

jesty's Government to consider that part at present.

Mr. McKinnon wished to know whether, if private individuals set up an establishment for the purpose of such important communication, the Government would give it its countenance and support.

Mr. Baring said that question depended entirely upon the plan proposed. In his opinion it was a question more for the Board of Trade, than for the department of the Government he had the honour to belong.

The house went into committee on the Civil List Acts, when the sum of £885,000, annually for the support of the Royal Household, together with the additional sum of £10,000 for the household servants, was granted to her Majesty, and also an annual sum, as pensions on the Civil List, to the extent of £1200 a year.

THE QUEEN AND LORD ELPHINSTONE.

The curiosity and interest of the circles have once more been connected with the fortunes of a noble personage, whose mission to the East was, as it will be remembered, very confidently reported to arise from a desire in a certain quarter to remove him from the presence of one in whose welfare all of us are concerned.—That report certainly receives considerable confirmation from the rumour of the past week—if, indeed, the rumour do not turn out to have its origin in the original report, a point upon which we confess ourselves incompetent to decide. Truly or falsely, we know not: but it is rumoured that a severe test of love, has in the present case produced anything rather than the desired effect, upon one of the parties at least. Official etiquette rendering his prolonged absence as indispensable as irksome, the young and robie *inamorato* has, according to the very general rumour in the circles to which we alluded, despatched a confidential friend to England with a packet, to which not a little of romantic interest is attached; for it is said to contain not only the usual missives of an absent lover, in the form of protesting and imploring epistles but also a ring given to him long since, with a pledge not very dissimilar to that which accompanied the ring given by Queen Elizabeth to the unfortunate Essex. In short—for it is of no use to mince the matter—it is said that no command or entreaties could induce the noble person to leave England on his important command, until at an interview before his departure, the lady gave him this ring, with the assurance that whatever request should accompany his return of it, should be granted, after the occurrence of an event which has occurred much earlier, than either of the parties at that time anticipated. The ring, and its accompanying request, have reached the fair hand of her who gave the former, though it would seem that so many and such serious difficulties were purposely interposed, that the fair and persevering ambassadress only succeeded in her purpose by resorting to stratagem.—*Court Journal*.

The *Mobile Mercantile Advertiser*, of January 8, mentions that a severe engagement had taken place between the United States troops and the Indians, on Christmas day, at Kessimee in Florida. The action lasted more than an hour, after which the Indians fled. General GENTRY, Col. THOMPSON, and several other Officers were killed and, 180 rank and file killed and wounded. Of the Indians only 8 remained dead on the field; but numbers of their killed and wounded are said to have been carried off by their retreating brethren. It is plain that the Americans have nothing to boast of from this conflict.

Advices from Madrid of the third instant have been received. Accounts had reached the capital of the fall of Morella, in Valencia, for some time besieged by the Carlist guerillas, commanded by Cabrera. After taking possession of the town, and committing numberless atrocities, the rebel chieftain moved with some heavy artillery to conduct the siege of Benecarlo. General Orca was expected at Alcala de Chisbert on the 30th ult.

The Cortes were occupied on the 3d with the project of law for the levy of 40,000 fresh troops to put an end to the rebellion. Notwithstanding their long experience Spanish legislators cannot be brought to understand that, before raising more men, it would be proper to enquire where is the money to pay them to come from? The Government has a greater army than it can supply with food and clothing, and we really cannot see the use of a fresh levy, unless Ministers are prepared to prove that it would be beneficial to increase the number of the disaffected. Espatero's feat at Balmaceda has been embodied in a

bombastic dispatch, which was read to the Cortes by the War Minister on the 2d instant. Were it not that it exhibited in so painful a light that prostrate condition of their country, the Deputies must have roared with laughter at the General-in-Chief's recapitulation of the spoils of victory—namely an old gun-carriage and some ammunition wagons.

A proposal has been made by the French to the Spanish Government, to allow a new foreign legion to be raised in France for the service of the Queen of Spain; and from the source whence the information has been derived, we can assure our readers that the firmest reliance may be placed upon the facts stated.

By the Tagus steamer we have received the Mediterranean mail; the dates are—From Malta, January 22, Gibraltar, Feb. 2, and Lisbon the 7th ult. All was quiet at Lisbon when she sailed; the Cortes were occupied in arranging the future establishments of the different departments; but nothing had been concluded with the Bank and Mercantile Association towards supplying the necessary funds to enable the Minister of Finance to meet some of his pressing engagements. They begin to understand now that capitalists are not disposed to contract loans until public confidence is restored, and that this cannot be accomplished until the direction of the Clubs be silenced.

AFRICA.

A letter from Amsterdam of the 2d instant contains some additional particulars of the attack of the negroes on the whites at Cape Coast Castle, mentioned lately:—

"The imprudence of the Governor of Port St. George del Mina caused all the mischief; he had mixed himself up unnecessarily in a quarrel between two chiefs of tribes, the Hanta and the Wanta, which had declared war on each other. He sent two officers to the chief of the Hanta, but they became the first victims of their own imprudence; for, instead of acting the parts of simple conciliators, they held very unbecoming language to the chief and he therefore ordered his armed slaves to attack the officers with their suites. An obstinate conflict ensued, in which the officers lost their lives. Upon the receipt of this intelligence, the Dutch Governor of the Guinea coast sent 100 men with five officers, to the chief of the Hanta, with orders to avenge the insult offered to the Dutch envoys. The chief, however, had 1,000 men, well armed, under his command; and although the Dutch force attacked them with rare intrepidity numbers at length prevailed, and drove the Dutch down to the sea coast, where many of them were forced into the water and perished. Nearly the whole party killed, and only three or four individuals escaped to St. George del Mina, but they were so badly wounded that they survived only a short time."

A SHEEP ROASTED ON THE THAMES.—The intense frost of last week has returned in all its most severe features, and although the annals of 1838 cannot as yet record the roasting of an ox on "old father Thames," as during the frost of 1813-14, yet they will be able to tell of the roasting of a whole sheep on nearly the centre of the river. The mild state of the temperature on Sunday evening, and during Monday, occasioned a considerable breaking up of the Thames, but the frost which has since succeeded has again congealed the various floating masses of ice together, and given the river, above the bridges, quite a Polar appearance. At Hammersmith, on Wednesday, Mr. W. Bird, the extensive builder of Brook Green, presented a fine fat whether sheep to the watermen of the neighbourhood, who, from the stoppage of the navigation, are reduced to the greatest distress. On Thursday they roasted it whole on the ice, near the centre of the river on the east side of the suspension bridge. It was accomplished by erecting a tent, within which, on the bare ice, fires were kindled in four large chamber stoves, each two placed opposite to each other, having between the sheep on a large stake. It was put down at 9 o'clock a.m. and long before that hour, the

banks on both the Middlesex and Surrey shores were lined with thousands of spectators anxious to witness the novel sight of "the Thames on fire." During the morning, persons were admitted within the tent on paying one penny each, and after the process of roasting was concluded, which was about 2 o'clock, the work of demolition commenced, and many were the respectable persons who, on the payment of from 1s. to 5s. respectively, carried off "delicious morsels" of the "river mutton."

ITALY.

Some sensation has been created at Naples by the expulsion from the Kingdom of Baron Von Schmuckler, first Chamberlain to the Queen Dowager. He received on Saturday at midnight, just as he had left the Queen's apartment, an order from the King, through the Minister of Police, to quit the city in two hours. Without giving him time to settle his affairs, he was obliged to get into a carriage at two o'clock in the morning, which conveyed him and his two children (his wife died of the cholera) over the frontiers.

The French Minister of war has ordered to be placed on half-pay the Major of a regiment who recently killed his adversary, another officer of the same corps, in a duel; the two seconds have also been subjected to imprisonment for aiding in this illegal act.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON

*The North Eastern Boundary Question about to be settled!*

Our Washington debates are to the 15th inst. In the Senate, Mr. Buchanan's Bill for the preservation of our neutral relations, was brought up. It empowers all the officers of the government, Collectors, Marshals, &c. upon the borders, to enforce the neutrality of the nation, and it contains provisions authorising the President to make appropriations to put the laws into execution.

Mr. Buchanan moved the passage of the bill.

Mr. Ruggles of Maine objected to immediate action on the bill—he wished time to examine its provisions; and see if something could not be done for the protection of the boundary of Main. He had understood that some official documents had very lately been put into the hands of the Executive upon the subject of the North Eastern Boundary, and he wished to learn what they were, before final action upon the measure before the Senate.

Mr. Buchanan said that he did not object to a postponement of the bill for a day, but he hoped its progress would not be stayed by an unnecessary connexion of the North Eastern Boundary question with its provisions. He too, had been informed by high authority that the *North Eastern boundary question was about to be closed*, whether satisfactorily or not, he could not say—but it was certain that the negotiation was very soon to be terminated.

The Catholic Bishop on Montreal has issued another *Mandament* to the Clergy and the faithful of his Diocese, dated the 8th inst. in which he alludes to his recommendations to his clergy in July last, and his *Mandament* of the 24th October. He announces the restoration of tranquillity; de-

plores the evils which have been brought upon the country, by those concerned in the late rebellion; declares that none of them can be admitted to a participation in the sacraments of the Church, or to Christian burial, till they have made reparation and shewn meet fruits of repentance. He orders Divine Service to be celebrated in this intention, and requires the clergy to use charitable collections for the relief of those who are suffering.

The conduct of this prelate is beyond all praise. From the moment that he saw the tendency of the late agitation, he laid aside all those considerations which are the most likely to influence human nature, to discharge his duty as a minister of the Gospel, and to impress their duty on his flock; and he now comes forward to relieve, as much as possible, the misfortunes which have arisen from his admonitions not having been universally followed.

It is a remarkable fact that the two sites of the rebellion were in parishes where the bishop was not seconded, at least, by a like energy and devotion on the part of the clergymen of the place.—*Nelson's Quebec Gaz., Jan. 19.*

LISBON, MARCH 14.

The arsenal people and their allies were the first to commence the battle last night. The firing was kept up in volleys and with great spirit for upwards of 20 minutes, after which the rebels, finding themselves overpowered, retreated in good order up one of the steepest hills, where the cavalry could not follow them, and then dispersed, most of them taking their arms away with them, which leaves some more work to be done yet, perhaps.

There has been a great loss in killed and wounded on both sides.

I hear it variously stated; but the average calculation appears to be 30 killed and 100 wounded—some go so far as to treble these numbers. This is all I can say; for I have been running about all the morning to find out what passed last night, and this is the utmost I can ascertain out of the infinity of *on dits* afloat—besides, the mail is about to close.

P. S. I have opened this again to tell you that I have just been informed by a person high in office that the number of killed and wounded on both sides falls little short of 400. Two hundred wounded have been sent to the public hospital, besides all those who are attended at their own homes.

The Letters Patent of the Duke of Wellington, as Chancellor, appointing the Earl of Devon High Steward Oxford University, in the room of the Earl of Eldon, was communicated to Convocation on Thursday, and unanimously confirmed by an unusually large assemblage of Doctors and Masters.

Henry Seton, Esq. of the Chancery Bar, has been appointed to the Judgeship in the Supreme Court at Calcutta, vacant by the death of Sir Benjamin Malkin.—*Observer.*

THE STAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1838.

We are requested to state that the "CARBONAR SENTINEL" will re-appear to-morrow week, (Thursday) the 3rd of May.

By a Proclamation in another column it will be seen that the General Assembly of this Island has been further Prorogued till the 20th June next—then to meet for the dispatch of business.—*Gaz., April 17.*