

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. America, May 13.

BICENTENARY FESTIVAL OF THE SONS OF THE CLERGY.—Speech of His Royal Highness Prince Albert.—The two hundredth anniversary of this institution was celebrated on Wednesday in our metropolitan cathedral with a full choral service, in which assisted the members of the choirs of her Majesty's Chapel Royal, St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, St. George's Chapel, Windsor, the Cathedrals of Bristol, Canterbury, Chester, Ely, Hereford, Lincoln, Norwich, Rochester, and Winchester and of the Oxford, Cambridge and Temple choirs. Divine service commenced at three o'clock, but long before that hour the nave and the space beneath the dome had been crowded by a dense congregation. The latter was, of course, occupied by many of the clergy, and there were also present a great number of ladies, besides a miscellaneous assemblage of individuals, many of whom seemed deeply impressed with the proceedings of the day.—In the evening the members and friends of the corporation dined together in Merchant Tailor's-hall, which was completely filled on the occasion, the clergy being about equally divided in point of numbers. The Lord Mayor presided, and on his right was His Royal Highness Prince Albert.—The Lord Mayor proposed "Church and Queen" (loud cheers).—The toast was followed with the National Anthem.—The Lord Mayor then proposed Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the other members of the Royal family.—His Royal Highness Prince Albert rose, and was received with loud cheering. He said: My Lord Mayor, allow me to return you, on my own behalf, and on that of the Royal Family, my best thanks for the manner in which you have proposed our health; and to you, gentlemen, for the cordial response you have made to the toast. I am indeed highly gratified to have been a witness to the 200th anniversary of this festival, testifying as it does that the people of this country do not relax in efforts which they have undertaken, and do not forsake the spirit which animated their forefathers (loud cheers). When our ancestors purified the Christian faith, and shook off the yoke of a domineering priesthood (loud cheers), they felt that the keystone of that wonderful fabric which had grown up in the dark times of the middle ages was the celibacy of the clergy, and shrewdly foresaw that their reformed faith and newly won religious liberty would, on the contrary, only be secure in the hands of the clergy united with the people by every sympathy, natural, personal, and domestic (cheers). Gentlemen, this nation has enjoyed for 300 years the blessings of a Church establishment which rests upon this basis: and cannot be too grateful for the advantages afforded by the fact that the Christian ministers not only preach the doctrines of Christianity, but live among their congregations, an example for the discharge of every Christian duty, as husbands, fathers, and masters of families—(cheers)—themselves capable of fathoming the whole depth of human feelings, desires, and difficulties—(loud cheers) Whilst we must gratefully acknowledge that they have, as a body, worthily fulfilled this high and difficult task, we must bear in mind that we deny them an equal participation in one of the actuating motives of life—the one which among the children of this generation exercises, perhaps of necessity, the strongest influence—I mean the desire for the acquisition and accumulation of the good of this world (hear, hear). Gentlemen, the appellation of money-making parson, is not only a reproach but a condemnation for a clergyman, depriving him at once of all influence over his congregation. Yet this man, who has to him opportunities of acquiring wealth open to most of us, and who has himself only an often scanty life income allotted to him for his services, has a wife and children like ourselves; and we wish him to have the same solicitude for their welfare which we feel for our own (cheers.) Are we not bound then, to do what we can to relieve his mind from anxiety and to preserve his children from destitution, when it shall have pleased the Almighty to remove him from the scene of his labours (hear, hear.) You have given him an answer in the affirmative, by your presence here to day: and although this institution can do materially but little, morally it gives a public suggestion of the claims which the sons of the clergy have upon the sympathy and liberality of the community at large, and, as such, is of the greatest value (cheers.) May it continue for farther hundred years as a bond of union between clergy and laity, and on each recurring centenary may it find the nation ever advancing in prosperity, civilization and piety (loud cheers.) His Royal Highness rose again and said: I have received permission from the Lord Mayor to propose the "Health of his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Right Hon. Lord Denman, the President and Vice President of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy." Lord Denman is unfortunately obliged to be absent on this occasion; but the Archbishop of Canterbury we have the pleasure of seeing in good health at the table, and I beg to propose his good health. At the same time if you will allow me to be your spokesman, I beg leave to return his Grace our warmest thanks for the very eloquent and feeling sermon which he preached this day in the metropolitan cathedral. The Archbishop of Canterbury returned thanks. Other toasts followed, and one of the treasurers announced the following list of donations:—Prince Albert, 100 guineas (being his third donation.) From 113 stewards, £3,500; collection in the cathedral, £690; collection at the dinner £3,145; estimated sum from collections in various churches

(most of them already received) £5,000; a donation from the Dowager Lady Willoughby de Broke, £800; amounting altogether to the sum of £12,050.

CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY.—On Tuesday the annual meeting of the members and friends of this society was held at Exeter Hall, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The total receipts of the society from all sources during the year had been £38,574 17s 9d, which, compared with the gross receipts of the previous year, showed a deficiency of £1,663 9s 3d. It must be borne in mind, however, that a legacy of £3,000 had been received just as the accounts of the year were made up, which, by the terms of the bequest was to be invested for the benefit of the Bath district. The total expenditure for the year had been £37,306 0s 4d. The society now maintained 343 clergymen, and as many lay assistants.

PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the friends of this association was held on Wednesday, in Exeter Hall, Viscount Bernard, M. P., presiding. The meeting was very fully attended. The receipts for the year had amounted to £842 2s 11d, and the expenditure to £820 12s 10d, leaving only a balance of £15 10s 1d. Upon the motion of Mr. Peters, the report was adopted, as were also two resolutions directed against the aggressions of Popery, and the principle of permitting Popish monastic establishments to flourish in this country without an adequate state supervision.

THE WAR.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF ODESSA.—BY AN EYE WITNESS.—The English official declaration of war reached the fleet, then anchored at Balshik Bay near Varna, on the 9th of April, upon which the steamer *Furious* was sent to Odessa to bring away the English Consul. With a flag of truce flying at her masthead she hoisted, and sent in a boat, also carrying a flag of truce, to demand the consul. There was some delay in returning an answer, and the Lieutenant in command of the boat thought it right to return to the *Furious*, upon which the Russians opened a fire upon the boat and in the direction of the steamer. Six or seven shots were fired, but fortunately without effect.

On the 17th (the French official declaration of war having arrived, without which Admiral Hamelin was naturally unwilling to proceed to extremities), both fleets sailed for Odessa, before which place they anchored on the afternoon of the 20th. An explanation was demanded of General Osten-Sacken, the Military Governor, as to his reasons for outraging a flag of truce, always held sacred by all nations pretending to civilization. This demand was also sent in under a flag of truce, but the boat when backed by the fleets was not molested. The General returned an unsatisfactory and untrue answer, declared that he did not fire upon the boat, but upon the *Furious*; which not heeding customary signals, was steaming up the bay for the purpose of examining it, whereas she was motionless. Upon this the admiral sent in a demand for the delivery of all the shipping in the port, and, in the event of no answer arriving before sunset on the 21st, declared that they would punish this outrage on the law of nations. On the morning of the 22nd the steamers of the combined fleets attacked the Imperial Mole at Odessa, and during the day completely destroyed it and the most of the (Russian) shipping within it.

Here it is necessary to endeavour to give the reader some idea of Odessa. It has often been compared in general aspect to Brighton; but the line of cliffs on which the town stands has a slight curve inwards, forming a shallow bay, with a radius of some three miles. These cliffs face the north-east, and towards the north they sink into low sandy mounds and flat endless steppes. Stretching out from below them, at the lower or south-easterly end of the town, runs a long fortified mole, at the end of which is a lighthouse. This is called the Quarantine Mole, and shelters a great crowd of ships of all nations. Their crews are never permitted to go into the town, but are strictly imprisoned within a small walled-in and strictly-guarded quarantine district at the foot of the cliffs, even if they should happen to be detained there for six months at a time. Under pretence of preserving themselves from disease the Russians have made the quarantine a hateful political tyranny. At the time of our visit this mercantile prison of all nations was very crowded, and on the morning of the 22nd each vessel had her colours at the mast-head, as if appealing for succour and protesting against cannon balls intended for the Russians. The attacking force had orders to give this mole as wide a berth as possible in order to be out of reach of its fire, and so to avoid the necessity of returning the fire and injuring any of the neutrals within.

The following was the attacking force:—French,—Mogador, Vauban, Descartes, Caton; English,—Sampson, Terrible, Tiger, Retribution, Furious, and a detachment of rocket boats under commander Dixon. The *Sanspareil* and *Highflyer* acted as reserve. This force proceeded to another similar mole at the northern extremity of the cliffs, called the Imperial mole, enclosing a mass of Russian ships of all sorts, and some large stores or barracks. Both moles had a formidable array of embrasures, and there was a battery between them at the foot of the cliffs; but as far as we could learn they were badly off for guns. We counted over

seventy embrasures. The steamers had orders to do as far as possible in shore, so as to rake and destroy the Imperial Mole and shipping, but to avoid firing upon the town or upon the shipping in the Quarantine Mole. About twenty minutes to seven they began, the *Sampson* leading in most gallantly. From the large ships, about three miles and a half off, it was a most curious sight. When within about 2,000 yards each steamer delivered the fire of her enormous guns, each whirled round in a circle of about half a mile in diameter, each taking up the fire in succession. Thus they kept wheeling and twisting about like so many waltzers, without ever touching or getting into contact. The guns in the mole answered steadily, and in the course of an hour the Vauban came towards the fleet on fire from her hot shot, and added in several places. Happily the fire was got under and she returned to her post. For a long time the terrific fire from the steamers did not silence the mole. At length it became slow though regular, answering about once every two minutes, and towards one o'clock a shed at the back of the tongue battery caught fire, and in a few minutes the whole of that part blew up. The steamers continued plying the ships with shot and shell, and they were on fire and sinking throughout the night, when suddenly from behind some sheds on the low sandy shore near them, a battery of six horse artillery guns opened out upon the rocket boats, which were at the moment within musket shot. Happily nobody was hurt, though a perfect shower of balls fell around them, knocking the oars about, and ploughing up the water all around them. Upon this the rocket boats and steamers opened upon them, and soon sent them reeling. A few minutes after the sheds behind which they sheltered themselves burst out into a furious fire. The steamers kept up their fire till about five o'clock.

In the early part of the day, while they were engaged, her Majesty's steam frigate *Arethusa*, was ordered to attack the southern side of the Quarantine Mole battery as a diversion, for its guns had frequently been troublesome. Nothing could be prettier than the way in which she stood in, hoisted, and delivered her fire, filled, tacked, and again delivered her broadside. Shortly after the breeze freshened, and she deliberately reefed her topsails though under fire, and was then recalled by the Admiral. During the fire several English merchantmen slipped out of the Quarantine Mole. The poor fellows are very thankful to have escaped. Altogether the punishment was severe, but appropriate. Russian property was destroyed, and much of it must have belonged to Government. The town and neutral ships were spared, though completely in our power, and it cannot be contended that a place with so many batteries on the seaboard, was defenceless. Some of the steamers are a little damaged, but nothing of consequence. But one Englishman was killed, and eight or nine wounded, none of them severely. No officer has been laid up.

As we anticipated, the Black Sea fleet has endeavoured to test the range of the guns at Sebastopol, but to no purpose, as will be seen by the following telegraphic announcement from Vienna:—"It is positively asserted that the commanders of the fleets here for the present relinquished the idea of attacking Sebastopol. The frigates approached the port and threw in some bombs; but there was no reply and the fleets remained immovable."

"On board the *Furious*, before Odessa, April 21, 1854.

"Admiral—I have read carefully the report of Odessa's letter, on the subject of the fire directed against the flag of truce on Saturday the 8th of April. The contents are totally untrue. The facts are, that her Majesty's vessel under my command reached Odessa at break of day, about ten minutes to 6 o'clock. At 4 or 5 miles distance the English colours and the flag of truce were hoisted. Only about twenty minutes at least afterwards (at about a quarter past six) two guns, blank cartridges, were fired from the battery. Considering that the fire was an intimation not to proceed, I stopped the ship's course immediately, and directed to harbor."

"From this moment until the return of the boat, the wheels made not a single revolution, and the vessel floated off by degrees, a moderate breeze from the north-west blowing off shore. The stern was toward the quarantine harbour, and I took care not to open the portholes of the main deck, and to guard against any manœuvre which might give rise to the slightest suspicion of hostile intentions on my part."

"Seven shots were fired. The first was evidently directed against the boat, then at about a mile distant from the shore. It fell within about sixty or seventy yards from her, she being then south of a line drawn from the battery to the vessel. The others followed close, and may have been directed against the boat or against the vessel, for they were more in the straight line from that direction."

"Lieutenant Alexander, as soon as he reached the mole, asked to see the English Consul. He was told that he was not there—that it was too early—that they were going to send for the harbour captain, and that he requested him to return to his ship. He asked if the English Consul was still at Odessa. The officer of duty replied by begging him to return to his ship; and a person who was there as English interpreter, added that it was not permitted him to say anything more. During all this time the English colours and the flag of truce were conspicuously displayed on board the ship and its boat."

"What I attest here can be corroborated by the evidence of the officer of duty, the head engineer, the