

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

It is estimated that 10,000 laborers in the Tyne shipyards are out of work.

The Manchester and Oldham Bank at Manchester has failed. The debts are small and the assets ample.

Queen Victoria will arrive on the 17th inst. at Darmstadt, where she will have an interview with Emperor William on the 21st. It is supposed the interview will relate to family affairs.

The stonecutters, masons and glassworkers of Saxony are out on strike.

Messrs. Ghislain, bankers of Charleron and Antwerp, have failed. Liabilities \$3,200,000.

The Porte having decided to put a new tariff into effect on June 6th, the German, Russia, Belgium and United States Ministers have informed the Porte they will not consent to the abolition of their commercial rights under capitulation.

The French are making extraordinary efforts to suppress slavery in Morocco. The French Minister at Tangier has issued a decree declaring that henceforth French subjects and Mussulman proteges of the French Ministry must neither buy, sell, nor hold slaves in that country. The proclamation was issued on account of the recent revival of the traffic.

A dispatch states that the Dutch fleet has blockaded the west coast of Acheen, Sumatra, for the purpose of compelling the Rajah of Lenom to release the crew of 25 men of the wrecked steamer, Nisero. The Rajah demanded a ransom of \$310,000 for the prisoners.

Several members of the Chinese Privy Council have been publicly degraded by the Empress at Peking, and stripped of all their honors for their incapable conduct of affairs in Tonquin.

The alliances among the rebel tribes on the Blue Nile and White Nile are breaking up. The tribes that surrounded Saleh Pasha have quarrelled and dispersed. Marauding bands continue to interrupt communications between Khartoum and Berber, but there is no unity in their operations.

A dispatch to the *Times* from Khartoum, April 7, says the people are heartsick hoping for English relief. The town is now in the centre of an enormous rebel camp. Our Krupp munition rather short; the situation is critical; the rebels have frustrated the attempt to send a steamer to Berber. General Gordon will probably be driven to retreat by Central Africa. Retreat to Berber is impossible.

A Cairo despatch says that there are 138 men, women, and children of all ages in the infirmary at Tourah, living like wild beasts in indescribable filth and neglect. Among the inmates are several raving madmen who are sometimes unchained. There are other inmates in every stage of the most loathsome diseases. Two black men walk about entirely naked.

Advices from Peking denote that the dismissal by the Empress of Prince Koung, President of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tsoung-Li-Yamen), and four of his colleagues, will be followed by a vigorous foreign policy. A number of the most prominent Annamese courtiers have gone from Hue to Hung-Hoa to escape the dominant French influence at the capital. It is officially given out that Hung Hoa will be defended to the uttermost. An interview with an ex-Governor of French Cochin China is published, in which opinions are expressed that a milliard francs would not suffice to keep in subjection to the French protectorate the treacherous Tonquinese. Annamites state that Hung-Hoa has been evacuated. General Negrier last week bombarded the villages before Hung Hoa. The enemy forthwith began to evacuate the town without resistance. The Chinese, after evacuating Hung-Hoa, set fire to the town, which is now in flames. *Liberte* publishes the condition of peace between France and China which Patenotre, the French Minister, is charged to offer at Peking. It is stipulated China shall accept a limited French protectorate over Tonquin. No demand for indemnity is mentioned.

Yellow fever prevails at Vera Cruz. Thirteen deaths occurred in one day last week.

For several days rumours have been rife that the threatened revolt throughout Mexico was assuming a tangible shape. The causes of discontent are the large moneyed concessions granted to American railroads, ordering nickel coin to be funded and then repudiating the certificates of deposit or the return of nickels, requiring

a 12 cent stamp on all articles offered for sale, notwithstanding the exorbitant custom house tax, the failure to pay the soldiers of the regular army, resulting in the demoralization of the troops, those at Monterey throwing down their arms and deserting in squads because they were starving in garrison. Charges of corruption are urged against the President. He is now worth four millions, but was poor when he went into office four years ago.

Official advices from Cuba say that Aguero, in his eight days' march from the coast to Puerto Principe and the old revolutionary district of Bogamo, was joined by a number of men. His force is now 1,400 strong. In the district of Santo Espirita the insurgents were received with acclamations in the villages, where the freed slaves joined the column after having set fire to four plantations and sacked the safes of the receivers of taxes. The receiver of Trinidad making his rounds, accompanied by the ordinary escort, fell into the hands of the insurgents, who overpowered and took from him several thousand dollars. Aguero and his army will reach early in the week the mountains of Las Lunas, the seat of the late insurrection. The Captain-General holds two councils of war a day.

A band of 42 insurgents, under Duran, who intended joining Augero, were attacked by troops and 38 killed.

Tals and Sketches.

HEROIC LITTLE JIM.

The broad Mississippi, down which the noble steamer was gliding, gleamed in the moonlight like a pathway of molten silver, the far-away shore on either hand had faded from sight altogether, and the deck was deserted.

Creeping like the dreaded hydra, now with lifted curling crest, then lying closely to the bales of goods, and writhing slowly between barrels and bags, there came toward the open hatchway a little thread of smoke—the boat was on fire!

Suddenly there came a cry, a few hurried orders rang out, the great whistle sounded with a loud shriek, and the captain, officers, and crew gathered in fear and haste. "Where did it begin?" "Can it be overcome?" "Is there a chance to save the steamer?" The question was in every mouth.

"We can only fight it, hoping for the best. Call the passengers, head the boat toward shore, and let every man work for his life," and the captain set the example by throwing off his coat and springing to the force pump that supplied water to the long hose. "Who will go below with the hose?"

A dozen brave fellows sprang forward; one was chosen, and a rope about his waist, he descended into the hot, whirling cloud, his companions meantime throwing buckets of water upon him to keep his clothes from burning while he directed the stream from the force-pump upon the fire. In ten minutes he was drawn out, blackened, singed and strangling, and another took his place. But the flames raged on. From behind great piles of freight the forked tongues of flame leaped out, scorching the workers hands and faces; from barrels and hogsheads of tar the dense black smoke rolled up and suffocated them, while the half-subdued war of the angry element came to their ears with a hoarse, exultant sound! The steamer was doomed.

And now the seams in the upper deck began to swell and part, little puffs of smoke oozed out, and thin blue flames danced and flickered above them. The crowd of frightened and half-naked passengers crept further and further forward, to avoid the stifling heat, until they struggled in one dense mass at the very bow; some crying, others praying, and a few silently watching the onward progress of the boat toward the shore, for the pilot stood manfully at his wheel, in spite of the whirling sparks and the drifting embers; the engines were yet working, and twenty minutes more would save the passengers and crew.

But even while they spoke of it, when hope was dawning again, and preparations were being made to save what they could, there came a hideous roar, a dull explosion, a rush of flame, and through the blood-red glare spread around, they saw the wheel-house was empty and the fire alone, held possession there—the roof of the cabin had been blown off, and the helmsman was gone! At almost the same instant the boat entered a swift-running-eddy, her bow swung sharply away from the longed-for shore, and she swept out toward the open waters again, blazing fiercely.

"Unless someone can lash that wheel astarboard, we are lost. Will any man volunteer?"