

Of the expedition itself the Bombay correspondent of the *Times* makes the following mention:—

The declaration of war was promulgated officially in Bombay on the 10th. Three days after, the last division of the flotilla left the harbour. The movements of the fleet commenced by the despatch of two steamers (the *Voltinger* and *Proctor*), hired from the Peninsular and Oriental Company, each with its transport in tow, to Vingoria. At that port her Majesty's 64th and the 20th Native Infantry, both from Belgaum, embarked. On the 8th the second division of the fleet, consisting of six steamers and seven sailing vessels, the *Panjab* towing two, sailed for Porbunder and Kurrachee. At the former place the two squadrons of the 3d Cavalry from Rajpoota will be taken on board. At Kurrachee will be embarked the 2d Baluch Battalion, the 1st or 2d European Regiment. The latter corps was brought down from Hyderabad for that purpose, but suffered so severely on the march that it was at one time thought almost certain that the 1st or the Fusiliers must be substituted for them. The remainder of the force embarked in this harbor on the 12th and 13th. It consisted of the 4th Rifles, a strong and very well appointed regiment, which saw service in the last Sikh war, two troops of the Poona Horse, a field battery, a troop of horse artillery, a third class siege train, consisting of two 8-in. mortars, two 8-in. howitzers, and two 18 pounder iron guns, and two companies of Sappers and Miners. Sir H. Leek's broad pennant was hoisted in the *Assaye*, a fine paddle-wheel frigate of 1,800 tons, with an armament of ten 8-in. 65-cwt. guns.—Major General Stalker and most of the Staff were on board the flag-ship, which with the last of the fleet in company, left the harbor on the 13th. The rendezvous is Bunder Abbas, near the entrance to the Gulf, a place which, though situated on the right or Persian side of that inland sea, is yet ruled by our Arab ally, the Imam of Muscat. Thence the collected force will proceed to Kurrack and Bushire, but all its operations will be guided, as the proclamation says, 'by the progress of events' and the continued contumacy, or the timely submission, of the Court of Teheran.

"The latest news from Afghanistan, seems to establish beyond a doubt that, up to the middle of October Her Majesty's forces still held out."

The *Lahore Times* reports from Constantinople speak of the town as having been starved out.

Editorial Miscellany.

MR. HOWE'S LETTER.

A letter published by the Hon. Joseph Howe in the *Halifax Chronicle* of Saturday last, has caused a good deal of healthy excitement in this community, and will we have little doubt, have its due effect in every part of the country where it may be read. The trial of the Railway Riots is all that Mr. Howe states it to have been, "an outrage never paralleled in Nova Scotia, followed by a mockery of justice which demands from Novascotians of every origin and creed, not merely contempt and scorn, but thoughtful practical remedies, such as Novascotians know how to provide."

It now more fully appears than heretofore, that the attack upon Gourlay's shanty, was a kind of crusade against the heretics—the beautiful extract from the *Halifax Catholic*, will confirm this, if after what has been elicited any doubt remained upon that head. Some of the Protestants may have ridiculed the dogma of transubstantiation—and some perhaps, have gone the length of a *jeer* or *taunt* at the Romanists assisting at or going to mass on the feast of Corpus Christi. The most approved Romish mode of dealing with heretics whenever Rome imagines she possesses the power, was therefore to be tried, and the whole were to be made an example of, after the manner of the Waldensian persecutions, or as their forefathers were in the days of the Stewarts in Scotland, or English Mary, for similar disbelief and ridicule. Thus we see that Romanism is the same now as then. Who can doubt that the poor ignorant people were in this case the instruments of others who instigated their conduct; and in this view it is that we believe the really guilty have escaped for a time the punishment they so richly deserve. But we shall let Mr. Howe himself speak more fully on this head:—

"Who can doubt now, with this avowal before him, that this diabolical outrage was deliberately planned—that it was perpetrated in the name of religion—that it was a Catholic foray in the heart of a Protestant country—that something worse than bad rum was at the bottom of it, and nothing worse or better than that infernal spirit of religious intolerance and persecution which has borne its bitter fruits wherever it has appeared. These ruffians thought that they could trample out freedom of religious opinion in the woods and solitary places of Nova Scotia. Those who aid and abet them think that by proclaiming to all the world that it is dangerous for Nova Scotians to laugh at what they do not believe, they can silence and intimidate those whom they cannot convince."

"Little do these rioters, or their abettors, know of the country in which they are trying these fearful experiments. The right to discuss all questions of doctrine involving our worldly interests or our eternal salvation—to maintain what we believe to be true, and to laugh at what we believe to be absurd, is the common right of every Nova Scotian, and all the 'mercenary' people that can be mustered will never trample it out of our hearts, or of our homesteads. This is the peasantry of our eastern counties enjoy when at home. They brought it with them upon the public works of their country. It was or should have been as sacred

in Gourlay's shanty as it is in any church or dwelling in the metropolis."

"The Editors and correspondents of the *Catholic* have, week after week, scoffed at and reviled every thing that British subjects value—every thing that Protestant Nova Scotians hold dear. This paper has done its work and done it most effectually. Presuming upon the political divisions which past controversies had created, its Editors supposed that Protestants would sacrifice their religious feelings to their political interests. Holding the balance, as they assumed, between parties, a few short sighted Catholics in the capital thought they could spit upon, abuse, and scoff at all Protestant sects and combinations in turn."

"For months they have been doing this, and I have been looking at them with special wonder. They have written and acted as though Nova Scotians, who happen to be Protestants, had neither feelings, moral power, nor political influence. Week after week every thing that our forefathers fought and bled for of old, every thing that they brought with them, in the first emigration under Cornwallis—in the second emigration from the revolted colonies—in the latter emigration from Great Britain—every thing that we take pride in as subjects of one Sovereign—every thing that we hold sacred as freemen, and believers in one Saviour, has been scoffed at and reviled. And now we are told, forsooth, that theology must not be discussed in the back woods—that 'Scottish Protestants' must hold their tongues about Catholic ceremonies, or there is great danger that 'mercenary Irishmen' will gut their houses and break their heads. And when they are broken, we are further told, by these lovers of fair play, that Mr. Howe had better hold his tongue about the matter, for fear that the 'sympathy' of other Irish men may be aroused, and the violators of the law rescued from the Penitentiary."

"No Protestant would dare to publish such a paper as that to which we refer in any Catholic country.—The man who attempted it in Rome, in Spain, or in Mexico, would soon find himself in 'the jail or the Penitentiary.' Here it is published with perfect impunity, and the difference between a Protestant and a Catholic country is illustrated by the very impunity which it enjoys. Everything that Nova Scotians hold dear, sacred, and national, has been made the subject of 'jests and taunts' again and again. 'Abuse and derision' have been heaped upon the 'faith' professed by three fourths of our population. The oldest and most estimable clergymen in the country have been 'railed at' day by day. Luther has been 'pitched to Jericho,' and every body and every thing else that stood in the way of bigoted and arrogant intolerance. All this has been done, and Mr. Compton's house has not been disturbed—his shanty has not been turned into a slaughter house."

"But the impunity he enjoys in the capital, Protestants are to be denied here and elsewhere. The Scotchmen and Nova Scotians may 'build bridges,' 'quarry stones,' 'lay sleepers,' but woe betide them if they laugh at what they do not believe, if they say one word about the Real Presence, Purgatory, or the Pope."

"Now, what I require is, that Thomas Gourlay and Roderick McKay, and every Protestant in Nova Scotia, however humble in circumstances or remote and isolated in situation, shall have the same rights that Irish Priests and Editors claim, exercise, and enjoy in Halifax. If 'mercenary' fanatics violate those rights they should be punished. If others band themselves for their protection, they should be despised. If the securities of law are abused that the guilty may escape, the law and its administration should be reformed to meet such cases. These are my opinions, and I shall be much mistaken if they are not echoed from every village and hamlet in Nova Scotia; and if Nova Scotians everywhere do not unite to vindicate the sincerity of their religious convictions, and to guard the most sacred of their civil rights—the right to argue, and the right to laugh against all that can be mustered."

"'Mercenary Irishmen' would do well to remember that, outside of the City of Halifax, they are but a handful of the population in any county, east or west. Their best security law, and order, and the preservation of the free institutions of the country.—There is no part of Nova Scotia where they could not be trampled down in a day, were the people to become 'mercenary' and deal out the 'brotherly love, and mutual forbearance' which were displayed at Gourlay's Shanty."

"In the County of Halifax, out of a population of 39,112, the Catholics of all origins number but 13,317. The right to discuss theology, and to laugh at what they cannot believe, will not be very tamely surrendered by the other 25,795, or I am much mistaken. If heads are to be broken, and houses gutted about religion, the 'mercenary' gentlemen, who pretend to be ever sensitive, will find that bad lessons are soon learnt."

A good deal of this is no more than we have ourselves asserted. It is only a few weeks since that we had occasion to rebuke the impudence and falsehood of the *Halifax Catholic*, and to caution the Protestant community against its admission into their houses. We are glad that its game, and that of those whose organ it is, has been so ably shown by one whose deep acquaintance with their political religious scheming, enables him if he will, to expose it thoroughly. In this exposure will be the best test of his sincerity—and he need not fear but that he will carry with him the good wishes of every Protestant denomination, and the majority of every constituency in the Province."

R. M. S. NIAGARA.

THE news by R. M. Steamship *Niagara*, which arrived on Wednesday at midnight, is of a more interesting nature than that brought by previous mail. We have published so much of the Russian note laid before the Paris Comedore, as will give our readers a correct idea of the pretensions of that equivocating Power. We have also published the proceedings of the British Government against Persia, which include a declaration of war. If Russia had a naval force that could operate in the Persian Gulf, against the British squadron, we should much fear, not only the defeat of the British expedition to Herat, but also the continuance of British power in India. It happens however, that the question of Russian naval supremacy in any part of the globe, was decidedly settled in Sebastopol harbour, and the shutting up the Baltic against the egress of her navy warlike and commercial. That such a contemptible nation as Persia has become should have risked a conflict with Great Britain, upon its own resources, no one will for a moment believe, and we are therefore well assured that Russia will find it convenient under a pretence of fulfilling treaty obligations, to grant all the assistance that may be demanded of her, and that it may be in her power to bestow, at that distance from her many resources. We find accordingly that she is ready to aid Persia with 40,000 troops and munitions of war. The government of the Shah, according to its means and power, is the most perfidious on the face of the earth, and the attempt to gain possession of Herat, in the face of treaty obligations with England, proves that it is but a tool in the hands of Russia, to forward her designs, and enable her to gain a foothold, from whence she can look upon India, in the hope that one day perhaps its conquest may make amends for the denial of Constantinople to her ambition.

THE presentation of the piece of plate to James Pryor, Esq., took place on Wednesday evening, at the Temperance Hall. His Worship the Mayor in the Chair, who after a few preliminary observations, introduced Mr. Pryor to the Meeting. The Hon. Joseph Howe to whom had been committed the honor of presenting the testimonial to Mr. Pryor, made a very handsome speech upon the occasion, commendatory of the mercantile enterprise and integrity of the firm of which Mr. Pryor is a member, and of his own scientific skill and ability, which had enabled four Fishermen to compete successfully with the best oarsmen of the other Province. After the Inscription had been read, and the plate presented, Mr. Pryor, amid much cheering, replied as follows:—

"MR. CHAIRMAN AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

"I sincerely thank you for the high and unexpected honor you have done me."

"This splendid testimonial of your approval of my services, accompanied with the very eloquent and flattering address to which I have just now listened, has almost deprived me of the power of giving utterance to my feelings of gratitude and thankfulness."

"My chief and great object, by repeated trials, to obtain a boat of superior model and speed, was for the purpose of giving to our experienced boatmen (our fisherman) an opportunity of retrieving, as well as maintaining their character as first rate oarsmen. And sir, I feel that the credit of success belongs to them as well as myself; for alone I could do nothing, but with their co-operation we succeeded—a pleasure immeasurably enhanced by this noble mark of your approval. And, sir, in accepting this costly offering, my greatest pleasure arises from the conviction that there is not a fisherman on our shores who will not feel that by thus honoring me you are honoring him, and I believe, sir, that there is not a young Boatman from Cape Sable to Cape Canoe, who will not hereafter feel, as he handles the oar, that he will be, and ought to be, in that leading boat, so beautifully depicted on that noble vase. And, as regards myself, sir, I have only to add that you have over estimated my services, and for which I once more beg of you to accept my best thanks."

"Three cheers were given for Mr. Pryor—three for Hon. Mr. Howe—and three for the Mayor. The thanks of the meeting were conveyed to the Mayor for his able conduct in the chair, After which the audience dispersed."

Received from Edward Binney Esq., in aid of the Bridgewater Church the sum of £12 10, being last moiety of £25 for same object. The resident missionary also begs leave to state, that in all probability the above mentioned edifice, will in the course of a month be ready for occupation, and it is to be hoped, will prove a fitting testimonial to those persons who have so generously contributed towards its erection.—Com.

THE Sermons for the Colonial Church and School Society in Halifax produced £48, and Dr. Helmuth collected for the Home funds of the Society, nearly £500 currency. The collection at the Annual Meeting was £112.