

meetings ensued with the King of that Island. In the month of August, General Saris, accompanied by Adams, set out for the Imperial court at Jeddo, and through the admirable diplomacy of Adams, a commercial treaty was granted to the English, giving "free license to the King of England's subjects, Sir Thomas Smith, Governor, and Company of the East India Merchants, for ever, safely to come into any of the ports of the Empire of Japan, with their ships and merchandise without hindrance to them or their goods; and to abide, buy, sell and barter, according to their own manner with all nations, and to tarry so long as they will, and depart at their pleasure." Their goods were exempt from all manner of customs duties, and they were privileged to build houses in any part of the Empire, and all English subjects were exempted from the summary process of Japanese law. Three years afterwards these privileges were somewhat modified, and in 1633, after having expended about £40,000 in endeavoring to form a trade, the East India Company abandoned the project, perhaps prematurely. But it was well that they had been long quit of the Empire before the terrible persecution, civil war, and slaughter took place. It would have been a bitter reflection had they in any wise participated in that dread calamity, and thus tarnished the noble name of the good English pilot. In 1673, fifty years after the abandonment of the trade, an English ship was sent to attempt a revival of intercourse, but the fatal law had previously been passed and the first question that was put by the Japanese was—"Is not the English King married to a daughter of the King of Portugal?" It so happened that Charles II had married the Portuguese Infanta, Catharine of Braganza twelve years before, and the Dutch having communicated the fact to the Japanese; this alliance with a hated nation was so decided a barrier to a renewal of intercourse, that the English were peremptorily told they must sail with the first fair wind. It was thought by the East India Company that this effort at a renewal of commerce was thwarted almost entirely by Dutch jealousy. In 1791 another unsuccessful attempt was made, and again in 1803. In 1818 Captain Gordon, of the British Navy, entered the bay of Jeddo, in a little brig of 65 tons, but he was not more successful. Various expeditions have been made by Russia with a similar intent, but not with more success. Now, however, the growth of the whale fishery in the Pacific, has caused more frequent resort to the coasts of this empire, and in 1846, the United States made an attempt to open negotiations with the Court of Japan. The *Columbus*, of ninety guns, Commodore Biddle and the United States frigate *Vincennes*, arrived in the bay of Jeddo, on the 20th of July, but after some attempt at diplomacy, they received the same determined answer—"No trade can be allowed with any foreign nation except Holland." It has become a question whether any nation barbarous or civilized can isolate itself from all other nations, and shut her ports and harbours, either as ports for commerce, or havens of refuge for the unfortunate mariner, who may be buffeted by storms in those dangerous seas. The general opinion is that no nation can be allowed to do so, to suit its own immediate purposes, and the United States have determined that as Japan, upon the high road of nations, the Empire cannot be longer left as an impediment. Negotiation seems to

them unavoidable and for this purpose they have fitted out a large fleet, which was expected to sail about the first of this month, under Commodore Perry. The following is given as the force of the squadron:

VESSELS.	TONS.	GUNS.	MEV.
Vermont, 3000 tons.	-	26	800
Mississippi, steam-frigate.	1,700 tons.	-	375
Snouquehanna, do	2,000 tons.	-	350
Princeton, do	1,200 tons.	-	180
Alleghany, do	1,100 tons.	-	180
Saratoga, sloop-of-war, 1st. class.	-	22	180
St. Mary's do do	-	22	190
Vincennes do do	-	22	190
Racco, frigate Macedonian.	-	22	450
Brig of war, Porpoise.	-	10	120
Storeship Southampton. 32-lb guns.	-	4	-
Do. Lexington. do	-	4	-
Do. Talbot. do	-	4	-
Total number of men	-	-	3,045

To the above total of the ship's companies are to be added 700 marines, which, with the complement of the storeships, officers, scientific corps, and others attached to the expedition, will make an effective force of 4000 men, and above 330 guns, mostly heavy ordnance. The steamers are each to mount a couple of Paishan shell guns of the largest calibre, placed on revolving trucks, so as to sweep the horizon. These guns are intended to be used for the discharge of shells of 68 and 120 lbs. each and long 42", making 22 guns to each steamer. Each ship is provided with two brass 24-lb. field pieces, to be used for shells or canister shot. The Mississippi will be the flag ship of Commodore Perry. The *Racco* Macedonian is to carry twenty 8 inch and two 10 inch shell guns, the latter mounted on railways. The sloops of war and the brig *Porpoise* are to mount long 32 pounders. The *Vermont* will mount long 42's on her lower deck, long 22's on her second tier, and short 18's on her upper deck. The expedition is to carry out a magnetic telegraph, a locomotive and railway cars, and many other productions of modern civilization, that are doubtless intended to "astonish the natives."

Such is the most recent attempt to repeal the law of 1637. We hope that the negotiations will be conducted with prudence, although we have little faith in any such attempts to force a commerce. No end however allowed, can justify the despatch of this fearful amount of destructive force, if more is intended than merely to act on the defensive while negotiations are pending. We would not wish to see America bending in lowly subjection to a heathen emperor for liberty to trade with his subjects, neither would we wish to see that great power so regardless of that noble declaration of which they are so justly proud, "that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights,—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" seeing that the Japanese has equally the same right that the American has to take this as his charter. It has been too much the practice for nations to go forth on their civilizing expeditions with the sword in one hand and the Bible in the other; but such was not the course adopted by the primitive Christians, and St. Paul himself lived to say that all Asia had heard the Gospel. Was Elijah the Tishbite a fabulous being, or did he verily pray, "that it might not rain upon the earth, and it rained not for the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again and the heavens gave rain. Was it actually true that a heathen ruler sent for the Apostle Peter to hear from his lips the way of salvation, and that Paul in a vision saw a man of Macedonia who beckoned unto him to come over and help them? If these are facts, and who can successfully dispute them, what kind of a miserable commentary

on these passages is this Japan expedition, and the expectations it has already excited. The November number of his "*Charleston Gospel Messenger*," S. C. a work published under the superintendence of the Bishop of the Looses, says, page 234,

"It is the government which is jealous both of the extension of commerce and the introduction of the Christian religion as endangering its own stability. It is possible, though at present not at all probable, that this jealousy may be overcome. Should this be brought about in the course of God's providence (that is by this expedition,) and we have seen things as strange in our day, the Church ought to be ready for the emergency. A Bishop and a corps of twenty or thirty priests and deacons should be sent at once to take possession of the country in the name of Him who has commanded us to "preach the Gospel to every creature. It seems to us that Japan would be the finest missionary ground under the sun."

Now this is just the old Portuguese absurdity over again. Xavier and his companions were contented to teach the people and to convert them to their own faith, but they were speedily followed by others who could not conscientiously apply to themselves the words of Paul, "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel" and consequently they were very justly turned adrift. But all the experience of the past has not read a lesson to this "Protestant Episcopal Register" for the first thing they conceive necessary is to take possession of the country and then go to work to make the people believe that all is done for their benefit.

Literary Notices.

BLACKWOOD for November.—New-York: Leonard & S. Ott. Toronto: T. Maclear.

The contents of this venerable Monthly are: The Golden Age, a Poem; Kate Stewart, a true Story, conclusion, Fictions for French Firesides; The Restraintive Tariffs of Foreign Countries, My Novel, or Varieties in English Literature; The Pilgrimage of Flagellants; Queen Mary, A Moral from Walter; and The Holidays. These are all written in the usual attractive style. Blackwood announces the publication of the first volume of a new work from the pen of Sir Archibald Alison, entitled "*The History of Europe from the fall of Napoleon in 1815 to the accession of Louis Napoleon in 1852*" It differs from his former great work in so far as that its "heroes are not the commanders of armies, but the leaders of thought; the theatre of its combat is not the tamed field but the peaceful forum."

THE ANGO AMERICAN MAGAZINE.—December.—Toronto: T. Maclear.

This number completes the first volume of Maclear's new Monthly, and it is only justice to say that each succeeding number has excelled its predecessor in its selections, style of arrangement, and quality of paper. We have not yet become reconciled to the absurdities in the Editor's Shanty, nor even has a perusal of his latest issue superinduced a more favorable impression regarding the chronicles of *Drop Daily*; but this number contains several well written articles, Forest Gleanings, and the Duke's Daughter, from the pen of Mrs. Trail, will be read with pleasure by all. The illustrations in this number are: A Fashion Plate; Bust of the Duke of Wellington; and, A View of Port Hope. These Engravings are very well executed and