EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, March 11.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S FINANCIAL MEASURES.

The House went into a Committee of Ways and Means, and Sir Robert Peel proceeded to detail his financial plan for extricating the country from its present difficulties. The right honourable Baronet commenced by stating that the estimate of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer of the receipt and expenditure of the last year was as nearly as possible correct, and the expenditure would exceed the receipt by £2,350,000. He then proceeded to give an estimate for the ensuing year of the amount of expected revenue, which he calculated would be £48,350,000. The expenditure he estimated at £50,819,000, leaving a deficiency of £2,569,000, to which ought to be added the charge on account of the hostilities in China, which might be taken at £1,400,000, although not more than 600,000l. of that amount would have to be provided during the present year. Still there would be £800,000 to be added to the deficiency; and besides this, the recent events in Affghanistan might render a considerable increase in the army estimates necessary. The finances of India had also been on the decline since the year 1849; there was a deficit of £2,414,000, and in 1841 a deficit of £2,320,000, making a total in round numbers of £4,700,000; while in this country the deficit of last year was £2,350,000, and he estimated the deficiency of the ensuing year at £2,511,000.—Then came the question as to how this deficit was to be met. The House could not go on as it had done for the last five years, finding expedients by resorting to the savings' banks or to the funding of Exchequer Bills, which, under whatever name, were, in every instance, an addition to the national debt.—Nor could additions be made to the Customs or Excise, which the late experiments showed to be altogether useless, or to the assessed taxes, which had been similarly increased, without yielding a corresponding benefit. neither could the deficit be met by any attempt to restore the Post Office tax. The right honorable Baronet equally disclaimed all intention of recommending the revival of the taxes on salt, leather and other articles, or of adding to the imposts on railways. It became, therefore, his duty to appeal to the possessors of property; and, in so doing, he must say, that he had never made a proposition with a more thorough conviction of its necessity for the public interests. For a limited time he called upon the country to agree to an income tax of 7d. in the pound, being a tax of £2 18s. 4d. per cent. the produce of which would enable him, with more confidence and satisfaction, to enter upon the great commercial changes which he intended to submit to the House. From this tax he proposed to exempt all incomes under £150 per annum. During the former income tax, the occupation of land was rated to three fourths the rent as the profit, but this he thought too much, and the profit should be taken at half the rent. He also proposed, that all funded property, whether possessed by natives or foreigners, should be taxed, which he estimated would produce

From landed property,	£1,600,000
From the occupiers of land,	150,000
From public funds and securities,	646,000
From trades and professions,	1,220,000
From incomes from salaries in public offices,	155,000
Total,	£3,771,000

He was inclined to propose that this tax should continue for five years from next April, in order to give a fair experiment to his mercantile proposition; but, upon consideration, he thought it would be as well to limit it to three years, that Parliament might have an opportunity, at the close of that time, of expressing an opinion upon its operation. He thought Ireland ought to contribute its quota to the taxation of the country; but Ireland had never been subjected to a property-tax during the war, nor was there any machinery existing there, as in England, to enable the government to collect it. He should, therefore, seek to obtain a revenue from Ireland by other means. He should propose to impose an additional duty of 1s per gallon on spirits, from which he estimated that he should receive revenue to the amount of £250,000.—He should likewise propose to equalise the stamp duties of Ireland with those of England, but should not impose any additional duty on advertisements or on leases. He also proposed to reduce, both in England and Ireland, the duty on charter parties from 35s to 5s., and upon bills of lading from 3s. to 6d. The increase to the revenue from the equalisation of the stamp duties he calculated would be £160,000. He should also propose to extend a duty of 4s. a ton on coals exported to foreign countries in foreign vessels, to all coals exported, whether in foreign or British vessels. From this he estimated that he would derive an income to the revenue of £200,000. Taking all these sums together, he should have, according to his calculation, an increase to the revenue of £4,380,000. If from this the deficiency of £2,570,000 were deducted, there would still remain a surplus of $1,800,000 in round numbers. He now came to the commercial tariff, which treated of no less than 1200 articles, upon some of which he proposed to remove prohibition and upon others to relax the duties. He proposed to impose a duty of 12 per cent. on the importation of articles partially manufactured, and a duty not exceeding 20 per cent. on articles wholly manufactured. He had the tariff arranged under twenty heads, and it would be before the commercial world by Monday morning. He proposed a reduction upon 750 articles, and a change upon 450 others; and he estimated that these changes would altogether occasion a loss of £270,000. He did not propose to make any reduction in the duty on sugar, nor could he consent to admit the produce of Brazil or Cuba without some stipulations respecting the slave trade. He also proposed to reduce the duty on British colonial coffee from 6d. to 4d per lb., and on foreign coffee to 8d. per lb. On the subject of timber, his measure would be the reverse of that which was brought forward by the late ministry. He would advise a great reduction of duty, which would benefit all classes, from the agriculturist to the ship builder; but he would interpose protection to the interests of the Canadas, which he would treat as an integral part of this island, by admitting their timber at a duty little more than nominal. Accordingly, while he would lower the duty on foreign timber to 25s. a load, he would let in the timber of Canada at a duty of 1s. With respect to foreign timber, he proposed to reduce the duty to 25s for next year, and 30s. upon deals, and the year following, the former to 20s. and the latter to 25s. From this arrangement he estimated a loss of £600,000. He proposed to remit the duties on the export of British manufactures, by which he estimated a loss of £100,000.—He also proposed to reduce the mileage on stage coaches to 1½d. a mile, and to abolish the assessed taxes on coachmen and guards. By this, and the remission of progressive duty on job carriages, there would be a loss of £70,000, making a total loss, including the deficiency of £2,500,000, of £3,780,000.—By the new taxes, he calculated he should have £4,300,000, so that, after deducting this loss, he should have a surplus of £52,000 to meet the increased estimate which would be necessary from the state of affairs in India and China.

He had now concluded a long, and, he feared, a wearisome statement. He had made his proposals broadly, and without compromise. He had endeavored to do his part of the duty, and he now called upon the House to discharge theirs. The last half-century had comprised two great periods,—25 of war and 25 of peace. Countless millions, who would spring from our loins and spread our language over half the world, would ever view with admiration the conduct of England throughout that portion of our history. He trusted that this British Parliament would follow the noble example which, during all these times, had been furnished by their predecessors; that they would not now sit with folded arms, and hope increased revenue from diminished taxation, nor adopt the miserable expedient of annual loans to meet annually growing deficiencies. The mutiny at the Nore, the Irish rebellion, the disasters of our European war, had not cowed the spirit of their fathers, nor deterred them from submitting to a property tax even of ten per cent., and he confidently hoped and believed that the present Parliament would not tarnish that name which was the proudest inheritance of the nation, her mainstay against hostile aggression, and the main support of her extended empire.—He concluded by moving his first resolution, which went to grant a duty upon Irish spirits.

Lord John Russell apprehended that he would not be expected, after the first statement of a plan wholly new, to give an opinion as to the course he might eventually think it right to pursue. He observed, with respect to the policy of meeting deficiencies by loans, for which the late Ministry had been censured, that during four years of the continental war the Ministers of that time had added £160,000,000 to the national debt. He, however, admitted that the aspect which the circumstances of the present year had assumed, might justify Sir R Peel in a measure of finance which the late Government was not called on to pursue. He hailed the adoption of the liberal principles of commerce developed in the statement of that night, but he lamented that the Ministry had not chosen to make some sacrifice upon the important article of Sugar, instead of affording so large a relaxation in the Timber duty. The measure now proposed was certainly a great one, and, as a great one, it must be accepted or rejected. At all events the Government had acted in a manner becoming a great country, and he and his friends would meet them in a spirit free from party bias

Mr. O'Connell feared that the increase of duty on Irish spirits would revive the evils of illicit distillation. The Irish distillers were made the scape-goats of this scheme. He objected to the increase of stamp-duty. The lower classes had a habit of relying on unstamped papers, and an increase on the cost of stamps had the effect of enabling the rich to defraud the poor. It was contrary to the spirit of the union to make Ireland responsible for the public debt of England

Mr Baring was content, without at all pledging his opinion, to let the resolution pass through the committee, for the purpose of expediting the consideration of the subject, which he admitted to be a pressing one.

Mr. Wakely thought the country was prepared for a tax upon property, but not for a tax upon income. This was an income tax, and, as such, would be unpopular.

Several other members said a few words, each upon insulated points; and several resolutions were passed as the foundation of other proceedings.

House of Commons, March 14.—*The Income Tax.—The Queen's Declaration.*—Mr. M. Gibson begged to ask the right hon. baronet at the head of the Government whether it was his intention to extend the income-tax to those persons who were in the receipt of pensions from the consolidated fund under the provisions of particular Acts of Parliament? Sir R. Peel answered:—I apprehend that the provisions of the measure will subject all classes of Her Majesty's subjects to its operation; that those in the receipt of pensions from the consolidated fund, as well as those who receive salaries, will have those pensions submitted to a reduction of three per cent. I think, Sir, I may now avail myself of the opportunity of making a communication to the House which I am convinced will be received with great satisfaction. Having lately had the honor of an interview with her Majesty, I felt it my duty to state, that, owing to the financial difficulties in which the country was placed, it was the intention of her Majesty's servants, with a view of promoting the public interest, to propose, though in a time of peace, a tax upon income to the amount of three per cent Her Majesty, with that feeling of deep interest in the welfare of her people which always characterises her conduct, promptly replied, that, if circumstances rendered it necessary to resort to such a measure, even in a time of peace, she would herself most willingly consent that her own income should be made liable to a similar deduction.—(Loud and continued cheering.)

The Steamer *Saxe Gotha*, Capt. Vaughan, arrived here on Friday last with Lieut. Wedderburne and a company of the 52d Regt to relieve Lieut. Butler and the men of 36th Regt. which have been stationed here for some months. On Saturday morning the Company of the 36th embarked, and were loudly cheered by the inhabitants on the steamer leaving the wharf.

Fatal Accident.—The Glasgow "*Courier*" says that the Telegraph, steamer, exploded just as she was about to proceed on her passage up Grimloch. It was ascertained that fifteen persons had been killed outright, but there were strangers on board, and it was impossible to arrive at the true statement of the casualty.

Manchester.—It is quite impossible to convey a correct impression of the extreme depression that exists in our cloth market, nothing comparable was ever before experienced. Confidence is daily on the wane, and not a vestige of hope exists as to any change of improvement, however small; prices are again lower, with the prospect of their being still lower. Very fair 72's printing cloth has been bought this week at 4s 10 1-2d. The time has been when 10s. was paid for the weaving of such a piece. Twist is not better than cloth, either in price or demand; good 20's twist is to be had for 8d., perhaps a shade below that, whilst 40's mule of good qualities is forcing on the market at 9 3-4d per lb.

Unequal Taxation.—The rich man pays no more duty upon his high-flavoured Pekoe or gun-powder tea, at 10s. per lb. than the washerwoman pays for the cheapest Bohea, worth about 1s 8d. Both pay 2s 1d. duty. Again, the rich man pays no more duty on the best coffee than the poor woman pays for the worst. It is the same with other articles; hence, as stated by Mr. Hindle, out of every shilling spent on such articles the rich man pays 2 1-2d to the state, whilst the tax on the poor who spends a shilling on similar articles is 6 1-2d!—*The Struggle.*

UNITED STATES.

Lord Ashburton's Mission, according to some of the United States papers, is progressing favourably. In the House of Representatives on the 4th instant the various subjects of dispute between the British and American Governments were touched upon by Mr. J Q. Adams, in a friendly spirit; and the following resolution was submitted by Mr. Cushing:—

Resolved, That the President of the U. States be, and he hereby is, requested to enter into negociation with the British Government for the purpose of effecting a permanent, equitable, and just arrangement of commerce between the U. States and the British Colonies of America.

The resolution was ordered to be printed, with a report accompanying it, and its consideration was postponed for a week.

On the 13th, Mr. Lin addressed the Senate on a resolution to give the British Government the requiree notice for the termination of the treaty between the U. States and the Government for the joint occupation of the Oregon Territory. He considered the present a good opportunity of doing so, now that a special Ambassador had been sent to arrange the difficulties between the two countries.

The Boundary Question—The Exploring Expedition.—The Commissioners of the North East Boundary have made a Report which was sent to the Senate on Saturday. This document is well timed in relation to the arrival of Lord Ashburton. It is said to show conclusively that no point which by any construction can be considered as the Northwest angle of Nova-Scotia, is to be found South of the place where the due North line from the source of the St. Croix crosses the St. John River; that it exhibits the true position of the old South boundary of the Province of Quebec, in which that angle will be given by the trail of the due North line, upsetting completely the mystification of Messrs. Featherstonhaugh and Mudge in respect to these two points. It is also shown that the line chosen by those two gentlemen, so far from being the "maximum axis of elevation," has been so much "abraded" that the highest peaks in it are lower than the lowest gaps in the line claimed by the United States.

The Commissioners also present an argument in which they undertake to prove:—

1st. That the profession that the line from the source of the St. Croix ought to be drawn in any other direction than due North is untenable

2d. That in the line claimed by the United States is in truth the highlands of the treaty of 1783.

3d. That the epithet "North-easternmost heads of Connecticut River" cannot be applied to the Eastern branch, but that the choice must lie between Hall's and the Indian stream.

THE AMERICAN NEW TARIFF BILL.

This proposes to raise the *ad valorem* duties, generally, to thirty per cent. on all foreign articles which now pay a duty of any kind amounting to twenty per cent.

On sugar ten cents per pound—on refined sugar six cents—on molasses five cents per gallon—on flour fifty cents per hundred, gross—on wheat twenty five cents per bushel—on manufactured hemp forty dollars per ton—on cheese seven cents per pound—on tallow candles four cents—on lard, beef, and pork two cents, and on butter five cents per pound. On salt eight cents per bushel.

On spirits manufactured from grain or other materials, for first proof fifty-seven cents, for second proof sixty cents, for third proof sixty-three cents, for fourth proof sixty-seven cents, for fifth proof seventy-five cents, and for all above fifth proof ninety cents per gallon; on Madeira wine, fifty cents per gallon; on sherry wine, thirty cents per gallon; on the wines of Sicily, ten cents per gallon; on red wines of France, Spain, and Austria, in casks, six cents per gallon; on all other wines of France, Spain, Austria, Germany, and the Mediterranean, in casks, eight cents per gallon; on French wines, in bottles and cases, thirty-five cents per gallon; on wines of all other countries, in casks, fifteen cents per gallon, and in bottles fifty cents per gallon; on vinegar, five cents per gallon.

On all manufactures of silk, known as piece goods, one dollar and eighty cents per pound, and fifteen per centum ad valorem; and on all other manufactures of silk, or of which silk is a component part, not otherwise provided for, thirty per centum ad valorem, excepting sewing silk, which shall be forty per cent. and silk hats one dollar each.

Washington, April 13th.

In Senate, to-day, Mr. Williams presented resolutions of the legislature of Maine, complaining of the restrictions of the British Government concerning its Colonial trade; also, recommending the appointment of the same day for the election of President and Vice President throughout the United States.

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll entered at length into our foreign relations, and held that in the five points of controversy between the United States and Great Britain, the United States were in the right, and should maintain strictly their position. He expressed a belief in the efficacy of Lord Ashburton's mission, and in his desire to promote peace. He ridiculed the idea of our want of preparation for a war, and of the facility with which the British might burn New York, declaring that it was as easy to burn London.

Mr. Adams made a powerful reply in regard to the Right of Search, and the other matters of difference between the United States and Great Britain, maintaining that the United States could not safely go to war on these issues, &c. &c.

The Boundary.—We understand that Gov. Fairfield received a letter last week, from Mr. Webster, Secretary of State, suggesting the expediency of calling an extra session of the legislature of this State for the purpose of effecting, if possible an adjustment of the Boundary question—the final settlement of that question being one of the objects had in view in the mission of Lord Ashburton. We have not learned the determination of the Executive in regard to the suggestion of Mr. Webster. [Maine Democrat.

The New York American says: "We hear with satisfaction, that the impression which Lord Ashburton is producing at Washington by his personal intercourse, is such as to strengthen the hope that his negotiation will result auspiciously to peace—honorable and enduring peace."

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Standard.

Mr. Editor,—

A writer in the *St. Stephen Courant*, who signs himself "A Tax Payer," makes severe remarks on an order made the last Sessions, by the Justices of the County for paying £150 to Thomas Berry, and has given the names of those who voted in the affirmative in that question, for the purpose, it would seem, of holding them up, in a particular manner, to public censure.

Should his statement, which is entirely one-sided, besides being incorrect in some points, pass without comment, it might induce a general belief that the majority of the Justices who voted on that occasion, had grossly violated their duty and done great wrong to the public. It becomes imperative, therefore, that some reply should be made on their part, and, in doing so, I shall now state the circumstances which were brought under their notice, and which induced them to vote as they did, trusting, that it may be thought by the public, to whom they are amenable for their conduct, as a full justification on their part.

At a general Sessions, last year, the Grand Jury, to whom Mr. Berry had submitted his accounts for building the Court House, reported, that to their conviction he had sustained a loss of £325, which they recommended to the Court to endeavour, by all means, to procure him from the Legislature, and in this report a Committee of the Justices concurred. A short time before the Legislature met, a Petition was got up by Mr. Berry, and carried around the County praying for a grant of money to the above amount to reimburse him. The Petition received numerous signatures, and among the rest, nearly all the Justices, earnestly recommending the prayer of his petition to be granted, or, failing in that, to assess the County for the like sum to pay him;—now, admitting that all this would not establish a legal claim on the part of Mr. Berry against the County, yet it would go to show that the signers to that petition had a strong anxiety that he should get the money; and that although he had been paid the amount of his contract, yet, in honor or generosity, they considered the County bound to him for the superior manner in which he had performed his work, the more so from the striking contrast it exhibits to the performance (by contract) of another Public Building, which, standing as it does, in juxta position, is well calculated to produce a strong feeling in favor of Mr. Berry.

In due time the petition was presented to the House of Assembly, and there rejected, on the ground that claims of compensation for losses on contracts, were inadmissable;—it might well be considered so by the House, on account of there being applications before it of a similar nature to the amount of 4 or £5000, which it would open a door to: but surely the danger of entertaing a single claim by the County of Charlotte could not be so great.

It appears, however, that after the petition was lost, by management of some kind or other a grant of £150 was obtained "towards paying off the County debt," as is expressed in the wording of it,—but as all four of our members say, and even certified in writing,—for the express purpose of paying Mr. Berry. If all or any of them were under a mistake in supposing him a creditor of the County, they must have been led into it, by seeing his claim so strenuously supported by the Grand Jury, and Justices of the County, as also the willingness expressed by the Signers of his Petition to be assessed for it in case of failure in his application to the House, but be that as it may, one thing appears pretty certain, namely, that but for his stirring in the business the grant of £150 would not have been obtained at all, and it was this conviction on the minds of the majority of Justices that mainly induced them to vote as they did

It is indeed matter of regret that the members for Charlotte had not procured the resolution to be worded in a shape that would have insured the application of it where it was intended, but perhaps they hardly anticipated that those who had been so very earnest in favour of Mr. Berry, should afterwards be the most strenuous to withhold the money when it was in their power.

There is a discrepancy in this, which, although rather foreign to my present purpose, I shall endeavour to reconcile, after all it is only following the track of "A Tax Payer," who has wandered out of his way to abuse the House of Assembly,—which, for electioneering purposes, perhaps, has become quite fashionable of late.

It is notorious with what facility Petitions in any part of the Province can be got up, "numerously and respectably signed," as the Parliamentary cant is, praying the Legislature for almost any thing, as is the case, no doubt, with some who signed Berry's unfortunate petition, many would join in requesting a grant of money for 3 or £4000, who would not give a shilling out of their own pockets—conceiving the Province Treasury to be lawful plunder, and their proportion of the loss so very minute as not to be worth a thought—assessing the County, to be sure, brings the matter nearer home,—even to this there seemed to be not much objection in Mr. Berry's case, but whenever a sum of money is realized, and it comes to be cash in hand, it is then worth while to mark the difference, and observe with what tenacity they hold on to it—resorting to legal technicalities in order to bear them out; this, to be sure, is "human nature," but in the case before us, it is indulging human nature at the expense of honor and honesty.

Neither do I think our Representatives, in this or any other transactions, are so highly reprehensible, that they ought to be classed with pickpockets. Money is well known to be the chief end and aim of Provincial Legislation; according to established usage every member is bound, right or wrong, to support the claims of his constituents, either of a public or private nature, and he who is too scrupulous to resort, at times, to a little management, for carrying into effect their wishes, would be thought most inefficient as a Public Sesvant When such has been the mode of practice for years past, it is hardly fair, now, to raise a hue and cry that the Revenue has been squandered, and the Province in debt—But of all the methods resorted to for obtaining grants of money, that of truckling to Mr. Partelow, is, perhaps, one of the least creditable,—it amounting, in fact, to an acknowledgment of and compliance with his most unwarrantable assumption of power and supremacy in the House—That paragraph had better been left out of the Tax Payer's communication.

It was wrong to say that "the Justices had ordered the £150 voted by the Legislature, for paying the County debt, to be paid to Mr. Berry"; and if the premises had been truly stated in the first place, it would have saved the trouble of drawing some false conclusions The order in question, if I recollect right, was, that Mr. Berry should be paid £150 out of the County funds, in discharge of all claims for building the Court House.

This is by no means a distinction without a difference; it does not rescind an Act of the Legislature; it puts him merely in the situation of an ordinary creditor,—to take his chance for payment as funds may arise, while the sum voted by the Legislature still goes into the hands of the Justices, to be appropriated by them in paying off the most urgent claims against the County, or for any purpose they may see fit,—it will probably be done at some special Sessions, when there will be no interference on the part of the magistrates from the out-parishes.

It is quite true that, as the matter now stands, or by turning and twisting it which way you will, the effect of the vote in question will be to add to the County debt, and cause a future assessment to the amount of £150; there were none of the Justices who did not understand that; but viewing it as a remuneration to an industrious mechanic who had sustained a heavy loss by the faithful performance of his contract, and whose disap-