

House of God, with a firm persuasion on your mind that whatever spiritual refreshment you hope to receive through the channel of its hallowed ordinances, must emanate from the Divine Fountain of all grace, the Holy Spirit. Be earnest therefore in prayer, before you go, that His blessing may abundantly rest on the services of the Sanctuary."

"In addition to this suggestion, I would also observe that in the present day, I doubt not that the blessing which might be expected to rest on the faithful preaching of the Gospel, is often kindled with many who attend the Sanctuary, by their disrespectful treatment of the other parts of the service appointed for God's House. The solemn declaration of Jehovah appears to be forgotten. "My House shall be called the House of PRAYER to all nations."

"Too many seem to regard the House of God as prominently if not exclusively, a house of prayer instead of a house of prayer."

"If we may judge by outward and visible signs of what is passing in the inward recesses of the heart, one cannot but frequently remark a most painful contrast between the feelings with which the prayers and the preaching are regarded; the former endured; the latter enjoyed; the prayers listened to, (often we fear not even joined in with the lips, much less the heart) with manifest weariness, as something tiresome, that must be submitted to, for the sake of the anticipated enjoyment which the preaching is expected to yield, and from this expectation, is listened to with manifest delight."

"Now can you hope, that after offering such a monstrous insult to the majesty of God—after having told him to his face, that you looked on communion with Him, in prayer and praise, as a wearisome occupation, from which you would gladly escape if you could, and which you only endure, because you cannot without it enjoy the feast you look forward to in the preaching of His Ministers. Can you hope that he will look on you with a smile of complaisant love, and impart to your soul that blessing from His Spirit, without which you would listen to an angel's eloquence utterly in vain, as to any spiritual benefit which it could be a means of conferring."

"Besides, reflect, is it reasonable to expect, that any thing which the preacher can bring forward, will be profitably received, when your mind is in such a frame, as to treat the worship of this blessed God, with palpable disrespect? If therefore you would desire to derive spiritual benefit from attendance on the services of the Sanctuary, and to find them instrumental in advancing your sanctification, take good heed, that you do not yourself put an inseparable impediment in your own way by offering such an affront to God in the very commencement of his service, as must constrain him in manifestation of his righteous displeasure, as a jealous God, to withhold from you the communications of his grace, and thus to bring on the most fruitful ordinances, a withering blight. If you do, although to those who have enjoyed devout communion with God in the previous parts of the service, they may supply abundant measures of spiritual strength and refreshment, they will prove to you "wells without water"; and however amused or gratified your intellectual task, may have been, during the delivery of the preacher's expositions and appeals, you will return home as altogether unbenefitted, in a spiritual point of view, as if you had been attending an exhibition of forensic eloquence, or the theatrical display. Be assured, the best preparation for listening to the preacher in the pulpit is to have previously communed with God through the medium of the services of the Church in a devout and thankful spirit. If, in the penitential confession, your heart has poured out before him the contrite feelings of godly sorrow for sin; if, in the supplications for spiritual mercies, your soul has breathed forth its present desires (as really valuing and thirsting after the blessings for which you plead) with mingled humility and confidence, arising from the remembrance at once of your own unworthiness, and the infinite worthiness of Him for whose sake you implore those mercies; and if, in the ascription of praise and thanksgiving for blessings received, you have, like the Psalmist, charged it on your soul to bless the Lord, and all that is within you, to bless His holy name, so that while your life spake or sang his praise, you were at the same, "making melody in your heart unto the Lord;" then, indeed, may you listen to the Word preached with an humble assurance of reaping a rich harvest of spiritual good, because you may then reckon securely on the promised blessing of the Holy Spirit, to accompany His own Word, and to bring it home, in all its invigorating, purifying and gladdening influences, with power to your heart."

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. America, Nov. 24.

ENGLAND

The first Jew Lord Mayor of London was installed last week, with the appropriate clap-traps. Liberty, Education, and Justice were seen at the banquet, in a huge transparency, driving away Superstition, Prejudice, "and other evil passions;" and legal dignitaries nodding their wise heads at each other, discoursed contentiously of those dark and bigoted times when the received theory of a Christian commonwealth was not the same as at present, and the religious instinct, as regards attachment to symbols of faith and doctrine, was more active and popular than now. We are unable to share, because we do not clearly comprehend, the exaltation of these learned persons; the elevation of an enemy of Christianity to a position of great dignity and influence—a position in which it has been usual to have a Christian chaplain preside in Christian assemblies, and patronize Societies for the Propagation of the Gospel, may be a fair application of the principles of religious liberty, in a somewhat extended sense, but what there is in it to be so amazingly glad of, we cannot imagine. Why are we to jump for joy because the chief magistrate of London is a person who cannot, enter a church, and in whose presence his own chaplain must have recourse to some inoffensive formula for saying grace? The spectacle of two Christian men publicly congratulating each other upon such a thing is surely—to say no worse—one of the absurdest in the world. It may be very true—we believe it is—that Mr. Salomons himself is not likely to use his influence to the prejudice of Christianity; but is it therefore a subject of rejoicing that he has the power of doing so if he should think fit?—*Guardian*.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Nov. 12.—Our latest despatches from Constantinople, by the *Jourdain*, confirm the impression which has prevailed for the last fortnight, that the season of action is over for this year in the East. The return of Admiral Bruat was speedily looked for in the Turkish capital with all the sailing-vessels of his squadron, and with the Imperial Guard on board, en route for France. The allied troops forming the expedition to the Upper Belbek, "had returned to their cantonments, the plains having become impracticable, by reason of the abundant rains, which have transformed them into a vast marsh. Preparations for winter quarters are in full progress at every point." The last active operation mentioned is that of the seizure of the raft at the mouth of the Dnieper, the intelligence of which is confirmed by a despatch of Admiral Bruat, published in Friday's *Moniteur*:—"The raft," the Admiral tells us, "is 854 feet long, 60 wide, and 6 deep; it is an excellent acquisition for the allied fleets, and a very serious loss caused to the enemy."

Thus, ill-success has attended the Russian arms down to the very last hour of the campaign; and this state of things, whatever may have been the real effect produced by it on the Emperor's councils, has doubtless had a large share in fostering the rumours of the sentiments, some desperate, some conciliatory and submissive, by which he is alternately reported to be animated.

An authority of a somewhat serious stamp, the Vienna correspondent of the *Constitutionnel*, whose productions are understood to be compiled at Paris, under the influence of the Foreign-office, again forcibly reiterates the opinion of his personal disposition towards a peace, though purchased at considerable sacrifices. Alexander II. is represented as unwillingly submitting to the exigencies of the position left him by his father, and to the blind fanaticism excited by the latter among the masses. The condition of the upper classes is painted as becoming daily more insupportable; the new levies, added to what has gone before, are said to reduce the peasantry on the estates of many of the nobles by not less than two-thirds; the penury caused in the aristocratic families of St. Petersburg is daily shown by the dismissal of foreign tutors, governesses, and every member of their household deemed less than absolutely necessary. Many other proofs demonstrative of the existing state of things and opinions in Russia are brought forward, and the writer concludes by the following declaration, printed in italics:—"That the dispositions here attributed to the Emperor are now no longer ignored by any of the great Powers of Europe, although the announcement of them has been naturally received with most prudent reserve by France and England." The result of all this appears to be that attempts have been made, and probably are actually making, to sound the French and English Governments

as to the possibility of coming to an accommodation, and that the Courts of Bavaria and Saxony, less Russian in feeling than formerly, are not foreign to this movement.

Most of your readers have probably heard of the metal called aluminum, the existence of which has been known, I believe, for the last twenty years and more although the hitherto imperfect methods of extraction have prevented its appearing otherwise than in the shape of a few rare specimens. Suddenly, however, the mineral has come before us in a comparative abundance, which has given to it almost the éclat of a new discovery. A beautiful pocket chronometer, made to order for the Emperor, the balance of a pair of fine scales, and other objects made of the new metal, are at this moment exhibiting at the Exhibition, and the crowd constantly assembled around them proves at once the novelty of the production and the curiosity they have excited. It appears that a young French chemist, M. Deville, has succeeded in so perfecting the process of obtaining aluminum from clay, that, from being an article of virtu, it has passed into the domain of utility, and promises, from its singular qualities, to prove of the greatest service to the industrial and scientific world. The chief characteristics of the new metal are thus described:—It is nearly as white as, and more easily found than silver. It is proof against the oxidizing influence of the atmosphere, unchangeable in all temperatures, and unaffected by any acids, save only chloro-hydric acid. It is as pliable as silver, and can be drawn out into a thread, or beaten out into a leaf, equally with that metal; its most striking quality, and what is likely to stamp it with its highest value and utility, is its extreme lightness. Compared with zinc, the lightness of the metals known in common usage, its weight is found to be only in the ratio of 2.50 to 7.31, water being taken as the unit with respect to both. This aluminum unites at once in itself the contrary qualities of extreme lightness, as a metal, and impunity against atmospheric effects like gold and platinum, it goes scathless through the crucible, while it is wholly free from the discolorations to which silver is liable.

Another contradictory property of aluminum is its power of conveying sound; though so light, its tone is pure and its vibrations of surprising duration. It is wholly free from smell, and perfectly innocuous to human life in all its combinations. As a conductor of electricity, it is found to be unequalled by any other metal; and this quality, joined to its independence of atmospheric effect, may, it is thought, some day render it invaluable for the purposes of the electric telegraph. At its present price and until still more economical modes of extraction are discovered, aluminum must be classed amongst the precious metals. Its cost, by weight, is at present about four times of silver; but it is not, therefore, even under present circumstances dearer, as is evident by balancing one of the ingots, now lying at the Exhibition, in one hand, and the piece of silver placed beside them in the other. The aluminum is more than four times the silver in bulk, and the difference of price is compensated for by the number of objects which can be manufactured out of it. In the chronometer of the Emperor, lately exhibited, the weight of the movement is stated to be one-third that of brass, one-fourth that of silver, and one-fifth that of platinum. With their usual energy, the French chemists are busily engaged in the further investigation of the new discovery, and an opinion is confidently put forward that, ere long, aluminum will be reduced to a price which shall render it equivalent in value to brass and thus at once introduce into the usages of common life.

Public attention and curiosity is mainly fixed upon the closing ceremony of the Exhibition on Thursday next; but as I shall have to speak next week upon what then takes place, it is unnecessary to anticipate the details, or to send you imperfect lists of medals and prizes awarded, which will be only officially promulgated on the day of the ceremony. The preparations for the musical part of the entertainment, both on the 15th and 16th, are on a gigantic scale, and Paris and London appear to be ransacked to find instruments and performers enough for the occasion. Five hundred voices, a hundred and twenty violins, twenty harps and harpists—all that could be obtained in Paris—with as many more from London, compose a portion of the performers. In the programme of the performance figures the Overture to *Freischütz*, the *andante* played by twenty four horns; the chorus in *Judas Macabbeus*; the Symphony in C minor of Beethoven; the *Prayer of Moses* of Rossini, played by thirty harps, &c. As to M. Berlioz, who is to set all this noise in motion, he is represented, with his five lieutenants, as never quitting the Salle de Saxo where the rehearsals take place, and where he breakfasts, dines, and sleeps, "toujours en battant la mesure."