The Provincial Wesleyan.

gyle chapel; and one day calling upon me, he asked where he could take two sittings for his daughters? adding, "You know I am an Episcopalian, and wish my children to go to church, that is, if the one thing needful be heard there. But they must take heed *what* they hear, as well as *how* they hear. If the story be not told in a cathedral, they must follow it into a barn, for they must hear it, and hear it with care." And what practical proof can we give of our belief either of the truth, or the importance of evangelical principles, if it be nothing to us whether we hear the words which cause us to err, or those by which we may be saved?

With this man of God I had some acquaintance in London, but he frequently came to Bath for some weeks together for recreation or health, and then I had much intercourse with him. His conversation was equal to his preaching. It was singularly original, vigorous, pertinent, instructive and edifying; and none of it could be forgotten. In the pleasure of the companion you felt also the presence of an oracle.

I remember his admonishing me against having too great a plenitude of matter in a sermon—an admonition which, I fear, I have not sufficiently followed.

He also advised me, as I was acceptable, and found people much disposed to hear, to beware of checking it by disappointment in putting up others to preach. But how is this in many cases to be avoided? Can a minister slight his brethren when they come in his way? "But they may decline his invitation;" and this would be often wise even for themselves; for when people hear under a baulked expectation, they seldom hear with pleasure or profit.

"Be," said he, "*never to be bad.*" Many other hints I received from his rich mind and acute and judicious observation, by which I ought to have profited more. I thank God that I ever heard the *preacher*, or was in company with the *man*.

Who can be ignorant of his "Remains?" Is there a work of the same size that abounds with such riches of understanding and wisdom and genius and truth? By what a multitude of inimitable passages has Mr. Poynder enriched his three volumes of "Literary Extracts!" How much of his excellency has his daughter secured and made known in her Memoirs of Mrs. Hawkes.—*Jay's Autobiography.*

[FOR THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN.]

Obituary Notices.

Died, at his own residence in Granville, on the 25th ult., in the 56th year of his age, Mr. ISRAEL BENT, son of the late Mr. Jos. Bent, leaving a wife and large family to mourn their incalculable loss. Our much respected brother has been long known in this community as an industrious, upright, christian man—one who stood high in the estimation of the public, and was ever ready to promote their best interest. Upwards of twenty-five years ago he experienced religion, joined the Wesleyan church, and has ever since evinced his attachment to the Saviour by his devotional disposition of mind, christian conversation, family worship, regular attendance at the house of God, and in uniformly supporting the benevolent institutions of the age. He filled the office of Class Leader and Society Steward for a number of years, and the members of Society that he has left behind will long remember his fervent prayers and faithful admonitions. For the last few months our brother suffered with a disease which rapidly reduced his strong constitution, but evidently little affected the powers of his mind. As the messenger of death approached, he made all necessary preparation to meet him, satisfactorily settled his temporal affairs, and with perfect calmness of mind, gave suitable and affectionate advice to his beloved wife and children, especially urging upon them the importance and propriety of always respecting the Sabbath and the house of God; and on Christmas Day morning, his happy spirit entered into rest. The following Thursday his funeral was numerously attended, and the occasion improved by a discourse from Eccl. 12: 5—"Man goeth to his long home, and mourners go about the streets."

M. PICKLES.

Died at Howden, Yorkshire, England, Nov. 16th, 1854, DOROTHY, widow of the late Peter Weddall, aged 78 years, leaving an only son and three daughters to mourn the loss of one of the most affectionate and kind of mothers, whose prayers are had in remembrance before God in their behalf. The subject of these few lines was brought to God about 50 years ago, in a small village in Nottinghamshire. Often have I sat and listened, whilst in my boyhood, to the simple and unaffected narration of her conversion. Seeing the Wesleyan Minister pass from time to time to his appointment, she was struck with his appearance as being different from the generality of mankind, and having to make a visit to her sister on one occasion, she was invited to go to the "Methodist Meeting,"—a new Chapel was to be opened that day,—she went, and to her astonishment it was the person whom she had so frequently seen to pass, who was going to preach the gospel, and thus consecrate the house of the Lord. The whole scene was novel to her, as she had never before this heard a Methodist Minister, and knew the Methodists only as a sect everywhere spoken against. She had been under deep conviction of sin for some time, and whilst the congregation sung the praises of God, and the Minister invoked the blessing of the Most High, she felt the force of the sentiment embodied in that beautiful verse:—

Lo, God is here! let us adore,
And own how dreadful is this place:
Let all within us feel his power,
And silent bow before his face;
Who know his power, his grace who prove,
Serve him with awe, with reverence love.

No sooner had the Minister given out his text, than she said within herself, "I have heard people speak of obtaining relief to a wounded spirit, but if there be any good to be had I will have it this day," upon this pious resolve being made, the Lord broke in upon her mind.

The Spirit witnessed with the blood,
And told her she was born of God.

She lifted up her voice in praise to the God of her salvation; the Minister, unable to proceed in his discourse, stepped beyond the bounds of what some would think pulpit decorum, and (John Smith like, whose object was not to preach so many sermons, but to save as many souls as he could), turned the service into a prayer-meeting: two backsliders were also reclaimed and found peace. Thus did the Lord whom they sought, come suddenly to his temple and fill the house with his glory. This to her was a memorable day, to which she always referred with great delight. She would sit down and tell us of some of the trials through which some of the early Methodists had to pass, and how her grandmother used to travel a distance of ten miles to her class-meeting, and that along a dark and dreary road, returning home after midnight happy and praising God. A few years after her conversion the Lord heard and answered her prayer in the salvation of her beloved partner in life; and at a later period most of her children have been brought to God. On the 25th of May, in the year 1835, she was called to part with her husband by death after a sickness of only 48 hours. And in the year 1839 she parted with her only son, who went to a foreign station as a Wesleyan Missionary; this was a severe trial of her faith, but she was divinely sustained under the parting scene. For more than a year previous to her demise there was a gradual sinking of nature. In regard to her last hours a kind friend in a letter just received says—"You would ere this receive a few lines from Mr. D. informing you of the death of your dear mother, who I believe is safely landed on the blissful shore. She lay many months—she was a patient sufferer. I always found her heart in tune to praise the Lord. At the name of Jesus, her eye would brighten; and in her dying hours the *name of Jesus hung upon her lips.* In consequence of my own feeble frame I could not see her so often as I could wish, but when I did, I always found it good to be there. On one occasion when I went, she had got your portrait laid beside her, I said then you have got him beside you. She said yes, and between smiling and weeping added I don't worship him, bless him. Often have I heard a blessing upon you all drop from her lips. On Sunday, Nov. 19th, while you would be preaching the gospel we should be committing to the earth your last earthly parent, it might be justly said of her, *in sure* and *certain hope* of a *joyful* resurrection. Your dear mother has long been spared—with her trials are no more, sorrow is forever fled." Another friend observes, referring to one who was with her in her last moments, "Mrs. W. says that a few hours before her departure, she was heard to articulate—Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" Death had lost his sting. She had gained the victory.

O may I triumph so,
When all my warfare's past;
And dying find my latest foe
Under my feet at last!

R. W.

Provincial Wesleyan

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1855.

This Paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge at HOLLOWAY'S PILL AND OINTMENT ESTABLISHMENT, 244, Strand, London, where Advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

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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.

The Immaculate Conception.

The eighth of December, 1854, witnessed the consummation at Rome, of a long cherished hope of Pio Nono,—the signalizing his occupancy of the papal chair, by the pronunciation of a decree proclaiming the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary to be a settled dogma of the Roman Catholic Church. By the immaculate conception of the Virgin is meant that "this blessed woman, the wife of Joseph the Carpenter, and the daughter, as tradition and some spurious Gospels call her, of Joachim and Anna, was born as clear from that taint of original sin which cleaves to all our race, as was the Lord himself from heaven, who became "incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary." The doctrine now defined as an article of the Catholic faith is, says the very "*Catholic Standard,*" (a paper now conducted, we believe, by a member of the Wilberforce family,) that, "in the case of the Blessed Virgin, the *labes* or spot of original sin was, at the moment of conception," (so precise and punctilious are these Popish physiologists,) "by grace *prevented*, as in the case of St. John the Baptist it was *healed* after conception, but before birth."

Surrounded by difficulties and objections, both theological and physical, of the gravest, and to its advocates most embarrassing character, the question of the immaculate conception has been left by the Church of Rome an open one until the date of that decree which authoritatively announces: "It is a dogma of faith, that the most Blessed Virgin in the first instant of her conception, by the singular privilege and grace of God, in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, was preserved exempt from all touch of original sin."

We extract on this subject from the London *Watchman*, a portion of the article which it has devoted to remark upon this deplorable heresy:

It was in his exile at Gaeta that the present Pontiff addressed to all "Catholic Bishops" a Circular inviting them to state their views on this unscriptural mystery, and in general the replies received were such as to convince him that an infallible and irrevocable decree in favour of the immaculate conception would be highly popular. Five years elapsed, and in the middle of last month Pio Nono found himself surrounded, it was said, by half a hundred Cardinals, nearly as many Archbishops, and an army of Bishops—the number rapidly increasing, till it amounted, as was pretended, to nearly a thousand Bishops of the great Romish apostacy. But the number really present was, the *Univers* says, the same as at the Council of Ephesus, namely 200 Bishops. The Bull was prepared and placed in the hands of the Cardinals and Bishops. The Jesuit Perrone was rewarded for his work on the immaculate conception by the promise of a Cardinal's Hat. Cardinal Wiseman was flattered with the offer of succeeding to the late learned Cardinal Mai, in the office of Librarian to the Vatican—an appointment which we regret to hear will not keep our meddlesome Cardinal at Rome. Other recompenses were bestowed so liberally that the wind from the Campagna seemed to have blown Hats or minor valuables to the feet of sycophantic Bishops. Medals were struck to celebrate the important occasion, and the virgin gold of Australia was thus abused at Rome. On one side of the medal, it is said, there appears "a symbolical representation of the immaculate conception," which must needs be a sublime device, and on the reverse appears the following inscription:—

Deiparæ Virgini
Sine labe concepta,
Pius IX. Pont. Max.
Ex auri Australii primitiis
Sibi sublatis
Cudi jussit
Sext. Idibus Decembris, MDCCCLIV.

All was ready for the promulgation,—by the Pope himself, without any General Council of the Church,—of the dogmatic Bull, which was to complete and record the last signal offence committed by the Man of Sin, sitting in the temple of God, against the Church, the Bible, the very object herself of his idolatrous and impure worship, and against incarnate deity. Friday, the 8th of December, was the day to be so marked in the annals of that doomed City which calls itself Eternal, and on that day, accordingly, the unholy mystery was proclaimed.

This event is of no slight concern to Christendom. It ought to cause a schism in the Romish Church, and some predict that it will, by a revolt of French and German Catholicism against Ultramontanism. We do not think such will be its immediate effect. But it may for centuries increase infidelity among the nominal adherents to Rome. We hope it will create a reaction in the English Church. Has Dr. Newman prepared even Puseyites for such a "Development" as this? Yet Romanists profess to find traces—what Dr. Newman would call "anticipations"—of it, in the Calendar of the Church of England; and certainly a day is there dedicated to the "Conception of the Virgin Mary,"—another reason for a revision of the Prayer Book. They find it too in High Church poetry, and it must be acknowledged that Wordsworth's æsthetic devotion is a perilous example:—

Mother! whose virgin bosom was uncrost
With the least shade of thought to sin allied;
Woman! above all women glorified,
Our tainted natures' solitary boast!
Thy Image falls to earth. Yet some, I ween,
Not unforgiven the suppliant knee might bend
As to a visible Power, in which did blend
All that was mixed and reconciled in Thee
Of mother's love with maiden purity,
Of high with low, celestial with terrene!

This is far more beautiful, and in parts not less wrong than—

Virgo virginum præclara
Mihi jam non sis amara.

Perhaps there has been even in our northern climes, at least since the days of chivalry, a greater tendency to goddess-worship than to hero-worship. In the more sensuous south, it is a passion. St. Augustine himself spoke darkly, very like the Council of Trent, on the subject of her "whose bosom was uncrost with the least shade of thought to sin allied." All have sinned, he owns, except the Holy Virgin Mary, concerning whom, for the honour of our Lord, I wish no question to be raised at all, when we are treating of sins." This is very different indeed, in its mistaken tenderness, from the physiological *dogmata* of those filthy dreamers in the Vatican. But Augustine, Wordsworth, and the Anglican Calendar alike point the road which ends in the miry quag where those have fallen who have welcomed strong delusions and glorified a lie. Our only safeguard is in keeping to Scripture, not making it of no effect by the traditions of men; and to the plain meaning of Scripture, not sophisticating it by mystical interpretations. Contending for these last, Dr. Newman frankly admits, or rather positively asserts, that "it may be laid down as an historical fact, that the mystical interpretation and [the Romish] orthodoxy will stand or fall together." The caution is a plain one to ourselves at this day; the admission is fatal to Mariolatry. For it was the mystical interpretation, illuminating the accretions of patristic errors and traditions, that disclosed a new region, an unoccupied segment amidst the galaxies, for the Queen of Heaven—"a throne far above all created powers, mediatorial, intercessory; a title archetypal; a crown bright as the morning star; a glory issuing from the Eternal Throne; robes pure as the heavens, and a sceptre over all." Dr. Newman borrowed the canvas for this lustrous painting of "a new sphere in the realms of light," to which before the Arian controversy "the Church had not yet assigned its inhabitant," from a Pagan artist—

Anne novum tardis sidus te mensibus addas,
Qua locus —— panditur, &c.,

and rightly, for the whole conception is Pagan. In one point, however, the deification of Mary differs from that of Cæsar, for of him it was said—

—— Nam te nec sperent Tartara regem,
Nec tibi regnandi veniat tam dira cupido;—

but in a Popish journal we read the other day, that the "suffering souls in Purgatory will rejoice in this new triumph and glory of her who is Empress also of that land of sinless suffering." Dr. Newman omitted this, which completes the Paganism and the blasphemy of the entire fable. He painted Diana and Phœbe, but forgot Hecate.

Progress of the War.

By the arrival of the R. M. S. *Canada*, at this port last week, we are put in possession of English dates to the 6th instant, and of detailed accounts from the Crimea to the 13th December. Then, (we quote the words of an exchange,) the health and spirits of the army had evidently revived. Nearly 300 guns had been got ready for a fresh bombardment of 48 hours, to be followed by the allied troops entering the place. This was anticipated about the 28th, and as Menschikoff's latest announcement of "nothing important," reaches to the 26th, we may soon hear at least the echo of some terrible effort after the lull that has lasted for the last few weeks. Such are the predictions of the press and telegraph, though it is rather hard to reconcile them with the proposed railway about reaching Balaklava. We are all to apt to forget that our troops are now passing through the depth of winter, and doing remarkably well, if they can but hold their ground, and make even the smallest real progress in preparation for ulterior measures.

Miss Nightingale has evidently been of the highest service, and now a score or two of nurses beyond the number required are actually on the spot, and placed as a reserve at Therapia, while abundance of "comforts" of all kinds are accumulating. Thus one of the dark shadows is at least a shade lighter.

The Univers publishes a letter from a French officer in the Camp before Sebastopol, in which he states that, notwithstanding all the weather has done to give discomfort to the French and English troops, they are in a state very different from that described in some of the letters published by the English journals. He says, 'We have plenty of provisions, plenty of wood for firing, plenty of clothing; if we had but planks to make wooden houses, we should be too happy.'

When the assault takes place, 410 guns, of which 130 are English, will open fire. The scaling ladders were ready on the sixth. The Russians had made a vigorous sortie against the English on the 6th. A smart engagement ensued, in which 1100 Russians were made prisoners and a small fort taken.

A Russian ukase ordains that whoever after a battle commits acts of cruelty on the wounded or unresisting shall suffer the punishment of death.

The following is from a Paris Journal kept by the Special Correspondent of the *Constitutionnel:*

Before Sebastopol, Dec. 8.

You will have seen by my last letter of Nov. 25, that the torrents of rain which tormented us almost incessantly ever since Nov. 4, put a stop to the siege operations. This interruption was, however, only relative, for the work in the trenches, and batteries of the second parallel, were never at any time wholly discontinued. Now (since the 4th of this month) that the weather has become fine, the works are almost finished and in part armed. In fact they await but the finishing touches to be in a state to open their fire. When, then, we do recommence firing, which we shall do in a few days if the fine weather continue, we shall have something like 250 pieces (including mortars) in action, many of which are 13 inch guns. Bear in mind, also, that we have approached much nearer to the place, and then you will form a just idea of the respective positions of ourselves and *Messieurs les Russes*, and will be persuaded, as we all are here, that the capture of the southern part of the town is almost a *fait accompli.* You will perhaps say that the Russians also have not been idle, that they have made batteries, barricades, mines, and what not; true they have, but all their recent works have been done so loosely, so hastily, and so entirely without any system, that after the terrible cannonade which will precede the assault, they will not be worth seriously taking into account. * * * * Only yesterday I went through our trenches, and I was struck like everybody else with the precarious state of the Russian entrenchments. I found the spirit of our men universally excellent, notwithstanding the unparalleled fatigues and dreadful weather they have had to contend with. We receive almost daily from prisoners and deserters confirmation of the miserable and demoralized state of the enemy, both on account of the repeated checks they have experienced, and also in consequence of their insufficient and bad food, and the want of proper shelter. Their huts, formed merely of branches of trees, without any roof, are wholly inadequate to protect them against the cold and wet of this time of the year. The 12th division (Liprandi's), which hitherto occupied the positions before Balaklava, evacuated them the day before yesterday and retired beyond the Tchernaya. They burnt their barracks and took away with them the Turkish guns which they captured in the affair of November 25th. This movement was begun in the night of the 5th, and finished by ten o'clock the next morning. There is no other apparent object for the movement than the bad health of the Russian troops, or a concentration of their army upon some other point of the Crimea. * * * * On the 6th, at two in the afternoon, two Russian vessels, one of which was the famous *Wladimir*, sailed out in the direction of Streletzkaia Bay, protected throughout their course by the quarantine fortifications. Their object seemed to us to be to reconnoitre the positions of our left, and to do some damage if possible to the *Caton* and another of our steamers, at anchor in the bay. But the *Megere* aviso, which was *en vidette* before the port, having signalled their manœuvre, our vessels in Kamiesch Bay got up their steam, and prepared to make for the enemy. However, the distance from the port of Sebastopol to Streletzkaia Bay being very short, the Russian ships had time enough to approach the bay, driving the little *Megere* (which only carries two guns) before them.—They began to fire upon the *Caton*, which bravely responded. While this was going on, we saw the English frigate *Terrible* rush like an enraged lion upon the Russian ships. They had already received some well-directed bullets from the *Caton*, and as soon as they saw the *Terrible* coming they sheered off as fast as they could under the protection of their batteries. I never saw a more splendid spectacle than the advance of the *Terrible.* She flew like an arrow. Although the Russians ran away too soon for the *Terrible* to come up with them, she sent two rattling broadsides after them, and bravely stood the fire of the batteries, which opened upon her vigorously.—In spite of his precipitate flight the enemy must have sustained some loss both from the *Caton* and the *Terrible.* I must not forget to say that the *Megere* gallantly followed the *Terrible* and blazed away with her two guns as resolutely as if she had been a great ship. * * * * The Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas are quartered in the fort No. 4, the next to Fort Michael, on the northern side of the harbour. Towards the Tchernaya there are four vessels anchored, three of which, the *Constantinople*, *Paris*, and *Twelve Apostles*, are disarmed in great part, and almost without crews. The *Tchesma* is in Carenage bay, and is armed and manned. Beside her is the iron steam-frigate *Elbrousse.* Then comes the *Codul*, stationed near St. Paul's Fort. This ship comes to anchor every night at the extremity of Southern bay to protect the entrance to the town on that side. Beside the above the *Marie* (transformed into a hospital ship.) an unfinished screw line-of-battle ship, the *Wladimir*, and some small steamers, constitute the whole Russian fleet in the Black Sea, after the sinking of the ships now under water at the mouth of the Sebastopol harbour. Add that but two vessels out of the whole lot are armed, and the picture will be complete.

Passing to their land forces—their army is stationed between the Belbec and the Tchernaya They carefully watch the roads to Simpheropol and Batchiserai, wherein are their main resources for provisions. Their force is reduced daily by sickness. In the present state of the roads in Russia it will be difficult, if not impossible, to bring up a second body of reinforcements in carriages. Their army, at the very utmost, including the garrison and the crews of the vessels, cannot exceed from 60,000 to 75,000 men. Treating the northern fort as a citadel, they with that extraordinary spirit of imitation which characterises their military tactics, must needs have an entrenched army on the Belbec and Tchernaya positions. Their tancy because the plateau of Cape Cherson is impregnable in our hands that their camp will be impregnable also. Let them go on. We know well enough that once the town taken, the famous northern fort won't hold out a fortnight, deprived, as it will be of water and everything else, the moment our horses set foot upon the Simpheropol road. * * * * We are receiving reinforcements daily. The English will very soon have 20,000 wooden huts, all made in England. We have provisions assured for four months to come, and want for neither wood nor water. The disposition of the army is excellant, and in spite of everything, the general health of the men is good. Give us a few fine days, such as to-day, and you will see whether, with the man who commands us, we shall be long before we take the town. It will cost us much doubtless, but it will be done, and *Vive l' Empereur.*

The Times' Crimea correspondent on the 8th reports that at that date the state of affairs was thought to be encouraging. Fine weather had set in, and there was prospect of frost. This would enable the Allies to get on with the trenches, to bring up guns, ammunition, food, and clothing. On the other hand, it would enable the Russians to bring up reinforcements. The latter had withdrawn a large portion of their forces from their Tchernaya to the interior, but they had left enough behind to hold the position. On our side reinforcements were still arriving in numbers, but as many as 3000 invalids were in the hospital at Balaklava, 4000 at Scutari, and considerable numbers in the hospitals and marquees at the camp. The Turkish reinforcements were dying wholesale, chiefly by mere famine and misery. It was still impossible to clear Balaklava of the mountains of things piled on, or rather buried in the mud and filth of the harbour and it was nearly as much as the few horses remaining could do to get up food enough for half rations.

The Times' correspondent at Vienna telegraphs "on the 17th, Omar Pasha left Varna for Constantinople. On the 15th General Osten-Sacken reconnoitred in force, and a skirmish is said to have taken place near the ruins of Inkermann.'

Constantinople news of the 16th, brought by the Jura to Malta, says that in a sortie made by the Russians, on the 12th, they had 700 men put hors-de-combat. Between the 13th and 20th, 8000 French and English troops passed by Malta on their way to the Crimea. The Royal Albert had arrived at Constantinople with 1200 English soldiers on board. The Turks would act against Perekop.

A Vienna despatch, in the Daily News, says that on the 11th the Russians attacked the French outposts and gained possession of three mortars, but were repulsed with the loss of fifty men.

It is said that Menschikoff was ill, and that Osten-Sacken exercised the command during the Prince's sickness.

The following telegraphic intelligence had been received:—"On the 16th the Russians made a sortie by night, but were repulsed by the French, after a severe struggle. The Rifles also repulsed a Russian sortie. Our mortars and batteries are ready to open, but the heavy rains, impede the progress of the siege, and cause great sickness. General Adams died of his wounds on the 19th. Since the 16th of November 24,000 English, French, and Turks had arrived in the Crimea in British vessels. The Turks at Eupatoria have been much strengthened from Varna."

At Vienna (says the Constitutionnel.) accounts had been received of the arrival at Constantinople of Omar Pasha, accompanied by Colonel Dieu. It was generally thought that he had not accepted the Command-in-chief of the Turkish army in the Crimea, except on the express condition that his troops should assume the offensive against the Russians, and that they should not remain in a state of inaction incompatible with the condition of the Turkish army: and that the Turkish soldiers should not be employed like day labourers in the service of the English, which is incompatible with the dignity of the brave defenders of Silistria.

The following is from the Journal de Constantinople of the 14th:—"By order of the Imperial Government, and at the request of the Generals-in-chief of the allied armies, 'Omer Pasha is to proceed very shortly to the Crimea with thirty thousand men of the army of the Danube. Ismail Pasha, General-in-chief of the army of Kars, who happens to be at Constantinople, is almost immediately to quit the capital, to place himself at the head of the army of the Danube, charged to make a strong diversion in Bessarabia.

Intelligence from Odessa of the 25th states, that General Liprandi's corps, powerfully reinforced, was attacking Balaklava. The Times says this must be received with caution. It is farther reported from Odessa, that the Russian commanders raise recruits in Bessarabia and Taurida without difficulty.

A private telegraphic despatch, dated Vienna, January 1st, says—"On the 22nd ult., there was a sharp frost at Sebastopol, and a great quantity of snow had fallen; both parties were making preparations for a battle. Omer Pacha was expected. Considerable reinforcements of troops of the line arrived at Odessa on the 28th. The temperature was very severe. Two companies of Russian troops, and considerable number of sick, conveyed in forty carriages, had perished with cold."

General Canrobert has written to the military authorities at Constantinople that operations will be suspended until the bigining of 1855 when it is hoped that the new batteries will completely destroy the Russian men-of-war in the port of Sebastopol.

Accounts received from Sebastopol at St. Petersburg, mention that 7000 inhabitants of the former place had quitted it in order to take refuge in Simferopol, and that it resembled some vast Barracks in ruins.

The Moniteur publishes a despatch from Admiral Hamelin, dated the 22nd of December He says that, in addition to the 4700 men who arrived between the 12th and 18th, 2170 French troops had arrived at Kamiesch on the 20th.—Attempts at sorties take place every night by the Russians, who are always vigorously repulsed. The Trident and Aigle, with more troops on board, had arrived at Constantinople.

Constantinople accounts of the 25th ult., by the Ganges, state that 18 battalions of Turks had landed at Eupatoria. When the remainder shall have arrived, great operations are to be commenced. At that time the weather had improved, and navigation was again regular. The extension of the allied lines has very much interrupted communication and transport of provisions between Sebastopol and the Russian corps near Balaklava. The shipping will be commanded by the new batteries. There was a fall of snow on the 23rd. The Sultan has visited the Duke of Cambridge. Lord Cardigan was on his way home.

The Moniteur publishes parts of despatches from General Canrobert dated respectively the 21st, 23rd, and 25th, so that we have news from the camp up to Christmas day. His news are highly encouraging. A body of French cavalry in one direction, and another of Highlanders and Zouaves, had reconnoitered the position of the Russian army of observation and found only a few soldiers left to watch their motions at a distance. He regards this drawing off of the Muscovites as the result of the landing at Eupatoria. He states that he had supplied Lord Raglan with sumpter horses to bring up provisions and stores from Balaklava, and that full rations were enjoyed, and speaks of this as greatly increasing the good feeling between the two armies. It is clear from his despatches generally, that a renewed fire of a terrible power would be opened without delay.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 2, Prince Menschikoff reports that nothing remarkable had taken place at Sebastopol, between the 20th and 26th of December, with the exception of two sorties on the 21st. In one of these, eleven Russian officers and twenty-three soldiers were made prisoners, and a considerable number killed.

The Morning Post's correspondent writing from the Crimea, says:—I am happy to be able to send you, by this mail, the extract from the Queen's letter to the Secretary-at-War. It is as follows:—

'WINDSOR CASTLE, Dec. 6, 1854.

'Would you tell Mrs. Herbert that I begged she would let me see frequently the accounts she receives from Miss Nightingale or Mrs. Bracebridge, as I hear no details of the wounded, tho' I see so many from officers, &c., about the battle field, and naturally the former must interest me more than any one.

'Let Mrs. Herbert also know that I wish Miss Nightingale and the ladies would tell these poor noble wounded and sick men that no one takes a warmer interest, or feels more for their sufferings, or admires their courage and heroism more than their Queen. Day and night she thinks of her beloved troops. So does the Prince.

'Beg Mrs. Herbert to communicate these my words to those ladies, as I know that our sympathy is much valued by these noble fellows.

Signed, 'VICTORIA.'

THE RUSSIAN ARMY.—The Russian army under Liprandi, (writes one from the Crimea.) which for so many weeks has been our near neighbour at Balaklava, still haunts the favoured spot. They have only withdrawn about two miles and a half from their old cantonments in the plain. About 25,000 appear to have there fallen back to the south, while a *corps d'armee*, 15,000 or 20,000 strong, has posted itself near Inkerman—very close to the spot from which such a desperate attack was made on our right on the 5th of November. Liprandi's object in thus dividing his forces is not known, though, as far as I can conjecture, it seems as if an attack was meditated on our advanced battery at Inkerman.—Surely, they cannot hope to surprise us a *third* time. No matter what may be said to the contrary, I am quite convinced Liprandi's force has been lately strenghtened. When he first attacked our entrenchments on 25th Oct., he had 38,000 men, and now, when he must have lost considerably from sickness and other causes, he has, at least, 45,000 with him at present—that is, counting the force at Inkerman and on the Tchernaya. Finer weather seems now to have set in. Cavalry and Artillery, in two or three days more, will be able to manœuvre on any ground, and then you may expect news of another battle. Depend upon it, 45,000 men under an able General will not stay quiet in their cantonments, watching us destroying Sebastopol, without some desperate effort to relieve the place and raise the siege.

RUSSIAN AND AUSTRIAN PREPARATIONS.—Austria is completing her preparations for war. All the officers on leave of absence have received orders to rejoin the army of Galicia. It has been decided that an army of reserve of 40,000 men shall be formed in Moravia, with its headquarters at Olmutz, and for the last week troops from Italy have been on their way for that destination.

We learn from Jassy that on the 10th the Russian General Prince Gortschakoff notified to the government of Moldavia that the frontier of Bessarabia was closed, and that the quarantine establishments would be replaced by a military cordon.

According to accounts from Warsaw, the Hereditary Grand Duke is expected there on or about New Year's Day, and will remain some time.

According to letters from Odessa, General Gortschakoff has been ordered to detach one division of the 3rd, and the remainder of the 14th division (Podolia and Shitomir regiments,) to reinforce Menschikoff.

WARSAW, Dec. 24th.—The columns of our journals have been filled for several days past with a great number of official decrees, confiscating the property of numerous individuals who have quitted the kinghom without the knowledge and consent of the authorities. The advertisements contain the significant fact that the above mentioned absentees have gone to Turkey.

New measures have being taken by the Russian government to augment the revenue. The excise duty on tobacco has been raised.

A despatch from Warsaw of the 20th ult., states that a ukase had been issued ordering that, for the soldiers forming the garrison of Sebastopol, each month's service shall count for a year.

By an ukase of the Emperor of Russia, the surveys and estimates are ordered to be made for two new railway lines—one to form a junction between the St. Petersburg-Warsaw line (already in progress) at the Prussian frontier with the Berlin-Konigsberg line, which will be prolonged for that purpose to Stallupohen; the other from Moscow to Odessa, with a line branching off at Charkow through Alexandrow, Hienia, and Arapat, to Theodocia or Kaffa, in the Crimea.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 26.—An Imperial Manifesto has been issued. It contains the following passage:—'Our duty as a Christian forbids us to desire a further shedding of blood, and certainly we will not reject any propositions and conditions of peace provided they be compatible with the dignity of our empire and the welfare of our subjects. But another, and a no less sacred duty bids us, in this obstinate struggle, to exert every effort and prepare for every sacrifice which the greatness of the means of attack brought against us demands. We will, if necessary, show a bold front to our enemies, with sword in hand and the cross on our hearts.'

THE NEGOTIATIONS AT VIENNA.—Conferences of a positive character, at which M. Gortschakoff and Count Arnim were present, took place on Thursday. The Earl of Westmoreland being still indisposed, the discussion took place in his apartments. At the request of Prince Gortschakoff, who declared that his powers were not sufficient to enable him to accept the four conditions as interpreted by the Allies, the representatives of the other Powers have consented to wait fourteen days from the end of December for the definitive reply of Russia.

WESLEYAN SOLDIERS.

To the Editors of the Watchman.

Pembroke, Dec. 23, 1854.

GENTLEMEN,—As there is considerable interest excited throughout our Connexion in reference to our military brethren who are in service in the Crimea, it may not be out of place to mention the fact that, in the regiment which left this town for the seat of war, there were ten members of our Society, and more than twice that number who were constant attendants at our public services. Each of the ten was presented with a suitable memorial of affection by the Society when they took their departure, and much sympathy is still felt in their behalf. May we not without exaggeration suppose, that some hundreds of Methodist soldiers have by this time reached the place of conflict? If so it would be contrary to the genius of our Church not to supply them with a suitable pastorate.

I am, Gentlemen, your's with due respect.

A WESLEYAN.

Speech of the Emperor

At the opening of the French Legislative Session in the Palace of the Tuileries.

Messieurs les Senateurs,
Messieurs les Deputes,

Since your last meeting great deeds have been accomplished. The appeal which I made to the country to defray the expenses of the war was so well responded to, that the result has surpassed my hopes. In the Baltic, as in the Black Sea, our arms have been victorious. Two great battles have added renown to our standard. The intimacy of our relations with England has been brilliantly attested. The English parliament has voted thanks to our generals and to our soldiers. A great empire, made young again by the chivalrous sentiments of its Sovereign, has detached itself from the power which for forty years has menaced the independence of Europe. The Emperor of Austria has concluded a treaty—defensive to-day, offensive, perhaps, to-morrow—which unites his cause with that of France and England.

Thus, gentlemen, as the war is prolonged the number of our Allies increases, and the ties already formed become closer. For what ties are, in fact, more secure than the names of victories shared by the two armies and recalling a common glory, the same anxieties and the same hopes agitating the two countries, and the same aims and the same intentions animating the two governments in all parts of the globe? Thus the alliance with England is not the effect of a mere passing interest or of political expediency, but it is the union of two powerful nations associated for the triumph of a cause in which for more than a century their own greatness, the interests of civilisation, and the liberty of Europe are at the same time involved. Join me, then on this solemn occasion in thanking here, and in the name of France, the Parliament for its cordial and warm demonstration, and the English army and its esteemed chief for their valiant co-operation. Next year, should peace not be established I hope to obtain the assistance of that Germany whose union and prosperity we desire.

I am happy in paying a just tribute of praise to the army and the fleet, who, by their devotion and discipline, in the South as in France, have nobly answered my expectations. The army of the East has hitherto borne and overcome everything—disease, fire, tempest, and privations, a city constantly re-victualled, defended by a formidable artillery on land and sea, and two hostile armies superior to us in numbers, have been powerless to weaken its courage, or subdue its spirit. Each man nobly did his duty, from the marshal who seemed to have forced death to wait till he had conquered, to the private soldier or sailor whose last cry in expiring was a prayer for France, and a cheer for the elected of his country. Let us, then, together proclaim that the army and the fleet have deserved well of the country.

War, it is true, brings with it cruel sacrifices, yet everything bids me push it on with vigour, and for this purpose I collect upon your assurance. The army at present consists of [illegible] soldiers and 113,000 horses, and the navy of 62,000 sailors afloat. It is indispensably necessary to keep this force in an effective state, and to fill up the vacancies occasioned by the annual discharges and by the war, I shall ask of you, as I did last year, a levy of 140,000 men. A law will be brought before you for ameliorating the position of soldiers re-enlisting without increasing the expense; it will be of immense advantage to increase the number of veteran soldiers in the army, and to allow in future the weight of the conscription to be diminished. I hope that this law will soon meet with your approval.

I shall demand of you authority to conclude a new national loan. Although this measure will increase the public debt, we must not forget that by the conversion of the Rentes the interest of the debt has been reduced 21½ millions. The object of my effort is to place the expenditure on a level with the receipts, and the ordinary budget to be presented to you will be found in equilibrium, while the resources of the Loan will suffice to meet the demands of the war.

You see with pleasure that our revenues have not diminished, that industrial enterprise is sustained, that all the great works of public utility are continued, and that Providence has graciously given us a harvest sufficient to our wants. The government nevertheless does not close its eyes to the uneasiness caused by the dearness of provisions, but has taken every measure in its power to prevent and lighten this grievous evil, and has founded in several places new elements of work.

The contest which is going on, restrained as it is by moderation and justice, although it causes the heart to beat, has caused so little alarm to the commercial interest, that the different parts of the globe will soon bring together here all the fruits of peace.

Foreigners cannot but be struck with the remarkable spectacle of a country, which counting on the divine protection, sustains with energy a war at 600 leagues from its frontiers, and which develops with equal ardour its internal riches—a country where war does not prevent agriculture and industry from prospering, nor the arts from flourishing, and where the genius of the nation shows itself in everything which can bring glory to France.

Lunenburg Circuit.

We have learned with much satisfaction that the Missionary Meetings recently held at the more important positions on the Lunenburg Circuit, have elicited gratifying evidence of unabated interest in the good cause. The respected Superintendent, the Rev. Mr. Weddall, was efficiently aided at those anniversaries by the Rev. Messrs. Pope, Jr., and McKeown, and by several lay gentlemen. The preparatory sermons preached on the previous Sabbath were attended with a very gracious influence; and it is confidently anticipated that the receipts will be considerably in advance of those of last year. May equally auspicious results cheer our Ministers on every Circuit throughout this and the sister Districts.

Centenary Sabbath School.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

The scholars of the Centenary Sabbath School met in that Church on Friday the 12th instant; there were present about 350 scholars. They were suitably addressed by the Rev. Mr. Cardy, who was listened to with great attention; after which they descended to the School Room in the Basement, where they all sat down to Tea provided for them by their Teachers; at the close of which they were dismissed, being highly satisfied with the entertainment.

At 7 o'clock in the evening, the Officers and Teachers of the Centenary, Germain Street, and Ladies Benevolent Hall Sabbath Schools, and a number of other friends spent the evening together. After Tea the Chair was taken by the Rev. Mr. Knight, when a report of the School was given, which is as follows: 1 Superintendent, 1 Assistant Superintendent, 1 Secretary,