposure to suffering, exposure to an inclement climate and to privations of all descriptions, has reduced the army under the command of Lord Raglan to a state that does excite deep anxiety in the mind of every Englishman. But, sir, so far as it depends upon me, I might quote the very observation which fell from my hon. and learned friend, when he said, 'You have transported to the shores of Balaklava stores enough to feed and shelter twice the body of men that you have sent out.' The cause of the disorganization was traceable to the system pursued during a long interval of peace, in keeping troops at home and in the colonies for the purposes of police rather than defence abroad; Englishmen, with their national vanity, believing they could do everything they attempted. I ask, what is your English army? It is only a collection of regiments. The internal discipline of those regiments is certainly complete—you have in every company and every regiment a most perfect regimental system; and, if you observe, you will find that in the actions that have lately taken place, and in the whole of the campaign during which they have occurred, there has not been the slightest sign of regimental disorganization. On the contrary, it is admitted on all hands that the relations between the officers and the men, the affection between them and the confidence the men have shown in the courage and capacity of their officers, have been most admirable and could not be exceeded. All this has been witnessed, although there has been wanting that control over the whole army which you can get only by practice, and you have had no such practice. I say, then, in fact, that what you term the English army has not been an army, but a collection of regiments. Why, I venture to say that there have been field-officers in the command of regiments in the Crimea who, until they went there—unless they had been in India or been quartered in Dublin—never in their lives saw a brigade. What, then, I ask, can you expect from such an army? You look for a perfect regimental organisation, and you succeed in finding it; but can you expect men who have never seen an army in the field, and are utterly unacquainted with the movements of such a force and with the regulations required for its supplies and its security—can you expect such persons to be Heaven-born administrators, who can do not only what they have never practised, but what they never even saw done? This is a very important element in the consideration of the causes of the misfortunes which have occurred to our army abroad. Again, look at the composition of your army as regards the individual men. In England you have the highest degree of civilisation to be found in the world. As a matter of course, therefore, you have the minutest subdivision of labour; and, from the smallness of the country and the close proximity of different places, you have the most rapid communication between your cities and towns. Well, what is the result? Why, that the English peasant never does anything for himself, as is the case in less advanced states of society. His house is built for him, and so is his dress and everything else he requires, except in the case of the most remote districts of your empire, where a few of the peasantry may be found who build their own cabins and make their own clothes, shoes, and other articles in a primitive manner. The great subdivision of labour consequent on high civilisation offers such facilities for every man getting everything done for him, that a man does not know how to turn if he is thrown upon his own resources and left to shift for himself. I recollect an hon. friend of mine opposite handing me last autumn a letter, with suggestions relating to the clothing of the army to be sent to the Crimea, which I adopted without loss of time; and that letter concluded, I remember, with a remarkable sentence of warning, to the effect that when I had done all the things that he recommended they would be almost valueless, for the men must suffer through not knowing how to help themselves."

"I have received a letter from a gentleman who has been engaged on a commission which we sent out some time back to inquire into the state of the medical department and hospitals, both at Constantinople and in the Crimea, and he puts the case in this way. After describing the condition of affairs there, he says, 'Your Government has sent out plenty of everything; they have sent it 3000 miles, but the distance is 3,006; and the last six miles are more difficult than the first 3000.' I believe this is a true representation of the state of things."

This confession of total inexperience in the art of war, must be rather humiliating to the "national vanity." It may be nevertheless true. At the same time the observations reflect in no slight degree upon the commander of an army, so docile in its regimental excellence, and in the superior bravery and intelligence of its soldiers. He if ignorant ought to be quick to learn. Nor does the commander of the Crimean army require any instruction, one would suppose, in the duties of his responsible position. It must however be confessed, on the opposite view of the question, that there has not been that unanimity in the Administration, which ought to prevail, and this disagreement has been so strong, as at length to afford a sufficient plea to Lord John

Russell to secede from the Ministry. The course he has pursued will give rise to a variety of opinions; but can only be correctly judged by the result. If it lead to the formation of a Cabinet, that will set with cordiality and energy in the prosecution of the great designs of the war, the change will be worthy of commendation. His Lordship's policy may in part have been dictated by considerations connected with the Government of France, with which and whose Emperor, he has of late had frequent personal conferences. Great Britain owes it to her noble ally, that the most perfect understanding should exist with reference to the conduct of the war and its ulterior objects; and it may be well imagined, that a Premier, entertaining such peaceful sympathies as are attributed to Lord Aberdeen, is not a Minister, the best calculated to carry conviction of sincerity to the bosom of Louis Napoleon.

It is supposed that Lord Palmerston will be the head of the new Administration; and the first telegraphic message from New York, will probably announce its formation. The London *Guardian* of January 31, in an editorial article, furnishes an appropriate conclusion to the foregoing observations:

"Her Majesty's most probable course under all the circumstances is, to place herself in the hands of Lord Palmerston, and try another 'Coalition,' rather differently composed. A Palmerston Cabinet is an experiment at least which has not yet been tried. An indifferent administrator, and not hitherto conspicuous as a statesman, he has some considerable qualities, possesses the ear of the House of Commons, and is the popular favourite of the hour. But what a time choose for experiments in Cabinet-making! What a time for transferring every public department to new hands, and for the virtual interregnum which must elapse before the new incumbents get warm in their places! What a time for the consultations and combinations, the arrangements and intrigues, which attend the dissolution of one Government and the formation of another!"

DIOCESEAN CHURCH SOCIETY.

The adjourned annual meeting of the Diocesan Church Society took place on Thursday last, at the National School. The Lord Bishop took the Chair, and opened the meeting with prayer. Several Resolutions were passed—one changing the time of the annual general meeting to the autumn, instead of at present, of which due notice will be given. An evening general meeting will be held at Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening, March 6. W. C. Sims, Esq., was appointed Treasurer instead of Lawrence Hartshorne, Esq., resigned. Rev. E. Gilpin was re-chosen Secretary. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the late Treasurer for his valuable services to the Church, previous to and since his connection with the Society. A vote of thanks to the Rev. Secretary was also passed unanimously.

Lawrence Hartshorne, Esq., the late Treasurer, was unanimously chosen one of the Vice Presidents of the Society, in the room of the Hon. H. H. Cogswell, deceased.

The five first names on the Executive Committee being retired, five others were chosen by ballot, to make up the requisite number.

The Bishop pronounced the Apostolical benediction, and the meeting adjourned.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE, now in Session, has voted £5000 (sterling we presume) to the Patriotic Fund. This is a great improvement upon our example. The vote has been assented to by the Lieut. Governor, and an Address to the Queen is to accompany the money.

THE EARTHQUAKE.—The St. John N. B. *Chronicle* notices that a severe shock of earthquake was felt there on the morning of the 8th inst. "The noise resembled that of several heavy waggons going at a rapid rate over a rugged road, and lasted a considerable time. Those in bed found their beds violently shaking under them, and beheld with dismay a convulsive trembling of the walls and flooring. In the military barracks the entire buildings were observed trembling during the shock. We learn by telegraph to the Reading Room, that the shock was very perceptible at Fredericton and the Bend; at Dorchester it was so severe that windows were broken, and a large stone building shook to its foundation. At Sackville and at Calais it was much felt; in Chatham it was felt severely: it lasted two minutes at Sussex Vale."

PROTECTION MEETING AT ST. JOHN, N. B.—A meeting of the Master Mechanics and Manufacturers was held in the Mechanics Institute, on the evening of Feb. 8, for the purpose of petitioning the Legislature in favor of home industry.

WE learn that some persons in this City are about importing two Omnibuses, to run to the Railway Depot at Richmond.