NEWS BY THE BRITANNIA.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM CHINA.—CONCLUSION OF THE WAR.

The overland mail has arrived with letters from India and China, announcing that, after some hostilities between the British squadron and the forts at the mouth of the Canton river, a convention had been concluded between Captain Elliott and the Chinese authorities. They are dated Chusan, the 20th of December, Macao the 27th of January, Calcutta, the 18th of February, and Bombay, the 1st of March; and the following are their principal contents:—

The Enterprise steamer arrived at Calcutta from Macao on the 14th of February, bringing despatches, which were forwarded to Bombay by express, and thence to Suez by the Victoria steamer. From these and the accompanying communications, it appears that in consequence of the insincerity and tardiness of the Imperial Commissioner, preparations were made on the 19th of January for attacking the outposts of the Bogue forts. About 700 Sepoys, 200 European soldiers, and 400 seamen and marines were accordingly embarked under the command of Major Pratt, of the 26th Regiment, in the Enterprise, Nemesis, and Madagascar, steamers, and landed near the fort of Chuenpee. At the same time the Calliope, Larne and Hyacinth, opened a cannonade on the lower battery of the fort, whilst the Nemesis and Queen threw shells into the upper tower.—The latter was soon taken by the British troops, who poured down a heavy fire of musketry on the lower works, and quickly drove the Chinese from their guns. In two hours the fort was in the possession of the English, with a loss of only three killed and 23 wounded, that of the Chinese is from 500 to 700. Many were killed by jumping from their embrasures, a depth of 20 feet, to the rocks below. The ships and crews escaped unhurt, although the forts mounted 35 guns. At the same time the fort of Tycocktow was attacked by another squadron under the command of Captain Herbert, of the Samarang, supported by the Druid, Modeste, and Columbine. A heavy fire was opened upon the fort, and promptly returned; when a party of seamen was landed. The Chinese made a spirited resistance, but were soon overpowered, and the fort captured. The first lieutenant of the Samarang was wounded in the assault. The steam vessels then attacked the fleet of junks lying in Anson's Bay, but owing to the shallowness of the water, only the Nemesis could approach them, towing 12 armed boats from Her Majesty's ships. His first rocket set fire to the powder magazine of the junk; 18 others were blown up by their crews, and the rest escaped into the inner waters. Next morning the Blenheim 72, began to throw shells into the batteries of Wantong, and was preparing to attack the chief fort of Anunghoy, when the Chinese Commander in Chief made a communication to Captain Elliot, who thereupon desisted from further hostilities. On the 20th of January a circular was published by Captain Elliott, announcing that a preliminary arrangement between the Imperial Commissioner and himself had been made.

In consequence of these arrangements, Chuenpee has been delivered to the Chinese. The whole of the British squadron has left the Bogue, and a portion has proceeded to take possession of Hong Kong. An order has been dispatched to Ningpoo, directing the immediate release of the British subjects who had been detained there.

From the Old England

The news from China (ample details will be found elsewhere) is of a satisfactory, though not very decisive character. It affords the promise of an amicable settlement of the differences between Great Britain and that empire. A timely and well-directed exercise of vigour by the British authorities taught the Chinese plenipotentiary the danger of further procrastination. The capture of the forts at the mouth of the Canton river proved to him that the British were *in earnest*; the consequence was a proposition from him to Captain Elliot suggesting the preliminaries of a treaty of peace. This took place on the 29th of January. The following articles constitute the basis of the proposed treaty:—

"1. The cession of the island of HongKong to the British Crown.

"2. An indemnity to the British Government of six millions of dollars, payable in six yearly instalments

"3. Trade of Canton to be opened in ten days after the Chinese new year."

Hong Kong is to be garrisoned by the 18th Royal Irish, and the harbour is to be protected by two 18 gun vessels.

These concessions, it will be borne in mind, were wrung from the fears of the Chinese authorities; how far they will therefore be observed, when the panic of the moment shall have passed away, remains to be seen. We much fear the lesson taught has not been of a sufficiently impressive character, to guarantee a strict adherence on the part of the Chinese Government to the terms of the convention. Beside, the details remain still matter of negotiation, in the arrangement of which, there will be ample room for the exercise of that faculty of cunning and evasion, so peculiarly characteristic of Chinese diplomacy. Moreover, these articles will have to be referred for ultimate ratification to the Emperor at Pekin. All these considerations detract much from the value of the concessions already made. We are not disposed to underrate the importance of these, but while they leave untouched the question of the opium traffic, the real cause of the war, we cannot perceive any indication of finality about them. Doubtlessly the possession of the island of Hong-Kong, will tend much to facilitate the operations of British commerce, and to those engaged in it that feeling of security, without which commerce contracts and stagnates; but we think the amount of indemnity offered falls very far short of what our Government had a right to expect. It will barely cover the expenses of the expedition, leaving entirely out of sight compensation for the vast amount of the confiscated opium belonging to British merchants. How such an arrangement will be relished in the city it is not difficult to tell; indeed, the arrival of the intelligence produced no sensible effect on the funds—a very significant proof the little importance attached to it by the sages of the Stock Exchange. The exultation of the Ministerial journals, will, we fear, turn out, as it did before, rather premature. Not to holla till out of the wood, is a sage advice, for which these prints appear to have a thorough contempt. Indeed, we think, considering the innumerable instances in which their anticipations regarding the foreign policy of the present Government have been falsified by events, a little less exuberance of "insolent joy" might not be unbecoming in them. We shall rejoice as sincerely as the most slavish admirer of Lord Palmerson can, at the settlement of our dispute with China, when it takes place; but we can see no certain prospect of that event in the progress of negotiations that maintain a profound and ominous silence on the origin and real source of the dispute—the opium trade. Will our Government insist upon that traffic being legalized by the authorities of China? or will it engage to co-operate with them in its suppression? are questions upon the solution of which mainly depend the re-establishment of friendly relations and commercial intercourse between the two countries; and until some definitive understanding be mutually agreed upon relative to that point, we do not see the probability of a permanent or satisfactory arrangement.

The China affair.—In short, the result of the whole transaction seems to be—That the Directors of the East India Company, (who have a monopoly of the opium grown in their territories,) and some British merchants resident in Canton, having for some time carried on a lucrative smuggling-trade in opium, the Chinese Government seized their stock on hand at Whampoa; that in consequence of this, the British Government fitted out a fleet and army which took possession of a town in Chusan, battered down two orthree Chinese forts, lost a great many men sickness, and frightened the Chinese Government into ceding to our Queen a barren island near the mouth of the Canton river, promising to treat English diplomatic agents with civility, and undertaking to pay by instalments in the course of six years a portion of the expenses of the expedition; and that the Governor General of India is to endeavour to persuade the British Government to indemnify the Canton merchants, for the purpose of enabling them to pay the East India Company, out of the taxes raised in Great Britain, and to defray the surplus expense incurred by the expedition over and above the contribution of the Chinese Government. Lastly even this settlement has not yet been ratified by either Government.

The Whig organs must be sadly at a loss for something to brag of, when they make such a ballooing about this trumpery affair.—*Spectator.*

CHINA.—It is understood that Lord Palmerston has appointed Wednesday next, at five o'clock, to receive and putation from the merchants of London, on the subject of Capt. Elliott's negociation with the Chinese.

HONG-KONG.—This Island, just ceded to Great Britain by the Chinese, is situated at the mouth of the river Canton, of very limited dimensions, it is merely a site, on which to construct a fort, mount a few guns, and establish a small garrison, under favour and cover of which British shipping may anchor with and for safety, whilst waiting for the "chops" to be expedited for proceeding up the "inner sea," or river of Canton, to that port, an affair of form like that of waiting for a pilot off Deal or Dover, or, as in old times, calling off Gravesend for a license for London.

ARBITRATION BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

(From the Spectator.)

The suggestion that the differences between this country and the United States should be settled by a neutral power, chosen by the disputants to arbitrate between them, arrises from a humane feeling calculated to recommend it at first view, but its practicability is extremely doubtful.

It must not be forgotten, that in the question of the boundary between Maine and New Brunswick, the experiment of arbitration has been already tried without success. That question, too, belongs to a class which of all others seems most fitted to be settled by arbitration. The treaty which professed to define the boundary between the United States and the British Provinces of North America, at the time of the recognition of the independence of the Union, undertook to describe a line drawn through a country never surveyed—not even explored. As might naturally have been anticipated, the actual formation of the country was found on examination to differ materially from the hypothetical form assumed by the framers of the treaty. The water-shed, along which the boundary-line was declared to pass, was found to have no existence. A literal execution of the treaty is impossible. Here, if anywhere, was a case in which the disputants might refer to a third party to divide the disputed territory between them on equitable principles. Yet even here, the attempt to settle the controversy by arbitration has only left the question more embroiled.

This affords but slender encouragement to attempt to arrange the dispute arising out of the treatment of Mr. M'Leod by arbitration. Leaving out of view, as irrelevant to the present question, whether this country has a right to demand the release of Mr. M'Leod, or whether the State of New York has a right to try and (if declared guilty) to execute him, the actual position of the controversey between the two countries is as folllows. The authorities of the State of New York apprehend M'Leod in their territoty, and put him upon trial for an alleged offence, the scene of which is indisputably within their jurisdiction. The Government of Great Britain demands the liberation of M'Leod from the General Government of the United States on the ground that admitting Mr. M'Leod to have been a party to the attack laid to his charge, it was made in the service of his country and with the sanction of its Government, and that he consequently is not liable for his share in it to any foreign jurisdiction. The General Government of the United States refuses to deliberate M'Leod, on the plea that he is in the hands of the penal judicature of New York, and that the Government at Washington has no jurisdiction in such matters. What is claimed by the British Government and refused (or evaded) by the Government of the United States, is the personal safety of a British subject. His life is apparently in immediate danger. The American Government refuses to take any steps to gaurantee his safety until the question of right has been discussed. While Lord Palmerston and Mr. Webster are urging the question Mr. M'Leod may be hanged. This is not a question that can be referred to arbitration; which under existing circumstances, would be neither more nor less than arranging what price we shall demand for M'Leod's life, if it turn out that he has been put to death unjustly, while the man is yet alive and his country taking no steps to save him.

In addition to the dubious utility of arbitration in any case, and of its inapplicability in such a case as that of M'Leod, comes the question, where are we to get an arbiter in whose decision the disputants are likely to acquiesce? Would England have confidence in the impartiality of the French Government if selected as umpire, with the alienation at present existing between the two countries? Would America believe in the impartiality of the uncle of the British Queen? Will Great Britain refer the decision to the King of Holland, smarting under the loss of Belgium? to the King of Denmark, with whom we are odd about the Sound-dues? or the King of Sicily, with the brimstone controversy fresh in his recollection? Will America refer the question to Austria or Prussia, Lord Palmerston's coadjutors in maintaining the "independence and integrity of the Ottoman empire"? or will either America or England repose confidence in the equivocal government of Russia? There are no arbiters to be had free from suspicon of partiality; and if there were, the dispute has reached that degree of exasperation, that the mere suggestion of any particular power as arbiter by the one party would immediately render that power an object of suspicion to the other.

The proposal to settle the difference between Great Britain and America by reference to an arbiter, smacks of honest Henri Quatre's plan of a European tribunal for the decision of national controversies, and for St. Pierre's project for a universal peace. While nations continue sufficiently cold and self-possessed to agree to arbitration, they are still sufficiently in their senses to be safe from war even without having recourse to that device. When they have reached that stage of hallucination in which there is eminent danger of their proceeding to blows, the weak self-imposed check of a reference to arbitration will be unable to restrain them.

The solution of the question whether we are to have war or not, seems to depend almost entirely upon the new Government of the United States. The Boundary question—the only practical question at issue between the countries, leaving out of view the *incidental* case of M'Leod is sufficiently remote from the people of this country, who will decide in the name of their colonies, to enable them to estimate it at its real worth, perhaps to lead them to unervalue it. An honest and intelligent American Government will find no difficulty in arraging the matter with Great Britain. But let a hair of M'Leod's head be injured, and the indignation of this country will be uncontrollable. Then will be (for the question is not what reason would say there ought to be, but what passion will say there must be) a war between the two countries—an implicable war. Were the scene of M'Leod's trial in Boston, New York, or Baltimore, would be no serious ground for apprehension; but it lies in the district where the General Government of the United States wanted power to prevent the plunder of its arsenals by the sympathizers.

Correspondence between Mehemet Ali and the Merchants of Liverpool.

The following correspondence has recently taken place between the Pacha of Egypt and the merchants of Liverpool, originated by the latter in recognition of the protection afforded by Mehemet Ali to British residents and travellers in Egypt, and particulaaly at a time when a suspension of amicable intercourse between the Pacha and this country had virtually taken place:—

"*To His Highness the Pacha of Egypt:*

"We, the undersigned merchants, bankers, and other inhabitants of the town of Liverpool, beg to convey to your Highness our admiration and grateful thanks for the uniform protection and kindness manifested by your Highness towards our countrymen for many years past, when travelling through or sojourning in the extensive countries under your rule, and which protection has not been less efficacious than universal.

"These sentiments have been still further enhanced by your Highness's conduct on a recent occasion, when with that consideration for the welfare of the merchantile interest and the benefit of travellers, and with a magnanimity worthy of the most enlightened policy, your Highness was pleased to allow the free transit of Mails and passengers through your Country, under circumstances which generally dissever the ties binding mankind together in friendly intercourse, affording thereby a rare exception in such cases to the general rule, a brilliant example to other potentates, and justly deserving, in our estimation, the thanks of the whole civilized world.

"That you may long continue to govern the fertile dominion committed to your charge, in prosperity and peace, devoting to its improvement all the energies of your enlightened mind; that you may enjoy advanced age in health, honour, and happiness, is our sincere wish.

"Liverpool, February 26, 1841."

"Gentlemen,—His Highness the Viceroy has ordered the undersigned to communicate to the mayor, bankers, merchants, and other inhabitants of the town of Liverpool, that their address has reached him.

"The sentiments expressed in that address are highly gratifying to his Highness, who accepts the good wishes thus conveyed to him, and will always exert himself for their realization.

"Mercantile interests and travellers in the countries under the rule of his Highness will always enjoy that effectual protection which is the type of civilization in all nations—and in strictly adhering to his system of civilization even in periods of the greatest difficulty, when his intentions were unknown, his Highness has been faithful to his principles, and has given to his officers and to the people under his government a lesson that will bind them always in more friendly ties to the enlightened people of other nations, for their mutual welfare.

"Amidst the regrets which his Highness sometimes experiences at being unable to realize all the good he meditates, Providence grants him occasionally some consolation, which comes as a soothing balm, and of this nature is the address of the mayor, bankers merchants, and other inhabitants of the town of Liverpool. The undersigned is charged to express the great satisfaction that it has given to his Highness, and to convey to them his thanks.

"The undersigned has the honour to subscribe himself, gentlemen, your most obedient and most humble servant.

(Signed) "BOGHOS YOUSOUFF."

The Constantinople correspondence of the Augsburg Gazette, under the date of 24th ult., gives the following as the principal points of the representation made to the Ottoman Porte by Austria and Russia, in favour of the Christians of Syria and Palestine.

"1. The two Powers desire that the Sultan should appoint a special Governor for Palestine and the Holy Cities, having his seat of government at Jerusalem, and the port of Jaffa as his means of communication with the Mediterranean. 2. They demand a suppression of all the vexations to which the Christians have been subjected. 3. An impartial administration of Justice.

4. Protection for the pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. 5. A settlement of all the difference between the Greek and Armenian churches. 6. The appointment of a commission to effect this end. 7. The re-establishment of such churches and convents as have been destroyed or damaged."

THE REVENUE.—Gloomy is the view which the revenue accounts present of the financial condition of the country. Compared with last year, the returns for the year and quarter ending on the 5th inst., exhibit a deficiency alarming, not so much for its amount, as for the indication it affords of a *downward tendency*; while the exigencies of the public service have called for an unprecedented large expenditure.

The income for the year ended 5 April, 1840, is £44,985,166; for the year ended 5 April, 1841, £44,675 886. The decrease for the year is £309,280.

The income for the quarter ended 5 April, 1840, is £8,679 714; for the quarter ended 5 April, 1841, £8,609 200. The decrease for the quarter is £70,514. The state of the national finances, of which these figures are the indices, is still more unfavourable than would at first sight appear, as the comparison relates to periods of unusual depression, when the revenue had already declined to such an extent as to alarm the Minister of Finance, and to force him into an attempt to establish something resembling a relation of equality between receipts and expenditure That attempt has proved eminently unsuccessful The revenue for 1841, instead of exceeding, according to his calculations, that of the former year by a million, has fallen short by better than £300,000, exhibiting an alarming deficiency between the amount computed and the actual result.—*Old England.*

The *Leipsic Gazette*, under the date of Vienna, 2d instant, mentions that Prince Metternich had lately declared, that "if the treaty of London was not executed in the spirit of humanity in which it was conceived towards Mehemet Ali, Austria would withdraw completely from it, and leave to the authors of a war, which would then become inevitable, all the responsibility of such a calamity."

BANKING SYSTEM IN AMERICA.—The report on the banks, exhibits a wholesale system of fraud and rascality of the most disgusting nature.—*London paper.*

Arrangements are now in progress for raising and organizing an additional number of veteran companies, for exclusive and permanent service in Canada, where they are to be employed upon garrison duty. Their principal strength in rank and file will consist of volunteers from the regiments at present stationed in America, more especially from such of them as are under orders to return home.

We have every reason to believe that it is the intention of her Majesty and her illustrious consort, His Royal Highness Prince Albert, to visit several of the principal provincial districts during the ensuing summer.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert has been appointed grand ranger of Windsor Park.

Her Majesty the Queen of Naples was safely delivered of a daughter on the 28th March.

The late Vice-Admiral Sir Thos. Dundas, K.C.B., who died on Monday last, at his residence, Reading, at an advanced age, had been in the navy 63 years. The deceased admiral had seen much service, and was one of the heroes of Trafalgar, at which glorious victory of Nelson he commanded the Naiad, when he repeated Lord Nelson's signals. Previously, when in command of La Prompte, he destroyed a Spanish vessel of war of superior force.

Prince Albert has been munificent: he has given the Nelson Monument Committee a hundred guineas towards the cost of the monument; and he has presented the commanders of each of the three vessels of the Niger Expedition with a handsome gold pocket chronometer, made by the best London makers, and inscribed with the name of the giver and the receiver.

A monument to Lord Collingwood is about to be erected at Tynemouth: it will stand on a pedestal forty feet high, and the top of the figure will be seventy feet from the ground.

On Thursday, the usual distribution of the Royal Maundy Bounty took place at Whitehall. The recipients of each sex were twenty-two, the number of years that the Queen has lived; and they received 1*l.* and twenty-two silver pennies; besides 1*l.* 15*s.* to each woman, as composition for old clothing used to be given, and 1*l.* 10*s.* in lieu of provision which once formed part of the bounty.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Augusta and Mary of Cambridge, with the Hon. Miss Kerr, are still at Naples.

The Bellerophon, 80, Captain C. J. Austen, C.B. is ordered from the Mediterranean to be paid off at Portsmouth; and the Implacable, 74, Captain E. Harvey, is also returning home, to be paid off at Plymouth. The Tweed, 20, Commander Douglas, sailed on Friday morning for the North American and West India station; she will proceed in the first instance to Bermuda. The Glocester and Eagle, both 50-gun razees, are getting ready for Commission at Chatham, and the Warspite, Vindictive, and Dublin, all of 50 guns, at this port. The Unicorn, 46, is getting ready for Commission. The Sierra, 16 guns, will be launched at the end of April. The keel of the Albert, 90-gun ship, has been this week laid down on a new slip in this dockyard. The General Kyd, from Madras for London, passed the Wight yesterday. The Vulcan, for Bordeaux and Mauritius, is at Spithead.

Two beautiful Arabian ponies, which have been sent as presents to her Majesty from the Imaum of Muscat, arrived at the royal mews, Windsor, on Tuesday morning, from Buckingham-palace. They are of a light grey colour, about 14 hands high, and nearly four years old. They are exceedingly tractable, very quiet in harness, and are intended to be driven by her Majesty upon the arrival of the court at Windsor at Easter.

The Shetland ponies intended for the Liliputian equipage of the Princess Royal were erroneously stated in the papers of last week to have been "purchased" for that purpose. They were, with the Gracious permission of Her Majesty, presented, for the use of her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, by Mrs. Cox, of Lawford, Essex. These little animals, of scarcely larger size than a Newfoundland dog, are beautifully marked black and white, and of exquisite symmetry. They are five years old, and have been brought up almost like domestic animals, being accustomed to come into the house, and to feed out of the hand. They were received by her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert in the gardens of Buckingham Palace on Saturday last.

Railroads for Ireland.—At length this subject is taken up in good earnest, a number of English capitalists have come forward with the necessary funds, and they are to be secured by the Government in a certain per centage on their outlay. We understand that the Messrs. Baring stand at the head of the list. —*Irish paper.*

TRADE IN SYDNEY.—Private accounts from Sydney represent trade and business generally to be deplorably bad. English slop goods are said to be selling at 50 per cent. under prime cost. When the Marian Watson left, wheat was down to 4*s.*, and some heavy bets have been made that it would be as low as 3*s.* 6*d.* per bushel. The harvest is spoken of as promising very abundantly, but fears are entertained on the score of labour. The Sydney Government have purchased two cargoes of wheat, which are being secured in the silos on Cockatoo Island. The quantity is 30 000 bushels, and the price, we understand, was 5*s.* 6*d.* a bushel. Ten additional silos, to hold about 5,000 bushels each, are being formed, which, it is probable, will also be filled, if wheat continues at its present price.

Advices from the Sandwich Islands inform us that there are now 20,000 religious communicants out of a population of 100,000; 30,000 can read the Scriptures; and 12,000 children are taught in the schools.

LIVERPOOL.—The steam-ship President has not yet arrived. The Orpheus, Captain Cole, which sailed from New York, two hours after the departure of the President, arrived last night, after a stormy passage. Captain Cole states that he encountered on the 12th March tremendous storm from the north east. He immediately hove his ship to. The storm raged until the morning of the 14th, when it chopped round to the southward. Captain Rathbone, of the packet-ship Oxford, and Captain Delano, of the packet-ship Patrick Henry, informed the writer of this paragraph several days ago that they had encountered the same storm on the 14th, many degrees farther to the eastward; that it was very fierce—so fierce that some of the sails of the Oxford, which were tied to the yards, were actually blown away. There can be no doubt, therefore, that the President was caught in the same storm which Orpheus encountered on the 12th and 13th, and that, if not disabled, she either put back to New York, or the southward, or is working to the eastward under canvass, her coal, in all probability, having fallen short. She was very deep when she left New York, drawing not less than 18 feet.

THE STEAM SHIP PRESIDENT.—We lament to say, that no intelligence has yet been received of this unfortunate vessel. The arrival of the royal mail steamer Caledonia, on Thursday morning, from Boston and Halifax, dissipated the hopes which had been previously entertained, that she would bring news of the missing ship having put into some Nova-Scotian or United States port. Neither at Halifax on the 4th inst. nor New York on the 31st ult. had any tidings been heard of her; and the friends of the passengers on board were in happy ignorance that any misfortune had befallen her. From the interval which had elapsed between her sailing from New York and the date of the advices from that port by the Caledonia, twenty days, it is evident, that if she survived the effects of the storm of the 12th and the 13th ult. she must have made for some southern port. At first the opinion was that she would make for the Western Isles; but if she had, sufficient time has, it is supposed, elapsed for news of her arrival at Fayal to reach England. The first opinion has, therefore, been abandoned for a second, which is, that she would after repairing the damage she might have sustained in the gale, (and damage of some kind or another, it is quite clear, she must have sustained.) made for Bermuda or the West Indies.—*Liverpool Albion.*

The President had on board twenty-seven cabin passengers, exclusive of two children. The celebrated Irish comedian, Mr. Power is amongst the number. The crew and passengers amount, probably, to 100 souls or upwards. We subjoin a list of the passengers:—P. C. Pfeiffel, and A. R. Warburg, New York; Lieutenant F. Lenox and Mr. Courtney, British Army; Tyrone Power and servant, England; C. A. D. Meisegares, Philadelphia; S. Mails, New-York; C. L. Cadet, Buenos Ayres; Thomas Palmer, Baltimore; Dr. M. Torner and T. Bancher, Cuba; John Fraser, New-York; A. Van Lohe, jun., Amsterdam; A. S. Byrne, London:—Thorndike New-York; W. W. Martin, England; E. B. Howell and friend; A. Livingston, New York; Rev. G. G. Cookman, Washington (city); D. Deuchar, Scotland; B. Morris and child; E. Barry; J. C. Roberts, New York; J. Leo Wolf, wife and child; Master Mohring.

The Steam Ship President.—Had this magnificent vessel been fitted with Steven's Patent Trapezium Paddles, which are found to be equivalent to the adding of at least 25 per cent power, and which work twice as deep in the water as the common paddle, she could not have been delayed beyond a day or driven out of her course. It is astonishing how reluctant John Bull is to adopt any thing new, however good or self-evident. The above invention would enable her or any other vessel to perform her voyage in one fourth less time. These wheels have no moving parts to get out of order, are twice as durable, not half the usual width, cause no vibration, and make no backwater.—*London Times.*

THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1841.

☞ The OBSERVER Office is removed to the new Fire Proof Brick Building, owned by John Johnston, Esq., North West corner of the Market Square and Dock street, near the store of Mr. Sharp, Chemist and Apothecary, and adjoining the "*Victoria House.*"

The steam packet Britannia, Captain Cleland, arrived at Halifax on Tuesday last, after a rough passage of 13½ days, from Liverpool, which port she left on the 20th ult. The Britannia brought 57 passengers to Halifax, and 31 others to Boston.

The most important news by the Britannia, is that from China and India, brought to England by the overland mail. We learn by this that the British squadron had made an attack on, and destroyed some of the Bogue forts, and thus brought the Chinese to terms. In another column we have given particulars. There has been a consequent decline in the price of tea

The East India and China Association in London, had formally expressed to Lord Palmerston their dissatisfaction of the arrangements which had been entered into by Capt. Elliott.

The season in England and on the Continent is described as being unusually forward.

We regret to say that the ill-fated steam ship President was still a missing vessel, and that it was pretty generally feared she was lost. Insurance could not be effected upon her under 75 to 80 per cent. News had been received from Fayal to March the 28th, from Jamaica to the 27th, and from St. Michael's to April the 2d. At these places no intelligence had been received of her, still hopes were entertained that she might be safe in some quarter. She was commanded by Capt Roberts, formerly of the British Queen. It is feared by some that she struck an iceberg and sunk.

Parliament adjourned for the Easter holidays, on the 6th April. The house of Lords met again on the 22d, and the House of Commons on the 20th The Budget shows a great decrease in the public Revenue.

Commodore Napier arrived at Liverpool from Egypt in the steamer Oriental, on Sunday the 18th April, and was received on the following day by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses, who presented him an address. On the same day a dinner was given in honor of him, at which he sat down with seven hundred gentlemen.

The Cotton market at Liverpool of the 17th and 19th was dull, and sales small.

Admiral Stopford is appointed Governor of Greenwich Hospital.

Lord Brougham was in France. He had been admitted to a private audience of King Louis Philippe.

TIMBER DUTIES.—A public meeting of the inhabitants of the City and Suburbs of Quebec was to take place on Thursday the 6th instant, "for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of petitioning Her Majesty, and the Imperial and Provincial Parliaments, against any alteration in the duty now levied upon Timber, imported into the United Kingdom." Signed by the principal merchants and others.

Should not some such steps be taken by the merchants and other inhabitants of Saint John, who certainly are as deeply interested in the question as our fellow-subjects of Quebec and Montreal.

MR. MCLEOD.—It will be seen by the following paragraphs that Mr. McLeod has been brought to the city of New-York, on a writ of *habeas corpus*, issued by the Supreme Court. An application has been made for his discharge from custody, and the question is to be argued next Saturday, the 15th instant. Our neighbours having discovered that they cannot, with safety to themselves, detain Mr. M'Leod longer in prison, since his liberation has been demanded by the British Government, are therefore disposed to get out of the difficulty with the best grace possible—hence his removal to the city of New York, and the motion for his discharge. We trust that justice will now be awarded to this much injured gentleman. He will be quite a *lion* at New York.

From the Boston Mercantile Journal, May 4th.

MCLEOD IN NEW YORK.—We learn from the New York Journal of Commerce, that Alexander McLeod arrived in that city, yesterday, from Lockport, in the custody of the sheriff of Niagara County. The Journal says "he has been brought here on a writ of *habeas corpus*, issued by the Supreme Court, which commenced term in this city this morning. We understand that nothing further will be done in the case until Thursday next, when an application will be made to the Court to discharge McLeod from custody. Mr. Joshua A. Spencer, Attorney for the United States, Northern District, and Mr. Gardiner, of Buffalo, are engaged as counsel for McLeod; and Mr. Hall, Attorney General of this State, and Mr. Wood, District Attorney, at Lockport, will act as counsell on the part of the People."

CASE OF ALEXANDER MCLEOD.—It having been announced that McLeod's case would come before the Supreme Court this morning, the Court room was filled almost to suffocation, with a dense crowd, amongst whom were several ladies. McLeod was brought into Court at ten o'clock. He is a man apparently between forty and fifty years old, rather above the common stature, strongly built, with an ordinary cast of countenance, and has red or sandy colored whiskers and hair.

When the case was called on, his counsel, Mr. Spencer, informed the Court that it was intended to move for the prisoner's discharge from custody, on several grounds; one of the most prominent of which was, that if the prisoner had committed any offence at all, it was a public or national defence against the United States government, the British Government having authorised the attack on the Caroline, as would be proved in the course of this inquiry.

The Court here interrupted Mr. Spencer, and said that should there be any conflict in relation to the proofs on the return of the *habeas corpus*, or if it was likely that any investigation beyond the record should become necessary, it would perhaps be better to now make some disposition of the question, in order to give the parties time to make any further proof that they may desire.

Mr. Hall, Attorney General, on the part of the people, said,—the case had been presented on certain allegations of the prisoner, and he as counsel for the people demurred to these allegations as not being sufficient to sustain the motion for his discharge.

Court.—Have you seen the allegations?

Mr. Hall.—Yes; they have been furnished to me, and on the part of the people we propose to demur to them.

Court.—The great importance of the question makes us inclined to postpone it until Judge Bronson arrives here, and he will probably not come until next week.

Mr. Spencer.—It would be more convenient for me to have it set down for next Friday week.

Mr. Hall.—It will be perfectly convenient for the prosecuting officer to attend on Friday, and I have no objection to that day, if it will be convenient to the prisoner.

Court.—We shall therefore set it down for Friday of next week.

It was subsequently intimated to the Court that Friday was appointed as a day of General Fasting.

The Court then set down the case for next Saturday week, (15th.)

We have been informed on good authority, that McLeod has made an affidavit, *denying that he was at all concerned in the attack on the Caroline.*

Judges Nelson and Cohen presided.

[N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.—The N. Y. Commercial says, "as to the boundary, we learn that a convention has been signed on the part of Great Britain and the United States, which provides for the appointment of six commissioners, three for each party to the dispute. These six, if they can agree, are to give a final decision on the question. If they cannot agree, they are to appoint three others, and a decision by the majority of the nine to be conclusive."

The first number of the *New-Brunswick Agriculturist* was handed to us yesterday. It is neatly printed by Mr. Shives; is under the editorial management of Dr. Bayard, and contains a large quantity of useful information on Agricultural subjects. The work is cheap, and we think will prove a valuable publication. We trust that it may have an extensive circulation, and be the means of diffusing much Agricultural knowledge among our Farmers.

A report prevailed in Halifax last week, that the steam ship President had arrived at one of the West India Islands. There was, however no foundation for the report.

The Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia has issued a proclamation dated the 15th April, notifying that within eighteen months fnom that date, proceedings will be taken for escheating all lands granted in Nova Scotia *on which settlement has been neglected*, the lands to be re-granted to *bona fide* settlers.

The N. Y. Journal of commerce states that all hopes of the President having gone into Bermuda, is now annihilated, as they have advices from the Island to April 20th, and there is not one word in relation to the President.

ADDRESSES TO SIR JOHN HARVEY.—At the Levee on Tuesday last, the Father of the City, the venerable and venerated John Ward, Esquire, presented an Address from the Citizens and Inhabitants of the City and County of Saint John, which was read by M. H. Perley, Esq.; John Duncan, Esq., President of the Mechanics' Institute, presented an Address from that body, which was read by the Corresponding Secretary, R. Bayard, Esq. To which Sir John made appropriate and feeling replies, in his usual dignified and impressive style.

It is uncertain whether Sir John will take passage for Liverpool, in the steamer of the 18th, or not; in case he does, the command of the Troops will devolve on Colonel Smelt of the 37th Regt. as senior military officer in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.—Lieut.-Colonel Mounins, of the 69th, exercises the military command at present in New-Brunswick.—*Courier.*

The Addresses and Replies we subjoin.

His Excellency, Family, and Suite, left our shores at 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening last, in the steamer *Maid of the Mist*, for Windsor. Her Majesty's brig Racer fired a Royal salute as His Excellency passed down the harbour.

To His Excellency Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B. and K. C. H., Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New-Brunswick, &c. &c.

May it please Your Excellency,—

WE, the undersigned, Magistrates, Freeholders, Citizens, and Inhabitants of the City and County of Saint John, respectfully approach Your Excellency, to express our sincere regret at your departure from these shores, an event which is deplored by all classes in the community. We beg to assure Your Excellency that we have ever felt the most perfect confidence in the wisdom of your administration, and fully respond to the high and flattering compliment paid to that administration by His Excellency the Governor General on his late visit to this City.

The inhabitants of this Province must ever feel grateful to you for having thus far preserved them from the horrors of a sanguinary War between Great Britain and the United States, which, in its progress, would in all probability have brought wretchedness and ruin to the fireside of every man in this country; and they were rejoiced on learning, by Lord Normanby's Despatch, dated 16th May, 1839, that the temperate course adopted by you, at a very critical moment, met the full approval of our beloved Sovereign. We feel that Her Majesty's approbation was well merited, being fully impressed with the belief that a War between two great nations was averted almost solely by Your Excellency's prudence. We also feel grateful to Your Excellency for many other important services rendered to this Colony, for which we tender our sincere acknowledgments—and, while doing so, we cannot refrain from expressing our sorrow that it has been deemed expedient to relieve Your Excellency in the administration of this Government, at an eventful period, when your most strenuous exertions were earnestly devoted to the best interests of the country, and the establishment of its prosperity on a sure and lasting foundation.

In parting with Your Excellency, which we feel to be deeply painful, we beg you to accept our warmest wishes for your welfare and prosperity, and entreat you to believe, that in whatever part of the world Her Gracious Majesty may be pleased to require your services, the people of New-Brunswick will long remember your services with gratitude, and will constantly pray for the health and happiness of yourself, of Lady HARVEY, and your family.

St. John, N. B., March 13th, 1841.

REPLY.

To the Magistrates, Freeholders, Citizens and Inhabitants of the City and County of St. John.

GENTLEMEN,—

The terms in which you have been pleased to express your regret at my departure from among you, and to declare the confidence which you have ever felt in my administration of the Government of this Province, are most gratifying to my feelings, and afford to my mind, at this moment of separation, solid grounds of consolation, for which I gratefully thank you.

That my name will be hereafter remembered by the inhabitants of this noble Province in general, and by those of its Commercial Capital in particular, in connexion with my endeavours to avert from them the calamities of War, at a crisis of impending hazard to the continuance of our peaceful relations with the adjoining States, and at a period of great public excitement, your Address, and others which I have received, leave me no reason to doubt; and I have no hesitation in declaring, that I regard this pacific wreath, thus honourably awarded to me by a people alike distinguished for their high-spirited and unquestioned attachment to the Mother Country, and in their jealousy for her honour, as among the most gratifying distinctions of a not uneventful career of Public Service.

With feelings impossible to be described by any language which I can command, I bid adieu to a Province, by which my honest endeavours to discharge the high and arduous duties of my station, frequently under circumstances of grave and peculiar responsibility, to the satisfaction of my Gracious Sovereign, and with advantage to its interests, have been so kindly appreciated; and I trust it is scarcely necessary for me to add, that I shall regard, with the deepest interest, the steady and rapid progress towards the most elevated state of prosperity, which this great City is destined to attain, through its peculiar local and other advantages, and through the blessing of Divine Providence upon the intelligence and public spirit of its citizens.

And now, Gentlemen, in the fullness which the heart,—if it be a good one,—must always feel in taking a leave, which may be perpetual, of those with whom it has been in the interchange of mutual good offices and wishes, let me add, that it will afford a real consolation to me, during the remainder of my days, to believe and to know, that I am not forgotten by a people whose kindness and confidence I, on my part, can never forget.

Gentlemen—For Lady HARVEY, myself, and my Family, allow me now to say "GOD bless you all and farewell!"

Saint John, 4th May, 1841.

To His Excellency Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B. and K. C. H., Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c.

May it please Your Excellency,—

The Members of the Mechanics' Institute of Saint John cannot permit of Your Excellency's departure from their shores without an expression of gratitude for the warm interest You have always taken in the establishment and welfare of their Institution.

Totally unconnected with political questions and uninfluenced by party feeling, it has for its sole object the intellectual and moral improvement of our People, the developement of the yet infant resources of our Province, and the encouragement of Talents, of Studies and Pursuits, which may ultimately, though gradually, lead to increased happiness and prosperity.

That under these circumstances, and with such views, Your Excellency should have warmly exerted Yourself in its behalf, is not surprising.—Science, Literature and the Arts have always been fostered by the Genius of the British Constitution; and the germ, thus early nurtured by Your Excellency's care, will doubtless expand, in time, to the vigours dimensions of the full-grown Tree, yielding the rich product of its ripened fruit to all who will gather from its boughs.

We have little to offer Your Excellency but our thanks. The consciousness of having done