

THE EMPEROR OF FRANCE AND THE SCRIPTURES.—Although the incident may pass unheeded amid the multitudinous affairs of the war, perhaps there is no circumstance which will be noticed in Great Britain and the Colonies with a more agreeable surprise than the following;—the Emperor of France has presented each of the 10,400 soldiers ordered from Boulogne to Paris *en route* to the Crimea with a copy of the New Testament, being the diamond Edition published in London by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

LAY MOVEMENT IN THE ENGLISH CHURCH.—A movement amongst the laity of the Church of England, headed by the Church Wardens of several metropolitan parishes, has been commenced with the avowed object of arresting the progress of High Church and Puseyite principles.

PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATION—SPANISH HUMANITY.—Several ladies of high rank in Madrid are endeavouring to get up a society for preventing cruelty to animals, and even, it is said to preach a crusade against Bull-fights.

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.—A highly interesting discussion took place in the House of Lords on December 19th, respecting the duty of Government to appoint a day for special thanksgiving to God for his protection of our armies in the East, during the present war,—with special reference to the deliverance against fearful odds at Balaklava and Inkermann.

The Church in the Colonies.

In reviewing the history and proceedings of the Church in these Colonies during the last few months, we can easily discover numerous indications, not only of life and vigour, but also of progress and improvement. New missions are daily opening up, and old stations supplied with pastors; young men are receiving licence for the ministry, and missionaries arriving from the mother country. Pastoral duties are discharged with fidelity and zeal, and the religious education of the young carefully attended to. Under such auspicious circumstances, and amid such active exertions, on the part of the office bearers of the Church, the religious instruction and improvement of the general population cannot fail to be greatly promoted. To the eye of the patriot and the Christian, there cannot be presented a more pleasing object of contemplation than a church arising in a place which was lately a dreary wilderness, and a devout congregation assembling on a spot which but a short time ago was tenanted by the wild beast of the forest. The pages of the Montreal Presbyterian, and other religious periodicals, furnish us with abundant proofs in corroboration of these statements. In August last the Presbytery of Bathurst ordained the Rev. John Lindsay to be Minister of Litchfield, an interesting settlement on the Ottawa, where there is prospect of a numerous congregation;

and the Presbytery of Toronto inducted the Rev. John Brown to the pastoral charge of the Congregation connected with the Church of Scotland at New Market, a station that has been vacant for a number of years. In reference to this last settlement the Presbyterian officers the following appropriate remarks, which hold out encouragement to other vacant congregations.

"The vacancy, now happily terminated by the addition of a new name to the Presbytery Roll, dates from Nov., 1842. For nearly 12 years the adherents of the Church in Newmarket and its neighbourhood have been destitute of the services of a fixed pastor, and during that time have received only such supply of sermon as could be furnished at distant intervals by the members of Presbytery. As might be expected, the once flourishing congregation became in the course of time greatly scattered.

"All along, however, there were members of this congregation whose attachment to the Church of their Fathers was not to be shaken, and who, in the untoward circumstances referred to, sympathized with the difficulties of the Presbytery in granting, which they received thankfully, the small amount of supply which could be afforded, anticipating, as they did, the arrival of a better state of things, in which the house, that they had erected for the worship of the Lord of Hosts, should again be, as in former days, to themselves and their families a place of regular resort to receive there the weekly lessons of the Gospel.

"Twelve years form a considerable period in the history of a family or of a congregation, and amid the hope deferred of ever again having a minister of the "Auld Kirk" to break among them the Bread of Life, in this case doubtless, as in many similar ones throughout the Province, there were not a few sincere friends of our Scottish Zion, whose attachment was sorely tried by the many silent Sabbaths over which they had to mourn, or by the inducements held out to them to become connected with some other denomination.

"To those who left not their first love—to the tried adherents of our Church in that congregation, it was doubtless a happy day on which they welcomed, as they did so heartily, their present minister, the Rev. John Brown, whose settlement among them, we earnestly pray, may be eminently conducive to their spiritual good."

In the ensuing month of September, the same Presbytery of Toronto ordained Mr. James Gordon, a preacher of the Gospel, who had been educated at Queen's College, Kingston, the fourth minister within the last eighteen months who had obtained a fixed charge within their bounds, to the pastoral superintendence of the congregation at Markham.

A similar service was performed by the same Presbytery in the month of October following, when the Rev. James Bain was inducted to be minister of the congregation at Scarboro, in connection with the Colonial Church.

Within the last few months, the Presbytery of Hamilton have also been actively engaged in filling up the vacancies within their bounds.

On the 12th of October this Presbytery met at Westminster and ordained the Rev. James McEwen, a preacher who had received his education at Queen's College, to the pastoral charge of the presbyterian congregation in that place. And on the 17th of the same month the Presbytery again met, and inducted the Rev. James Thom of Three Rivers, as minister of the congregation at Woolwich in connection with the Church of Scotland.

When there is such an increasing demand for labourers in the Colonial vineyard, it is pleasing to find that a number of very promising young men are, from time to time, completing their theological studies, at Queen's College, with a view to the sacred ministry and that zealous and devoted missionaries are also arriving from the mother country.

From late intelligence we learn that the Rev. Mr. Patterson, appointed by the Colonial Committee, has arrived in Canada, and is at present employed in preaching at Point Levi, opposite the City of Quebec.

Within the last few months, the Rev. Robert Stephenson and the Rev. Peter Keay have received appointments as Missionaries to New Brunswick, and arrived in that Colony, where they have before them a very wide field of usefulness.

We are happy also to have it in our power to mention that only a few weeks ago the Rev. George Harper, another missionary sent out by our Colonial Committee, has arrived in this Colony as an additional fellow-labourer, and will soon proceed to his destination, in Prince Edward's Island. There is still ample room and much encouragement in these Colonies for a large reinforcement of missionaries from the parent church, and from the increasing zeal and enlarged liberality of the friends of the church at home, we are inclined to believe that many a congregation which has long been destitute of the ordinances of religion, will soon be supplied with able and efficient pastors. It will afford us, in our appointed vocation as editors of this journal, much satisfaction to advocate, according to our ability, the cause of our destitute brethren throughout these Colonies; and to record in succeeding numbers the appointment and settlement of ministers in the different vacant churches within our bounds.

Queen's College, Kingston.

From the Presbyterian.

WATERDOWN, FLAMBOURG EAST, C. W.,
October 3rd, 1854.

The Hon. JOHN HAMILTON,
Chairman of Trustees, Queen's College,
Kingston.

DEAR SIR,

Yesterday afternoon I arrived at home from Nova Scotia, after an absence of nearly six weeks. My object in at present addressing you is to render an account of my stewardship in acting upon the commis-