

grace of our age and of Christianity. The men who are now staining their hands with each other's blood were lately members of the same christian denominations, and worshipping and praying together. Their conduct during the last two years is evidence of what faction and angry human passions may produce. Vicksburg still holds out, but the great event of the month is the unsuccessful attack of nine iron-clad cupola ships upon the four forts at the mouth of Charleston harbor. The firing lasted about an hour, in which two were disabled and all were obliged to retire, never, it is thought, to make the attempt again. The result proves not the uselessness of armour plates, but the impossibility of making a ship as strong as it is possible to make a fort—a self-evident truth, one would suppose. A ship has the advantage of a fort in moveability, but it is inconceivable that she can compete with it in strength.

A correspondence laid on the table of Parliament exhibits Adams, the American Minister, complaining of the depredations committed by the Alabama on American shipping, and of the fitting out of Confederate cruisers in British ports, and Lord Russell defending the British Government from the charge of having violated the neutrality. Lord Russell asserts that information lodged of any such vessel being fitted must take the shape of sworn depositions, otherwise it cannot be acted upon. He also urges that both parties have held out inducements to her Majesty's subjects to violate the Queen's proclamation, and that the North have profited by this unlawful trade to a much larger extent than the South. The answer is unanswerable. The Confederate commissioner, Mason, complains as much as the other, and his efforts to prove to the British minister that the blockade is ineffective, drew forth from Lord Russell a rejoinder, that it was ineffective enough to be recognized; coupled with a refusal to hold any interview with him. The failure of the British Government to please either party is probably the best evidence of the reality of its neutrality, and of having adopted a reasonable course towards belligerents, who have followed passion more than reason in all their proceedings.

A most noteworthy fact is the rapid sale of the Confederate bonds in London. The Confederate Government advertised for a loan of three millions, and ten millions were offered. The money will bear interest and be redeemable in twenty years; or the bonds may be exchanged for cotton bonds. The cotton will be delivered within six months after the declaration of Southern independence. The rapid subscription shows the faith of English capitalists, the shrewdest class in the world, in the ultimate success of the Confederates. Meanwhile the North puts a warlike face on the matter, and the conscription

law, which has passed Congress, is to be enforced rapidly this summer in free America with a view to great achievements in the fall.

Dr. Cullen has been lecturing with notoriety on two subjects which have nothing in common but variety—Bishop Colenso and crinoline. He comments severely upon the polygamist views and infidelity of the former and the spaciousness of the latter. Whether or not Colenso is to go out of the Church of England, which the bishops seem to have no power to make him do; it is said that the latter is gradually to be circumscribed under the influence of the Princess of Wales, a mightier power in such a matter than Paul Cullen.

The Polish insurrection is ended and Langiewicz a prisoner in Cracow. How could it succeed? The resuscitation of the Polish nation is next to impossible, and as it had even in its best days a most self-destructive constitution, if Russia would only be generous and kind to this noble race, the best we can wish for them, is not to waste their strength in useless and bloody revolts but betake themselves to the arts of peace. If Russia however persist in that oppression, which maketh wise men mad, every friend of humanity would like to see the powers of Europe combined to restrain the cruelties of despotism.

Lord Palmerston's reception in Glasgow and Edinburgh seems to have been a perfect ovation. He is a most extraordinary man, who can, at an age bordering upon eighty, make speeches and give addresses, radiant with all the freshness of youth and sparkling with wit, on different occasions in the course of a single day. He visited Edinburgh, where in early life, at the beginning of this century, he studied with Smith, Brougham, Jeffrey, Playfair, Horner, Cockburn and others, forming a rare circle of brilliancy and intelligence and all gone with the exception of himself and Brougham, another of the giants of vigorous mind, an iron frame.

Two Presbyterian Unions have been constituted, one in Eastern Australia and the other in New Zealand. The basis in both cases is the Westminster confession with a caveat against a persecuting interpretation, and against any sense that would compromise the independence of the Church in spiritual matters. Provided Church Courts do not claim the sole right of determining what is spiritual and what is not, and provided they admit that they are bound by their constitution, and are not at liberty to make ex post facto laws, such a constitution is favourable to religion, and does not infringe upon the civil liberties of the people. It is a matter of pride to us to see these ancient standards resting themselves in the hearts of so large a portion of the hu-