

STAMP COLLECTING.

ITS CONNEXION WITH POSTAL REVENUES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

A circular despatch issued from the Colonial Office, and reproduced in the Straits Times from the Selangor Government Gazette, sets forth that Lord Ripon's attention has been called to the practice of issuing surcharged postage stamps, and to the temptations which it affords to postmasters and treasurers and other public officers of making "irregular profits" by dealing with stamp collectors and others. The despatch points out that "if proper care is taken to maintain a sufficient supply of stamps the practice of surcharging is unnecessary, and should never be resorted to unless absolutely required for the convenience of the public."

ago, they had a further issue. The new stamps were properly engraved, instead of being merely printed, and now, of course, the wholesale dealers are sending for the "new issue" as well. For every stamp actually used in the islands for postal purposes 100 or 200 are despatched abroad, and the sale of the 100 or 200 represents no actual postal work at all. Indeed, it is even said the receipts from this source alone are sufficient to cover all the expenses of governing the islands. In one respect, however, the new stamps have brought trouble on the people. The design chosen included a portrait of the native Sovereign, Queen Makia, and intimation has been sent from the home authorities that, inasmuch as there is a British protectorate over the islands, the use of a portrait of the native Queen on the stamps cannot be allowed. But according to recent reports the islanders are enthusiastic over the matter, and are even prepared to get up a revolution against Great Britain rather than submit! What will happen remains to be seen; but in the meantime they are selling their postage stamps at a greater rate than ever.

ECCLESIASTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE MEDICAL MISSION IN PONDOLAND.

The Rev. F. W. Sutton, M.R.C.S., has sent to the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge a letter describing the work of the Medical Mission in Pondoland, which the grants from the society enabled the Bishop of St. John's, Kaffraria, to set on foot. Mr. Sutton says that from the first the attitude of the Pondos towards the mission has been very friendly, and they were not slow to take advantage of the opportunity of getting the services of a European doctor. He thinks that by degrees the people will learn the folly of sacrificing their cattle and consulting their "witch doctors," as they gradually understand that disease can be traced to rational causes. Mr. Sutton then proceeds:—One of the earliest to come under treatment was the Paramount chief himself. For some three or four years past he has been an abstainer from British spirits—one of the curses of this country; but he had indulged freely for some considerable time previously, and to the end of his life will suffer from time to time in consequence. Twice during the last eight months he has been under treatment, and he appreciates the attention that he has received. The numbers applying for medical attendance have steadily increased from the first, and over 100 have been treated during the last three months, apart from those who have come only for vaccination. A few surgical cases have been under treatment at the mission as in-patients, but various difficulties occur to make the treatment of them unsatisfactory. The work in connexion with the mission dispensary has, I think, amply justified its existence already, and will become still more useful as time goes on. With a people not naturally religious, as some other heathen nations are, some external aid is a great help, if not at times an absolute necessity, in paving the way for the introduction of Christian teaching; and we may surely hope and pray that amongst the Pondos, as amongst other heathen tribes, the healing art may prove itself to be "the right hand of the Church."

DR. RAINY ON DISESTABLISHMENT.

On Wednesday the Rev. Principal Rainy delivered the closing address of the session at the Free Church College, Edinburgh. He said that the religious life of Scotland was bound up mainly with its Presbyterianism. He would say nothing depreciatory of the Scottish Episcopal Church, but he must add that—in so far as its influence and growth had consisted in the alienation of a large section of their gentry from the religious ordinances and the religious fellowship of their humbler neighbours—it constituted one of their calamities, and he took leave to think a calamity which injured first and most that class itself. As to the three Presbyterian bodies, it was not inconceivable that the declared grounds of separation between them might somehow be removed, but he could not entertain the idea of a future united Presbyterianism on the Established Church basis. That would mean that as much of Scottish Presbyterianism as could be got to take the course should peril its life upon a permanent contest with the strongest forces of the age, with the instinct of political justice and religious equality, and therefore that it must enter into an alliance growing ever closer with some political party prepared to undertake the cause. To him it had always seemed that this prospect carried with it responsibilities of the most serious nature, and constituted one of the plainest practical reasons for avoiding all projects of that kind. Disestablishment would end the temptation or compulsion which turned the organization of a Scottish Church into electioneering machinery for a political party.

A NONCONFORMIST CHURCHWARDEN.

On Tuesday a special Easter meeting of the Bermondsey Vestry was held for the election of churchwardens and sidesmen, and for other business. For the office of people's warden Mr. Ambrose Pomeroy, a Wesleyan Methodist, was proposed. Mr. J. Dumphreys, who nominated Mr. Dyer, urged that, though Non-conformists were not ineligible, it was not desirable to appoint one, seeing that he would have no sympathy with the Church as an establishment, nor with the work carried on there. Mr. Glanville supported Mr. Pomeroy, and hoped the vestry would demonstrate its opinion of the State connexion. Mr. Pomeroy, having been elected by a large majority, said he regarded the parish church as the property of the parishioners, and considered he was elected to look after the interests of the people in connexion with the affairs of the Church. He was opposed to the State connexion, but it was not correct to say he had no sympathy with the religious work of the Church. Mr. Pomeroy nominated, and the vestry subsequently elected, Mr. Henry Hall and Mr. J. W. Paddon as sidesmen. Mr. Hall is a member of the United Methodist Free Church and is a well-known agent of the Liberation Society.

WORDSWORTH'S GRAVE.

At Carlisle Consistory Court on Wednesday, Colonel William Crosbie Siddons Mair, of Whitewash Cottage, Grassmere, and his wife, who is granddaughter of the poet William Wordsworth, applied to have a portion of ground in Grassmere churchyard adjoining the poet's grave reserved for them. By an Order in Council, Grassmere churchyard will be closed for interments with certain exceptions this week. A number of inhabitants opposed the application, chiefly on the ground that the graves of Colonel and Mrs. Mair would not come within the terms of the exceptions specified, as they were new graves. Applicants said if the space could be preserved the old wall which now leans and prevents people from going round Wordsworth's grave would be made perpendicular, and a footpath provided between the wall and the Wordsworth burying-ground. Chancellor Ferguson, after hearing arguments on both sides, agreed to grant the faculty on the understanding that the applicants would apply to the Home Office with the view of ascertaining whether the proposed reservation space in question came within the terms of the exceptions to the Order in Council.

On Tuesday afternoon the Bishop of Lichfield was presented with a cope, subscribed for by the Churchmen of the diocese for himself and his successors, and costing £500.

The memorial stone of the new English Church of St. George and St. Boniface, Freiburg im Breisgau, was laid last week by the Hereditary Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. J. Treble, chaplain, and there were present, besides the English colony, many of the local authorities, civil and military. About two-thirds of the money has now been collected, and there remains a debt of about £600 to be incurred.

The church is in early Gothic style, and is vested in the S.P.G.

Bishop Hornby, who left Sunderland little more than a year ago to take spiritual charge of Nyaaland, is said to be returning home seriously ill. Mr. W. Cowey, a Sunderland volunteer who accompanied him, has died from fever.

The Rev. A. W. Whitechurch, late minister of the Congregational Church, Ivybridge, has been received into the communion of the Church of England. The Rev. D. Parry Jenkins, who has resigned the charge of Oakhampton Congregational Church, is about to enter the Church of England.

A special meeting of the members of the Metropolitan Tabernacle last week elected as permanent successor to the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon his son, the Rev. Thomas Spurgeon, who has occupied the pulpit for eight months on probation. No amendment was proposed. For the resolution there voted 2,027, and against 649. The total membership numbers over 5,000.

A series of conferences has been held between representative members of the Scottish Congregational Union and the Evangelical Union of Scotland with a view to the amalgamation of those bodies. A basis of agreement having been unanimously accepted, reports will be submitted to the approaching assemblies of both bodies, and, if approved, sent to the various churches interested in the amalgamation.

The Rev. Alexander Francis, who for the past five years has been minister of the British and American Congregational Church at St. Petersburg, has tendered his resignation and will return to England in August. During his residence in St. Petersburg Mr. Francis and his church largely co-operated with the Russian Government in various schemes, more especially in connexion with the famine relief.

The University of Glasgow has intimated its intention to confer the degree of D.D. upon the Rev. J. G. Fraser, warden of Camden Congregational College, Sydney. Dr. Fraser graduated at Glasgow in 1864.

It is proposed to remove the Presbyterian College from London to Cambridge.

About £7,000 has been subscribed in about six weeks to restore the church of St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, which was so severely injured in the gale of February 11th.

A committee has been formed to raise the sum of £500 for the purpose of restoring the tower of St. Nicholas Church, Deptford, one of the most ancient churches in the kingdom.

THE MATABELE CAMPAIGN.

THE FATE OF WILSON'S PARTY.

The High Commissioner is closely investigating through the officers on the spot the alleged robbery through Lobengula's messengers by two Bechuanaland Police Troopers. The result, so far, throws great doubt on the statement that these men or any other had messages of submission from the King. Neither of the accused troopers understands the Matabele tongue. Every effort is being made to find the natives from whom the money is said to have been stolen. It is thought possible that the King may have sent money to propitiate the white men, but there is as yet no proof of this.

Major Forbes arrived at Plymouth on Monday in the Grantully Castle from Cape Town. Several representatives of the Press waited upon him, but he declined to say anything regarding the war, remarking that he must first confer with the Chartered Company. He stated, however, that if it was proved that two troopers had stolen the £1,000 which Lobengula is alleged to have sent as an acknowledgment of defeat, the men would be, and deserved to be, severely punished—probably shot.

Captain A. G. Finch, Major Forbes's staff officer, has also arrived in England. Asked for information regarding Dr. Jameson's report concerning the alleged fraudulent retention of a thousand pounds in gold brought by Lobengula's messengers, Captain Finch replied:—

"I first heard of the matter at Madeira, but in the light of Dr. Jameson's report certain incidents acquire great significance. Shortly before Forbes's column reached the banks of the Shangani, at a point about five miles from the bank, two men flanking on the right reported the spoor of horses and natives coming to meet us as from the river. Mr. Colenbrander at once went out to examine the spoor, and declared it to be that of two horses and 20 or 30 men. Later on, just before reaching the river, we captured two prisoners, one of whom stated that an Induna on horseback with a despatch from Lobengula had been sent to meet us. The man's story was discredited, as no messenger had been seen. Lobengula undoubtedly had plenty of gold and silver with him, as he carried all his money away from Bulawayo, and, taking everything into consideration, I think there is not much doubt that there is something in the reports which have reached Dr. Jameson."

A Reuter despatch from Cape Town says that before sailing for England, Major Forbes spoke of the disaster to Wilson's party. Wilson's orders, he said, were simply to go forward reconnoitring and to return before dark. On learning from him that he had found out where Lobengula was and that he intended to wait for the column, Major Forbes sent Captain Borrow with 20 men to reinforce Wilson, being quite satisfied that with 35 men Wilson was safe, and he left it entirely to his discretion to make an effort to secure the King if he thought it feasible with the extra men. Borrow and the others joined Wilson before daybreak, not having seen any of the enemy on their way. After a general consultation, Wilson decided to attack the King without waiting for the column to come up. "Wilson's party were in no danger up to this point, and could either have retired on me," said Major Forbes, "or have taken up a position in the bush. Their danger began in attacking the King's party in the first instance, and was increased by their losing two horses in the first attack. But for this I see no reason why after their attack failed they should not have escaped."

A letter has been received from Bulawayo, dated January 25, in which the writer says:—"On Sunday I went to a place 12 miles or so away to see Chalk, who is stationed out there in charge of about 30 police. Chalk had just heard from a Matabele, who was at the right where Wilson's patrol was cut up, a full description of it. He said that just at daybreak the enemy closed in on the patrol and began firing on them. Wilson's party tried to make a rush two or three times, but there were too many to get through. The patrol only had about 50 rounds of ammunition per man, which they soon ran through, and then the firing stopped. The Matabele, thinking this to be a ruse, waited for nearly two hours, and at last crept up and looked over the dead horses, and there they saw the white men lying, all either dead or wounded. Those that were wounded pulled out their revolvers and shot several Kaffirs, and with the last bullet they shot themselves. Those who had no revolvers put their hands over their eyes and lay so till they were killed—never spoke a word or asked for mercy. The native who told Chalk said that white men died beautifully. Sir J. Willoughby and Giffard have just returned to camp from trying to find the remains of Captain Williams, who was shot coming in with the column. They got a boy, who had been there at the time, to take them straight to where he was killed, and found his bones. This boy also described the fight with Wilson's patrol, exactly as Chalk's boy did, but he says that long after all the others were down, one very tall man with a moustache (and he described his dress) stood up. A wounded man loaded for him and he kept on firing for about a quarter of an hour, and every time he fired he killed a Kaffir. They kept shooting at him, too, but could not kill him, though they saw the blood running from his clothes. At last he fell. From the boy's description it must have been poor Allan Wilson. Once between the attacks, when the Matabele had fallen back, the men all stood up and took off their hats and sang."

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 The large number of old Canada 12d, somewhere near 50,000 in number were burnt by order of the Dept. in 1854, and very few were issued.
 Stamp dealers who wish advertising space in several leading philatelic journals in exchange for stamps should write to Jos. L. Munson, care Lock Box 424, Ottawa.

We have received from P. Chalmers, Esq., Wimbledon, Eng., a complete resume of his father's claim to the invention of the adhesive stamp, which with the claims of Sir Rowland Hill will be reviewed in our next.
 The supply of official stamps in the U. S. departments are entirely exhausted. These stamps have not been in use for some time. The War dept. stamps were returned to the P. O. dept. for cancellation, and the Navy dept. stamps were destroyed.
 Half of a 2ct. stamp, used for a local posted letter in Canada is in our possession on entire envelope. No mistake about it, as we received it ourselves. The place it was sent from is a village and only one stamp was cut. The other half is now in the possession of a collector. Both are on entire envelopes with postmark distinctly over the cut half on the envelope.

Social Gossip.
 Rev. E. W. Sibbald Worthy Grand Chaplain of the S. O. E., and late rector of Christ Church, Belleville, has been united in matrimony with Miss Edith, daughter of W. A. Hungerford, Esq., of Madoc. The bride is an accomplished young lady.
 Madame Albani, the Canadian prima donna sang before the Prince and Princess of Wales at Manchester lately, and received their royal congratulations. The Bishop of Manchester's daughter joined Albani in a duet from Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise."

The Prince of Wales had one of his coat-tails torn off by a wagon while crossing a London street; the occurrence was cabled to America, and *Modern Society* says the next day four hundred American swells were in the streets with one coat-tail apiece.
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STAMP COLLECTING.

ITS CONNEXION WITH POSTAL REVENUES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

A circular despatch issued from the Colonial Office, and reproduced in the Straits Times from the Singapore Government Gazette, sets forth that Lord Ripon's attention has been called to the practice of issuing surcharged postage stamps, and to the temptations which it affords to postmasters and treasurers and other public officers of making "irregular profits" by dealing with stamp collectors and others. The despatch points out that "if proper care is taken to maintain a sufficient supply of stamps the practice of surcharging is unnecessary, and should never be resorted to unless absolutely required for the convenience of the public."

ago, they had a further issue. The new stamps were properly engraved, instead of being merely printed, and now, of course, the wholesale dealers are sending for the "new issue" as well. For every stamp actually used in the islands for postal purposes 100 or 200 are despatched abroad, and the sale of the 100 or 200 represents no actual postal work at all. Indeed, it is even said the receipts from this source alone are sufficient to cover all the expenses of governing the islands. In one respect, however, the new stamps have brought trouble on the people. The design chosen included a portrait of the native Sovereign, Queen Makia, and intimation has been sent from the home authorities that, inasmuch as there is a British protectorate over the islands, the use of a portrait of the native Queen on the stamps cannot be allowed. But according to recent reports the islanders are enthusiastic over the matter, and are even prepared to get up a revolution against Great Britain rather than submit! What will happen remains to be seen; but in the meantime they are selling their postage stamps at a greater rate than ever.

The experiences of Samoa and Tonga have been much the same—first the issue of stamps for legitimate purposes, then a rush from the wholesale dealers, and next the issue of new and specially attractive specimens in the interests of the local revenue. In the same way South American Republics, such as Nicaragua, San Salvador, Ecuador, and Honduras, are issuing new series of postage stamps almost every year. Many of the native States of India, too, are endeavouring to keep their exchequers in a healthy condition at the expense of the postage-stamp collectors. Faridkot, one of the Sikh Cis-Sutlej States, south-east of Ferozpur, with an area of about 640 square miles and a population of 115,000, has issued 360 varieties of postage stamps, post-cards, and stamped envelopes since the year 1877. Even where the same design has been kept to, the changes have been rung on perforated and unperforated, oblong and square; and, of course, the Western enthusiast must have one of every kind. To suppose that all these variations have been rendered necessary by the actual requirements of the letter-writing public of Faridkot would be absurd. Of the other native States in India which have gone in for the same profitable business, some are not so very much larger than Hyde Park; yet they, too, will have their fresh issue of, say, a dozen different varieties every eighteen months or two years. Persia has also entered into the business, and there seems some ground for supposing that even France has yielded to the temptation. It is not long since one set of stamps was considered sufficient for all the French colonies; but now every one of 18 colonies, even including such a place as Obock, has a complete set of about 13 of its own, the name of the colony being printed across the face of each stamp. Some of the higher values are probably never used in the colonies at all; but a collector of French stamps would not have his collection complete until he had every stamp for every colony—that is to say, 234 altogether. Hence, whatever may be the case in the colonies themselves, there is a steady demand for them in Paris and London.

The possible excuse that the changes which take place in the almost unceasing issue of new stamps are rendered necessary by the wearing out of the dies is not accepted by the publisher of Vindin's Stamp-Trade Journal, the latest addition to British periodical literature of this class. Mr. Vindin, who himself comes from Sydney, declares that the dies used for the 3d. and 5d. New South Wales stamps have been in use for 40 years and are still being employed. He estimates that any one die for a small country should last at least 20 years.

Reference has already been made to the fact that the element of beauty of design is carefully studied in many of the new issues, for the express purpose, among other objects, of pleasing the eye of stamp-collectors, or of persons in any degree likely to catch the contagion. The palm in this respect is taken by the latest stamps of the North Borneo Company. These stamps, which are produced in London, are simply exquisite, and it is declared by those competent to judge that there has never before been any engraving of the kind that is equal to the artistic merit and workmanship of these little letter labels. The sale of them in London alone during the first six weeks of the present year is estimated by the wholesale dealers to have brought in about £2,000. One of the fraternity is known to have bought a supply costing £800, and another invested £400, so that two dealers had £1,200 between them. On the day of their issue 100 complete sets were sold on the London Stock Exchange—most of them, probably, to persons who were not actual collectors, but bought them on account of their beauty.

The profits of issuing postage stamps which, sold at their face value, are not called upon to represent any letter-carrying whatever must be enormous. The average cost of engraving and preparing a plate for a sheet of from 50 to 250 stamps may be put down at about £200. But the original cost of production is frequently covered by the sales during the first month, and after that the further cost is only about sixpence or so for the printing of each sheet. Yet every stamp on that sheet may realize anything from a halfpenny to five shillings or more, and may, too, except as regards a very small proportion, never be seen again by the postal authorities. It is no wonder that so many colonies, States, or countries should be thus turning the stamp-collecting mania to account; and, although they may not be able to increase the stock of such Mauritius stamps as those which changed hands in London recently at the price of £870 for two, they are evidently resolved that there shall be no lack of temptation offered to collectors in the way of new and artistic varieties.

On Monday evening at about 9 30 a new comet was discovered by Mr. Denning, of Bristol. It was small and faint, and exhibited a short fan-shaped tail. The position of the comet was at Right Ascension 9h. 55min., Declination north 32deg., and its motion was directed to the E.S.E., at the daily rate of nearly one degree. The sixth magnitude star 20 Leonis Minoris was about 15 minutes of arc north of the comet.

ECCLESIASTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE MEDICAL MISSION IN PONDOLAND.

The Rev. F. W. Sutton, M.R.C.S., has sent to the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge a letter describing the work of the Medical Mission in Pondoland, which the grants from the Society enabled the Bishop of St. John's, Kaffraria, to set on foot. Mr. Sutton says that from the first the attitude of the Pondos towards the mission has been very friendly, and they were not slow to take advantage of the opportunity of getting the services of a European doctor. He thinks that by degrees the people will learn the folly of sacrificing their cattle and consulting their "witch doctors," as they gradually understand that disease can be traced to rational causes. Mr. Sutton then proceeds:—One of the earliest to come under treatment was the paramount chief himself. For some three or four years past he has been an abstainer from British spirits—one of the curses of this country; but he had indulged freely for some considerable time previously, and to the end of his life will suffer from time to time in consequence. Twice during the last eight months he has been under treatment, and he appreciates the attention that he has received. The numbers applying for medical attendance have steadily increased from the first, and over 100 have been treated during the last three months, apart from those who have come only for vaccination. A few surgical cases have been under treatment at the mission as in-patients, but various difficulties occur to make the treatment of them unsatisfactory. The work in connexion with the mission dispensary has, I think, amply justified its existence already, and will become still more useful as time goes on. With a people not naturally religious, as some other heathen nations are, some external aid is a great help, if not at times an absolute necessity, in paving the way for the introduction of Christian teaching; and we may surely hope and pray that amongst the Pondos, as amongst other heathen tribes, the healing art may prove itself to be "the right hand of the Church." . . . With regard to the question—and it is a very important one—as to how far the medical work has had or is likely to have any direct and tangible result in winning the people from heathenism, I think we can speak hopefully. The most regular and frequent attendance at our services for the heathen is on the part of those at whose kraals we have visited in times of sickness. A boy from one of these kraals has already been placed as a boarder in the mission school, and applications for others have been received, so that at the end of our Christmas holidays we are expecting to add to our numbers. This will be the result in each case of the medical work, and is just the result that we must wish for, as it is in the school that the best instruction can be given; and, further, each child admitted is one more rescued from the contaminating influences of heathen vice and immorality.

DR. RAINY ON DISESTABLISHMENT.

On Wednesday the Rev. Principal Rainy delivered the closing address of the session at the Free Church College, Edinburgh. He said that the religious life of Scotland was bound up mainly with its Presbyterianism. He would say nothing depreciatory of the Scottish Episcopal Church, but he must add that—in so far as its influence and growth had consisted in the alienation of a large section of their country from the religious ordinances and the religious fellowship of their humbler neighbours—it constituted one of their calamities, and he took leave to think a calamity which injured first and most that class itself. As to the three Presbyterian bodies, it was not inconceivable that the declared grounds of separation between them might somehow be removed, but he could not entertain the idea of a future united Presbyterianism on the Established Church basis. That would mean that as much of Scottish Presbyterianism as could be got to take the course should peril its life upon a permanent contest with the strongest forces of the age, with the instinct of political justice and religious equality, and therefore that it must enter into an alliance growing ever closer with some political party prepared to undertake the cause. To him it had always seemed that this prospect carried with it responsibilities of the most serious nature, and constituted one of the plainest practical reasons for avoiding all projects of that kind. Disestablishment would end the temptation or compulsion which turned the organization of a Scottish Church into electioneering machinery for a political party.

A NONCONFORMIST CHURCHWARDEN.

On Tuesday's special Easter meeting of the Bermondsey Vestry was held for the election of churchwardens and sidesmen, and for other business. For the office of people's warden Mr. Ambrose Pomeroy, a Wesleyan Methodist, was proposed. Mr. J. Dumphy, who nominated Mr. Dyer, urged that, though Nonconformists were not ineligible, it was not desirable to appoint one, seeing that he would have no sympathy with the Church as an establishment, nor with the work carried on there. Mr. Glanville supported Mr. Pomeroy, and hoped the vestry would demonstrate its opinion of the State connexion. Mr. Pomeroy, having been elected by a large majority, said he regarded the parish church as the property of the parishioners, and considered he was elected to look after the interests of the people in connexion with the affairs of the Church. He was opposed to the State connexion, but it was not correct to say he had no sympathy with the religious work of the Church. Mr. Pomeroy nominated, and the vestry subsequently elected, Mr. Henry Hall and Mr. J. W. Paddon as sidesmen. Mr. Hall is a member of the United Methodist Free Church and is a well-known agent of the Liberation Society.

WORDSWORTH'S GRAVE.

At Carlisle Consistory Court on Wednesday, Colonel William Crosbie Siddons Mair, of Whitesmoor Cottage, Grassmere, and his wife, who is granddaughter of the poet William Wordsworth, applied to have a portion of ground in Grassmere churchyard adjoining the poet's grave reserved for them. By an Order in Council, Grassmere churchyard will be closed for interments with certain exceptions this week. A number of inhabitants opposed the application, chiefly on the ground that the graves of Colonel and Mrs. Mair would not come within the terms of the exceptions specified, as they were new graves. Applicants said if the space could be preserved the old wall which now leans and prevents people from going round Wordsworth's grave would be made perpendicular, and a footpath provided between the wall and the Wordsworth burying-ground. Chancellor Ferguson, after hearing arguments on both sides, agreed to grant the faculty on the understanding that the applicants would apply to the Home Office with the view of ascertaining whether the proposed reservation space in question came within the terms of the exceptions to the Order in Council.

On Tuesday afternoon the Bishop of Liebfeld was presented with a cope, subscribed for by the Churchmen of the diocese for himself and his successors, and costing £500.

The memorial stone of the new English Church of St. George and St. Boniface, Freiburg im Breisgau, was laid last week by the Hereditary Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. J. Treble, chaplain, and there were present, besides the English colony, many of the local authorities, civil and military. About two-thirds of the money has now been collected, and there remains a debt of about £600 to be incurred.

The church is in early Gothic style, and is vested in the S.P.G.

Bishop Hornby, who left Sunderland little more than a year ago to take spiritual charge of Nyasaaland, is said to be returning home seriously ill. Mr. W. Cowey, a Sunderland volunteer who accompanied him, has died from fever.

The Rev. A. W. Whitechurch, late minister of the Congregational Church, Ivybridge, has been received into the communion of the Church of England.

The Rev. D. Pary Jenkins, who has resigned the charge of Oakhampton Congregational Church, is about to enter the Church of England.

A special meeting of the members of the Metropolitan Tabernacle last week elected as permanent successor to the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon his son, the Rev. Thomas Spurgeon, who has occupied the pulpit for eight months on probation. No amendment was proposed. For the resolution there voted 2,027, and against 649. The total membership numbers over 5,000.

A series of conferences has been held between representative members of the Scottish Congregational Union and the Evangelical Union of Scotland with a view to the amalgamation of those bodies. A basis of agreement having been unanimously accepted, reports will be submitted to the approaching assemblies of both bodies, and, if approved, sent to the various churches interested in the amalgamation.

The Rev. Alexander Francis, who for the past five years has been minister of the British and American Congregational Church at St. Petersburg, has tendered his resignation and will return to England in August. During his residence in St. Petersburg Mr. Francis and his church largely co-operated with the Russian Government in various schemes, more especially in connexion with the famine relief.

The University of Glasgow has intimated its intention to confer the degree of D.D. upon the Rev. J. G. Fraser, warden of Camden Congregational College, Sydney. Dr. Fraser graduated at Glasgow in 1854.

It is proposed to remove the Presbyterian College from London to Cambridge.

About £7,000 has been subscribed in about six weeks to restore the church of St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, which was so severely injured in the gale of February 11th.

A committee has been formed to raise the sum of £500 for the purpose of restoring the tower of St. Nicholas Church, Deptford, one of the most ancient churches in the kingdom.

THE MATABELE CAMPAIGN.

THE FATE OF WILSON'S PARTY.

The High Commissioner is closely investigating through the officers on the spot the alleged robbery through Lobengula's messengers by two Bechuanaland Police Troopers. The result, so far, throws great doubt on the statement that these men or any other had messages of submission from the King. Neither of the accused troopers understands the Matabele tongue. Every effort is being made to find the natives from whom the money is said to have been stolen. It is thought possible that the King may have sent money to propitiate the whites, but there is as yet no proof of this.

Major Forbes arrived at Plymouth on Monday in the Grantly Castle from Cape Town. Several representatives of the Press waited upon him, but he declined to say anything regarding the war, remarking that he must first confer with the Chartered Company. He stated, however, that if it was proved that two troopers had stolen the £1,000 which Lobengula is alleged to have sent as an acknowledgment of defeat, the men would be, and deserved to be, severely punished—probably shot.

Captain A. G. Finch, Major Forbes's staff officer, has also arrived in England. Asked for information regarding Dr. Jameson's report concerning the alleged fraudulent retention of a thousand pounds in gold brought by Lobengula's messengers, Captain Finch replied:—

"I first heard of the matter at Madeira, but in the light of Dr. Jameson's report certain incidents acquire great significance. Shortly before Forbes's column reached the banks of the Shangani, at a point about five miles from the bank, two men flanking on the right reported the spoor of horses and natives coming to meet us as from the river. Mr. Colenbrander at once went out to examine the spoor, and declared it to be that of two horses and 20 or 30 men. Later on, just before reaching the river, we captured two prisoners, one of whom stated that an Induna on horseback with a despatch from Lobengula had been sent to meet us. The man's story was discredited, as no messenger had been seen. Lobengula undoubtedly had plenty of gold and silver with him, as he carried all his money away from Bulawayo, and, taking everything into consideration, I think there is not much doubt that there is something in the reports which have reached Dr. Jameson."

A Reuter despatch from Cape Town says that before sailing for England, Major Forbes spoke of the disaster to Wilson's party. Wilson's orders, he said, were simply to go forward reconnoitring and to return before dark. On learning from him that he had found out where Lobengula was and that he intended to wait for the column, Major Forbes sent Captain Borrow with 20 men to reinforce Wilson, being quite satisfied that with 35 men Wilson was safe, and he left it entirely to his discretion to make an effort to secure the King if he thought it feasible with the extra men. Borrow and the others joined Wilson before daybreak, not having seen any of the enemy on their way. After a general consultation, Wilson decided to attack the King without waiting for the column to come up. "Wilson's party were in no danger up to this point, and could either have retired on me," said Major Forbes, "or have taken up a position in the bush. Their danger began in attacking the King's party in the first instance, and was increased by their losing two horses in the first attack. But for this I see no reason why after their attack failed they should not have escaped."

A letter has been received from Bulawayo, dated January 25, in which the writer says:—"On Sunday I went to a place 12 miles or so away to see Chalk, who is stationed out there in charge of about 30 police. Chalk had just heard from a Matabele, who was at the light where Wilson's patrol was cut up, a full description of it. He said that just at daybreak the enemy closed in on the patrol and began firing on them. Wilson's party tried to make a rush two or three times, but there were too many to get through. The patrol only had about 50 rounds of ammunition per man, which they soon ran through, and then the firing stopped. The Matabele, thinking this to be a ruse, waited for nearly two hours, and at last crept up and looked over the dead horses, and there they saw the white men lying, all either dead or wounded. Those that were wounded pulled out their revolvers and shot several Kaffirs, and with the last bullet they shot themselves. Those who had no revolvers put their hands over their eyes and lay so till they were killed—never spoke a word or asked for mercy. The native who told Chalk said that white men died beautifully. Sir J. Willoughby and Giffard had just returned to camp from trying to find the remains of Captain Williams, who was shot coming in with the column. They got a boy, who had been there at the time, to take them straight to where he was killed, and found his bones. This boy also described the fight with Wilson's patrol, exactly as Chalk's boy did, but he says that long after all the others were down, one very tall man with a moustache (and he described his dress) stood up. A wounded man leaped for him and he kept on firing for about a quarter of an hour, and every time he fired he killed a Kaffir. They kept shooting at him, too, but could not kill him, though they saw the blood running from his clothes. At last he fell. From the boy's description it must have been poor Allan Wilson. Once between the attacks, when the Matabele had fallen back, the men all stood up and took off their hats and sang."

AGRICULTURE.

CROPS AND LIVE STOCK.

Cold, searching winds attended the passing of winter. One or two days of last week were, it is true, of spring-like beauty, with their bright sunshine and genial warmth, but at the latter end the landscape was dimmed by the soft haze which in this country so often accompanies easterly or north-easterly breezes and a dry sky.

The keen winds have seared the delicate blades of grasses and cereal crops, and, associated with occasional night frosts, have served to keep field growth so much in check that it can hardly be said that any crops are now much in advance of their normal condition at Lady Day. Signs of the advent of spring are none the less sufficiently numerous.

THE MONEY MARKET.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Commercial activity has been interrupted during the past week by Bank holidays on Good Friday and Easter Monday, and further by a Stock Exchange holiday on Easter Eve. There has been no permanent relaxation in the demand for money.

On the Stock Exchange the upward tendency of prices in all departments has been well maintained; a fair amount of investment business has been transacted, but brokers are still complaining of the backwardness of the speculating public.

The Bradford Corporation have authorized the London and Westminster Bank to receive tenders for £500,000 stock bearing 3 per cent. interest, the minimum being fixed at par.

works. Tenders at or above par will be received at the London and Westminster Bank, Lothbury, until 2.30 p.m. on April 6th.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

The next Settlement in Consols will begin on April 2 and end on April 4. The next Settlement in Railway and Foreign Stocks, &c., will begin on April 10 and end on April 12.

The following is a statement of the opening and closing quotations of the undermentioned securities, together with the quotations at which they were "made up" at the last Settlement.

BRITISH AND INDIAN GOVERNMENT STOCKS AND BRITISH CORPORATION SECURITIES.

Table with columns: Last making up price, Name of Security, Closing Prices last night, To-day's Prices (Opening, Closing).

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT INScribed SECURITIES.

Table with columns: Name of Security, Closing Prices last night, To-day's Prices (Opening, Closing).

BRITISH RAILWAY STOCKS.

Table with columns: Name of Security, Closing Prices last night, To-day's Prices (Opening, Closing).

CANADIAN RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Table with columns: Name of Security, Closing Prices last night, To-day's Prices (Opening, Closing).

AMERICAN RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Table with columns: Name of Security, Closing Prices last night, To-day's Prices (Opening, Closing).

OTHER FOREIGN RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Table with columns: Name of Security, Closing Prices last night, To-day's Prices (Opening, Closing).

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SECURITIES.

Table with columns: Name of Security, Closing Prices last night, To-day's Prices (Opening, Closing).

MISCELLANEOUS SECURITIES.

Table with columns: Name of Security, Closing Prices last night, To-day's Prices (Opening, Closing).

FOREIGN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Table with columns: Name of Security, Closing Prices last night, To-day's Prices (Opening, Closing).

The following are the changes in prices since yesterday, as shown by the quotations in the Official List, which is made up at 3 p.m.:

Table showing price changes for various securities.

(Three-and-a-half per Cent.) 1/2 to 1 1/2 1/2. (Subject to stamp duty).—Manchester (Three per Cent.) ROSE 1 to 100 1.

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT.—Western Australia (Four per Cent. 1897 ROSE 1 to 101 1/2. (Incised).—A rise of 1/2 each in Cape (Four per Cent. April and October) to 123 1/2, New Zealand (Four per Cent. 1898) to 108 1/2, and Queensland (Four per Cent.) to 105 1/2.

FOREIGN.—A rise of 2 each in Buenos Ayres (1893 to 24 1/2, Cordoba (1894 to 43 1/2; 1 each in ditto (1891 to 50 1/2, ditto (1892 to 50 1/2, ditto (1893 to 50 1/2, ditto (1894 to 50 1/2, ditto (1895 to 50 1/2, ditto (1896 to 50 1/2, ditto (1897 to 50 1/2, ditto (1898 to 50 1/2, ditto (1899 to 50 1/2, ditto (1900 to 50 1/2, ditto (1901 to 50 1/2, ditto (1902 to 50 1/2, ditto (1903 to 50 1/2, ditto (1904 to 50 1/2, ditto (1905 to 50 1/2, ditto (1906 to 50 1/2, ditto (1907 to 50 1/2, ditto (1908 to 50 1/2, ditto (1909 to 50 1/2, ditto (1910 to 50 1/2, ditto (1911 to 50 1/2, ditto (1912 to 50 1/2, ditto (1913 to 50 1/2, ditto (1914 to 50 1/2, ditto (1915 to 50 1/2, ditto (1916 to 50 1/2, ditto (1917 to 50 1/2, ditto (1918 to 50 1/2, ditto (1919 to 50 1/2, ditto (1920 to 50 1/2, ditto (1921 to 50 1/2, ditto (1922 to 50 1/2, ditto (1923 to 50 1/2, ditto (1924 to 50 1/2, ditto (1925 to 50 1/2, ditto (1926 to 50 1/2, ditto (1927 to 50 1/2, ditto (1928 to 50 1/2, ditto (1929 to 50 1/2, ditto 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