

to the Jews, on their profession of repentance, to prepare them for the new dispensation of Messiah.

John came in a very humble appearance, but notwithstanding the Jews were ready to receive him; and yet the same humble appearance, operated against the reception of our Saviour. And why there was a difference in the feelings and sentiments of the nation respecting the same thing in the two, may be accounted for, I think, in this manner: There had been Prophets among them from a very ancient date; and though they were at this time strangers to the order, * they no doubt had an impression on their minds, from both the Old Testament and tradition, of what appearance many of them had made in their day—that they were retired, contemplative and austere in their manner of life—that they came forward in a humble garb, and delivered, in a most fearless manner, messages from God—and reproved vice in high and low with an authority which could not be resisted, as well as foretold future events. All this was seen in John the Baptist, and on that account there was nothing in his character, or appearance that seemed, in the eye of a Jew, to derogate from his person as a Prophet of the highest class.

Our Saviour, on the other hand laboured under disadvantages. He never had a predecessor; and though the prophetic writings had spoken of him very largely, their descriptions of his character, being most generally of two kinds of nature, of qualities apparently the reverse of each other: sometimes speaking of him in his humiliation as a man; and at other time using the loftiest terms, splendid images, and glowing magnificent descriptions, the Jews grasping at the glowing descriptions of greatness, pomp and power, filled their minds with the expectations of a greater conqueror than David, and richer than Solomon, and assigned him no other work than that of triumphing victoriously over all their enemies. When our Saviour therefore did not come up to their expectations, he was nothing in their eyes, he had no form nor comeliness, nor beauty to be by them desired. But they did not thus feel in regard to the Baptist, as they saw nothing in him inconsistent with the character of a Prophet, and men of all descriptions and pretensions honoured his ministry with their presence: but he fell not at the instigation of popular clamour, but at that of a malicious, base and wanton woman.

I am, Revd. Sir,

P. H.

* Note.—The term order seems to be incorrectly applied to the Prophets, because they were not a regular unbroken succession, but isolated individuals, raised up on special occasions. An order of men is for permanent use, and the succession is handed down by tradition from man to man. Editor.

THE EX-KING OF FRANCE.

The following article is stated by the Caledonian Mercury, to be from the pen of Sir Walter Scott:—

"We are enabled to announce from authority that Charles of Bourbon the Ex-King of France, is about to repair to Edinburgh, and to become once more our fellow-citizen, though probably only for a limited space, and he will again inhabit the apartments which he long ago occupied in Holyrood House. The temporary arrangement, it is said, has been made in compliance with his own request, with which our benevolent Monarch immediately complied, willing to consult, in every respect possible, the feelings of a Prince under the pressure of misfortunes, which are perhaps the more severe if incurred through bad advice, error, or rashness.—The attendants of the late sovereign will be reduced to the least possible number, and consist chiefly of ladies and children, and his style of life will be strictly retired. In these circumstances it would be unworthy of us, as Scotsmen, or as men, if this most unfortunate family should meet a word or look from the meanest individual, tending to aggravate feelings which must be at present so acute as to receive injury from insults, which in other times could be passed with perfect disregard.

His late opponents, in his kingdom, have gained the applause of Europe, for the generosity with which they have used their victory, and the respect which they have paid to themselves in mo-

deration towards an enemy. It would be a gross contrast to that part of their conduct, which has been most generally applauded, were we who are strangers to the strife to affect a deeper resentment than those it concerned closely.

Those who can recollect the former residence of this unhappy Prince in our northern capital, cannot but remember the unobtrusive and quiet manner in which his little court was then conducted; and now, still further restricted and diminished, he may naturally expect to be received with civility and respect by a nation whose good will he has done nothing to forfeit. Whatever may have been his errors towards his own subjects, we cannot but remember that he did not in his prosperity forget that Edinburgh had extended her hospitality towards him in his adversity; for at the period when the fires consumed so much of the city, he sent a princely benefaction to the sufferers, with a letter which made it more valuable, by stating the feelings towards the city, of the then Royal donor. We also state, without hazard of contradiction, that his attention to individuals connected with this city was uniformly and handsomely rendered to those entitled to claim them. But he never did nor could display a more flattering confidence, than when he shows that the recollections of his former asylum here have inclined him a second time to return to the place where he formerly found refuge.

If there can be any who retain angry or invidious recollections of the late events in France, they ought to remark that the Ex-Monarch has, by his abdication, renounced the conflict into which perhaps, he was engaged by bad advisers: that he can no longer be the object of resentment to the brave, but remains to all the most striking emblem of the mutability of human affairs which our mutable times have afforded. He may say with the deposed Richard II. of England—

With my own hands I give away my crown;

With my own tears I wash away the balm,

With my own tongue I do deny my state;

He brings among us his grey discoloured head;

and in 'a nation of gentlemen,' as we were emphatically termed by the very highest authority, it is impossible, I trust, to find a man mean enough to insult the slightest hair of it.

It is impossible to omit stating, that if angry recollections or party feeling should make any persons consider the exiled or deposed Monarch as a subject of resentment, no token of such feelings could be exhibited without the greatest part of the pain being felt by the helpless females, of whom the Duchess of Angoulême, in particular, has been so long distinguished by her courage and misfortunes.

The person who writes these few lines is leaving his native city, never to return as a permanent resident. He has some reason to be proud of distinctions received from his fellow-citizens, and he has not the slightest doubt the taste and good feeling of those whom he will term so, will dictate to them the quiet, civil and respectful tone of feeling, which will do honour to both their heads and their hearts, which have seldom been appealed to in vain.

The Frenchman, Molinet, in mentioning the refuge afforded by Edinburgh to Henry I. in his distress, records it as the most hospitable town in Europe. It is a testimony to be proud of, and sincerely do I hope there is little danger of our forfeiting it upon the present occasion."

MARINERS' CHAPEL OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FOR THE PORT OF QUEBEC.

We are happy in being furnished with information which enables us to announce the satisfactory result of the labours of the Mariners' Chapel Committee, so far as regards the acquisition of a highly eligible site, lying immediately at the base of Cape Diamond, and we trust that the liberality of the public, commenced last year, and now about to be resumed, for raising means to complete this most desirable object, will be crowned with the fullest success.

It is well known that for several years past, endeavours have been used by the Bishop and Clergy of the Church of England in this city, to provide for this object: first by means of a floating Chapel, for which an unsuccessful application was made to the Ad-