

stances, after having previously braved death in one or more shipwrecks. A worldly judgment might have concluded that so terrible a calamity would have effectually quenched the interest in Foreign Missions in that family. But what is the fact? Another has arisen from the same heartstone to fill the place of the murdered brother; and only last week we announced his having been ordained to the ministry, in order that he may go and preach the gospel of Christ to the same people who had imbrued their hands in the blood of another of his household.

This is true heroism. It is the lofty, heaven-born principle, which lifts the soul above all fear, sustaining and carrying forward even those who, by nature, may be most timid, with a bravery which bids defiance to all danger. Such self-sacrifice and daring argues a courage ten thousand times greater than the noisy, blustering, excited, and usually bloodless and safe exploits of the duellist. Let the world look upon these contrasted pictures, and say in which the true hero is to be found. Let mankind pronounce the verdict, which is the man of real courage, the duellist or the missionary?

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Canada, April 29.

An interesting survey of the position and probable leaning of the several European nations at the present crisis, appears in a late number of the *Spectator*, an influential London journal. We willingly make room for it, as affording reliable information for our readers. The article commences very properly with the Ottoman empire:—

TURKEY.—Now the centre of action around which the great European states are fighting. Various represented to be decayed, and reviving, certainly exhibiting a degree of energy unexpected, the tribes of the scattered provinces rally to the standard of the sultan with unexpected fidelity; and the statesmen of the Porte exhibit a capacity for international co-operation greater than that of their adversary, while in the recent completion of a loan of £2,000,000 Turkey has established herself as amongst the states with credit for solvency. At War with Russia; in offensive and defensive alliance with France and England, teased by Greece; observed by Austria, comforted by the sympathies of Italy.

RUSSIA.—At War with Turkey, and by consequence with France and England, striving, hitherto in vain to obtain the subservient neutrality of Austria, and apparently making some progress in that direction with Prussia; recently compelled to recognize the neutrality of Sweden, and even of Denmark, whose Government had attempted to alter the succession in favor of the Russian heirship. The internal condition of Russia is concealed by the systematic mystery which her Government keeps up, aided by the ignorance of a population of 66,000,000, scattered over the largest empire in the world. Although the Autocrat boasts of being able to bring three millions of soldiers into the field, several shiftings of orders for Poland and other frontier provinces, appear to indicate that already he has some difficulty in keeping guard all round. His fleet in the Buxine does not appear able to maintain itself against the combined French and English fleets; his fleet of 27 sail of the line in the Baltic, divided at the three stations of Revel, Helsingfors, and Cronstadt, awaits the approach of Sir Charles Napier. The Government boasts of having a store of bullion in the citadel of St. Petersburg; but the declining credit of its paper throws doubts upon the assertion.

AUSTRIA.—The Government at Vienna has recorded its approval of the principles sustained by the Western Powers, but claims to exercise its discretion in pursuing for the present a more passive policy; promising, however, to occupy the Turkish provinces against Russian invasion; has a great army of observation on the Turkish frontier; is suspected of ultimately reverting, from sympathy or necessity, to the Russian alliance. Embarrassed by the doubtful allegiance of her dependencies, Hungary and Northern Italy. Still more embarrassed in finance, the recent relinquishment of right to issue state paper money in favor of the bank, with morages of the customs-receipts, not having sufficed to restore Austrian credit, or to prevent the enormous distrust which exhibits itself in the premium upon bullion—silver 37 per cent., gold 41.

PRUSSIA.—Endeavoring to trim between the West and Russia; refusing alliance, and standing upon neutrality. Has recently sent a special envoy to St. Petersburg to persuade the Emperor to withdraw from the Principalities, as a means of avoiding war. Is offering for the lead of Germany, on local grounds, and is wavering under the administration of a vacillating King, who knocked his head against a tree in a garden walk the other night, of a liberal government growing mistrusted and unpopular, and of a reactionary heir-presumptive.

THE MINOR GERMAN POWERS.—have not at present declared themselves. Their conduct might be guessed by what it was in 1848; save that the "German" legitimacy of Prussia appears to have made a

greater impression than her "German unity" did.—Thus Saxony has not, like the Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha, actively responded to the friendly overtures of France.

GREECE.—Looking for support to its German relations; confiding itself unable to restrain its subjects from invading Turkey in the face of the approaching armies of France and England; honey-combed by agents from Russia; bankrupt in exchequer and authority.

DENMARK.—The Government sympathizing with Russia; toiled in its attempts upon its own succession, stopped at home when Sir Charles Napier sailed; but compelled by popular feeling to assert an independent neutrality, in lieu of obeying the Russian order to war upon England; whose Admiral delights the Danes by taking off his hat when he lands at Copenhagen.

SWEDEN.—The Government said to be Russanized in feeling, is a fact of great doubtfulness, though the Government is naturally perplexed between immediate dangers from Russian hostility and hopes of recovering Finland, conquered by Russia.

HOLLAND.—Neutral, and thus far unpronounced; wealthy, discreet, essentially allied with order, and likely to go on the winning side.

BELGIUM.—A province of the time of Waterloo.—Belgium is now, on the opening of war, a kingdom.—She possesses a king whose disposition experience has cultivated, while his actual position and his English alliance incline him to promote constitutional freedom. Recently connected by his son's marriage with Austria, he appears to be active in furthering the objects of the Western Powers. Belgium is one of the states that can scarcely fail to gain something on a reconstruction of Europe—position, at least.

NAPLES.—Tranquil and expectant. The king ever conscious of some thousands of political prisoners still confined, is "doing the papals," inviting Liberals to dinner, and joking about projects to set him aside.—The Government takes its cue from Austria, whose army, replaced the Bourbon dynasty on the throne.—A Muratist party is growing very strong.

ROME.—Occupied by a French army; and the Italians so used to that irritating foreign body, that the irritation has in part subsided. The Mazzinian party much broken up by the inconsiderate conspiracy of a few young men, and the coincident and accidental discovery of more acrostited agents. The Government of the Pope quite effete; and the finance which was the first object of his reforming solicitude on succeeding to the chair of St. Peter, now newly making felt its hopeless condition.

TUSCANY.—Hanging between Rome and Austria.—The Duke of Parma, that "Tiberius in 18mo." as Giusti calls him, dead under the stroke of the assassin; the Prime Minister banished, and the people hoping release from a five years "state of siege," through a dowager regency.

SARDINIA.—The Government sustained by the people, proceeding with church reforms in spite of Rome, and sustaining the development of constitutional government in the face alike of impatient Republicans and of Austrian hate at so invidiously liberal and successful a neighbour.

SPAIN.—Shaken to pieces, socially, politically, and commercially; the people too sated from the Government; the Queen so openly the object of contumely, that the more independent journals refuse to register the birth of her child, as a circumstance unimportant to the Spanish succession. A project on foot to federate Spain and Portugal under the present Sovereign of the latter kingdom. While the officials in Cuba, unable to keep discreet, are irritating the Government of the American United States by fresh seizures of merchant ships.

FRANCE.—Developes a rule summary and peremptory in its administration; seizing the opportunities for exercising the prowess of France on the field of battle, this time in friendly alliance with England; and evoking signs of national spirit that France has not known for generations. The people on the whole, well employed; Government actively interfering to promote that object. Trade in a doubtful condition; but the general subscription for the new loan, not taken by contract, but open to the public at large, perfectly successful. In position towards the rest of Europe, France is identical with.

ENGLAND.—Just declaring war against Russia; and possessing fleets in the Black Sea and the Baltic, with an army in Turkey sent forth to encounter the Russians crossing the Danube. Strong in the alliance of France, with the sympathy of Belgium, and offers of assistance limited with inconvenient promptitude by more than one community in Europe lying under absolute government. England is distinguished from the other states engaged in war by needing no loan, direct or indirect, but meeting the expenses of the day with money down. The occasion for action abroad draws forth the old national spirit. In her natural place upon the sea nothing appears too great for her to undertake towards the East—no danger in the North to her own powers—none anywhere should it not cross the waters from the West.

AMERICA.—however, has sympathies with constitutional freedom too great for such considerations to mar the confederacy of states which venerate her, against that power which has endeavoured to substitute an autocracy of Europe for the comity of nations.

DISTRESSING EVENT.—Advised received at the Admiralty record the distressing intelligence that Captain Foot of the *Confidant* (the ship which had the fortune to take eleven of the Russian prizes), was dropped at Memel on Wednesday, by the capsizing of the ship's

boat, in which he was returning from shore to his vessel. Four seamen also perished with the gallant officer; the lieutenant and one seaman who were the other occupants of the boat, were saved, though with some difficulty resuscitated. The unfortunate officer had been on shore for the purpose of transacting some business connected with the prizes he had taken, and about five in the afternoon he wished to return on board. A fresh northwester had been blowing for some time right against the stream of the Haf where it debouches, and there was a heavy surf, especially between the Mole. The head pilot at Memel strongly advised Capt. Foot to take a larger boat for his return, but in vain. The captain, with his lieutenant, got into a long narrow gig that was manned with five sailors. In less than ten minutes after, the boat suddenly disappeared. In an instant the life-boat was launched and manned with pilots, but it came too late to save all the lieutenant and one of the men were still alive, and clinging to the thwart-ropes of the boat, but half frozen: the captain with four of his men, had already found a watery grave.

THE BALTIC.—Sir Charles Napier left Copenhagen with the fleet yesterday week. Admiral Plamondon, with a squadron, was in advance, and is reported to have captured seven merchant vessels, laden with salt (one account says sulphur, agreeing in spirit with a French despatch which made them vessels of war), and they are now anchored safely in Kiegs Bay. All the Russian Baltic ports are declared under blockade. A reserve fleet, consisting of the *Austerlitz* and other ships, is in Kiegs Bay.

The island of Aland has been evacuated by the Russians, but not till they had been guilty of the greatest barbarities. Besides carrying off all the pilots, they have seized one man in a hundred for the Russian army, and have burned all the ships, boats, and lanques existing in the islands. Hereby the inhabitants are entirely ruined, for they subsisted by fishing and the coast trade. The island will no doubt be immediately occupied by Sir Charles, as it will form a station of the utmost importance for operations in the Gulf of Bothnia and the north of Finland. As it is our own possession, so long as the war lasts, it is noted that we can at once use it, without asking ourselves what is what is not "contraband of war."

The enthusiasm of the men on receiving Admiral Napier's declaration of war, appears to have been very great. An officer of the *Duke of Wellington* writes home to his friends in England, that—

"The *Benheim*, Captain the Hon. F. T. Pelham, immediately answered, 'Ready and willing'; the *Nephtune*, Capt. Smith, 'Ready'—and every ship manned her rigging and gave three such cheers as were seldom heard in those waters. Ourselves and all the ship's company were then called upon deck, and Commodore Seymour read the signal to us; and the men were beginning to follow the example of the other ships, when the old admiral came forward, and leaning over the poop railing, said—

"Now my lads! You have just heard what the commodore has said to you, and all I have to say to you is, you must be cool and collected—don't throw your shot away. A shot fired in the air or the water is of no use. Make every one of them tell; we have quite a different system now to what we had in the late war. I have no doubt some of you have been in action before, but it will be different to what you have been accustomed to; but Admiral Clads showed me the other day that a shell bursting between decks is not so dangerous as you imagine, and if one comes at your decks, you must lie down, and it won't hurt you more than the common splinters of an ordinary action. Should we meet the Russian fleet at sea, as I dare say we shall, you will know how to dispose of them. We will now man the rigging, and give three cheers for the Queen, God bless her."

The men rushed to the rigging, and gave three times three for the Queen and one cheer more, and three for the commander-in-chief, this was followed by the rest of the fleet, and peal after peal came booming over the waters, until the most distant sounded like the echo of the other. Hauls were piped down—messes and punishment were forgiven, and all screeled with joy.

Correspondence.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

THE FAST.

The fog in which we had been enveloped for several days, had cleared away, and the sun shone out brightly, on the morning of the day appointed for the Fast, showing us many graceful vessels, lying in a sea smooth and shining as glass, the retiring mist, like thin silvery veil, sported among them, and now and then partially concealed them. The city lay in repose, in health and prosperity. Basking thus in the smiles of a kind Providence, why should we afflict our souls? Why should we withdraw from the usual occupations of business, to prostrate ourselves as penitents in the house of prayer?

We may presume that such thoughts as these, led to the enquiry our sinful nature feels to solemnize, induced many to spend the day in sport,—how was their loss!

The services at St. Paul's began at the usual hour, the streets presented much the same appearance as a Sunday. There was a good congregation, the portion of women to men being, however, greater