

"Pray tell us," she says to her brother, in 1775, "what part the great Dr. Franklin is taking; whether he has the openness to declare his sentiments before he sees which way affairs will terminate."

We conclude our extracts from this pleasant volume with a strong, but we believe just, expression of indignation on the part of Mr. Reed as to the mischief made at that critical time between the mother country and the colonies by the despatches of the colonial governors, a mischief which has lasted with considerable force to the present day, and to our relation with our present colonies. He is writing to his brother-in-law, in 1776, after the war had broken out, but before the Declaration of Independence:—

"By this opportunity there are two letters from Mr. Kinney to you, and a bundle of the laws and pamphlets of the last session of Assembly at Burlington. In an intercepted letter of Governor Franklin, some time ago to Lord Dartmouth, there was an account of your being chosen agent, and that your merit was procuring, by some unfair means, copies of this letter and transmitting them to this country, that he understood you had some share of his lordship's confidence, which you abused, and he therefore cautioned him against you. As perhaps he may have written the same thing to as to reach Lord Dartmouth, it may be best for you to anticipate it, as it is false and groundless. I am assured the letters you sent were only the copies of the extracts laid before the House of Commons, and from which Almon's Register was composed, and I am sure you have too much spirit and virtue to make any ill use of his lordship's favor. These rascally governors stop at no falsehood or misrepresentation, but let fly their arrows in the dark, hoping to escape detection by the privacy and confidence of their correspondence. It would have been happy for both countries if we had hung them all years ago."

ARMY CHAPLAINS.

Most persons have heard of the functionary whose duty is described both officially and popularly, as that of an army chaplain. To have seen a living specimen of the class was not long since by no means so common a privilege. It is a question whether that could be called a class at all in which so few individuals were comprised. Unless you brought the matter to the test of actual military statistics, you could hardly believe how rare a sight an army chaplain had become. An Archbishop—until Lord Derby cut down the Irish Episcopate—was not a rarer phenomenon. There was a reference, it is true, in the table of contents at the beginning of the Army List, which raised the inquirer's expectations by the promising announcement of "Chaplain's Department;" and something there was in the book which corresponded to the title. At the bottom of a crowded page towards the end of the volume, stood the names of just half a dozen clergymen who represented the entire spiritual element in her Majesty's army. A "Chaplain-General" at their head suggested the idea that some notion of an establishment coextensive with its professed aims and duties yet lurked in some corner of the official mind. That it should be ever more than a notion seemed, in 1851, a very hopeless imagination.

Then came the Russian war, with its scenes of distress and desolation, which awoke in the hearts of Englishmen, and still more of Englishwomen, the feeling that soldiers were something more than figures in red coats, who made a pretty show at a review. We began to remember that they had capacities of suffering, which might well claim all that could be done to relieve them; and that the soul, as well as the body, had its part in that claim. The men themselves confessed their want of consolation and guidance. When the presence of the sisters and nurses had broken the spell of despairing apathy which held them in the hands of their wretchedness before, their hearts were prepared for influences to which many of them had long been strangers. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was ready to contribute, with all the weight of its name and organization, towards the provision for the now acknowledged spiritual want. Public opinion enabled, if it did not oblige, the Government to take up the matter in concert with the society; and before the conclusion of the war we had a body of military chaplains—far enough, indeed, from what the urgency of the case required, but sufficient to justify a joyful comparison with the neglect of former years. They did not shrink from duties as perilous as those of the trenches or the field; they bore their share of privation with the rest. Two chaplains died, it was reckoned, for one of every other grade of officers in the Crimea; and at one period so heavy had

been the losses by sickness and death, that two only of the whole body of chaplains were able to continue their work.

That no return, in the way of honors and promotions should have been made to the survivors, ought not, perhaps, be a cause of regret to those who rightly estimate the worth of a pastor's service. But it could not escape observation that the first public recognition of the chaplains' devotion was uttered by the Sergeant Major of the Guards, and that in Parliament Sir De Lacy Evans was the only member who cared to give a similar testimony.

Better, however, than any award to them of public honors or decorations is the resolve last taken by the authorities to enlarge permanently the department to which they belong. As the devotion of the Sisters to the sick and wounded awakened a desire for free-will service to be rendered to the sufferers in other hospitals, so have the chaplains' ministrations left behind them a ground of appeal to the nation for more consistent care of the souls of the men who fight its battles and secure its safety. The representation of Mr. Wright, the senior chaplain in the Crimea, whose share in the matter deserves to be noticed, and of the Chaplain-General, have prevailed on the War-office to reinforce the Chaplains' Department to such an extent that, instead of the miserable half-dozen clergymen of the old Army List, we shall have twenty Chaplains to the Forces with commissions, and under them thirty-five Assistant Chaplains permanently employed. This is a real gain; and Lord Panmure has earned the acknowledgments due to any official amelioration of a proved defect.

It is an anxious question which suggests itself, as to the probable efficiency of the department thus reorganized. The conditions of military life, and the tone of military society, have sometimes had an unfavorable influence on the character of clergymen whose commissions in the army seemed inconsistent with a higher and spiritual warfare. But as soon as a chaplain sinks to the common level of mess-room morality, he must fall below it. A *fast* Chaplain is worse than a *fast* officer, in exact proportion to the greater sanctity of his calling. Our new Chaplains must remember that the barrack has opportunities not less precious for them than those which were to be found at Scutari or Balaklava. And the officers must not the less remember their own obligations to assist the Chaplain in his spiritual work. The formal parade, the religious drill, as we may call it, have not unfrequently set the soldier against the sacred offices, at which they were designed to force his attendance. Much mutual consideration is needed to avoid the conflict of apparently contending duties, and to bring the province of the military officer into harmony with the pastoral function of the priest. Upon the latter chiefly, though not wholly, depends the hope of such a harmony.—We trust that the Chaplains who have done such noble service in the East, will be equal to a more lasting, and in some respects, more difficult duty at home.—*London Guardian*.

News Department.

The United States papers received by the land mail are filled with the last message of President Pierce, and other Official documents from the heads of Departments. We make the following extracts from the message:—

"When my last Annual Message was transmitted to Congress, two subjects of controversy, one relating to the enlistment of soldiers in this country for foreign service, and the other to Central America, threatened to disturb the good understanding between the United States and Great Britain. Of the progress and termination of the former question you were informed at the time; and the other is now in the way of satisfactory adjustment.

"The object of the convention between the United States and Great Britain of the 19th of April, 1850, was to secure, for the benefit of all nations, the neutrality and the common use of any transit way, or interoceanic communication, across the Isthmus of Panama, which might be opened within the limits of Central America. The pretension subsequently asserted by Great Britain, to dominion or control over territories in or near two of the routes, those of Nicaragua and Honduras, were deemed by the United States not merely incompatible with the main object of the treaty, but opposed even to its express stipulations. Occasion of controversy on this point has been removed by an additional treaty, which our Minister at London has concluded, and which will be immediately submitted to the Senate for its consideration. Should the proposed supplemental arrangement be concurred in by all the parties to be

affected by it, the objects contemplated by the original convention will have been fully attained.

"The treaty between the United States and Great Britain, of the 5th of June, 1854, which went into effective operation in 1855, put an end to causes of irritation between the two countries by securing to the United States the right of fishery on the coast of the British North America Provinces with advantages equal to those enjoyed by British subjects. Besides the signal benefits of this treaty to a large class of our citizens engaged in a pursuit connected in no inconsiderable degree with our national prosperity and strength, it has had a favorable effect upon other interests in the provision it made for reciprocal freedom of trade between the United States and the British Provinces in America.

"The exports of domestic articles to those provinces during the last year amounted to more than \$22,000,000, exceeding those of the preceding year by nearly \$7,000,000; and the imports therefrom, during the same period, amounted to more than \$21,000,000—an increase of \$9,000,000 upon those of the previous year.

"The improved condition of this branch of our commerce is mainly attributable to the above mentioned treaty.

"Provision was made, in the first article of that treaty, for a commission to designate the mouths of rivers to which the common right of fishery, on the coast of the United States and the British Provinces, was not to extend. This commission has been employed a part of two seasons, but without much progress in accomplishing the object for which it was instituted, in consequence of a serious difference of opinion between the commissioners, not only as to the precise point where the rivers terminate, but in many instances as to what constitutes a river. These difficulties, however, may be overcome by resort to the umpirage provided for by the treaty.

"The efforts perseveringly prosecuted since the commencement of my Administration, to relieve our trade to the Baltic from the exaction of sound dues by Denmark, have not yet been attended with success. Other Governments have also sought to obtain a like relief to their commerce, and Denmark was thus induced to propose an arrangement to all the European powers interested in the subject; and the manner in which her proposition was received, warranting her to believe that a satisfactory arrangement with them could soon be concluded, she made a strong appeal to this Government for temporary suspension of definite action on its part, in consideration of the embarrassment which might result to her European negotiations by an immediate adjustment of the question of the United States.

"The request has been acceded to, upon the condition that the sums collected after the 16th of June last, and until the 16th of June next, from vessels and cargoes belonging to our merchants, are to be considered as paid under protest and subject to future adjustment. There is reason to believe that an arrangement, between Denmark and the maritime powers of Europe on the subject, will be soon concluded, and that the pending negotiation with the United States may then be resumed and terminated in a satisfactory manner.

"With Spain no new difficulties have arisen, nor has much progress been made in the adjustment of pending ones.

"Negotiations entered into for the purpose of relieving our commercial intercourse with the Island of Cuba of some of its burdens, and providing for the more speedy settlement of local disputes growing out of that intercourse, have not yet been attended with any results.

"Soon after the commencement of the late war in Europe, this Government submitted to the consideration of all maritime nations, two principles for the security of neutral commerce: one that the neutral flag should cover enemies' goods, except articles contraband of war; and the other, that neutral property on board merchant vessels of belligerents should be exempt from condemnation, with the exception of contraband articles.

"These were not presented as new rules of international law; having been generally claimed by neutrals, though not always admitted by belligerents.—One of the parties to the war—Russia—as well as several neutral powers, promptly acceded to these propositions; and the two other principal belligerents, Great Britain and France, having consented to observe them for the present occasion, a favorable opportunity seemed to be presented for obtaining a general recognition of them both in Europe and America.

"But Great Britain and France, in common with most of the States of Europe, while forbearing to reject, did not affirmatively act upon the overtures of the United States.

"While the question was in this position, the re-