

SUMMARY OF NEWS

From Papers by the Columbia

There is nothing of special importance by this arrival. The cotton market looked well, and no change of consequence had been experienced in money affairs. Political matters were a pacific aspect. The blockade of the Syrian ports had been raised, and Ibrahim, with his large Egyptian army, had evacuated his strong holds and commenced his retreat. There was nothing new from the "far East." The overland mail from India was daily expected, and it would probably bring important intelligence. Rumours were current that the English troops to China had got possession of Peking.

IMPORTANT FROM CHINA.—Letters have been received from St. Petersburg, giving accounts of the highest importance in reference to the British operations before China. The Manchester Guardian gives the substance of the following letter, which has been addressed to a house in Manchester:—"At the beginning of this week a Tartar arrived here from Kiehlia with the news that the English had taken the capital of China, after having boarded it and destroyed all the forts near the river. The Emperor, the son of the sun, had fled with all his Mandarins. The consequence of this event will be a good treaty, which will completely change the commercial dealings with that empire."

A Dutch mail has since arrived in London, which brings accounts from St. Petersburg, of Peking having been taken by the British. The consequence of this news was a rise of 15 or 20 per cent, on the prices of Tea, at St. Petersburg.

There has been a tremendous storm in the Black Sea, and many vessels were driven ashore and lost.

Lord Montagu (Spring Rice) is about to be married to Miss Marshall, eldest daughter of Mr. Marshall, the wealthy flax-spinner, of Leeds.

The city of Leghorn is said to be in a deplorable condition, owing to the failure of several first rate houses; those of Messrs. Perrand, Guerre, Fouch and Peretti, Bilotti, Finetti, and Regini.

It has been ascertained that upwards of 100 seamen, connected with the ports of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Sunderland, unhappily perished in the awful storms, which raged on the eastern coast in the month of November—many of them leaving wives and children in a state of destitution.

There was a destructive fire at Huddersfield, on the 24 inst. The extensive mills belonging to Messrs. Roberts & Co., were entirely consumed. On the following morning, the walls of one of the buildings fell, with a great crash, on a cottage, and killed an engineer, named Grant, his wife, and two children. The loss of property is estimated at £16,000.

A terrific thunder storm passed over London on the morning of the 26 inst., accompanied with violent wind and hail, and vivid lightning. A good deal of damage was done by the lightning—several church steeples were struck, and set on fire.

Her Majesty and the Princess Royal.—The care and attention bestowed upon the infant Princess Royal by her nurse and various attendants, are only to be equalled by the great anxiety manifested by her royal parents, Her Majesty and Prince Albert, for its health and welfare. Immediately after Her Majesty's rise in the morning, and entered the breakfast-room, intelligence of the state of health of the infant Princess is communicated to the Queen by the Baroness Leichen; and as soon as breakfast is concluded, Her Majesty (who is generally accompanied by Prince Albert) proceeds to the nursery, and there remains, usually for about half an hour, in consequence of the extreme severity of the weather since the arrival of the Court at Windsor, the royal infant (who is in most excellent health, not having experienced the slightest indisposition since she has been at the Castle), has not been taken beyond the nursery and the other rooms connected with that department of the royal household appropriated to the use of her royal Highness and her several attendants. It is the invariable custom of her Majesty, upon leaving the dressing-room at night, and previously to retiring to rest, to visit the nursery for the purpose of ascertaining the state of health, and taking leave of the infant Princess.

The English papers contain accounts of shocking accidents on the railways. The London Sun says that since the commencement of the winter the London and Brighton railway, this railway has furnished the Essex County Hospital with between 300 and 400 accidents, and we believe that about seventy or eighty lives have been lost, exclusively of the accidents above mentioned.

MORNING OF PARLIAMENT.—Parliament was on Thursday, prorogued, in the usual form, until Tuesday, the 25th January next. It will then meet for the despatch of business. The Lords Commissioners were the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Normanby, and Viscount Duncan. A royal proclamation appeared in the Gazette of Tuesday night, appointing the meeting of Parliament for the 25th of January.

The New Houses of Parliament.—The walls of the new houses of Parliament are progressing very rapidly. The elevation of most of the outside walls now reach about 12 feet, every exertion will be made to complete both houses in the time originally specified.

Report of the Great Seal.—We understand that the Earl of Stair has been appointed Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland, formerly held by the late Duke of Argyll.

There appears to be no foundation for the report that reached us a few days since, of a fight between an English and French frigate in the Red Sea.

A severe storm on the coast of Syria, on the 24th of Decr, was wrecked

and seven of the crew drowned. Several other ships-of-war narrowly escaped shipwreck.

FRANCE.

Everything appears quiet in this kingdom. The French Journals are filled with addresses to the King on New Year's day from the *corps diplomatique*, the Chambers, &c., and his replies to them.

The Committee of the Chamber of Deputies have reported in favour of proceeding with the fortification of Paris, and completing the whole in three years.

The French government has decided that from the 1st of January, 1841, all allowances should cease to be paid to the Spanish refugees, non-commissioned officers and soldiers, an amnesty having been lately proclaimed in their favour.

The Monitor contains a royal ordinance appointing General Bugeaud, Governor General of Algeria, in the room of Marshal Court Vallee, who was authorised to return to France. For this appointment and other circumstances, a great change in the mode of occupying Algeria was anticipated. Symptoms of a desire for peace were said to be observable among the Arabs.

Admiral Lalande has struck his flag as commander of the squadron of the reserve in the Mediterranean. Who will be appointed his successor, was not known.

A letter from Leghorn announces, that Queen Christina (ex-regent of Spain), sailed on the 22d ult. for Civita Vecchia, and would proceed directly to Rome.

According to the budget of the Minister of Finance, the ordinary and extraordinary expenses are estimated at 1316 millions of francs. The ordinary revenue is estimated at 1162 millions, which leaves a deficit of 154 millions of francs (six millions sterling).

M. Thiers seems to have regained some of his lost influence in the Chamber of Deputies. Rumours of the changes in the Ministry continue. Many apprehend that M. Guizot will be obliged to succumb under the assaults of the war party.

The King has remitted to Madame Lafarge that part of her sentence which condemns her to *exposition publique*.

A person named Borel has been arrested in Switzerland, charged with being an accessory to the attempt by Darnes on the life of Louis Philippe on the 15th of October last.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

Dates from Madrid are to the 26th of December—the news is not important, with the exception that the apprehensions entertained for the maintenance of peace between Spain and Portugal, had entirely subsided.

General Piquero Arguelles, on taking possession of the political government of Alava, addressed on the 19th, a proclamation to the inhabitants, in which he assured them that their *fueros* should be religiously observed.

The authorities of Guipuzcoa, were proceeding to close 9 religious establishments, monasteries and convents, which had been suppressed by a late decree of the Regency. Fresh disturbances have taken place in the province of Andalusia, in Spain. That distracted country is torn asunder by internal dissensions. Her finances, her trade, and her political relations, are under the control of rival factions, whose sole principle of action is selfish aggrandizement. In case of a European war, she will fall an easy prey to France, in whose favour her resources, such as they are, would be available.

The Madrid papers state, that the Duke of Victoria was sufficiently recovered from his illness to be able to leave his house. He has declared himself in favour of accepting the mediation of England in the quarrel with Portugal; but it was not certain that the other members of the Regency would consent to it.

TURKEY AND SYRIA.

On the 23 of December, the Ottoman Porte notified to the *corps diplomatique* at Constantinople, the raising of the blockade of the Syrian harbours, occupied by the troops of the Sultan.

On the 21st of November, after Ibrahim had evacuated his camp at Zahle, the Emir Bechir immediately occupied the position abandoned by the Egyptians.

The united Egyptian garrisons of Northern Syria, under Achmet Pacha, forming a corps of 20,000 men, well provisioned with artillery, had marched from Aleppo to Damascus, in order to join Ibrahim. The Egyptian garrison evacuated Aleppo on the 20th, and the whole army was to have commenced a retrograde movement from Damascus on the 25th of November. Ibrahim had still 130 pieces of artillery, and expected to reach El Arish on the 30th of December.

A good deal of excitement had been created from the fact that Admiral Stopford had disavowed and annulled the convention concluded between Mehemet Ali and Commodore Napier; on the ground that the commodore had exceeded his powers. Fortunately, however, a steamer reached the Admiral, bringing instructions from Lord Palmerston respecting the terms on which he was to propose a convention with Mehemet Ali. The result was the conclusion of a new convention between the Pacha and the English authorities. It differs somewhat from the Napier convention; it leaves the question of the hereditary succession to the influence of the good offices of the Sultan. Still, Mehemet Ali, who sees that if he does not take what the Powers offer, he may get nothing but disgrace and the bowstring, readily accepted the terms prescribed, and signed the convention.

The "Toulonias," of the 25th December, publishes letters from Alexandria of the 12th, stating that orders had been given to the Ottoman fleet, to hold itself in readiness to put to sea. The Turkish fleet into the interior of Egypt, or stationed in the fortresses, had arrived in Alexandria, and were then occupied in re-arming their vessels. The fleet was to be delivered up to the English in the course

of a month, in order to be brought to Constantinople, "if they did not deem it more expedient to bring it to Malta." Only one English corvette remained before Alexandria after the conclusion of the treaty.

RUSSIA.

The official tables for the year 1839 show the exports of the empire to have been 341,808,679 rub-bane being an excess over 1838 of 28,372,932 rubles. The imports amounted to 249,152,476, leaving a difference of 92,726,203 rubles. The importation of gold and silver, in coin and bullion, amounted to 63,552,744 rubles.

The Cossacks have again completely routed the Russians, and captured an important fort, after a decisive engagement.

The governments of Austria, Prussia, Wurtemberg and Bavaria, are purchasing horses to a very great extent in Russia, with the permission of the Emperor. This has certainly a warlike appearance.

From the Liverpool Standard, of Jan. 5. **STATE OF TRADE.**

Leeds.—During the past week there has been fully as much business transacted in the cloth halls, as might be expected at this season of the year, and perhaps even still more done to order, for there is a remarkable want of assortment in the stocks of goods now in the cloth halls. A general expectation seems to prevail that we shall have a brisk trade early in the spring.

Jan. 5. The British funds are still improving. Consols 89 to 1-8. Bank stock 157 to 8.

Destruction of a Steamboat by fire.—The following is an extract of a letter dated Corrao, December 21.—"The steam-boat Eagle, Captain Guthrie, bound from Newcastle for Gibraltar and Marseilles, put in here (Corrao) on Saturday, the 19th inst., and soon after took fire. She was immediately put on shore and scuttled, but the after-part of the vessel was burnt down to the water's edge. No lives were lost."

The British Queen arrived off Cowes on the 20th December. She left New York on the 1st of that month.

Throughout England active measures are in progress to relieve the distresses of the poor by liberal supplies of fuel, provisions, clothing, blankets, &c.

UNITED STATES.

Boston, Jan. 23.—The "four schisms" who were brought home in the brig Tigress, from the coast of Africa, and discharged have commenced actions against H. S. Jackson, the English officer, who assumed the command of the brig and brought her to this country, a trespass, and laid their damages at \$4,000. Mr. Jackson was arrested on Saturday night, says the Advertiser, and was not suffered to go at large upon his parole, but only by reason of Mr. Grattan, the British Consul signing bail-bonds to the amount of four thousand dollars. Had it not been for this, he must have gone to prison on Saturday night.—*Mercantile Journal.*

The North American says that the impression now at Washington is, that Commodore Stewart is to be offered the Navy Department, and that the appointment, should it be made, will give very general satisfaction.—*Id.*

Native Steel.—The Buffalo Advertiser says that in prosecuting the survey of the contemplated route of the Ogdensburg and Champlain Railroad, iron ore was discovered, having the extraordinary property of yielding, by the simple process of smelting, a substance convertible at once into tools and entirely independent of the best quality in other words, *native steel.* The fact is attested by the respectable scientific gentlemen engaged in the survey.

General Harrison. The Washington correspondent of the North American, speaking of the President elect, says:—"Scarcely a word is said here about the arrival of General Harrison, or as to the time when. He has completely out-generalled the gossipers, as he has the office-seekers, and both are robbed of all their capital and stock in trade. Nobody here knows where he is, or where he will be next. Some say he is playing hide and seek; others, that he is dodging office-hunters—being more in terror of them than he was of the Indians at Tippecanoe; and some don't know what to say. It is generally believed, however, that Old Tip will be here in time."

PROVINCIAL.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. Fredericton, N. B. 25th Jan. 1841. This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the Meeting of the Legislature, His Excellency the Lieut. Governor came in State to the Council Chamber, and having commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following

SPEECH.

Mr. President, and Honourable Gentlemen, of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

In addressing you under the circumstances in which we now meet, it appears to me that it will equally consist with my duty as the Queen's Representative, and with your wishes as the Representatives of the loyal population of New Brunswick, that I should give a due prominence to that topic in which we must at all times feel, the deepest interest, but especially at this present moment—*I allude to the health of a Sovereign, who, possessing the longest claims upon our duty and affection, on her own account, has required an expression of our love in the fulfilment, under the blessing of Divine Providence, of the hopes which the Nation had so ardently cherished.*

Upon this joyful event, and upon her Majesty's recovery from illness, I have much satisfaction in acquainting you, that the Governor selected by me to accompany the training of some of the Frontiers of the Militia, and of the Artillery Companies, reports very favourably of their general progress and attendance, during the

late season. Copies of these Reports will be communicated to you, and I trust to your liberality to enable me to continue a system which has been attended with so much advantage and satisfaction, and which it is my wish gradually to extend to the whole Militia Force of the Province.

There are other subjects connected with our relative duties to the Public, upon which I will communicate with you by Message, and I renew to you my invitation freely to bring to my notice any matters in which my co-operation may appear to you to be essential for the advancement of Public Interests. Copies of several Despatches which have been received by me from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, since the last Session of the Legislature, will be communicated to you, and will, I doubt not, receive that degree of respectful consideration which is due to the source from which they proceed, and to the anxious desire which is invariably manifested by our gracious Queen, to promote the interests and happiness of all classes of Her Subjects in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly, I have directed that full and detailed statements of the Provincial Receipts and Expenditure, since the last Session, be laid before you without delay, and I feel happy in being able to congratulate you upon the satisfactory state of the Public Revenue.

I likewise feel that I need not add to what I have already said under the several heads of this Address, any general recommendation to you to make that suitable provision for the expenditure connected with the efficient administration of your affairs, which I have never found you otherwise than ready to do with alacrity and liberality.

Mr. President, and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly, I regret that I have not in my power, as yet to communicate to you any definite arrangement of the Boundary Line, Esparte Explorations have been made on either side, preparatory to the final settlement of that important question, and I see no reason, to apprehend that the result can be otherwise than favorable to British Interests, as well as to the continuance of that good understanding with the neighbouring States, which it is the true interest, and I am convinced, the sincere desire of both Nations cordially to promote.

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