

insinuating so kindly that I had capacity and wisdom enough to make a vicious system tolerable, he had said that I am far inferior to many of my brethren in the Episcopate, he would have come much nearer to the truth, and it would be neither my inclination nor my duty to contradict him. As it is, I am too well aware of my manifold deficiencies—too painfully conscious of how little I have done for the good of the Church—too deeply convinced that I have been "an unprofitable servant," to take any share of the praise which is due to God for His blessing on the plan which His own Word has dictated.

It is *non est*, therefore, and nothing but the system, which claims commendation. I maintain that it is superior to any other Diocese in its principles, because it is more Scriptural, more primitive, more consistent with the whole design of the Episcopate, and more in accordance with the two great rules of the Apostle—1st, That "WE ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING, AND THAT THERE MAY BE NO DIVISIONS AMONGST US, BUT THAT WE BE PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER IN THE SAME MIND AND IN THE SAME JUDGMENT;" and 2d, That the Bishop "DO NOTHING BY PARTIALITY." It is no invention or discovery of mine. It is no novelty that should disturb any man's peace, but it is simply the old, original plan of the first inspired master builders, which no one, without the same authority of inspiration, has a right to alter. In offering it to the clergy and laity of Vermont, I deserve no credit beyond that of honestly acting on my own conviction of the truth. Far higher is the credit due to this Diocese for their ready and unanimous acceptance of a system which so many were disposed to condemn as obsolete and impracticable, and for the cordial and admirable consistency with which they have gone forward, under its peaceful and harmonious administration, to the present day.

In conclusion, I have only to add that I raise no question as to the sincerity and good intentions of our accusers. I have shown how greatly they have erred in their views of fact as well as in their notions of theory. I have taken the liberty of an old man, now drawing near to the great final account, to utter plain and honest words against party strife, and in support of *UNITA*. But God forbid that I should doubt the purity of motive, or depreciate the piety and zeal, of any of my brethren, merely because they are led away by the popular current of this disorganizing age. Still, if it were the last sentence I should be allowed to record, I would affectionately warn them to beware of party spirit, to flee from dissension, to cherish *UNITA*—unity in doctrine, unity in worship, unity in government, unity in discipline, unity in heart, unity in action. The Lord, in His mercy, has given them a goodly heritage. Let it not be marred by family discord. The harmony of the Church is her most powerful instrument of influence upon a world that lieth in wickedness. For Christ Himself hath said: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." And the great Apostle has left to us the fearful admonition, on which the sad divisions of Christendom present such a mournful commentary: "If ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." God grant us wisdom and grace to lay up His lesson in our souls, and practise it in our life and conversation.

Your faithful friend and servant in the Gospel,
JOHN H. HOPKINS,
Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont.
Burlington, Vt., Jan. 12, 1864.

News Department.

From Papers by Steamship America, Oct. 28.

ENGLAND.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION—COURTS MARTIAL.

CAPTAIN MAELURE.—At Sheerness, on Tuesday, Oct. 17, a court martial assembled on board the *Waterloo* flagship to try Captain Maelure, late commander of her Majesty's ship *Investigator*, for the abandonment of that vessel in the Arctic seas. The Deputy Judge Advocate read a statement of the health of the men, among whom a vast number were reported as afflicted with scurvy, dysentery, and debility.—Upon being asked how long they were in the ice, Captain Maelure replied—"About three years. From the time of his arrival at the Bay of Mercy, the ship was in the ice the whole time, except about six weeks, when the ice began to slack a little." The court, having considered all the circumstances, was of opinion that no blame whatever attached to Captain Maelure for the loss of the ship, and that his conduct and that of the crew had been highly meritorious. The President, in pronouncing Captain Maelure with his

sword, highly complimented him on the meritorious services he had performed.

CAPTAIN KELLETT.—The Court was re-opened for the purpose of trying Captain Kellett and his officers for the abandonment of her Majesty's ship *Resolute* in the Arctic seas. In the course of a brief enquiry, it appeared that Captain Kellett acted in strict obedience to the orders of Sir Edward Belcher; after which the Deputy Judge Advocate read the finding of the Court, which fully acquitted Captain Kellett and the officers of the *Resolute*, as they had acted under the orders of Sir E. Belcher. The President on handing Captain Kellett his sword, said, "Captain Kellett, I have much pleasure in returning you this sword, which you have so long worn with honour and credit and service to your country."

COMMANDER RICHARDS.—The Court then proceeded with the trial of Commander Richards of the *Assistance*, for the loss of that vessel and her tender the *Intrepid*. In reply to a few immaterial questions, Commander Richards informed the Court that the *Assistance* was abandoned in pursuance of his orders; and the Deputy Judge Advocate read the finding of the Court, which completely exonerated Captain Richards from all blame, he acting under the orders of Sir Edward Belcher.

SIR EDWARD BELCHER.—On Wednesday last the Court reassembled to proceed with the trial of Captain Sir E. Belcher, commander of the late Arctic squadron, for the loss of her Majesty's ship *Assistance*, and also for having recommended the abandonment of her Majesty's ships *Investigator*, *Resolute*, and *Pioneer*. Admiral Gordon presided. The court was much crowded by officers throughout the day, and the greatest attention was paid to the proceedings. Sir Edward Belcher appeared as a prisoner guarded by the master-at-arms, but was allowed to be seated during the day. The chief point of the investigation tended to show that so many were suffering from scorbutic affection and general debility, that it was thought advisable that a survey should be held on those remaining on board the ships. If they were not found in better condition, it was considered advisable that the vessels should be quitted. The report had been already before the Court, and on it they came to the determination that the ships should be abandoned. There were not enough men to ensure the possibility of the ships being brought home this summer.

The Court, after a day's examination and adjournment, resumed the proceedings yesterday, and finally delivered the following decision:—"The Court is of opinion that the abandonment of her Majesty's ship *Investigator* was directed by Captain Kellett, who was justified in giving such orders. The Court is of opinion, from the great confidence reposed in Captain Sir E. Belcher by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the ample discretionary powers given to him, that he was authorized, and did not act beyond his orders, in abandoning her Majesty's ship *Assistance* and her tender, the *Pioneer*, or in directing the abandonment of her Majesty's ship *Resolute* and her tender, the *Intrepid*; although, if circumstances had permitted, it would have been advisable that he should have consulted with Captain Kellett previously; and the Court doth adjudge the said Captain Sir E. Belcher to be acquitted, and he is hereby acquitted accordingly." The President then returned Sir E. Belcher his sword without observation, and the Court was dissolved.

ANOTHER ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—Dr. Rae, of the Hudson's Bay Arctic Expedition, had an audience with Sir James Graham on Tuesday, at the Admiralty, on the subject of the discovery of the probable fate of Sir John Franklin and his companions. The interview occupied a considerable time, in the course of which we understand Sir James Graham announced the intention of the Government to send out early in the ensuing spring an expedition in order to make further search for the remains spoken of by the Esquimaux, and the command of the expedition was offered to Dr. Rae.—*Shipping Gazette*.

The Earl of Dundonald will be gazetted to-night Vice-Admiral of the United Kingdom, vice Sir J. B. Martin, deceased.

PROVOCATION OR CONVOCATION.—The Convocation of the prelates and clergy of the province of Canterbury, was on Friday proceeeded in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster, pursuant to a royal writ, by the Vicar-General, Dr. Twiss, under a commission from his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate and Metropolitan, on Friday, Nov. 17.

THE KILLED AT ALMA.—It appears that of the 1,400 killed at Alma, no less than 700 killed were Irish; the 25d Welsh Fusiliers being almost to a man natives of the sister country.

THE BLACK SEA.

PARIS, 27th July.—The French Minister of War has received from General Canrobert the following despatch:—

"HEAD QUARTERS, BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, Oct. 18, 1854.—We opened the trenches during the night between the 9th and 10th. The enemy, who did not seem to expect us at that point, did not disturb the work, which we actively pursued. I hope we shall have by the day after tomorrow (the 18th) seventy guns in battery. Since ten this morning a hot fire has been directed upon us at intervals, but without any success. Our loss is almost minimal. The works of the English army proceed on a parallel with our own. The weather, for a short time very bad and very cold, has fortunately turned out fine again.

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—We are still without any authentic accounts since the last despatches from Lord Raglan. From the general tenor of the intelligence, however, we gather that the siege operations were fully commenced on the 16th. Previous to this, there is little intelligence worth communicating. The siege works had been carried on without opposition despite the incessant shelling of the enemy, who foolishly threw away their powder and showed their rage without doing any damage whatever. By the strange neglect of the authorities at Balaklava, we are left to glean our information from the Russian despatches received at Vienna, and still more strangely we have found that in many instances the information conveyed was strictly correct! We subjoin such despatches as seem most worthy of credit.

BALAKLAVA, Oct. 13.—The breaching batteries against the White Tower were completed on the 11th. The other works are progressing. An incessant fire has been kept up from the Russian batteries since the 8th, but to no purpose. Yesterday morning the Russians made several sorties, but were unsuccessful in all. All the Greeks have suddenly quitted Balaklava; last night an attack upon the works thrown up to cover the town and harbour was expected.

VIENNA, Oct. 24.—Russian intelligence from the Crimea of the 16th announces that the allies had begun to bombard Sebastopol on that day, but without having done damage. The Russians returned the enemy's fire. Large bands of Tartars have been formed in the Crimea; they sack and destroy the country in the rear of the Russians. The Russians confess that the Tartar population is so hostile that they have been obliged to arrest 2000 persons.

VIENNA, Oct. 23.—An official despatch of Prince Paskewitch to the Russian Embassy at Vienna says that the allies opened their fire by land and sea on the 17th. The Russians lost five hundred men. Admiral Korniloff was dead. On the morning of the 18th the fire of the vessels had not yet recommenced, but that from the batteries continued.

The following is the position of our forces and plan of the operations contemplated, as marked out by a contemporary:—The line of the allies now extends from Cape Kereones and Kanish Bay along the whole range of heights which enclose Sebastopol, round about two miles to the rear of Inkerman Lights on the north east side of the town. By this plan we entirely surround the whole of the town and fortifications situated on the south of the bay. The north side, on which stands Fort Alexander and Fort Constantine, is not invested or even threatened. By this side the whole garrison and inhabitants maintain their communications with Simferopol, the main road from which runs within a quarter of a mile of the guns of Fort Constantine. This channel with the interior will give the enemy many advantages during the siege, as it will be utterly impossible for us to prevent their receiving supplies of all kinds. Only two days ago a battalion of infantry, about 4,000 strong, marched into the fortress from the north, with their bands playing and colours flying in defiance. These men, of course, can cross the harbour with perfect impunity during the night time, and reinforce the defences on the south side as often as it may be necessary. For such a siege as that before us we should have had at least 50,000 additional troops. Now no one can conceal the fact that, for the work, we are short-handed.

The English are making all their preparations for attack of the circular fort and the redoubt wall which protects the rear of the town and harbour, and cover the shipping. This is the Turkish quarter of Sebastopol and it is called Akhtiar, and on this point we shall be exposed to a heavy flank fire from some entrenchments thrown up on the summit of a precipitous ridge, which runs up the valley on the extreme right of the allies. The French attack from the heights looking over the Quarantine Station and the Russian port