NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

THE ARMISTICE IN THE CRIMEA.—DESTRUCTION OF THE WHITE BUILDINGS.

Camp Before Sebastopol, Feb. 28.—This morning brought us news of the conclusion of an armistice. The Russians had it first, by telegraph from St. Petersburg. At 8 a. m. a boat, bearing a flag of truce, put off from the north side, and was met halfway across the harbour by one from the French. The Russians brought a communication of the armistice from General Luders, and the mail from Constantinople, which arrived early to-day, brought its confirmation to the allies. People here seem generally well pleased, that the suspension of arms is to be only until the 31st of March. Previously to that date little could be done in the way of military operations. Meanwhile, and as if to celebrate the armistice, the so-called White Buildings were blown up this afternoon. It became known in the course of the morning, that the explosion was fixed for half-past 3; and that the brig in the Dockyard Creek was also to be blown up by way of experiment, and for the particular gratification of Mr. Deane, "the infernal diver." So, soon after three o'clock, spectators began to assemble at the Redan, in front of Picket-house-hill, on Cathcart's-hill, and in other commanding positions. There was not a very strong muster at any of these places, for we are rather *blase* in the matter of explosions; and, although the day was bright and sunny, the ground was very heavy with mud and snow, and the cold too sharp to be pleasant. There was a certain amount of snowballing among the pedestrians, which, doubtless, contributed to keep up a supply of caloric, and one or two base attacks were made upon unfortunate equestrians who, not having snow within their reach, or a supply of ready made snowballs in their pockets, had no choice, but to charge their assailants or resort to ignominious flight. The majority of the horsemen sat ruefully awaiting the blow up; a canter for warmth would have been desirable, but the ground was most unfavorable—deep and spread with a sheet of snow, concealing holes. Half-an-hour passed; feet were very cold, noses very blue, fingers hardly felt the reins, grumbling was heard: "It is nearly 4 o'clock; why the deuce doesn't it go off?" Patience is, I fear, not a very common virtue in the Crimean army. An impromptu "shave," suggested by the circumstances of the moment, was passed about. "Pelissier is coming; they wait for him." Now, it so happened, that Pelissier was *not* coming. Some French and other foreign officers came; some of them were in the Redan, and others who came from the French head-quarters, were on the slope in front of Picket-house-hill, just over the ravine, waiting patiently and confidingly. According to some accounts, it would occur in an hour and a-half; according to others, to-morrow, while a third party talked of next week; and there was a general movement campwards. A few Artillery officers still stuck to the Redan; Picket-house-hill was quickly cleared, except of one or two obstinate expectants, and Cathcart's was abandoned by many; when, behold! just at a quarter to 5, when few of the weary who had departed could have reached their quarters, and some could have been but a hundred or two yards on the wrong side of the hill-crests, out gushed a small puff of white smoke from the White Buildings, then a big puff of black smoke; there was a slight explosion, a grumbling roar; stones were hurled into the air and pitched high above the eastern wall into the docks, and then, after a silence which seemed to last nearly a minute, came a series of pops and puffs as the mines went off in rapid succession, and an immense volume of smoke arose. When the smoke cleared off, the damage did not appear so great as was expected. The walls of the buildings still stood, except the north-east corner. Doubtless the inside had suffered, and, indeed, there were appearances indicating that much damage had been done. Later, at about a quarter to 6, when it was supposed that all was over, and everybody had abandoned the points of observation, another series of explosions was heard. After the explosions of the buildings, Fort Constantine sent a solitary shell into the French side. There was a hitch about some mine, which hung fire; Major Rankin approached to examine it, when it unexpectedly exploded and the gallant officer lost his life.

The Coming Comet.—Dr. G. A. Jahn, the astronomer of the University of Leipsic, has just published a pamphlet to prove that the comet expected to appear in the course of the present year is identical with that of 1266 and 1556. The latter is called in Germany, Melancthon's comet, from the fact of that reformer having written several letters and dissertations about it, eleven of which are still extant.

It is expected that on official intimation of the birth of an heir to the throne of France being received by the British Government, a general Royal salute will be ordered to be fired by the fleet (with ships dressed and yards manned) at Portsmouth and elsewhere.

The Imperial Babyclothes.—The imperial *layette* is at this moment the most attractive exhibition in Paris. The public is admitted to see it by tickets which Midlle. Felicie gives to any respectable person for the asking. All yesterday and to-day the Rue Vivienne and the Place de la Bourse have been blocked up by gay carriages, belonging to fashionable people, come to see the swaddling clothes. It takes an hour on an average to get in, from the moment of taking up one's position at the tail of the *queue*, as long as the sea-serpent, which extends through the court-yard leading to Mademoiselle Felicie's door and far into the Rue Vivienne. Sergens-de-ville marshal the spectators the way they should be going, and only let in a few at a time, so that the showrooms may not be overcrowded. The vast majority of those who press to see this remarkable sight are ladies, and of these English ladies form a very large proportion. The first thing that strikes one on entering the rooms where the two complete infantine *trousseaux*, masculine and feminine, have been laid out by Mdlle. Felicie with exquisite taste, is the amazing superfluity of the outfit. There are napkins, caps, frocks, chemises, petticoats, jackets, wrappers, hats, bonnets, shoes, drawers, cloaks, mantles, mantelets, capes, talmas, muffs, collars, socks, stockings, flannels, rattles, pillows, and hosts of nameless articles pertaining to a nursery, enough to set up a foundling hospital. But when the costly material and delicate workmanship of every one of these articles is considered, the mind, perplexed to think what they can all be wanted for, might fancy, that some political convulsion had driven all the sovereigns of the world to one place of refuge, and that this was the common and ample wardrobe of all royal babies in existence. It never can be expected, that any Prince or Princess will actually wear a tithe of the things here provided. The provision is as much in excess as Lucullus's roasts of thrushes, or Brummell's cravats. I suppose the nurse will profit by the "failures." The colors of the habiliments are white and sky blue. There is a very pretty cradle (not the one given by the city of Paris, which is not yet quite finished), with white lace and blue hangings. The imperial crown is embroidered upon every article. The ladies examine everything most minutely, and the constant cries of the sergens-de-ville on duty that touching is not allowed, are all impotent to prevent the curious fair from taking up the fine fabrics in their hands to look at them closer. Some of Mdlle. Felicie's assistant artists walk about the *salons* and answer all questions with graceful *empressement*. Although everybody will have it that the child is to be a Prince, and although the statistical doctrine that the chances are fully equal that it will be a Princess, is scoffed at, I suspect that Mdlle, Felicie would not be greatly disappointed, if it were, after all, to be a girl. She seems to have more especially lavished the cunning of her art upon certain darling little blue bonnets, which it were a pity to think would never be wanted. I should state that the toilette, whether for boy or girl, is complete with everything that can possibly be required up to the age of two years. I have not heard, and will not attempt to guess, what the entire cost of this *layette* may be, but it must be something unprecedented.—*Paris Correspondent of the Daily Times*

Oriental Prejudice.—About a fortnight ago, serious disturbances arose at Constantinople in the quarter of Dejebali, from a revival of the absurd prejudice, which every year accuses the Jews of stealing a child belonging to some other sect, in order to sacrifice it and use its blood in their Passover rites. A Turkish woman having lost her child for some hours, sought for it in the quarter, when some Greeks in the neighborhood told her, that they had seen two Jews drag the child by force into the house in question. The mother on this began to shriek, and soon drew a crowd together who smashed the windows, and were only restrained from carrying it by assault by the arrival of French soldiers. The child was afterwards found by its mother.

The German papers state, that His Royal Highness Prince Frederick William of Prussia, future heir to the throne, projects another visit to England this spring; and hence conclusions are drawn that the object of this visit deeply interests the happiness of a young and illustrious lady, as well as the future political interests of the British nation.

Accounts from Damascus report, that M. Bourreee, the French Ambassador, had ceased relations with Persia, and joined the English Ambassador on the Turkish territory.

The *Havre Journal* says, that Messrs. Normand, shipbuilders, of that place, have received orders from the King of Prussia, to construct for him a screw steam-yacht of 180 horses' power.

The Queen of Sweden, who is spoken of as the probable godmother of the first-born of the Empress Eugenie, is first cousin to the Emperor. Her Majesty is the daughter of Eugene Beauharnais, brother of the Queen Hortense.

HASZARD'S GAZETTE

Wednesday, April 9, 1856.

We alluded in a previous number to the project of an increase of members in the representative branch of our Provincial Parliament. We then thought the proposed addition uncalled for, and nothing that has been advanced by the introducer of the motion has induced any alteration of our opinion. That the representation should be as much as possible equalized, is, we admit, as a general proposition, sound, but like all general rules, it has its exceptions. Nor does it follow as a corollary, that increase in the number of representatives should accompany, as a matter of course, increase in population. Were the population 100,000, instead of 70,000, twenty-four members would be quite equal to the task of legislation. If there is any great discrepancy in the number of voters in the different districts, and if that discrepancy has occasioned any serious evils, manifested by petitions to the legislature, or by pressure from without, as it is called, which is generally through the public press, as the most potent instrument for effecting changes that are called for by the voice of the people, we should not have been surprised, if the Government had yielded to what it conceived was the public wish, and even then the equalization of members to voters would be all that would be necessary; but we neither see nor hear anything of the kind. A member (not of the Government, but one of its servants) gets up and asks leave to bring in a Bill to alter the representation, with as much *sang froid*, but with less preparation, than he would, if he were asking to alter a line of road, for in the latter case he would have to show that it was called for, and by whom. It is a part of his motion also, we find, to disfranchise a whole constituency, and this without any previous notice given, and in the absence of one of its representatives, without any complaint made of corruption, venality or bribery. This part of the Bill is without any precedent, and is contrary to all principle and all practice, whether in the parent state, the adjoining colonies, or the United States one of the most gross attempts to work injustice, and one of the most arbitrary and tyrannical acts we have ever heard or read of, such as would have never been even attempted in any other legislature than this of P. E. Island.

It is not in the Representative branch that amendment is needed. Look to the state of the Legislative Council; there a reform is loudly called for. Of what materials is this august Body (!) to which is entrusted the functions of the House of Lords, composed? By what rule or law are vacancies filled up when they occur in this Honorable House? The Royal Instructions, which ought to be the Charter of our Constitution, gives one description of personages; the parties selected are diametrically the opposite. It is full time, there were some radical changes here. And how is this to be effected? We see no other way we confess, than that of making it an elective body, but differing from that of the lower house, both as respects the qualifications of the electors and the elected. We are not going to palm our own opinions upon the public as to what these qualifications should be; all we desire is, that they should be certain, and that they should be such as to insure a representation of men of independent means. Every officer of Governwent—every place-holder and pensioner should be rigorously excluded. They should be removed from all influence of the government of the day. As they had nothing to hope for, so they should have nothing to fear from the Administration. We trust that the day is not far off; indeed it must be at hand, when these colonies will know with something like certainty, what they are to depend upon; at present, their condition is of that anomalous description, that one cannot tell, what to make of it. The most pressing evil is the defective constitution of the second branch of the Legislature—its members nominally appointed by the Crown, in reality by the leader of the Government, are mere tools, who vote just as he pleases to dictate. Under these circumstances, we need not say, that all respect—all confidence in such a body is lost. The upper house should be distinguished by its superior knowledge, intelligence, and talent. Is it so? It may be that when the Council is elective, it will fall far short of what such a body ought to be; it will, however be dependent on the constituencies for selection, and possess their confidence. One thing we sincerely trust will happen, that there will be no change in the representation of one house without a corresponding one in that of the other. Should anything of the kind be effected, we trust, that there will be sufficient spirit in the well-informed of all classes and parties to meet and petition the Queen, either to withhold her assent, or to so modify the Legislative Council, which is as yet the creature of the Crown, that it shall be put upon a more respectable and constitutional footing than it now is. A really independent Legislative Council would be some check to the abuse of power more or less incidental to all popular bodies.

NIGHTINGALE TESTIMONIAL.

In pursuance of a Requisition' numerously and respectably signed, His Worship the Mayor, called a public meeting of the Inhabitants of this City, yesterday, for the purpose of contributing towards the "Nightingale Fund." His Worship having been requested to take the chair, The Hon. Charles Young moved the following series of Resolutions, which were seconded by the Hon. Lieutenant Col. Swabey.

First.—Resolved that the noble and philanthropic conduct, manifested by Miss Nightingale and her useful associates in the hospitals of the East, and the unceasing efforts made by them night and day, to relieve the sick and wounded of the British forces, demand our most grateful acknowledgments.

Secondly.—That as it has been determined to raise a Testimonial of an enduring character, in England, for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of Miss Nightingale's signal devotion, (she having declined to accept any tribute of personal benefit), and as funds are being subscribed in Great Britain to enable her to establish an Institute for the training, sustenance and protection of nurses and Hospital-attendants; This meeting most cordially desire to co-operate with their fellows subjects throughout the Empire, in this useful object, and although the Inhabitants of this City are frequently called upon to assist in such efforts, yet they cheerfully subscribe in aid of such funds,

Thirdly.—That a subscription list, be forthwith opened, for the "Nightingale Testimonial"—and that the Inhabitants of this County, as well as of King's and Prince Counties be requested to unite with us either by calling public meetings or otherwise, in contributing their mite towards this noble undertaking.

Fourthly—That His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, be respectfully requested to become the Patron of this Fund, and that the following gentlemen be a Committee, to collect and receive Subscriptions in this city, and Queen's County, namely:

The Hon. Charles Young, William Swabey, George Coles, Edward Palmer, His Worship the Mayor, T. Heath Haviland, Esq., and Theophilus Desbrisay Esq.

A subscription list was then opened, and copies thereof were ordered to be left with His Worship the Mayor, and with Theophilus Desbrisay, Esq.—Thanks having been given to the Chairman.

The meeting was then closed.

To the Editor of Haszard's Gazette.

Sir;

Since the incorporation of the City of Charlottetown, the Reports of the Police Court have exhibited a number of persons who have been arraigned on the charge of being drunk and disorderly; and your paper of the 27th February represents a person as having been brought before the Court "For violent assault on three Police Constables, and battery in breaking the finger of one of said Constables." "His Worship descanted on the impropriety and danger for Citizens, or other persons to interfere with and especially to assault and beat the police while in the discharge of their duty." "In the present instance, a police man was disabled by a person who, when in his sober senses, would not wilfully hurt any person." Now the clear inference deducible from these words is, that "J. G." was, when he perpetrated the act, in his *drunken senses*, or, that as J. G. did not commit the deed, therefore, is it Rum, the Rumseller, or J. G. that is guilty?

"His Worship also shewed, that while persons injured officers in the execution of the Laws were subject to punishment, and to damage, and if death ensued to the officer the person causing it might be hanged." Now as J. G., from the Mayor's shewing, would not injure any person wilfully in his "sober senses" And if it had so happened that in his *drunken senses* he had killed the policeman, who in such a case should be "hanged?" Should it be Rum, the Rumseller, or J. G.? or would it be right to burn Mr. Rum, hang the Rumseller, and whip J. G.? The City Councillors, I presume, will determine.

A.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

We have been prevented from noticing earlier, the Lecture delivered on Thursday 27th ult., at the Temperance Hall, before the Young Men's Christian Association, by the Rev. Mr. M'Leod, of St. Eleanor's. The Lecturer evinced much research and a thorough knowledge of his subject, "Infidelity contrasted with Christianity." By copious Extracts from the writings of the most noted Atheists, he shewed fairly the arguments by which they endeavour to make good their position, and the legitimate fruit of their principles (if such they can be called) as evidenced by their lives and at their deaths—then placing in contrast with these the principles, practice and peaceful death of the Christian, illustrated and enforced by numerous examples from amongst that great cloud of witnesses, in all ages of the world, who through faith in their unseen and yet much loved master, have in their endeavours to follow his example of doing good to all, been the