

rather than give up one iota of the unchangeable truth of God. Intact, uninjured, must it be handed down as a sacred heirloom to our children, the price of blood, the achievement of faith, the safeguard of Christianity, the charter of liberty to our nation, the foundation of our throne. But let us all who love our country take care that we do not disgrace the name of Protestant—let it be the name of men who live holily, justly, unblameably—let it mark faithful vallant soldiers, active servants of Jesus Christ; let all who bear it, while protesting against error, love and do the truth; whatever we protest against let us follow after its opposite virtue—not only abhor that which is evil but cleave to that which is good, and while ceasing to do evil learn to do well; and among ourselves let there be peace and concord—let there be heard no name of division among us who are brethren—no sign of discord in the camp of fellow-soldiers of the Cross. Let not us who are brethren contend, but in giving honour to each other, and glory to God, extending earnestly for the faith but not to the breach of charity, or the denying of each other's hope; but let us dwell together as citizens of the same country—members of the same Holy Church should live—that our prayers for the prosperity of our native land in peace, her success in war, may not be hindered."

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. America, May 12.

ENGLAND.

The Earl of Shaftesbury presided on Wednesday at the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The following were the chief items of the reports:—

"There had been issued in the year from the depot at Paris, a total of 132,235 copies of the Scriptures, being an increase of 18,783 over those of the preceding year. The distribution in Germany was 77,835 copies. The issues from Brussels were 27,000; Amsterdam, 29,000; Breslau, 32,000. In Switzerland and North Italy the issues amounted to 20,000, the sale by the agent having nearly doubled. In the autumn of last year the agent paid a visit to the island of Sardinia, where he established three depots, 3,000 copies were distributed within the year in the kingdom of Sardinia. At Stockholm there was an increase of 12,429 over the issues of the preceding year. The committee had watched the progress of the political convulsions in Spain with peculiar interest, in the hope that they might afford openings for the Society, but the authorities had not become more favorable to the circulation of the Scriptures. As to Southern Italy it was remarked, that before it was delivered from the grinding yoke of superstition, it was but little that a Bible Society could be expected to accomplish. The committee congratulated the meeting on the fact that the Archbishop of Florence had lately published an edition of Martin's version of the New Testament, with notes.—The agents at Malta announced that the Scriptures had been forwarded to Aleppo, Alexandria, Corfu, Tunis, and other places in the Mediterranean, the total number of issues being 12,467. Under the head of Turkey, it was remarked that the affairs of the East having assumed a position of such great importance and general interest, the committee had employed a special agency for the dissemination of the Scriptures where its injunctions and consolations seemed to be most needed. Among the incidents mentioned was a case in which the colonel of a French regiment in the Bosphorus undertook to distribute fifty copies among his men. The committee had authorized Mr. Barker to provide for the distribution of the Scriptures in the Danubian provinces, and the supply of all connected with the allied armies in the Crimea. Two colonels had been sent out—one to supply the Scriptures to our own troops, and the other to supply them to the French. With regard to Russia, it was stated that in consequence of the disturbed state of the capital, the Society's agent, the Rev. Mr. Ellerby, had been compelled to resign his charge, and return to England. The stock belonging to the society was left in the care of a gentleman residing in St. Petersburg. The issues in that city during the year amounted to 6,819 copies. The society's correspondent stated that, after some consideration, he determined to offer 500 copies of the Slavonian Testaments on loan to the Grand Duchess Helen, for distribution among the sick and wounded soldiers of Rania, and that the result was, that the duchess accepted the offer, and undertook to have the 500 copies distributed at her own expense. In India there had been a larger circulation than in any previous year. The issues at Calcutta amounted to 36,033, at Madras to 36,000, at Bombay, 8,359. The committee

would be glad to be able to report a greater distribution of the million copies of the Chinese New Testaments, but the work had been impeded for the want of openings and agents. 3,000 copies had been issued within the year from the depot at Sierra Leone, making the total distribution from the commencement 26,849. The report from Cape Town was favourable.—The contributions to the parent society during the year amounted to £550, and the issues to £4,949. The Bishop of Natal, before returning to his diocese, obtained a grant of the Scriptures printed in Dutch. Large orders had been received during the year from British North America, Toronto alone having required to be supplied with 35,800 copies. Allusion was made to the deaths, within the year, of Dr. Vidal, Bishop of Sierra Leone, and Viscount Lorton, both of whom were vice-presidents of the society. The receipts of the year ending March 31, 1855, were larger than those of any preceding year, with the exception of the Jubilee Year. The amount of receipts from the ordinary sources of income was £124,478 9s. 6d., adding to which £8,694 4s. 11d., further contributions to the Jubilee Fund, and £7,000 1s. 3d. to the Chinese New Testament Fund; making a grand total of £139,032 15s. 8d. The issues of the society for the year were as follows:—From the depot at home, 1,018,882 copies; from the depots abroad, 431,994 copies; 1,450,876 copies; being an increase of 83,348 over those of last year. The total issues of the society now amounted to 29,389,507 copies.

"The last subject referred to in the report was the war. There had been forwarded to the Naval and Military Bible Society, in connection with the war, 3,000 copies, to the Constantinople depot, 34,000, to the Paris depot, 38,000; to other societies and depots, 18,000 copies, to Miss Nightingale sixty copies, with permission to draw supplies to an indefinite extent from the depot at Constantinople, various numbers to other individuals, and the prisoners of war had not been neglected."

Among those who took part in the proceedings were the Bishops of Meath, Cassel, and Melbourne, Lords Chulmondeley, Calhorne, and Eborac, the new doctor of Marylebone, the Hon. and Rev. J. T. Pelham, Mr. Norman Macleod, the well known Presbyterian Minister, from Glasgow, Mr. John Farrar, President of the Wesleyan Conference, &c. The following is an extract from the Bishop of Melbourne's speech:—

"The British and Foreign Bible Society has done much in uniting Christian brethren in England who differ from one another upon subordinate points of doctrine and particulars of Church government, but who are agreed with one another upon all the great doctrines of the Gospel. It has done much in England in uniting them in mutual love and esteem one with the other. Some of you doubtless, listened to the admirable address of the Rev. John Angell James, at your jubilee meeting—a speech which I read with the greatest delight in Australia—in which he testifies to the influence of the British and Foreign Bible Society upon himself. Now, if the society has done much in England, I can testify that it has done much in the colonies, at least in that particular colony with which I am myself connected. That colony contains a population consisting of many Scotch Presbyterians, English Baptists, and English Wesleyans; and I need not say to you that, born as some of us have been in different countries, and brought up under different systems of worship, in different branches of the Church of Christ, there was much to separate us from one another. Yet, my friends, I thank God that I can number among my friends clergymen and laymen of the Established Church of Scotland and of the Free Church, and also ministers and laymen of the Wesleyans, Independent, and Baptist denominations.—(applause)—and I owe this to the British and Foreign Bible Society. (Hear, hear.) I have the honour of being president of our Colonial Association. I make a point, whenever I am in Melbourne, of attending the meetings of the committee. At these meetings I see many lay and clerical brethren of these different denominations. They converse with one another, and consult together upon the best mode of circulating the scriptures, they pray together, and they learn to feel that their differences upon subordinate points of doctrine and of Church government may consist with a common love of the Saviour, and a common zeal for the propagation of the truth as it is in Jesus. Speaking, then, simply as a Christian man, I recommend the British and Foreign Bible Society to your support on this ground; for I feel it has conferred a benefit upon myself. I alluded just now to the Rev. J. Angell James. He is a minister of a Congregational Church, and I am a clergy-

man of an Episcopalian Church. He thinks, I believe, an Established Church to be an evil, I am not blind to some of the evils connected with our Church, yet I can thank God for the existence of the Established Church of England. These, so far as I know, are the only points of difference between Mr. James and myself. What are the points of agreement between us? They are all the great doctrines of the Christian Faith and Christian practices. (Applause.) We are agreed upon the doctrine of a triune God, upon the doctrine of the fall of man and salvation by Jesus Christ, upon the doctrine of original sin, justification by faith, regeneration by the Spirit, and holiness of life as evidence of real faith and regeneration. (Applause.) Is there, then, not enough upon which we are agreed to make us friends one with another? Is there not enough of what we mutually like and dislike to establish the grounds of friendship between us? Are we to regard one another as antagonists? Are we content to remain strangers to one another in the flesh, that what God should bring us together? I hold no sympathy with those who would be content to continue in a state of separation from others who are agreed with them on those great points, and who are carrying on, as they believe, the great work of the Gospel. Does my Church-membership require me to separate from such a man as I have mentioned? No, I thank God that it does not. (Applause.) I believe in the real Catholic principles of the Church of England. I believe that she requires of me to carry on a warfare against infidelity, against Romanism, against Mahomedanism, but I do deny that she requires me to carry on a warfare against the principles that are preached by such a man as Mr. James, of Birmingham. (Applause.)

A few weeks since the Rev. Dr. Vidal, Bishop of Sierra Leone, died, and the Government offered me see to the Rev. T. W. Weeks, incumbent of St. Thomas' Church, Lambeth. The Reverend gentleman intimated his willingness to accept the appointment upon one condition, namely, that his letters patent should not confer upon him any right or title to be called "My Lord," as is the case with all the other Colonial Prelates. This somewhat singular request has been complied with by the Government, and the new Bishop's designation will be not "my Lord," or "my Lord Bishop," but "Right Reverend Sir."—Herald.

THE CHINA.

The taking of the rifle-pits, on the 19th, in front of the Redan, is described as a very gallant affair.—"About eight o'clock the party of the 72nd, under Lieutenant-Colonel Egerton, supported by a wing of the 33rd, under Lieutenant-Colonel Mundy, moved down the traverses towards the rifle-pits. The night was dark and windy, but the Russian sentries perceived the approach of our men, and a brisk fire was at once opened on them by the enemy, to which the troops scarcely replied, for, firing a terrible volley they rushed upon the enemy with the bayonet, and, after a short but desperate struggle, drove them out of the rifle-pits and up the slope behind them. Once in the pits, the engineers, officers, and the sappers and miners set to work to strengthen the defences, and threw up a gabionade in front, and with great coolness and courage proceeded to connect the trench of the nearest rifle-pits with our advanced sap. The enemy opened an exceedingly heavy fire of round, grape, and shell upon them, and the Russian sharpshooters from the parapets of the batteries and from the broken ground behind the abatis, kept up a very severe fusillade; but the working party continued at their work in defiance of the storm of shot which rained upon them. In such a contest as this it could not but be expected that our loss would be considerable. Captain Owen, R. E., so well known in England as an officer of high scientific attainments, and who has devoted himself to the more arduous duties of his profession with great zeal and ability since he came out here, was severely wounded, he left thigh being so shattered by a rifle ball as to require amputation. Lieutenant Haynes, a very active and brave young officer, was also struck down by a bullet, being shot through the chest and left arm, and is now in some danger, though his attendants think his life is safe. Captain Lomprière, of the 72nd, a very young officer, who has served throughout the campaign with his regiment, and who has never left it from the time they landed in Bulgaria, was killed. A boy a year and a half in stature, he behaved like a veteran soldier. Lieutenant Knight, of the same regiment, also distinguished himself in the attack, and escaped unhurt. He was the first to leap into the rifle-pit, and his example encouraged his men at the time they were staggering under the tremendous fire directed against