





MORNING STAR.

Jaffna, Thursday, April 27, 1854.

EFFECTS OF ROMANISM.—A tree is known by its fruits. So is any one of the many religions of the world, known by the effects and results it produces upon and among the people who observe that religion. What is the state of the idolatrous religion of the world, and what is the influence of any one idolatrous nation upon the other nations of the earth? Generally speaking, nothing—nothing at all. What native influence does China, India, Bunnah or Siam, or any one of the heathen nations of Africa exert upon the world? Their influence is only passive; it is not felt all among other nations; they are nothing, only as they are acted upon by the great enlightened nations, whose commerce floats in every sea and whose ships touch at every port. Again, are not the ruling nations of the world at this time those in whose midst the Bible is known, read, honored, and to a considerable extent obeyed? England and America are now the two great powers of the world. France may claim to be a great power, she has been, and is now to a certain extent, but who that remembers her revolutions will think her firm, and who that knows the ignorant and wretched condition of the mass of her people, will regard her as truly great?

These thoughts have been excited by seeing an account originally published in the British Banner, given by a person who has lately traveled on foot 1400 miles on the continent of Europe, and who remarks very pointedly the favorable change everywhere observed in passing from a Roman Catholic to a Protestant country. He says, before his tour, he had deemed similar statements by travelers as exaggerations, but found them far outdone by the reality. Speaking of some of the cantons of Switzerland he writes:

Let any one contrast the aspect presented by the Canton de Valais, or that of Fribourg (Roman Catholic) with Berne, Zurich, and Geneva; the valleys of each being about equally fertile in bringing forth food for man and beast in the richest luxuriance, (the soil being so well irrigated by the joyous mountain streams, as to produce four crops of grain each season,) and he will soon satisfy himself that the Roman Catholic cantons are more wretchedly poor, more filthy, wretchedness and the inhabitants are more ignorant, more ignorant, more ignorant; while on the other, there is cleanliness, comparative competence—say, here and there, you find absolute luxury and an absence of those diseases which proceed from contagion and an elasticity, a "springiness" which you fail to perceive animating the Roman Catholic population.

TELEGRAPH FROM ENGLAND TO INDIA.—Some six months ago we copied into the Star, an announcement that "The Mediterranean Electric Telegraph Company, destined to unite England with Africa, the East Indies and Australia, by way of France, Corsica, Sardinia, and Algeria, was at length constituted with a capital of £2,000,000 divided into 30,000 shares." Since that time we had not seen or heard any thing more of this magnificent enterprise until now, when we find in the Friend of India of the 23rd ult, some very interesting particulars given under date of Feb. 24th, by the Friend's London correspondent, who is Mr. Marshman, of the London editor. He says the line is already completed from London to Genoa in Italy. A sub-line will be completed to Spezzia, in Italy, and to the island of Corsica, then to Sardinia, and the crossing the Mediterranean to Cape Rossa Sardinia, and thence to Timgier, and thus unite it to the west through Morocco and Algeria, and thus unite Gibraltar and London. To the east it is their intention to run a line along the Mediterranean Sea to Alexandria. Then they propose to carry the main line from Alexandria to Beyrout, and on to Damascus, Aleppo, Bagdad, and Bussorah, and along the shores of the Persian Gulf, till it reaches our own most westerly capital of Hydrabad. The rest is in the hands of Lord Dalhousie and Dr. O'Shaughnessy. So far as Africa and the Mediterranean are concerned, there is no doubt that it will be carried into execution immediately. As to the prospect of a daily telegraph despatch from Calcutta and Simla, and the other Indian stations, the bare contemplation of it to your own imagination. The mind is lost in astonishment, and perfectly bewildered, at the bare contemplation of such an immense undertaking. Ten years ago, it would have appeared almost ridiculously extravagant as the establishment of a communication with the moon; yet before ten years are passed, it will be familiar to our eyes.

The telegraph in India is already open 800 miles from Calcutta to Agra, and messages are transmitted this distance in two hours. In a few weeks it will be in operation all the way to the prospect now is that the 3000 miles sanctioned by the East India Company will be all completed within a year. Truly India is waking up from the sleep of ages, at least so far as the telegraph is concerned.

COFFEE LEAVES FOR TEA.—The matter of substituting a decoction of coffee leaves for the everywhere used tea, is now attracting a good deal of attention. It is said that coffee leaves are in some respects superior to tea, and that the whole native population of the island of Sumatra use the leaves, even preferring them to the coffee berry.

SAMOS.—An insurrection instigated, it is supposed, by the Russians, has occurred at this island, which is so famous in ancient history. Many of the foreign residents have been killed, and much violence was directed against the British Consulate.

SHIPPING.—The total exports of the Atlantic States for 1852 were \$164,387,147, of California alone \$62,300,339!

LETTERS TO THE BRAHMINS BY D. POOR, No. 3. I-YER-MARA.—In my second letter I invited your attention to the Levitical and ceremonial law of the ancient Israelites, which evidently bears certain resemblances to what is found in the temple laws of the Hindus.

It is the object of this third letter to direct attention to certain points contained in the first book and in the first half of the second book of Moses, as this may assist you in more fully understanding the nature and design, not only of the Levitical law and priesthood, but also of certain rites and usages found among the Hindus—the origin and import of which they seem not fully to understand. This is more especially the case in the subject treated of with some important matter of office—a subject treated of with some precision in the first of the four Vedas. The book of Genesis and half the book of Exodus, which form the first part of the Christian Scriptures, and which preceded the Law of the A. B. C., have been published in a small volume by the Mission Society and can be easily obtained at any of the mission stations. This small volume contains all the principal events which took place from the creation of the first man and woman down to the giving of the law of the ten commandments—by God himself, in a flaming fire, from Mount Sinai—a period of two thousand, hundred and thirty years. This law of the ten commandments, together with the Ceremonial Law, as they are called, were given to the birth of Jesus Christ. Adding these two sums together it will be seen that there was a period of 4004 years, from the birth of Adam to the birth of Jesus Christ. This chronological account is contained in the Bible itself, in the manner stated in the 3rd and 11th of Genesis and in some other chapters.

To show the value of the first book and a half of the Pentateuch—regarded merely as a history, I may remark, that the events which took place during 513 years from the creation of man, are not to be found in any other authentic writings of any language or country. Indeed there is no good evidence that there were any writings whatever (excepting perhaps the book of Job) either in the Egyptian, Chinese, Sanskrit or any other ancient language previous to the giving of the law 1491 B. C.

In speaking of the small volume before mentioned, which contains the first part of the Christian Bible, I beg your attention to the first verse as containing a most sublime and instructive truth, which could never have been known to man, if God himself had not revealed it, viz: "The beginning God created the heaven and the earth." This verse may be regarded as a synopsis of the first two chapters which treat of the commencement and progress of creation. By the word "beginning" we understand that there was a time when the heavens and the earth did not exist; and consequently that they are not eternal, but had a beginning. If you inquire how many years elapsed from the time in which God began to create the heavens and earth, you must frankly to the creation of the first man Adam, as revealed to us, confess that we do not know. We have reason, however, to believe that some millions of years elapsed, before those who are best acquainted with the earth, began to exist. We have reason, however, to believe, as the result of extensive and long continued examinations in different parts of the earth, that "the creation of the first vegetable and animals preceded by an immeasurable period, the creation of the existing races of animals and vegetables, and that the earliest races of animals and vegetables, after subsisting for ages perished, and their races were from time to time created, and after subsisting for long periods, in their turn perished and that this creation, destruction and succession were repeated many times, before the earth became the habitation of man."

Appropriate evidence of the truth of the foregoing statement belongs to the study of geology, which is one of the sciences taught at Barrocco and in other mission seminaries. Another surprising thing found in the first verse in the Bible is, that, in violation of the fundamental rule of syntax that "a verb must agree with its nominative in number and person," we have a nominative case in the plural number, agreeing with a verb in the singular number. The original agreeing with a verb in the singular is "God" is in the plural word Elohim, which is translated "Gods" in the plural number. If the verb also had been plural, we might think that there are more gods than one. But, as we have seen, the verb is in the singular, and we are thus brought to guard us against this error, the verb with which it agrees in the plural number, is fully accounted for, when we learn from verses 25 and 27 of the same chapter, and also from many other parts of the Bible, that though there is one only living and true God, He is the true God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Hence we learn that in the first chapter and in the very first verse of the Bible, God was graciously pleased to give an intimation of the sublime and mysterious truth of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and of the deity of the Godhead.

We do not say that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, are to be understood as mere fully understood, in proportion as we become acquainted with the wonderful plan which God has in view in carrying on, through the mediation of His Son and by the ministrations of the Holy Ghost, the redemption of our lost and ruined race, including of course as I rejoice to believe, the brahmins of the province.

—See the "Presbyterian Quarterly Review" for June 1852, page 87.

RUSSIA.—Russia cannot be invaded. It is in this her real strength consists. She has no ultima ratio, no actual conquest to dread. Europe in arms could not occupy these vast plains, and till they are occupied, the Czar loses only presents. We do not say that he may not be forced to yield, and which are forgotten amidst newspaper diatribes about injustice and tyranny.—Friend of India.

INVENTOR OF THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—The Supreme Court of the U. S. has recently decided that Prof. Morse is the original inventor of the electro-magnetic telegraph, and only in America but in the world at large he has patented rights as inventor.

EDUCATION.—The amount invested in school-houses in Boston, says the Worcester Register, is \$1,300,000. The yearly appropriations for education are \$1,200,000, while the amount raised for all other city expenses is only \$270,000.

Correspondence of the Morning Star.

MR. EDITOR.—We have in a previous article endeavored to show from historical and astronomical data, as well as from certain statements in the Puranas, that if the Vedas were composed by Vyasa the son of Parasara, they were not composed earlier than about 18 centuries after the current Calyuga. "The Hindu sagas," says Sir Wm. Jones, "are said to have delivered their knowledge orally, and the very word Smi, which we often see used for the Veda itself, means what was heard," not to insist that Culleuca expressly declares the date of the Veda to be conveyed in the language of Vyasa." This Culleuca or Culleuca Bhata in the language of an elegant commentary on Maan's Institutes, "of which it may perhaps be said very truly," adds the same learned orientalist, "that it is the shortest, yet one of the most luminous, the most ostentatious, the most instructive, the deepest, yet the most agreeable, the most judicious ever composed on any author ancient or modern, European or Asiatic." Mr. Wm. D. Whitney who is now engaged in translating the nature, as stated above, of the readings presented by the Sama-Veda, that its verses may have been first rescued from the careless custody of oral tradition and committed to writing.

If, nevertheless, it be supposed that the texts which Vyasa collected, had been actually written, in a much older dialect, by the sage preceding him, "the Ameraman or explanation" of the contents, which has been handed down with the Veda itself and of which the authority is unquestioned, enables us to conclude that the greatest possible age of the current Calyuga extends no higher than the 17th century of our era. Among the Vedic lyrics and authors, do not mention Yasishila the grand-father of our sages, in the latter part of the Rig-Veda as he is ascribed. If the 7th mandala (book) which, according to competent judges, contains 104 of the earliest hymns of the Rig-Veda, be the production of Yasishila, it is unequivocally pointed out in the Ameraman, that he cannot see how the Sivities could establish his own authority, especially to the claim by them to their sacred writings, do not occur in Menu or other ancient Hindu works of any notoriety.

In view of the above chronological deductions, if not for other and weightier reasons, let the candid reader make for his own comments upon the truthfulness of the following and similar sweeping statements of the Siva Prakasa Saha:

சகலவிதப்பலகங்களை மீட்டிடவும் வித்தொடுக்கற் றோராதற் றெல்லார்க்குமுள்ளுதற்குத் தாமதமில்லாமலாக வாங்கித்தொடர் புவனவிதம் பெரியபெருமை செல்வியல்வையுடையதற் றெல்லார்க்குமே

செல்வியல்வையுடையதற் றெல்லார்க்குமே செல்வியல்வையுடையதற் றெல்லார்க்குமே

"I shall explain how sprang into being during the current Calyuga and underwent changes, the wicked religion treated in the Bible which is believed as true by a few men of the fellows who have never acquired into and comprehended the truth of Sivasans, namely the excellent Nigamas (Vedas) and Agamas which stand untroubled by even a single change and which indifferently numerous Yugas have rolled back." It is indeed to be hoped that the Sahee read the Vedas and Agamas themselves, without depending upon hearsay and epitomizers, though the following precepts of Menu declare to the contrary: "One principal duty, the before mentioned class, is to attend to the precepts of their worth." "Attendance on Brahmins is pronounced the best work of a Sudra: whatever else he may perform will comparatively avail him nothing." "A Sudra who neglects his duties, who quarrels, becomes a fool embodied spirit cast off from the protection of his shastras, the learned Sahee will acknowledge, if they are candid enough, that the higher they ascend into antiquity, the nearer they come to the pure simple doctrines of the Bible. Yours truly, SATTIA VEASAL.

March 21st 1854.

FAMILY GOVERNMENT.—Doubtless the accompanying piece extracted from the English Clarionian will be deemed suitable to appear in the columns of the Morning Star. The subject is one of great importance. Yours truly, GAMMA.

WHAT FAMILY GOVERNMENT IS.—It is not to watch children with a suspicious eye; to frown at their merry outbursts of innocent hilarity; to suppress their joyous laughter, and to mould them into melancholy little models of obsequious gravity. And when they have been in fault, it is not to punish them simply on account of the personal injury that you may be deemed to suffer in consequence of their fault; but to be obedient, unattended by inconvenience to yourself, passes without rebuke.

Nor is it to overwhelm the little culprit with a flood of angry reproof; to smite him with a deafening noise; to call him hard names, which do not express his misdeeds; to load him with epithets, which would be extravagant if applied to a fault of ten-fold enormity; or to declare war, passionate vehemence that he is the worst child in the village, and destined to the gallows.

But it is to watch anxiously for the first risings of sin, and to repress them; to counteract the earliest workings of selfishness; to suppress the first beginnings of rebellion against rightful authority; to teach an implicit and unquestioning and cheerful obedience to the will of the parent; and the requirements for a future allegiance to the commands of the great Ruler and Father of the universe.

It is to punish a fault because it is a fault; because it is sinful and contrary to the commands of God; without reticence to whether it may or may not have been productive of immediate injury to the parent or to others; and not with angry irritations; in a few words, fifty chosen, and not with a torrent of abuse; to punish as often as you threaten, and

here only when you both intend, and can remember to perform; to say what you mean, and infidelity to do as you say.

It is to govern your family as in the sight of Him, who gave you your authority; who will reward your strict fidelity with such blessings as he bestowed on Abraham, or punish your criminal neglect with such curses as he visited on Eli.

To the Editor of the Morning Star.

SIR—Being fully persuaded that it is a duty incumbent upon every member of civil society to seize every opportunity of introducing to the notice of the public through the medium of the press, those events of importance which fall within his observation, I hasten to send these few lines, hoping that they will not be uninteresting to the public and all scientific men.

A comet was observed on the 7th inst. about 7 o'clock, P. M., on the western horizon. Its elevation was about 16 degrees, 30 minutes; and between Orion and Pleiades (the elevation of Orion's belt was about 40 degrees and Pleiades 20 degrees). The comet appears to be small, its light is feeble. Its tail slightly inclined to the north, indicating that its present course is W., with a slight inclination to the South. It is almost invisible to the naked eye. I regret the want of a telescope and other instruments which precluded the possibility of making a closer or more correct observation of this luminary. I should be glad if any of your readers have made ample observations, and if they will give them more elaborately in your paper, in which they will be perused with pleasure and profit, and by none more so than by

Yours obediently,  
J. P. DENISE.

Batticaloa, April 10, 1854.

The comet was observed on several successive evenings at Maneply but the increasing light of the moon was unfavorable for a clear view of the stranger.

To THOMAS S. BURNELL, Esq.

SIR—I humbly take the opportunity to present you these few lines with firm hopes of obtaining your approbation and satisfaction for my allusion. That on my perusing the Morning Star of the 23rd ultimo, I found there is a Malabar word in the paragraph which treats the war between Russia and Turkey is mentioned. Instead of the word Turkey, it appears as Tuluker, which appellation, although it literally appertains to the Musselm tribe, yet the Turks cannot be named with it, because they are the people of high authority and dignity from this tribe, and their name itself is derived from the Arabic, whereupon it is reasonable to surmise that those who find out the said word "Tuluker" in their reading the Morning Star will have a notion to consider it as dishonoring the people of dignity.

I therefore firmly hope that you will be kindly pleased to erase the word Tuluker and substitute the word *appala* not *appala*.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,  
SAMAT SURAT SANTANA, Residing at New Moor Street in Colombo, House No. 132.  
Colombo, April 10, 1854.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE Tricomanial Friend-in-Need Society, held on the 2nd March, 1854, at 7 P. M., being the 15th Anniversary of the formation of the Society.

Proposed by the Rev. John Walton, and seconded by Mr. Hall—That Colonel Cochrane be requested to preside at this meeting.

2nd—Proposed by Capt. Higgs, R. N., and seconded by Mr. Colomb—That the Report now read be received and adopted.

3rd—Proposed by the Rev. J. Walton, and seconded by Mr. Redlich—That under a grateful sense of the benefits which the Friend-in-Need Society has rendered to the poor and afflicted at Trincomalee, this meeting pledges itself to continue in administering to their necessities.

4th—Proposed by Mr. W. Winn, and seconded by Mr. Dombors—That the thanks of this meeting be offered to the officers and members of the Managing Committee, for their services during the past year, and that the following gentlemen be elected officers and members of the Committee for the ensuing year: Col. Buxey, Commandant, President; the Rev. J. Walton, Secretary; W. G. Hill, Esq., Treasurer; Rev. S. O. Glenn, Rev. J. C. Mola, Col. Cochrane, Capt. Higgs, Messrs. Gibson, Redlich, Covington, Crispin, C. L. Markar, Mathis, Colomb and Camagaratna, Members of the Committee and Visitors.

5th—Proposed by Thos. Craven, Esq., and seconded by Mr. P. Mathis—That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to His Excellency the Governor, for the government grants of £15 to the Friend-in-Need Society, and of £5 in aid of the hospital supported by it, and that the chairman be requested to submit a respectful application for a portion of the grant voted by the Legislative Council in support of charitable institutions for the year 1854.

6th—Proposed by Mr. Covington, and seconded by Mr. Camagaratna—That the editors of the Ceylon newspapers be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting, and the report just read, in their respective newspapers; and that a limited number of copies of the report be printed at the Maneply Press in English and in Tamil for distribution.

7th—Proposed by Mr. Gibson, and seconded by Mr. C. L. Marcar, chief Modeller—That the thanks of this meeting be offered to Colonel Cochrane for presiding over the same.

(Signed) G. COCHRANE, Chairman.  
WM. HALL, Secretary.

For want of room we defer the report—shall probably give it in our next.—ED. M. S.

DEFENCES OF COLOMBO.—The Observer is calling the attention of the authorities of Colombo to the defences of the place, and it, think it is not an impossible thing that the Russian squadron, now in these eastern seas, should desire to signalize itself before it is captured, as it probably will be soon after the war fairly begins.

TELEGRAPHS IN THE U. S.—The first telegraph in America was established in 1844, between Washington City and Baltimore. In Nov. last, less than ten years from the beginning, there were 27,600 miles in operation and 10,900 miles more were building!

Snake Bites.

The following is from "The Sheet Almanac" of the Colombo Observer, and is worthy the attention of all. We presume it is by Dr. Elliott. The information there is in it we consider worth more than the subscription price of the Star for a year, the trifling sum of two shillings. Why will not then many of our Tamil readers urge it upon their friends to take the Star and thus diffuse such and other equally important information abroad among this people? If your friend cannot raise the money, tell him to stop chewing betel leaf and tobacco; and he will soon save money enough to come to 2s., the required sum. Multitudes of poor people in this country expend at least two chollies a day in chewing or in smoking. Well, save this and in seven weeks you can pay for the Morning Star which will give you food for the mind a year.

Many persons die in this country from snake bites, although there are no very serious accidents from which less danger need be apprehended than from snake-bites if they are only treated in a proper, common-sense manner.

The natives generally suppose that almost every snake they see is poisonous, although there are only three or four kinds that are so. By their external appearance the poisonous snakes are easily known from those that are harmless, but the great distinction between them is in the teeth. The teeth of the harmless snakes are all of the same length; but poisonous snakes have one or two long teeth at both sides of the upper jaw.

On close examination these long teeth are found to be hollow so that a hair may be passed through them from the root to the point.

Near to the root of the tooth is the poison bag, so that when the snake bites, the bag is squeezed, and the poison runs through the canal in the tooth into the wound made by the point.

It is therefore evident that a snake bite is nothing more or less than a poisoned wound, and ought to be treated in the same manner.

Some savage people poison their arrows, as the Malays do their creeses; and it is well known that the only cure for wounds from these weapons is cutting out the piece or burning the part with a hot iron, or some such thing, unless the wound is too deep.

It would therefore be just as useless to give medicines in the case of a poisoned wound from an arrow or a creese, as in the case of a snake bite.

The poison being placed in the wound by the snake's tooth mixes with the blood, and in a longer or shorter time produces its effects. It is not, however, always fatal, and when it is not, recovery is erroneously attributed to whatever happens to have been done. Hence the number of so called remedies which we hear of; but all that can be said in such cases is that the patients have recovered after the medicines—not being well done.

What then does reason tell us ought to be done. Is it not:

1st. That a cord of some kind should be tied tightly round the limb or other part above the wound if possible, so as to prevent the poison getting into the general blood of the body before the next and important step is taken, that is,

2dly. To pinch up the skin with one hand and cut out the little piece with a knife held in the other hand. On this being done often depends the life of the sufferer, so that no body—man or woman—ought to hesitate to do it for him, or if he cannot do it, persuade no body else to do it for him, he ought to do it for himself.

The pain from a snake bite is often very great, so that the person hardly feels the cut of the knife and in a few minutes after the piece has been cut out the pain from the bite subsides, and the patient expresses his relief. If the cut only gave relief from the pain it would be worth making; but in addition to this it will seldom or never fail to save life.

Take a few examples: Two washermen in Colpetty were lately bitten by the same snake and died; so also did a man who was bitten at Borella. But just about the same time my own horse became running to me to say he was bitten by a cobra and was in great pain. Two little pieces of skin were immediately cut out where the two teeth of the snake had struck him, and in a few minutes he walked away free from pain. A coolie was carried in to my house one night having been bitten in the toe by a snake. The pain was most intense all up his leg; but on my cutting out a small piece where the skin was scratched, he was soon able to walk home. About the same time a gentleman's horse-keeper was bitten; but was not brought to me for one or two hours. I feared it was too late, but still cut out the piece, and next day he was as well as ever.

I could mention numerous cases of the same sort, but confine myself to these three cases where life was saved by common-sense treatment, because they contrast so favorably with the three cases that proved fatal about the same time notwithstanding medicines. I may add that I am now twenty years in this country, and never saw a case of snake bite that did not recover when the part was cut out.

There is no difficulty in the operation—any body who has courage enough may do it—or a person may do it for himself. It is only necessary to pinch up the skin and cut off the little piece, wherever the tooth of the snake has scratched. If you want to cut out the piece neatly, lift up the skin on the point of a pin and cut it off with a knife.

There need be no fear of the bleeding, as none of the large blood-vessels which there is a danger of being wounded are at all near the surface. God has taken care to place them so deep as to be far out of the reach of a knife on such occasions. There is a very foolish dread of bleeding amongst the people of this country; but who ever hears of danger from bleeding except when a person's throat is cut, or some such wound.

Therefore, whenever a snake bites, use no time but cut out the piece or pieces with the first knife that comes to your hand—and have no fear except the fear of not cutting out enough.

MINNESOTA.—The territory of Minnesota is about four times the size of the state of Ohio, extending over an area of 105,000,000 of acres!

OVERLAND INTELLIGENCE.

We have foreign dates down to the 8th ultimo. At that time the greatest activity prevailed in sending off troops and supplies for the prosecution of the war. Word had been sent by England and France to the Czar that if his troops were not withdrawn from the Danubian provinces within a certain number of days, it would be considered a declaration of war, the

We extract several items, chiefly from the London correspondence of the Colombo Observer, as follows:

Sir C. Napier is appointed Admiral of the Baltic Fleet, which will consist of eighty-nine sail of the line—50 English and 39 French. It will convey four regiments of soldiers to the purpose of securing some fortresses in the North Sea. The second division for the East will number 10,000 men. Austria has joined the Western powers on their undertaking to aid her in case of a "rise" in Hungary or Italy. She desires, however, to take no active part which will bring her into collision with Russia. The Czar has issued a manifesto to his people informing them that England and France have joined to fight against Christianity, but he trusts to the same prowess which Russia exhibited in 1812, to defend them. The opinion is gaining ground that it would be politic to assist Poland to regain her individuality. In Parliament the most important matter is the Chancellor's budget. The position of the country was £2,854,000 better than was expected. Lord John Russell created general surprise by postponing the second reading of his Reform Bill to April 27, on account of the new question. Mr. Lucas moved that Roman Catholic chaplains should hold service on board the ships which take out the troops, but Sir J. Graham said the religion of the country was Protestant.

FRANCE.—The Emperor opened the assembly with a speech in which he showed how the interest of France in the Eastern question was as great as that of England. The government has issued a circular, declining all responsibility in the present war—that Russia has brought it entirely on herself.

AUSTRIA will shortly issue a manifesto, proclaiming her course as regards Russia and Turkey.

Prussia.—There has been no official publication of the policy to be adopted in the present juncture, but no doubt is entertained of Prussia's adherence to the western powers.

ITALY.—Bread riots in the Papal states.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.—The fleets are still in the Bosphorus. Some steamers are about to convey 16,000 more troops to Batoum. Constantinople is in a state of no excitement of any importance has taken place on the Danube. Attention is drawn to Kalafat as the probable scene of the first battle. The Russian Baltic fleet consists of 27 line of battle ships—all in the gulf of Finland. At Odessa there is breaking up and a camp is forming near the town. The Czar has prohibited the exportation of any more grain, and desires Prussia to prevent her ports supplying the fleets with coal which she refuse to do.

The Emperor Nicholas and his family have left St. Petersburg to take up their temporary residence in the city of Warsaw, where the Czar hopes that he will be able to exercise his influence more effectually against Prussia and Austria.

The blasphemous manifesto of the Northern Alliance to his people has excited detestation. If any thing were wanting to add strength of nerve in the hour of battle, it is the conviction that it is in a righteous cause that Britain's sons, hand in hand with the gallant French, put forth their might to crush out and forever this disturber of the peace of the world.

AMERICA.—The subject of absorbing political interest in the United States was the "Nebraska bill," before Congress, by which it is proposed to overtake the "Missouri Compromise" which forever excluded slavery in all new territory above the line of 36 degrees and 30 minutes N. Lat. We earnestly hope the infamous bill will not pass, but have our fears. The Pope's Nuncio, Bedini, has left the U. S., but secretly for fear of the indignation of the European emigrants who were much excited against the "butcher" as he was called.

RAILROADS.—Hunt's Merchants' Magazine furnishes an interesting comparative statement of the number of miles of railway now in operation in various countries. The total number of miles in operation upon the surface of the globe is 29,606; of which 15,436 miles are situated in the Eastern Hemisphere, and 14,170 are in the Western, distributed as follows:

|                          | Miles. | Miles.     |       |
|--------------------------|--------|------------|-------|
| In the United States     | 13,386 | In France  | 1,831 |
| In the British provinces | 174    | In Belgium | 532   |
| In the Island of Cuba    | 359    | In Russia  | 422   |
| In Panama                | 22     | In Sweden  | 75    |
| In South America         | 30     | In Italy   | 170   |
| In Great Britain         | 6,976  | In Spain   | 60    |
| In Germany               | 5,240  | In Prussia | 30    |

The longest railway in the world is the New York and Erie, which is 467 miles in length.

SHIPPING NEWS.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.—April 11—Arrived Brig Mohenny Box, S. Mervial, from Colombo and Pamban April 7 and 10, bound for Trincomalee and Batticaloa, cargo suites, passengers Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Young, 3 children, 1 servant, and 4 natives. Sailed April 16 for Trincomalee and Batticaloa, passengers as above.

April 13.—Arrived Brig Hostil, Manuallilay, from Cochín and Pamban March 27 and April 12, bound for Madras, cargo sundries, passengers S. E. Sexton, Esq., Mr. Chas. M. Mitchell, and 4 natives. Sailed April 15 for Madras, passengers as above.

April 16.—Arrived Brig Artillereraltalchmy, J. Fernando, from Colombo and Pamban, April 12 and 15, passengers Charles P. Esq.

POINT PEDRO.—April 6.—Arrived Boat Mahamad Sandany, from Batticaloa and Trincomalee March 31 and April 3, passengers Mr. and Mrs. Gordon and servants. Sailed April 11 for Batticaloa, passengers Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Nicholas and servants.

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