

After briefly glancing at the dreadful scenes which ensued before the close of the voyage, the lecturer remarked that the French transport system is not, with all our faults, so good as ours. It was told him by a French officer on board, and it had been confirmed indirectly by many persons who had opportunities of ascertaining the same statistics, that the French had lost between July, 1854, and July, 1855—slain in battle, left dead on the field, 12,000; died afterwards of wounds received in battle, 7,000; sent home with loss of limb or broken in constitution, 25,000; died of disease, chiefly diarrhoea, cholera, and dysentery, 30,000;—total loss, about 105,000, exclusive of all who had been killed or died during the last seven months. "But," added his informant, "we do not put this in the newspapers; we only report a loss of 20,000. You English know too much about your army; we know too little." The hon. member said, "Two first view he had of Sebastopol—he spoke as a civilian—made him wonder why our army did not advance and take it at once; and ten minutes' explanation from an Artillery officer made him despair of taking it at all. He went through the town after it was taken, and he must say that the evidences of the civilisation of Russia, judging from that town, nearly, if not fully, equalled anything in this country; and, though we were at war with the Russians, he could not ride through Sebastopol without a sigh to see so many happy homesteads so utterly laid waste. It was truly surprising to see the vast amount of earth which had been raised to the top of the Blamelon and of the Medan in the face of the enemy. This was as wonderful to our engineers as it was wonderful to our Commissariat how the Russians had been able to feed so vast an army with the sea supply entirely cut off. Bearing these facts in mind, he must say he thought that history would award the glory to the defenders rather than to the besiegers of Sebastopol."

From the evidence taken by the Committee on Adulterations last week we extract a few interesting points:—

Dr. Nellagan, a physician, residing in Dublin, said he believed, generally, drugs were much purer in Ireland and England, and he attributed this in a great measure to the system of inspection adopted by the College of Physicians, although there was no punishment inflicted in the case of adulteration being detected. The College of Physicians in Dublin had just issued an order that in future all apothecaries and druggists should keep medicines of a dangerous nature in square or angular bottles, and those of a harmless nature in round bottles, so that the most ignorant person taking up an angular bottle would know it contained a dangerous drug. Another order directed that, in dispensing drugs and medicines, or selling them to individuals in their shops, all liniments and medicines for external use should be sold in square or angular bottles, and all those for internal use to be sold in round bottles. He had examined the so-called "quack medicines," and had no doubt that they were most injurious, and thought some steps should be taken to stop the sale of them. Many serious cases of illness owing to their use had come under his own observation. His opinion was, that all dispensers and sellers of drugs should be licensed; and if found selling adulterated articles they should be subject to a fine, and upon the second or third offence the licence should be withdrawn.

Mr. Philip Ripley, twenty years a tea-broker, said, in his opinion, tea was an article free from adulteration in this country. "Lie tea" was imported in 1817, and the quantity gradually increased until it reached 800,000 lbs., when it was found by the importers that there was no sale for it, and the manufacture had now entirely ceased. Witness had been in China from 1847 to 1851, and was sure there was no adulteration practised there. Probably some substance was used to colour the tea; but the quantity was so small as to be innocuous.

Mr. Weston said he had been a tea-broker for thirty years, and could confirm the evidence of the last witness. No "lie tea" had been in the market since 1825, when it was sold at 6d. a lb., while it had cost the importers 1s. No article reached the consumer in so pure a state as tea.

Mr. F. Crace Calvert, professor of chemistry at the Royal Institution, Manchester, stated some results of his experience derived from an examination of the articles supplied by contract to several large apothecaries in Lancashire:—"The guardians were generally in the habit of taking the lowest tender if the articles were of the same quality, but no doubt this practice tended to encourage the system of adulteration. He

believed that the competition in cheapness was one of the greatest evils of the present day; in Manchester, where there was such an immense population of the lower class, this was most forcibly seen, and the adulterations were so scientifically carried out that it required science to detect them. He had examined 230 articles supplied to the union, and of these 138 were adulterated or of an impure quality. Taking one union, with an expenditure of £14,000, there was an absolute loss, owing to the low quality of the articles, of £2,271 in one year—to say nothing of the injury to the health of the paupers. In fact, competition had attained such a height that no honest man could supply the articles."

Mr. R. J. Richardson, inspector of nuisances to the Board of Health at Newton-leath, near Manchester, gave evidence as to the practice of selling diseased meat in his district. He knew that at the present time the "slink butchers," as they were called, were selling about twelve diseased cows and twenty-four calves in a week for the purpose of food. Some of these animals had died from the "tick disease," which was supposed to be contagious, and would extend to the human frame. The meat thus sold was disguised in all kinds of ways—in sausages, brawn, savory duck, &c., and he was sorry to say, even although a butcher might be convicted, yet the people still continued to frequent the shops where credit was given. He knew also that horseflesh was extensively sold, and made into sausages and other things. He wished to suggest to the committee that there should be power given to some central board, similar to the Board of Health in London and in the large towns, to order an analysis of animals supposed to have died of disease.

The Committee stands adjourned to Wednesday, April 2.—*London Guardian.*

At Kertch, the army is in good health and excellent condition. Some fraternising between the Russian and English chaplains is reported:—

"Including English officers of the Contingent, clerks, servants, the detachment of the 10th Hussars, &c., there is a Protestant congregation at Kertch, of about five hundred souls. Service is performed in the aforementioned building, which was a ladies' school, and is now a cavalry barracks. By way of experiment, it was once performed in the Kertch Cathedral. The Russian priest's permission was asked, and he made not the slightest difficulty, and attended himself, as did a large number of the inhabitants, to witness the service. The building, however, was not found convenient, and the barracks were returned to. The Russian priest is an amiable and enlightened man, and his heart was won by the establishment, by the Rev. Mr. Boudier, who for two months officiated as chaplain at Kertch, of a school for the Russian children. The expenses of this establishment are defrayed out of a fund raised by rates levied on canteenmen and certain classes of shopkeepers, and the favourable impression it has made on the people is remarkable. The good understanding between the English chaplain and the Russian priest was perfect, and when the former left, about a month ago, the latter presented him with a bell, having both their names inscribed on it, which now swings in the little wooden belfry of the church of the Second Division, where its owner does duty. These are pleasing and humanizing incidents, in the history of a war which abounds in bloody and desperate episodes."

The *Herald* correspondent relates the following anecdote:—

"You are well aware of the donations to the British soldiery sent out from the fair sex in England, from the lowliest cottager to the very highest lady in the realm. Among the presents were some shannel shirts. One of these fell to the lot of Sergeant —, the other day (I am requested not to print the name, but I know the man well); this shirt he opened, and then, inside it, he discovered carefully pinned a lock of hair and the following letter, which I subjoin verbatim. The letter is directed thus:—

"This is for you And I
hope it is A young
man
if not Give it to you won't

Inside, the words ran thus:—

"My dear Friend—I wrote those few lines to you hoping that they may cheer you a little. I think you are dull, but God will help you. I am A young woman And I hope that you are A young man, this is my hire (sic. for hair) Keep it for My sake

"from

"MARY.

"You are now lazing, it is bad writing." So ends the letter. Neither country nor town is mentioned in it. It was watered, not sealed, and the stamp on the envelope is a "forget-me-not." The lock of hair enclosed is light brown in colour, and plaited in three, tied with blue and yellow silk threads. "Who is Mary?"

The advanced squadron in the Baltic, under Captain Watson, has met with much obstruction from the ice. On the 15th inst., Faro Sound was completely frozen over, but the *Imperieuse* and *Pyrales* made their way through without much difficulty. The next day they fell in with the main body of the ice, and took twenty-eight hours to make their way through thirty miles of it:—

"To one looking from the Island of Dago, perhaps, the most interesting part of the scene would have been the solitary ships moving through a sea of ice, and spurning the obstacles which came in their way. At 9 a.m. the *Imperieuse* encountered two small vessels from Lübeck so emboldened in ice that it was impossible for them to proceed to their destination or return whence they came. The history of their movements for the previous six weeks is somewhat curious, and proves that, instead of a brisk trade having been carried on between Russia and other countries (as was so confidently asserted in England), the Russian ports have positively been inaccessible to any sort of vessel whatever. These brigs left Lübeck on the 1st of February, and on the 8th, when fifteen miles from Port Baltic, were compelled to return in consequence of a firm barrier of ice, through which it was impossible for them to penetrate. On the 7th of March they again started, but, instead of getting within fifteen miles of their port, they are now frozen in at least 170 miles from it, with no prospect of getting liberated for the next three weeks. After communicating with these vessels a light breeze sprang up from the N.W., and, taking advantage of the channel which the *Imperieuse* and *Pyrales* had made in the ice, the Lübeckers followed in their wake, vainly hoping for a way to be made for them out of their 'fix;' but they had not got many miles when, from the firm and compact state of the ice, and not being able from the masthead to see any open water, the senior officer most judiciously determined on not penetrating further, which the brigs perceiving, rounded to again, and in all probability will have to wait till a general break-up takes place. Sail was now made, and, passing Dago at about eight miles' distance, the *Imperieuse* stood down the Baltic, passed Oesel about sunset, and was off the coast of Courland at 8 a.m. on Monday, the 17th inst.; passed within ten miles of Windau, and, sailing along parallel to the coast, was off Libau at sunset, and arrived at Dantzic at 11.30 p.m. of the 18th, and left for Faro after completing coal."

It is calculated from statistical tables that the number of children born in France on March 16, to all of whom the Emperor and Empress have promised to be godfather and godmother, must be about 2,500. Every one of these children, whose families may be willing to accept it, will receive, it is said, a present of 3,000 francs—this will be 300,000 francs! It is intended that all the boys shall be christened Louis Eugene, and the girls Marie Louise. The proportion of boys to girls born in France is about forty-five to forty-three.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHURCH TIMES.

Charlotte Town, April 5, 1856.

SIR—An anonymous letter, and some Editorial remarks connected with it, appeared in the "Church Witness" of the 26th inst., and, as my letter and these remarks may, in some particulars, have led to an impression contrary to the truth, I feel bound to justify both to the Bishop and myself, to offer a few words in explanation. "Vigilante" speaks of a positive and aggressive opposition, on the part of our Bishop, to the Bible Society and other like constituted Societies—evidenced by what he calls my desertion of them (for I am the clergyman alluded to). He says "surely such influence must be strong that could induce such a lay and tried supporter to desert this (the Bible) Society, &c." I do not know Mr. Fisher, how I can be said to have deserted the Society when I was present at its annual Meeting, and was shown no sign of deserting it, except declining to take a Resolution and occupy a place on the platform. It is true that the Bishop has objected to my being passed over, as a Rector in my own parish, when prayers are offered on behalf of the people, and to a dissenting Minister's being called on in my stead, but his Lordship does not expect the Clergy to separate themselves from the Bible Society. In a letter received by me only a few days ago he says, "I have never objected to any clergyman taking part in it." So that not the Society, much less the cause of Bible circulation, but the position in which a Rector, in his own parish, may be placed is what seems objectionable to the Bishop—and this, of course, applies to all public Meetings where a Layman presides and calls upon whom he will to open or close the meeting with prayer.

Henceforth I had gone on the platform as one of a number of Christians, indiscriminately assembled, and had waived, for the time being, and in a mixed multitude, the consideration due to my Office as Rector of the Established Church—but, as the Bishop viewed my presence, under such circumstances, in a different light, and as his objections seemed to me to embrace a point of Church discipline, I thought it my duty to yield, inasmuch as the Bishop is the Constituted Authority in such matters—and, as we are bound to obey the laws of a civil power, tho' they be not conformable to our own judgement, I do not see how we can avoid obedience to Ecclesiastical Authority (provided it be not contradictory to the Law of God,) where our profession places us under its guidance.

No one can appreciate more highly than I do the work of the Bible Society so far as its circulation of the word is concerned—but I am not so sure about its platform system. In years gone by the great object was to promote the holy cause of Scripture Circulation, but now a new element is admitted. In Charlotte Town, on the evening referred to, I was pained and offended by perceiving that the platform