THE CZAR'S REPENTANCE.

The Emperor Alexander the Second evidently appreciates his new position. With the war which has just closed, he has been read an instructive lesson. The dreams of conquest in which his predecessors, from Peter to Nicholas, have indulged, he has deliberately abandoned. Large standing armies, he now finds, eat up the resources of his mighty empire, and two years of actual conflict with the Western Nations have left him a sadder but a wiser man. The money pressure in Russia has induced him to disband the militia, and henceforth he seems determined to recruit his exhausted resources by the legitimate operations of trade and commerce. To attain this desirable object, he has wisely ordered all the light-houses to blaze, and buoys to be laid down in the Gulfs of Bothnia and Finland, and in the Baltic and White Seas. The export from Poland of the produce of that country is permitted, and no trader, anxious to bring "grist to his own mill," can display a more laudable anxiety to atone for the errors of the past than the son of the man, whose soul, during his long reign, was constantly occupied with the thought of conquest and with subjugating the nationalities of Europe. Adversity is sometimes a painful school in which to graduate, but it is also an instructive one, and to the present ruler of all the Russias belongs the honour of accommodating himself to the altered circumstances of his situation.

But the most remarkable proof of the sincerity of his new course of action is to be found in the sentiments of a speech, which the Czar has recently delivered to his nobles in the old Muscovite capital—Moscow. An extract from this remarkable document is worth quoting. "War" says the Czar, "is an abnormal state, and the greatest success obtained by it scarcely compensates for the evils it occasions. It has caused an interruption of the commercial relations of the Empire with most of the states of Europe. I should certainly have carried it on had not the voice of neighbouring states pronounced against the policy of late years. Supposing the fate of arms should have remained constantly favourable to us, as it has been in Asia, the empire would have exhausted its resources in keeping up large armies on different points, the soldiers of which would, in a great measure, be taken away from agriculture and labour. In the Government of Moscow itself,many manufacturers have been compelled to close. *I prefer the real prosperity of the arts of peace to the vain glory of combats.* I have thrown open the ports of Russia to the commerce of the world, the frontiers to the free circulation of foreign produce. I wish, henceforth, that the greatest facility shall be afforded in our markets for the exchange of wares of every origin, and of the raw materials and manufactures of our soil."

We have called this a remarkable speech, and no one who ponders on the large and liberal views enunciated in the passage we have quoted, can deem it otherwise. The policy which it foreshadows is in direct opposition to that of the late Czar, who was so essentially Conservative, that he desired Russia to produce every thing she wanted for herself and to be as independent as possible of foreign, and even of neighbouring states. In point of fact, the contrast between the past and the future of Russia, as regards commercial developement, is quite as great, as was the old English protective system to our present Free-trade notions. The Emperor Alexander II. is evidently a convert to the doctrines of Messrs. Cobden and Bright, and he may be said to stand in the same relative position as the late Sir Robert Peel, who turned a great national calamity to account—the failure of the potato crop in Ireland—in order to repeal the Corn Laws. The war with Russia has not been productive of unmixed evil, when we find, that one of its earliest fruits is the annihilation of the old and the substitution of a new and more enlightened system in the exchange of commodities, and thus it frequently happens, that what we regarded as a scourge to punish and humiliate, often proves a substantial blessing,—the inauguration of a new and better era for the advancement of the human race.

Before the sittings of the Paris Conference commenced, a member for one of the Yorkshire boroughs addressed a letter to Mr. W. E. Gladstone, the object of which was to urge upon that distinguished statesman the necessity of directing Lord Clarendon's attention to the exclusive tariff of Russia, with a view to render it more liberal. The reply of Mr. Gladstone, which was published at the time, was most happily timed, and the grasp of the subject which he took could not fail to impress men so far-seeing as the Russian plenipotentiaries at the Conference, Count Orloff and Baron Brunow. Mr. Gladstone showed, in this able communication, that when Sir Robert Peel was Prime Minister in 1841 he was himself at the head of the Board of Trade, and while in this high official situation, he sounded several commercial nations as to the desirability of liberalizing their tariffs; and he urged upon them the propriety, as a matter of self interest, of forming special treaties of trade with this country,—to give us, in fact, by these treaties, the advantages which the British Government were prepared, in return to extend to them. The appeal, in nearly all the cases, was a failure—it was not responded to. These Powers feared,that they might be overreached—that they would have the worst half of the bargain—and, impressed with this idea, they stood aloof. The Government of that day, then, saw that the best and wisest course for this country to pursue, was to abandon altogether the special treaty system, and with it our protection to British products,—to throw open our ports to the commerce of the world, and to revise our fiscal system solely with reference to taxation and to production. Mr. Gladstone proceeded to show his correspondent, that the success of this great experiment on our internal prosperity, and the enormous augmentation of our imports and exports which followed its introduction, and which has only been arrested by the war, has had the effect of inducing imitation on the part of other nations, which previous persuasion could not induce. We had given them the best practical proof of our disinterestedness, and the success of the result dissipated all doubt, and fully confirmed the wisdom of the principle. Without attaching unnecessary importance to Mr. Gladstone's timely exposition, we cannot help thinking that his unanswerable arguments, the result of personal experience, supported by the tables of the Board of Trade, to which he referred, must more or less have dictated the liberal policy on which Russia has now entered, and additional proof of which may be seen in the text of the treaty of peace which is now given to the world. Certainly, these enlarged and statesmanlike views were hardly expected from the young Emperor, who declared, on his accession, that he was determined in his own person to carry out the policy of Peter, of Catherine, and of Nicholas,—a policy which has humbled the military pride of Russia, and brought her to the verge of bankruptcy and dismemberment. We regard the Moscow speech as an acknowledgment of repentance, not in an unworthy or ignoble sense, but as shewing, that the head of a great empire, to whom is committed the lives and fortunes of sixty millions of human beings, is not ashamed to acknowledge the errors of the past, and to pursue for the future a course which must bring blessings to his people and honour to himself.

Messrs Baring Brothers and Co. are at the head of the English companies who are seeking the privilege of being allowed to establish a bank in Russia.

AUSTRALIA.

The Royal Mail Ship Beemah, Captain Pickernell of the "Black Ball" line, appointed to carry the homeward Australian mails (in lieu of the Schomberg) arrived in the Mersey this morning, from Melbourne, with advices to the 31st of January, and 18,000 ounces of gold, and a cargo of wood and copper-ore.

The average yield of gold is about 50, 000 ounces per week, and in addition to this, says the *Mlebourne Herald*, "a certain amount of gold still continues to be brought to town by private hand, more particularly from gold-fields to which no escort runs, such as those of the Woody Yallock, near Ballarat, Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek in the Wimmera district, and the minor ones of Caledonia and Anderson's Creek on the Yarra, near Melbourne, Steigitz Forest, in the neighbourhood of Geelong and Lake Omeo in the Australian Alps. We are of opinion that about 3000 ounces per week is brought into various towns on the sea-board from these sources; and it is a matter of certainty that immediately before the departure of any favourite ship, the various gold-fields are inundated by the agents of Melbourne and Geelong houses, who wish to buy gold to make remittance; and who in order to save time bring down their purchases in some one or other of the well-appointed coaches plying daily between town and the mining townships."

The price of gold continues at £4 15s. to sellers.

A motion, brought forward in the in the Legislative Council by Mr. Grant, one of the members for Bendigo, having for its object the abolition of the present export duty on gold of half-a-crown per ounce, caused considerable discussion, and the motion was negatived by a large majority.

HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

Wednesday, May 14, 1856.

The British Mails arrived at 5 o'clock on Monday Morning, in the packet, H. Ingram.

The treaty of peace is concluded and the terms made known, but John Bull does not appear to relish the matter. The majority of the English nation seem to concur in the opinion that it was rather premature, that the nation had a right to expect more glorious results from such magnificent preparations the great naval review displayed, and which must have given foreigners an idea of the wealth, power and resources of Great Britain, that would be likely to remain permanently impressed. It is natural enough for those who contemplated the vast and imposing force there assembled, to regret, that it had not been brought into action, and the naval power of Britain made to be felt by her aspiring foe; and yet when we reflect, it would seem better as it is.

There is something magnanimous in giving peace to your adversary while you have the advantage of him, and will tell better in history than a peace concluded after years of contest harassing and impoverishing to both parties, so that it had become more a matter of necessity than of choice. As it is, the nation has had to restrain her own bellicose propensities in deference to the wishes, perhaps the necessities of her allies. The battle we are told is not always to the strong, and the truth of inspiration is abundantly confirmed by facts in the military history of every nation. Take Napoleon before Moscow. He thought and Europe thought, that the immense Russian Empire was destined to be subjected to his imperial will. The burning of Moscow would have been unavailing to have stopped his progress, had not Providence it would seem exerted itself to crush his presumptuous wish.

> Think nothing gained, he cried, till nought remains
> On Moscow's walls, 'till *Gallia's* standards fly,
> And all be mine beneath the polar sky.

One of the earliest and severest winters ever known became pregnant with horrors that were scarcely to be conceived, and that noble army of gallant and devoted souls perished, miserably perished and its leader forced to fly, not from the battle field of mortal strife, but before the all-powerful arm of the God of Battles, before an irresistible, impetuous, mighty force, against which, all his power bent and quailed, as does the willow or the rush beneath the storm. And so it might have been with all that proud array of floating batteries, Cronstadt might have been reached and every preparation might have been made for securing its surrender or completing its destruction; and yet even then, these terrible messengers of the power and might of Him who holds the universe in his hand, lightning and tempest, the storm and the hurricane might have strewed the adjacent coasts with wrecks and corpses, and not a vestige of the power so lately deemed irresistible be left. It is better as it is. Blessed are the peace-makers!

But it does not follow, that because war has ceased, that there are no victories to achieve. "Peace has her triumphs too." The electric flash is yet to be speeded beneath the Atlantic wave to the shores of the new world and America and Europe brought within speaking distance. New leviathans are yet to be set afloat which will make the now weary waste of waters but a railwav track to be traversed in a week. Science which converts the dull clay beneath our feet into lustrous metal has still greater wonders in store. Who will venture to predict what a half century of universal peace may not effect. What changes have taken place since the battle of Waterloo. How many may take their date from the treaty just signed before our grandchildren's heads are white with age? We trust, that the day is not far distant when religion and reason aided by experience, will shew to men, that war is truly an abnormal state; that the energies, wealth and talent which are wasted in its service, if devoted to that of peace, would effect changes mighty and beneficial, such as the world has never yet heard of and the imagination of man cannot conceive.

BANK OF P. E. ISLAND.

At the first general Meeting of the Shareholders of the Bank of Prince Edward Island, held at the Court House on Monday, the 12th day of May, 1856, in accordance with notice published in the *Royal Gazette*, pursuant to the Third Section of the Act of Incorporation. Thomas Heath Haviland, junr., Esquire, in the Chair.

John Kenny, Esq., Chairman of the provisional Committee appointed at the Public Meeting held on the 17th March, reported that said Committee had agreed to a number of By Laws for the management of the Corporation which he then submitted.

The said By Laws having been severally put to the Meeting were agreed to with trifling alterations.

The Secretary, T. DesBrisay, Esq., then reported that the Share list was filled up—which being read—The Meeting then proceeded to ballot for Directors.

After the ballot, it was announced that the persons who had received the greatest number of votes were as follows:

James Peake, Esq., Hon. Daniel Brenan, Ralph, Brecken, Esq., Daniel Hodgson, Esq., Hon. Joseph Hensley, John Longworth, Esq., John Kenny, Esq.; who were then announced by the Chairman to be duly elected.

It was then resolved, that a copy of the By Laws signed by the Chairman be transmitted to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor in Council for his sanction.

To the Editor of Haszard's Gazette.

Sir,

In offering a few short observations upon a letter of the Rev. Mr. Lloyd, which appeared in your last paper, it may be necessary to premise that as the Congregation of St. Pauls were *invited* and not "*directed*" by their clergy to appoint two Lay Delegates for the Synod, Vigil has to tender an apology to the Reverend Gentleman for the mistake he has unwittingly made.

Mr. Lloyd is perfectly right in saying that Vigil "intended to sound an alarm." Under an apprehension of danger, silence would be held inexcusable, but that the alarm is groundless remains to be seen. If Synods are to be established with an infusion, as it has been termed of "the Lay element." The "privilege" of sending delegates from so important a place as Charlottetown, must merge into an unquestionable *right*. But enough of this.

So far from a majority of the Parishes having agreed to the constitution of a Diocesan Synod, that point was carried, and has since been acted upon by a *minority* consisting at most, of 28 Clergymen, and 20 Delegates!! Is the act of a minority indicative of the wishes of the whole population of the diocese, or to compel obedience to its decisions? That also remains to be seen.

Vigil applauds the people of Halifax for no negative characteristic, as Mr. Lloyd would insinuate, not because they waived their rights, but simply because they fearlessly maintained them. The worthy Rector indeed oversteps the limits of fair controversy altogether, when he attributes to Vigil a "meaning" which he never entertained, respecting the treatment of the Halifax Curates. Upon that subject he expressed no opinion; in fact he did not allude to it in the slightest degree. The flourish therefore about "noble resistance" is gratuitous.

"Unhappy diocese" is perhaps an infelicitous expression but do not the very transactions in question go far to shew with what justice it has been applied?

Vigil's letter has been totally misunderstood, if any man of reflection deems it suggestive of jelousies; nothing could have been more foreign from his meaning or alien from his heart. He would much rather avoid any thing that would justly give offence,and advocate what would make for peace, but he is fully convinced, with others that the surrender of private judgment to the "teachings" of the Church, and the investing its chief pastors with irresponsible power are far more likely to produce "unhappiness" than a temperate and fearless maintenance of Christian Liberty.

Vigil.

Charlottetown, May 12th, 1856.

(For Haszard's Gazette.)

ENIGMA.

I am composed of 26 letters. My 1, 5, 3, 8, 21, and 11, is the name of a sea. My 16, 17, 18, the the name of a quadruped. My 20, 25, 16, 23, is a man's garment. My 1, 2, 9, 8, is a garden root. My 2, 4, 7, is a reptile. My 13, 3, 2, 11, 23, 25, 14, is the title of a prince of one of the countries of Europe; also of a large proportion of British subjects. My 1, 13, 10, 20, 12, means the seashore. My 20, 5, 7, is a small quadruped. My 1, 19, 14, 26, 13, 25, is an Island in the Pacific. My 3, 4, 14, 21, 11, 10, is a continent. My 6, 11, 12, 19, 3, 22, 14, is a term applied equally to the child at his a b c, and to the finished scholar. My whole is a body calculated to arouse and develope, the mental faculties of those under its influence.

T. Y.

Belfast.

Died,

On the 16th March, at the Windmill, near Ramsey, Isle of Man, John Monk, Esq., aged 63 years,—a gentleman deservedly respected by all who knew him. Mr. Monk resided in this Island many years ago.

Port of Charlottetown

ENTERED.

May 12th, Schrs. Ariel, Moore, Halifax; goods. Union, LeBache.

13th, Ship Majestic, Welsh, Liverpool; goods. Schrs. Mayflower, Pollen. Sarah, Roberts. Olive Branch, Goodwin. Wm. Nelson, Ogden, Bay Verte. Mary Jane, Terrion. Native Lass, Gerrion. Charlotte, Le Blang. Favorite, Babin. Olive, Dixon. Margaret, Dilore.

CLEARED.

May 12th, Schrs. Conservative, St. John, N. F. Unicorn, Pictou.

13th, Bee, Bay Verte. Mayflower, St. John, N. B. Wm. Nelson, Bay Verte. Mary Ann, Mirimichi.