

THE HARBINGER.

UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.

In malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.—*St. Paul.*

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THE PIOUS PRINCESS.

Many of the readers of the *Harbinger* are young enough to remember the invasion of Russia by the French army in the winter of 1812—the conflagration of Moscow—and the consequent overthrow of Napoleon's gigantic projects, by the almost entire destruction of the legions so long accustomed to conquest and victory. Amongst the inhabitants of Moscow, who having, on the approach of the enemy, evacuated the city, returned to the now smoking and smouldering ruins of that ancient capital, was the subject of the present sketch. She was then young and handsome, and by her marriage with Prince M. associated with the highest personages of the empire. She had become, by the cultivation of superior talent, and the improvement of favourable opportunities, versed in general literature, and was able to read, write, and converse in the English language, with considerable facility and elegance. Two little girls, the pledges of conjugal affection, accompanied the Princess in her temporary exile from the devoted city, and on her return soothed and solaced her amidst the sorrows and sufferings which, in common with less noble citizens, she was called at that great national crisis to endure. At that period, the providence of God conducted to Moscow, on his way to Britain, the Rev. Mr. P., afterwards Dr. P., who on being introduced to the Princess, was

received by her with great Christian hospitality, and requested to take up his permanent residence beneath her roof, and act as tutor to the young Princesses. He embraced the overture, and employed the influence he thus unexpectedly obtained, for the purpose of promoting the spiritual interests of Russia's unenlightened population. Through the intervention of the Princess M. a rescript was obtained from the Emperor Alexander for the formation of the Russian Bible Society, the foundation of which was laid amidst the ashes of the ancient capital. Thirteen years after, the Society became defunct, in consequence of priestly jealousy; but who can calculate the amount of good accomplished by the operations of that noble institution? It was the *spring-time* of Scythia, and the seed of divine truth was scattered in abundance. Many years have since elapsed, much fruit has already been gathered, but the harvest is yet to come. Come it will: Russia, like Germany, will be reformed from within. Many Luthers are now perusing in her colleges and monasteries the words of everlasting life—the spirit of liberty is slowly and silently, but surely, spreading amongst the people, and ere long the steppes and forests of the North will be vocal with “the joyful sound.”

The reader is now requested to recall another historical event—the visit of the allied sovereigns to England, after the *supposed*