

FRANCE.

Strong complaints of distress begin to come from the manufacturing districts. Not less than 50,000 operatives are said to be out of employment at Lyons and its suburbs alone. They had not yet raised the cry of "bread or blood," but there was an uneasy feeling evinced by the half-starved multitude, which, it was feared, might lead to terrible results.

There were continued reports of plots and conspiracies to destroy the Royal Family of France, and arrests continued to be made.

The Paris papers consider the tone taken by the American President as decidedly hostile, and many of them contend that a collision between Great Britain and the United States is nearly inevitable.

RUSSIA AND CIRCASSIA.

The Circassian War!—Great Victory!—Intelligence has been received at Constantinople, by way of Trebizond, of a victory gained by the Circassians over the Russians—the most signal and decisive, it is said, that has occurred since the beginning of the war. An expedition of 20,000 men had been disembarked on the coast, with a view of destroying the grain, which had been collected by the Circassians after the harvest, when a storm having suddenly arisen, drove the ships from their anchors.

The Circassians, availing themselves of the opportunity, assailed them fiercely on every side—and the Russians, separated from their stores, which had been carried out to sea, were compelled to make a disastrous retreat through a country consisting entirely of mountain, forest, and dingle. With the exception of 2,000, who escaped to Anapa, the whole of the 20,000 were killed or made prisoners. Further details were anxiously looked for in London.

SYRIA.

The warfare between the Druses and Christians in Syria still continued, at the last accounts, under circumstances of the most bitter enmity. All the Christian villages stretching along the foot of Libanus had been devastated, and there was no safety for Christians except in Beirut itself. The following is extracted from the *Toutouais*:—

"They write to us from Aleppo—the English, who were here, have at last left us, bringing with them abundant provisions for their expedition down the Euphrates. M. Lynch is to direct the operations. The question of the practicability of navigating the river being satisfactorily decided, M. Lynch has been instructed to explore its banks in a geographical, botanical, zoological, and archaeological point of view. The country, watered by the Euphrates, is extremely beautiful, and offers a great number of most interesting ruins. The result of the expedition is anxiously looked forward to by all the lovers of science."

Advices from Erzeroum of the 20th Nov. state that Sir H. Neil has been received in a splendid manner at Teheran, and that 10,000 persons came out of the town to meet him. At the gate, he was complimented by the prime minister of the Schah, and afterwards received a valuable horse from His Majesty. It was said that the Schah was going to make an expedition against the predatory tribes of the Turcomans.

THE EAST.

By the latest accounts, it was stated that a rigid blockade would be maintained in the Canton river. The British squadron had sailed from Hong Kong to the northward.

From India, we learn that King Tharawaddie, of Burman, was descending towards Rangoon with a force computed at from 100,000 to 200,000. The intentions of Tharawaddie are doubtful; but it is generally considered that he mediates hostile operations against the British, with the view of recovering the Tenasserim provinces, which are at present in a defenceless state.

Among the remarkable matters in which the natives are concerned, may be mentioned the fact, that a young Hindu widow is about to be married at Calcutta to one of her own caste. The marriage of widows is a new step in Indian civilisation. A young Parsee, who, some months ago, was baptised under the care of one of the Missionaries, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of his wife, his parents, and his relatives, has returned to his former faith, because the friends of his young and beautiful wife, who had become a widow on his embracing Christianity, threatened to have her married to another.

A seizure was performed at Jaulnah on the 1st November. The widow was detained.

Nefin Pasha, with an army of 3,000 men, has forcibly pacified the Marabouts of Lebanon; but the Druses refused to come in, and did him no harm.

Accounts from Athens had reached Marseilles, announcing that the King of Greece had declined the mediation of the three powers to whom the Porte had addressed a communication, declaring himself the head of an independent state. It was rumoured that the Turkish fleet would direct its course towards Greece in a few days.

The *Sydney Journal* states, that the energetic measures taken by the Persian authorities, had put an end to the depredations which Syria was visited during the last two months. The Pasha of Damascus succeeded in saving the Christians from Mussulman fury.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

THE NESTORIANS.

We have much pleasure in copying the following very important intelligence respecting this interesting people, from the *New York Observer*—which will be peculiarly acceptable to our readers:—

ARRIVAL OF MR. PERKINS AND MAR YOHANA.

The Rev. Justin Perkins, of the Persian Mission, with his wife and child, and Mar Yohana, a Nestorian Bishop, arrived at this port, on Tuesday last, in the brig *Magoon*, from Smyrna. Their arrival was hailed with gratitude by the friends of missions, as not a little solicitude had been felt on their account; the vessel having been out more than a hundred days, and the usual passage being made in about seventy.

Mr. Perkins returns to this city chiefly on account of the ill health of his wife, and expects to resume his labours in his interesting field at Ooroomiah as soon as Providence will permit. Our readers are well acquainted with the importance of the station which he occupies in the foreign field, and from his valuable correspondence in our columns they have learned something of his qualifications for the work.

MAR YOHANA is one of the earliest and firmest friends of our missionaries in Persia. In the midst of all their discouragements he has stood by them, and has often rendered them valuable aid and protection. He visits this part of the world at his own charges, and not to show himself, but to see the country of which he has heard so much, and to extend his own knowledge of men and things to foreign travel. He retains the costume of his own country, and with his heavy black beard and mustaches presents a singular and interesting appearance. The Bishop is between forty and fifty years of age, of pleasant address, speaks the English language but imperfectly, and expresses himself as pleased with his first view of things in the New World.

The arrival of these brethren from one of the most interesting parts of the missionary field, is providential, and highly gratifying. They had a most boisterous passage across the Atlantic, experiencing almost a constant succession of western storms and gales. Such, however, were the accommodations of their vessel, the brig *Magoon*, of Philadelphia, and such the unwearied kindness of Captain Haven, that their voyage was rendered very comfortable, even to the last. Mr. Perkins had naturally felt some solicitude, in reference to the impression which the first Americans with whom Mar Yohana should meet, beyond the circle of the missionaries, and particularly American seamen, should leave on his mind. But happily they were not annoyed by the sound of an oath on their voyage, Captain Haven, though not a professor of religion, making it a standing rule to have no profaneness on board his vessel. He is the captain with whom Mr. Dwight, of Constantinople, returned with his children, four or five years ago, and to whom he felt under much obligation for kindness similar to that now experienced by Mr. and Mrs. Perkins. We are happy to add that the impaired health of Mrs. P., on whose account Mr. Perkins visits this country, has been much improved by the voyage.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Jan. 19.

After the meeting had been opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Cox, the President introduced

Rev. JUSTIN PERKINS, Missionary of the Board from Ooroomiah in Persia.

Mr. Perkins said it could not be otherwise than most deeply interesting to him, after an exile of eight or nine years, to find himself, immediately on his arrival, in the midst of the meeting of the American Board. It was not anticipated; but it was one of the first items of intelligence he learned when landing on his native shores. His friend, Mar Yohana, now with us, was the first person who welcomed Rev. Messrs. Smith and Dwight on their first visit to his country, and he was the first Nestorian who took him (Mr. P.) by the hand when he reached his village. He met me cordially, and the first inquiry after his salvation was, "How can your people make books for us when they do not know our language?" I engaged him at once as my Syriac

teacher, and from that time he has been our firm and most efficient friend. He has now come to this country to commune with American Christians, of whom he has heard so much in his own land. Mr. Perkins then gave a most graphic account of the state of things in Persia when he first went there, and of the progress which the Gospel has made. The Nestorian Church, like that of Sardis, had a name to live, but was dead. Its forms were Protestant, but they were clung to as the soul of religion—the Nestorian people would suffer death rather than depart from them. The plainest commandments of the decalogue were violated while they persisted in the performance of religious duties, as the ground of their hopes. Falsehood was more common than truth. Intemperance was very common from the fact that wine is almost as abundant as water. The people are under Mohammedan authority, and often plead their oppression as an apology for their immoralities.

Still even there, as in Sardis, Mr. P. cherished the belief that there are some who have still the faith of the Gospel in their hearts, and who have long been looking for the salvation of the Lord. The Missionaries had arrived there just in time to strengthen the things that are ready to die. Their efforts had been aided and welcomed by patriarchs and priests. Schools had been established, in which great numbers are instructed, and which are exerting a powerful influence on that country. The press has been established, and I hold in my hand the first Tract that was printed there. As I took the proof sheet to my study, and showed it to Priest Abraham and Duncan, they were filled with mute astonishment. Afterward they broke out together, and said, "It is time to give glory to God," a sentiment to which every heart will respond. But the most interesting feature is the fact, that the missionaries have been invited freely to the Nestorian churches to preach the Gospel. This was a privilege we never expected—to enter their churches as *clergymen* on the Sabbath. But, two years ago, they urged us until it was impossible to refuse, and now, in various churches in different villages, three times every Sabbath, the missionaries proclaim the Gospel. Never were there scenes of more interest than these; in these venerable churches, whose appearance carries one back to days of apostolic labour, with a bishop on one hand and a priest on the other, with the people crowded shoulder to shoulder, on mats or on the floor, listening to the word of God—it is enough to inspire the dumb with eloquence. The native clergymen take part in the services, expound the Scriptures, and enforce the truth delivered by the missionary; and some of them with a spirit and power that reminds you of the apostles! Such have been my own feelings when listening to the preaching of Priest Abraham, or Elias, or Yohana. Mr. Perkins related a great variety of facts to show the progress of the truth in that country, and as evidence that the time was at hand when that valley of dry bones would be animated, and bone would come to its bone, under the reviving breath of the Lord. He read, in the course of his remarks, a letter from a Mohammedan boy ten years of age, written to him since he left Ooroomiah; the letter excited great interest in the assembly. Mr. P. said the darkest cloud in the horizon was the effort of Popery to gain possession of the Nestorian church. But we cannot follow Mr. Perkins through the whole of his impressive and instructive speech. The audience listened to his narratives with deep emotion; and, in conclusion, he introduced his friend,

MAR YOHANA, a Nestorian Bishop. The Bishop rose in the pulpit with great dignity, and presented a truly venerable and interesting appearance, dressed as he was in native costume, and wearing a heavy beard. After a short pause, and having surveyed the assembly, he said—

My dear brethren and friends in Christ, I come from Ooroomiah that I may see you. God loves your nation. You send us missionaries. They give us books. They open schools. They preach the Gospel of the blessed Saviour. Their labours are very great at Ooroomiah. We cannot pay you for all this. But, brethren in the Lord Jesus Christ, your reward is in his kingdom; for he has said, whosoever giveth a cup of cold water in his name shall not lose his reward; and much greater will be your reward, who have given us the water of life.