

## THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 8, 1839.

men. It would be no less gratifying to me if I could give an account as favorable of the Christians; but this I cannot do without violating the truth, nor without saying what they would know to be false. Many of them indeed are amiable, and, on my own account, I have little reason to complain of any of them; but still there are lamentable defects amongst this people.

Many of the Christians smile at the remarks on our tenderness towards the poor birds. To them, as to the Britons, it is sport to hunt and kill birds and other innocent animals; and I suspect that by indulging in cruelty to animals, they become cruel to their fellow men.

Crimes and punishments in this country are frequent and terrible. A multitude of prisons are filled with felons and convicts. Several thousands of these wretched and dangerous beings are now in a state of confinement, and some of them for crimes of the deepest dye—the names of which are scarcely known in Loo Choo. But you will wonder less at the frequency of crimes among Christians, when you shall have better understood what deeds are practised and praised in their wars. There is scarcely any thing which bears the name of *crime* in time of peace, but what is authorized, practised, and applauded in war. The main business of war is robbery and murder; yet these in time of peace, are deemed the most flagitious crimes. Habit is said to be a kind of second nature, and those who, by war, become habituated to crime, may be expected to follow their employment in time of peace. Piracy is a crime which Christian nations punish with death. Yet piracy, or robbing on the seas, is authorized in time of war, and practised to a dreadful extent. Why should not rulers, who authorize or encourage such atrocities, be hanged, as well as those who perpetrate such deeds without a license? Has the God of Christians given their rulers a right to authorize what would otherwise be the worst of crimes? If he has, what must be the character of this God?

In America, robbery is not punished with death unless it be perpetrated with intent to kill. In Britain, a man has been exposed to be hanged for stealing to the amount of five shillings. Yet how much barefaced robbery by land or sea has been committed by orders, from the governments of these two countries. Many hundred millions of dollars, are doubtless charged to the account of each government. In respect to Britain, she has not only taken her millions of moveable property by robbery and murder, but also a multitude of islands and provinces of large extent, with all their inhabitants. But these are crimes too great "for laws to whip." They are therefore applauded as deeds of glory! Even ministers of the Christian religion have been known to encourage war, robbery, and murder, not only by words, but by example! If the priests of our religion should do so, how horrible would their conduct appear to the inhabitants of Loo Choo! Would it not be immediately supposed that they had become insane, or that they were possessed by infernal spirits?

It is, I think, in a great degree owing to the benevolence of our priests, and their prudent instructions and examples, that our people have formed such a pacific and amiable character. Our religious teachers have uniformly taught that our God delights to see his children live in love and peace, that he hates all injustice, robbery, and homicide; and these instructions are impressed on the minds of children from their infancy to adult age, and even through life, by the amiable examples of their religious instructors.

Happy would it be for the American people if as much might be said in favour of their religious teachers. But the ministers of religion in this country are not united like those in ours. They are divided in opinion as to the meaning of some passages in the Sacred Books; on this ground, they divide into different sects or parties—become alienated, and often accuse each other as enemies to the Christian religion. This has a pernicious influence on their respective adherents, and they, in their turn, reproach and vilify one another. In reading some of their ecclesiastical controversies, it appeared to me, that the writers, in too many instances, evinced as bad passions as are necessary to kill in political wars. Whether the indulgence of hateful passions in theological disputes, has so bewildered the minds of the clergy in this country, that they cannot see much evil in national hostilities, I cannot positively decide; but it is a fact, that, until within a little time, very few of them ventured openly to censure public war as a moral evil. However, of late years, there has been less of the spirit of hostility than in former times, among the clergy of different sects, and a greater number of them have ventured to declare the spirit of political war to be repugnant to the spirit of their Messiah and his precepts.

The Christians of all sects profess to believe that their God is the Lord of the whole earth—that he reigns at Loo Choo as well as America. If it be so, is it not a pity that a sense of his goodness does no more to induce the Christians to love one another? Most certainly, the God of Loo Choo is a benignant being who delights in doing good, and in seeing his creatures do good to one another. Our priests have made us believe this; and hence we live free from wars and fightings. If our God is the God of the Americans, and if their Sacred Book has given a correct account of his character, the ministers of religion in this country have much to answer for. Their number is so great, that if they had been united, and well informed on the subject, they might long ago have rendered war the abhorrence of the people throughout the country.

L. C.

**THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.**—The information received during the week on this exciting subject is of the most satisfactory nature. "Thank heaven! the people of the United States and the British provinces are not yet agreed to follow the savage customs of Goths and Vandals. The olive-branch of peace shall yet wave over the two countries. The documents published during the week, we think, set the question at rest, and avert the danger which, for a time, appeared of so threatening a character. Gov. Fairfield's answer to the letter of Sir John Harvey is to the following effect, namely;—that the proceedings of the Land Agent of Maine were in execution of a Resolve of the Legislature adopted in secret session, and that no notice of their proceedings could have been given without an unqualified breach of faith and duty—that no agreement has been entered into between the two governments that Great Britain should have exclusive jurisdiction in the disputed territory until that claim shall be settled—that the territory bordering upon the Aroostook River has always been, in the possession and under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts and Maine—that more than thirty years ago Massachusetts surveyed and granted large tracts of it, which have ever since been, in some way, possessed by the grantees and those claiming under them—that the rest of it was surveyed by, and some of it divided between Massachusetts and Maine, soon after the latter became an independent State—that both States have been in the habit of granting permits to cut timber there without being molested from any quarter—that many persons have purchased these lands of Maine and entered into their actual occupation—and that in various other ways Maine has exercised a jurisdiction over this territory, and that if His Excellency chooses to send an armed force to attempt the expulsion of the land agent's party, Maine will endeavour to meet the attempt as it deserves. The letter concludes by an expression of trust in God that Maine will do her duty! But what ideas must men entertain of the Deity who can suppose that He will sanction the proceedings of men-killers. The appeal of Maine to Massachusetts is thus met by Gov. Everett:—

"I had the honor in my address to the Legislature at the beginning of the session, as on more than one former occasion of the same kind, to call the attention of the two Houses to the ruinous extent of the depredations committed on the public lands in that region. The rightful sovereignty and government of the Territory belong exclusively to Maine. Massachusetts has no jurisdiction over it, and possesses only an interest in a moiety of the soil. For this reason, no further steps on our part, have been deemed within the competence of Massachusetts, to maintain her right in the territory which forms the subject of controversy between the governments of the United States and Great Britain. Should a state of things unhappily arise in which the government of the United States shall call upon Massachusetts for her assistance in asserting the rights so long and so injuriously withheld, I am persuaded that the call will receive a prompt response from the Legislature and the people."

By this it will be seen that the Governor of Massachusetts is not willing to co-operate with Maine, except by order of the General Government, and to the same effect are the resolutions of the legislature of Massachusetts. The Message from the President to the Senate of the United States, etc. will have its due influence in the peaceful settlement of the question. After denying that an agreement exists between the two nations, conceding to Great Britain, until the final settlement of the boundary question, exclusive possession of, and jurisdiction over, the territory in dispute, we meet with the following passages—

"The State of Maine had a right to arrest the depredations complained of; it belonged to her to judge of the exigency of the occasion calling for her interference; and it is presumed that had the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick been correctly advised of the nature of the proceedings of the State of Maine, he would not have regarded the transaction as requiring, on his part, any resort to force. Each party claiming a right to the territory, and hence to the exclusive jurisdiction over it, it is manifest that, to prevent the destruction of the timber by trespassers, acting against the authority of both, and at the same time avoid forcible collision between the contiguous Governments during the pendency of negotiations concerning the title, resort must be had to the mutual exercise of jurisdiction in such extreme cases, or to an amicable and temporary arrangement as to the limits within which it should be exercised by each party. The understanding supposed to exist between the United States and Great Britain has been found heretofore sufficient for that purpose, and I believe it will prove so hereafter, if the parties on the frontier, directly interested in the question, are respectively governed by a just spirit of reconciliation and forbearance."

But between an effort on the part of Maine to preserve the property in dispute from destruction by intruders, and a military occupation by that State of the territory, with a view to hold it by force, while the settlement is a subject of negotiation between the two Governments, there is an essential difference, as well in re-

spect to the position of the State, as to the duties of the general Government.

On the other hand, if the authorities of New Brunswick should attempt to enforce the claim of exclusive jurisdiction set up by them, by means of a military occupation on their part of the disputed territory, I shall feel myself bound to consider the contingency provided by the Constitution as having occurred, on the happening of which a State has the right to call for the aid of the Federal Government to repel invasion.

I cannot allow myself to doubt that the results anticipated from these representations will be seasonably realised. The parties more immediately interested cannot but perceive that an appeal to arms, under existing circumstances, will not only prove fatal to their present interests, but would postpone, if not defeat, the attainment of the main objects which they have in view. The very incidents which have recently occurred will necessarily awaken the Government to the importance of promptly adjusting a dispute, by which it is now made manifest that the peace of the two nations is daily and imminently endangered. This expectation is further warranted by the general forbearance which has hitherto characterized the conduct of the Government and people on both sides of the line. In the uniform patriotism of Maine, her attachment to the Union, her respect for the wishes of the people of the sister States, of whose interest in her welfare she cannot be unconscious, and in the solicitude felt by our neighbours, we have a strong guarantee that she will not disregard the request that has been made of her."

One statement of the President's Message is worth all the rest. Until the failure of negotiation, etc. he says, "I cannot think it proper to invoke the attention of Congress to other than amicable means for the settlement of the controversy, or to cause the military power of the Federal Government to be brought in aid of the State of Maine, in any attempt to effect that object by a resort to force." One other document we give to our readers entire.

## MEMORANDUM.

Her Majesty's authorities consider it to have been understood and agreed upon by the two Governments that the territory in dispute between Great Britain and the United States, on the North-eastern frontier, should remain exclusively under British jurisdiction until the final settlement of the boundary question.

The United States Government have not understood the above agreement in the same sense, but consider, on the contrary, that there has been no agreement whatever for the exercise, by Great Britain, of exclusive jurisdiction over the disputed territory, or any portion thereof, but a mutual understanding that, pending the negotiation, the jurisdiction then exercised by either party, over small portions of the territory in dispute, should not be enlarged, but be continued merely for the preservation of local tranquillity and the public property, both forbearing as far as practicable to exert any authority, and, when any should be exercised by either, placing upon the conduct of each other the most favorable construction.

A complete understanding upon the question, thus placed at issue, of present jurisdiction, can only be arrived at by friendly discussion between the governments of the United States and Great Britain; and, as it is confidently hoped that there will be an early settlement of the question, this subordinate point of distinction can be of but little moment.

In the mean time the Governor of the Province of New-Brunswick and the Government of the State of Maine will act as follows:—Her Majesty's officers will not seek to expel by military force the armed party which has been sent by Maine, into the district bordering on the Aroostook river; but the Government of Maine will voluntarily, and without needless delay, withdraw beyond the bounds of the disputed territory any armed force now within them; and, if future necessity should arise for dispersing notorious trespassers, or protecting public property from depredation by armed force, the operation shall be conducted by concert, jointly or separately, according to agreements between the Governments of Maine and New-Brunswick.

The civil officers in the service, respectively, of New-Brunswick and Maine, who have been taken into custody by the opposite parties, shall be released.

Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to fortify or to weaken in any respect whatever, the claim of either party to the ultimate possession of the disputed territory.

The Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Britannic Majesty having no specific authority to make any arrangements on the subject, the undersigned can only recommend, as they now earnestly do to the Governments of New-Brunswick and Maine, to regulate their future proceedings according to the terms herein-before set forth, until the final settlement of the territorial dispute, or until the Governments of the United States and Great Britain shall come to some definite conclusion on the subordinate point upon which they are now at issue.

JOHN FORSYTH,

Secretary of State of the United States of North America.

H. S. Fox.

H. B. M. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.