## RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT IN THE CHURCH AT LEEDS.

*To the Editors of the Watchman.*

Leeds, August 11, 1854.

GENTLEMEN,—It would no doubt be pleasing and serviceable to your readers, to be informed of a work of God, which has lately taken place in connection with the Established Church in this town. The Rev. Mr. Aitkin formerly a Preacher among ourselves, has been the instrument of its commencement. He had been about a week in Leeds conducting public services, when a friend of mine went to hear him preach, on the 11th of June, at St. James' Church. The sermon appears to have been one of great power. At the close of it, the people were invited to a Prayer-meeting, to be held immediately in the School-room. The room was at once filled with persons evidently under the power of religious awakenings. The earnest cry for mercy was soon heard from every part, and, in most instances, from persons who up to that time had never witnessed a scene of the kind, or who had looked upon it with dislike. The Minister of the Church, with several other Clergymen, (one of whom professed to have been converted a few days before) engaged in the most earnest manner in praying with the persons in distress, and in exhorting them, *then*, to trust in the blood of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins; declaring that as soon as they did so, the Holy Ghost would assure them of their adoption into the family of God. They were, however, too few to attend to the many persons who needed their aid, and my friend, who is a Town Missionary in that District, and was known to them, was asked to assist. He at once gave out the eloquent and impressive lines of Charles Wesley—

"He breaks the power of councell'd sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood avail'd for me."

which were sung kneeling, and with as much of voice and heart as the same lines had ever been attuned by the same number of persons since they were given to the world. The last two lines were repeated again and again with great feeling and emphasis. The responses in prayer were general and audible; though the deep feeling of the people was chiefly manifested in sighs, tears, and "groanings which cannot be uttered." Many persons, then, so took hold of Christ and the blessing of His cross as to be filled with peace and joy. As cases of this sort were made known to the meeting, they sang, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." When my friend left, at eleven o'clock in the evening, many persons unaccustomed to earnest religious exercises, were still stirring up themselves to take hold of God.

The following day he heard that a clergyman, (one of the most remarkable in Leeds for High Church notions and for insisting upon the mere formalism too common,) had openly professed to have recently received the forgiveness of his sins by faith in Jesus Christ; and he went to ask him if it were true. A long, free, and Christian conversation took place. The clergyman told him that his conversion had occurred about two months before, and that, though he had no wish to relax the discipline or order of his Church, he should spend his life in preaching justification by faith alone, and holiness of life as the fruit of it.

As further examples of the spirit in which this work has been carried on, and of the modification it takes, (a modification so like Methodism in its most vigorous days,) it may be stated that this clergyman also told my friend that a member of his family, who had been for some time in deep distress from a sense of sin, obtained peace with God the morning before, at three o'clock, and that his family was called up at that hour to unite in praising the Lord for the great deliverance.

One of these clergymen, giving some account of the progress of the work, stated, that at a large Prayer-meeting he had held a little before, heaven seemed to come down to them, and that he believed not one left the room before he had obtained the pardoning love of God. Upon hearing of persons in distress for salvation, they visit them almost daily, and by prayer and earnest exhortation press them into the kingdom of God. They never seem to lose sight of a case of this sort until the sorrowful spirit can trust in Christ. One of our people was present when one of these Ministers entered a house in which there was a penitent person, whose religious awakenings had taken place at the services of the Church. Upon seeing the individual, the question was asked, "Have you obtained the blessing?" The reply was in the negative. Prayers were at once proposed, and the seeker of salvation exhorted to cast his soul on Jesus Christ. They knelt, and the clergyman with his hands on the shoulders of the young man, called upon God in the most touching manner to enter his soul. All were in tears, and the place seemed full of the glory of the Lord. The person, who did not then obtain the peace of God, was exhorted to shut himself in his room, and not come out, unless absolutely obliged, until he was assured of the forgiveness of his sins.

At one of their Prayer-meetings, a young clergyman, whose heart seemed full of love and zeal, spoke to a penitent in the following way, and paused for answers to his questions—"What makes you so unhappy? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Do you believe that he died to save the world? Do you believe that he died to save you? Do you believe that he is willing to save you now?"

In connection with one or two of the churches, Prayer-meetings are frequently held, of the most vigorous, and devotional character, and at which the fullest liberty is given for persons to engage. A very considerable number of persons have been brought to the possesion of Scriptural religion in this movement. They are from different classes of the population. Some of them have attended our Class-meetings, but without any intention of becoming Methodists, so far as I know.

It is a remarkable fact, and one which will give pleasure to persons concerned for the honour of Christ, and the continuance of the Protestant faith in the nation, that at St. Saviour's Church in this town,—which was built by Dr. Pusey, which has had as much of Tractarianism in its arrangements and services as any church in the kingdom; and from which five or more clergymen have gone over to Rome,—salvation by faith alone is now preached with as much clearness, freshness, unction, earnestness and frequency, as in any place in Leeds; and that prayer meetings have been there held, at which persons have loudly called upon God through Jesus Christ for deliverance from the load of sin; while clergymen professing to have been recently converted to God themselves, and in all the burnings of their first love, have urged them to trust in Christ, as the only refuge from the wrath to come. One of these clergymen, the Rev. Richard Collins, has just published a letter addressed "to the Rev. T. Collins, B. D., Rural Dean, and to the Rev. the clergy of the Deanery of Boroughbridge, on the necessity of renewal or conversion." The following extract will show his views on the main doctrines of the Gospel:—"The man that labours under the conviction of sin, who feels what a heavy load it is, will not be persuaded that his burden is removed till he feels the weight taken off him; and it can only be removed in one way, by believing that Jesus Christ has already borne the weight of it, and has made atonement for his sins; by believing not merely that He is the Saviour of all men, but that he has actually died for him, and is his Saviour. Then, the instant this act of faith is made, which is itself the gift of God, the Holy Spirit is poured into the heart of the believer, the love of God is shed abroad in it, and he cries out, Abba, Father." A little further on he says, "All this I know by my having experienced it, and every man who is renewed in the spirit of his mind has experienced it, and every man who is renewed in the spirit of his mind has experienced it, and will understand what I mean. Yet anything like the latter part of what I have been writing, till within a few months back was hid from my eyes. I was in darkness, and being in darkness was wholly unable to guide others to the light."

As to the future of this work, nothing need be said, all persons acquainted with the history of the doctrine of justification by faith, as propounded and received by Luther and Wesley and their hearers, know that when it once takes hold of a community it is a most difficult matter to suppress. As to the publication of these facts; they are occurrences remarkable in themselves, they will greatly interest the subjects of the Redeemer's kingdom, and I think their appearance in your journal will in various ways do good. I do not believe that the gentlemen to whom they mainly refer have any concern either that they should be hidden or made known. They are evidently breathing an atmosphere far higher than the contrary would imply. To those among ourselves who ask, "Can all this consist with High Church notions and pretensions," it may be said, Mr. Wesley was converted; he had been the means of converting hundreds, and had, indeed, formed the Methodist Society, before he parted with his High Church views, or would allow a person not episcopally ordained to preach the gospel. I am pleased with the Methodist mould this work has taken. It cannot but remind us of glorious seasons that have existed among ourselves, and point out the means of our strength. I have heard it spoken of in our Band Meetings, by some of our best people, with great delight. While too many of all parties look upon such occurrences as disorderly and vulgar, here are Oxford men, High Churchmen and Tractarians, confessing that they have been living in darkness, receiving salvation by faith in the Son of God, and pressing the importance of immediate conversion upon all around.

I am, Gentlemen, your's respectfully,

RICHARD FELVUS.

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SAGACITY.—As an instance of Chinese sagacity in business matters, the ship Potomac was sold in San Fransisco, a few months since, for $5000, to a Chinaman. She was taken to Hong Kong and there sold for $25,000. The last owner added an extra deck to the vessel, and in a single voyage from Hong Kong to San Fransisco and back, cleared the sum of $37,000. Since the beginning of the emigration from China to California and Australia, the Chinese merchants have imbibed a spirit of maritime enterprise, and charter and freight many vessels.

## ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

### INCIDENTS OF THE WAR.

We have news from Varna to the 20th instant, at which date the allied fleets had not weighed anchor, although everything was ready for them to sail at a moment's notice. We are weary of discussing the motives which can induce the Commanders of the expedition to indulge in this long delay. We are now told that the fleet will not spread its sails for the Crimea before the 1st of September. No reason is assigned for the postponement. The troops, we are assured, are suffering only in a comparatively slight degree from the effects of cholera, and are impatient for action. The gun boats necessary for the debarkation of the army upon the enemy's coast, have been assembled in almost countless numbers in the bay of Varna; and the siege trains requisite for the regular assault of fortifications are all on board the fleet and ready for instant employment. All that is wanted is the word "Advance." Why this stirring word should be delayed till the 1st of September, is more than we can possibly divine. We must of course believe that there is some good reason for it; and since the sailing of the expedition has, from some cause which nobody in England can comprehend, been deferred so long beyond the period originally assigned to it, it may now perhaps be quite as well that it should not set out upon its enterprise until its commanders have received information of the fall of Bomarsund. The easy capture of that celebrated Baltic fortress seems to have completely solved the previously doubtful question of "ship *versus* stone walls." It has proved that ships even at a range of 2,500 yards can successfully attack and destroy a granite battery without entailing any great loss upon themselves. At Bomarsund not a life was lost in the fleet and scarcely more than a score of lives on shore. It was also shown, that at a nearer range, such as that of the battery thrown up by the blue jackets and marines on shore, where the range did not exceed 700 yards, the fire of not more than three ships' 32-pounders is capable of levelling the walls of these vaunted stone fortresses as completely as if they were blown up with powder; and that, too, in the space of a very few hours. Correct information of such facts as these must necessarily possess the highest value for the commanders of the expedition which is to sail to Sebastopol; and it will be well that they should receive it before their operations are actually commenced. This, in a degree, reconciles us to a postponement which would otherwise appear to be without excuse.

Whilst the expedition to the Crimea has thus been hanging fire, Omar Pasha has made a triumphal entry into Bucharest, and has concluded arrangements with the military commissioners of the Court of Vienna for an Austrian occupation of the Principalities. This will leave the Ottoman commander with a large and gallant army disposable for service at any point at which it may be required. Meantime, the Russians continue their retrograde movement towards the Pruth, and there is nothing to indicate in a precise manner the positions which they intend to take up to meet the danger which henceforward threatens them on the frontier of Besarabia.

To compensate himself for the loss of Bomarsund and the disasters of his army on the banks of the Danube, Nicholas has recently caused to be published throughout his dominions a flaming description of two great victories obtained by his Generals over the Turkish armies in the Trans-Caucasian provinces. For a wonder, there is some spice of truth in these imperial bulletines; but happily not much. Some advantage was certainly gained by the Russian forces over the incompetent Turkish General, Selim Pasha, in the neighbourhood of Bayazid, on the 29th of July, and the Russians have since occupied Bayazid itself; but the severer conflict which took place at Kars on the 7th of August, which Nicholas has exalted into a mighty Russian victory, turns out to have been a drawn battle. The true account of the affair appears to be this. The Turks, who had attacked the intrenched camp of Yourouk-dere, drove in the right wing of the Russian army, but a general charge of the Muscovite cavalry afterwards obliged the Ottoman infantry to fall back. The Turks retreated in good order. Hassan Pasha was killed, and Mustapha Pasha wounded. Three Russian Generals were put *hors de combat*. The total loss of both armies was calculated at 10,000. Neither party could claim the victory.

It seems, after all, that the Aland Islands are not to be occupied by the Allies during the winter, and it is understood that instructions have already been given for the complete destruction of the whole of the works at Bomarsund. This necessarily leads to the inference that there is an intention on the part of the Allied Governments to direct, before the brief remainder of the season expires, an attack upon some other point of the Russian territory in the Baltic. What that point may be, we can, of course, only conjecture. A prevailing rumour has pointed to Hango Head; but as the experience gained at Bomarsund has deprived the Russian batteries of more than half their terrors, we shall not be surprised to learn that the Allied Admirals and Generals have determined to fly at higher game, and to make an attack upon Helsingfors or even Cronstradt. At any rate, whatever is to be done in the Baltic must be done suddenly. The days are already shortening, and a few weeks hence the waters of this frigid sea will cease to be navigable. A considerable army and an almost innumerable fleet are at this moment homeless upon its bosom. Winter quarters must be found for them somewhere. Will they make them for themselves in one of the Russian strongholds, or must we prepare our feather beds for them in England and France. We shall learn in an another week or two.

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### THE CZAR'S MENDACITY.

There is no longer a doubt as to the entrance of the Austrian troops into the Principalities. Official despatches inform us that the movement commenced on the 20th instant. On that day the division of General Macchio, consisting of two brigades, entered from Hermanstadt by the pass of the Red Tower, whilst the corps under the command of Major General Burla advanced at the same time from Kronstadt. The operation was conducted by Count Coronini, who has the superior command of all the corps of occupation of the Principalities under the Generalissimo—Baron Hess. Count Coronini is to be at Bucharest on the 5th of September; and the brigade under Jellachihi, destined for the occupation of Lesser Wallachia, is to be at Crajova on the 2nd. The Ottoman forces on the left bank of the Danube now exceed 70,000 men, and the best understanding, it is said, exists between Omar Pasha and the Austrian officers holding the chief command in the army of occupation.

Thus, then, one of the great objects of the long-prostrated negotiations between the Western Powers and the Court of Vienna has been accomplished. Austria at length has moved; and if the slightest trust is to be placed in mere human appearances,—if the faintest confidence is to be reposed in the word of princes—this movement on the part of Austria has been made in the interests of civilization and humanity—in good will and good faith towards the Porte—in chivalrous accord with the sentiments and gallant exertions of England and France—and in direct antagonism to the arrogant and presumptuous proceedings of the Czar.

Into the wisdom or the soundness of that part of the policy of the Allies which has thus admitted Austria into the occupation of the Principalities we shall not now stop to inquire. Much may unquestionably be urged on both sides. It is to be presumed, however, that as the point is one which the Western Powers had long earnestly laboured to attain, the conditions upon which it has been effected are such as will be ultimately found to bear a strict accordance and consistency with the general policy by which those powers are governed, and to contribute more or less directly to the early attainment of the great ends which they have in view. Upon no other ground can the Austrian occupation of these portions of the Ottoman territory be justified in the eyes of Western Europe; and a grave error will have been committed by the Governments of France and England if at the very instant that the troops of Francis Joseph are entering the Principalities, engagements of the most binding nature have not already been made for their eventual evacuation of them.

Looking to the circumstances under which this movement has been made, it is impossible to regard it in any other light than as a step taken in honest concert with the Allies, and in manly opposition to the audacious pretensions of the Czar. In what view, however, does Nicholas represent it to his people? As Emperor of All the Russias and Pope of the Orthodox Greek Church, Nicholas is bound in the double capacity of King and Priest to speak the truth. How does he utter it? Let the following passage from an order of the day recently addressed to the garrison at Odessa answer.—"His Majesty the Czar has ordered in his high wisdom that the troops who had entered Wallachia and Moldavia shall withdraw from those provinces and march to the point where there is the greatest danger. To protect the Principalities against an invasion by the Turks, the ancient ally of his Majesty the Czar (Austria) has undertaken to occupy them in the meantime." Thus, according to the representation of their supreme ruler, the Russian people are taught to believe that