

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

THE POISONINGS AT HONG KONG.

The *Moniteur de la Flotte* gives some details of the arrest and first interrogatory of the Chinese baker. Allum, whose execution for poisoning his bread has been already mentioned:

Allum, who is a man of large fortune, and who has extensive mills and granaries at Canton where his family usually reside, took to flight immediately after the perpetration of his crime, and embarked in the night on board a junk for Macao. An English steamer was sent in pursuit of him, and he was brought back on the 19th to Hong Kong, where he was immediately subjected to an interrogatory by Captain Adams, charged to investigate the affair. The questions and his answers, which were as follows, were made through an interpreter:—

“Q. On the 15th December all the foreigners who deal with you received bread which had been poisoned with arsenic. These who partook of it soon felt the effects of the poison, and several are still in a dangerous state. Soon after the commission of this action you took to flight. Your domestics, on being arrested and interrogated, declared that the bread had been prepared under your direction, and that you personally mixed the poison, and threw the arsenic into the dough. What have you to say to this?”

“A. I acted agreeably to the order of the Viceroy, which was brought to me by a satellite of the mandarin. That order told me that the English having declared war on my country, it was my duty to assist in their destruction; that the soldiers used fire and sword to fight them, and that I was to use poison; that it was natural to do everything to injure an enemy; and that moreover, if I disobeyed his orders my family at Canton would be thrown into prison, and all my property confiscated.”

“Q. The conduct of the Viceroy is horrible, but it is no excuse for yours. The act which you have committed is contrary to the laws of war, as it is to those of humanity, and who commits such a crime is equally guilty with him who advises it. It is useless for you to attempt to excuse yourself by saying that you acted against an enemy, for you have also poisoned Germans, Russians, Italians, Americans, and French, with whom you are not at war.”

“A. It was involuntarily that the poisoned bread was distributed to these foreigners.”

“Q. What you now say is not the truth. Your domestics have declared that, on that day, you made two kinds of bread: one which was distributed by your orders to all foreigners indiscriminately; and another, which was good, and given only to the Chinese.”

“A. My domestics are mistaken.”

“Q. That we shall see hereafter. Your crime is so horrible that it is very natural that you should seek to dissemble, but when the day of your trial arrives we will furnish proof of all we charge you with.”

The first interrogatory took place at the moment when the baker was brought back and lodged in the prison of Hong Kong. It is a curious document, and shows the feelings which now animate the Chinese.

The Earl of Elgin has been sworn of Her Majesty's Privy Council.

Signor Saffi, the eminent Italian will commence a tour in Scotland for the purpose of lecturing on his country's cause the second week in April.

The two vacant garters are not yet disposed of, but it is said, likely to be conferred on Lord Granville and Lord Dalhousie. The Duke of Norfolk declined one.

The subject of discussion at the last meeting of the Union Society, in the learned town of Oxford was “That some coercion of the press is rendered necessary by late events?”

It has been resolved to repair the Royal Mail Steamer *Tyne* at Southampton. The expense of getting her off and fitting her out again will be nearly £20,000, when ready for sea she will be worth at least £10,000.

Her Majesty, we are happy to state remains in the enjoyment of excellent health and retains all her usual active habits. It is now pretty well understood that the accouchement may be expected in the early part of next month.

Mr. Bronterre O'Brien has gone to Tiverton on behalf of the British and continental democrats, to oppose Lord Palmerston's re-election for that borough, on the ground of his “alleged anti-democratic policy at home and abroad.”

At the last general election the number of electors in Ireland on the register was 179,488. In counties 149,854, and in cities and boroughs 29,634.

At the Dublin and Kinstown Railway half-yearly meeting to be held on the 28th inst., the directors will declare a dividend of 4 per cent, free of income tax.

The execution of the two convicts, Edmund Power and Patrick Norris, who were sentenced to death at the Cork assizes has been fixed to take place on Monday, the 27th April.

The judge in chancery charged with the winding up of the Electric Telegraph Company of Ireland has made a call of 10s per share on the contributaries, payable on the 30th instant.

RUSSIAN VESSELS OF WAR.—The Russian Government, which formerly was accustomed to apply to England for the building of a great number of vessels of war, appears, of late to give the preference to France. She has now on the stocks in the building yards of M.M. Collas and Co., of Bordeaux, a screw frigate of 500-horse power, to carry 60 guns; a screw corvette of 400-horse power, for 30 guns; and a paddle-wheel steam yacht of 400-horse power intended for the Emperor of Russia.

COLONISATION IN TURKEY.—By a recent rival from Constantinople, which brings intelligence to the 12th, we learn that the Sultan published a firman, ordering that land shall be given to foreign families who may feel disposed to establish themselves in Turkey. The essential condition required for such settlers will be that they shall become subjects of the Sultan and swear fidelity to him. The colonists are to have full freedom of religion, and to have their own churches.

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

HARBOUR GRACE WEDNESDAY APRIL 29

The Paper from which we were enabled to take the Harbor Grace address to Governor Darling, did not come to hand in time for our last week's publication, we publish the address and reply to day, together with his Excellency's opinion and advice upon the subject of French rights to our Fishery, and placed in juxtaposition will be found the opinion of Mr. Robinson upon the same subject, so that the public may judge as to the claim, which either may possess, upon the people's gratitude.

We are not of the number who desire to attack Gentlemen in exalted stations of life, and still less would we willingly censure a Governor or depreciate his public character after he had left our shore: Indeed under our present form of Government we do not understand how any Governor can be censured for the course which the Minister of the day may think it profitable to pursue, as a political character. The Governor of Newfoundland may henceforth be deemed a nullity; the most difficult question is—how any Gentleman of character and standing, can tamely submit to remain nominally at the head of a Government so degraded, and so degrading, as our present local Government, in its various ramifications, appears to be.

“Make your income equal to your responsibilities, such was the first sentence which fell from Governor Darling's lips with which we were dissatisfied, for that part of his address to the Legislature was indirect recommendation to raise by taxation, means sufficient to meet the expenses, which an extravagant Administrator might incur; and that injunction was followed to the letter in all but one solitary instance, that of the attempted duty upon fish and oil, the Tariff albeit, it was called “the Poor man's” not only produced revenue to meet the expenses, but exceeded, by, we believe some fifteen or twenty thousand Pounds; but notwithstanding all this indirect recommendation of additional taxation, and the, it may be conscientious but certainly injurious opinion upon the Fishery question, we could afford to unite in a tribute of respect to the representative of royalty, and separating the Honorable but passive overseer, from an active and designing ministry, we with others did not hesitate to sign the complimentary address.

To his Excellency CHARLES HENRY DARLING, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies, &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the undersigned inhabitants of the District of Harbour Grace, in the Island of Newfoundland, having heard of Your Excellency's intended departure from amongst us, beg leave to convey to you the assurance of our sincere wishes for your future happiness and prosperity.

We beg to express the high sense we entertain of the talent and ability with which Your Excellency has, since the commencement of your administration, conducted the Government of this Colony, and of the hearty desire you have always evinced for the welfare and advancement of all classes of its inhabitants.

We thank your Excellency for the faithful representation made by you to Her Majesty's Government of the evil and ruinous effects that would result, should the contemplated convention with France be finally confirmed; and we ardently hope that your remonstrances, in conjunction with the exertions now being made by the people of this Colony, will, in the end, frustrate the unjust attempt to alienate the rights and privileges of those who have ever been loyal and faithful subjects of the Crown of Great Britain.

We sincerely hope that your Excellency may enjoy health and prosperity in your new and more exalted position; and we now beg to bid you farewell, and to assure you that Mrs. Darling, your family, and yourself carry with you our warmest

wishes for your future happiness.

Harbour Grace, April 8th, 1857.
Signed by above 200 inhabitants

REPLY.
To the Inhabitants of the District of Harbour Grace:

GENTLEMEN.—It has given me great pleasure to receive this Address, by which I am assured of the good opinion entertained by the Inhabitants of the District of Harbour Grace, of my conduct in the administration of this Government, and of their kind wishes for my success in the different sphere of service on which I am about to enter.

I simply discharged my duty to Her Majesty's Government, not less than to the Colony itself, in faithfully describing the reception which the Fisheries Convention met with from the Legislature and from the population at large; and I rejoice that it finally devolved upon me to make, on the part of that Government, the announcement which confirmed the belief I have always myself entertained and publicly avowed, viz.: that the decisive rejection of that measure by the Local Legislature would prove to be its nullification.

I beg in the names of Mrs. Darling and other members of my family to thank you for the kindness with which you refer to them: and I request you to accept our best wishes for the future prosperity and happiness of all the inhabitants of the District of Harbour Grace,

C. H. DARLING, Governor
Government House, April 18, 1857.

Extract from Despatch No. 66.

From the documents (Alluded to) it can hardly fail to be concluded, that the Government and Parliament of Great Britain recognised, and enforced the exclusive right claimed by the French, whenever we were at peace with that nation, from the year 1783, to the date of the last mentioned proclamation of Governor Gambier in “1802,” and therefore that exclusion of the British was clearly acknowledged as the footing on which it (the right) stood in “1792 and upon which it was replaced by the Treaty of Paris in 1814.

The strong point appears to be, that the Act of Parliament, 28 Geo. 3 cap. 35, and the subsequent proclamations of Governors Elliott and Gambier, not only direct the destruction of works erected on shore, and the removal of ships and boats; but the departure of His Majesty's subjects themselves from the prescribed French limits; and this for the avowed purpose of enforcing the notice to them, that they are not to “interfere by any means with the competition of the fishery of the French within these limits—thus presenting a marked contrast to the language of the predecessors of those Governors, already referred to, before 1792, which uniformly refer to the French right as being “common” or “concurrent.”

That the right conferred must be taken to include all kinds of Fish that could be caught upon the Coast, seems scarcely to admit of doubt, since the British Fishermen themselves are not permitted to remain on the Coast conceded to the French for fishing purposes during the temporary occupation of it for those purposes by the latter.

Such Fish, whether salmon or otherwise, as they might be able to catch during the absence of the French in the winter months, that is, according to immemorial practice, from about the 10th October to the 16th April, they would seem not to be prohibited from catching, but this remnant of a right as it may be justly described, would practically be of little importance.

Now, if either of these meanings be accepted if the declaration ran that His Britannic Majesty will prevent His subjects from interrupting in any manner the fishery of the French by their “joint right” or “common claim,” or by “seeking or endeavouring to gain” what the French are “endeavouring to gain” at the same time, no sort of doubt or degree of ambiguity would exist as to the meaning of the Declaration.—His Britannic Majesty would have promised that his subjects should not interrupt the French by the assertion of their “joint right” or “common claim,” or by seeking or endeavouring to catch fish on those coasts of Newfoundland, the temporary occupation of which was assigned to the French. The object in view being to ascertain the footing on which the French right stood in 1792, as recognised by the British Government, and to which it was restored in 1814 it is unnecessary for that purpose to pursue the enquiry further.

MR. ROBINSON'S OPINION ON THE FISHERIES.

Mr. GRIEVE convened a special meeting of the Commercial Society on Thursday the 16th inst., at which the following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this meeting that after perusal of Mr. Laouchere's despatch of the 26th March, it is not considered advisable or necessary to send Mr. Robinson at present as a Delegate to England; but as occasion may

hereafter arise for the services of a Delegate to resist any encroachment on our rights, it is resolved that such portion of the amount subscribed as may be agreed on, shall be placed in the Bank, to meet such expenses.

That the Committee do wait upon Mr. Robinson with a copy of the foregoing resolution, and present him with one hundred guineas sterling for his services, connected with the intended delegation.

Accordingly, on the 17th inst., the Committee consisting of Messrs. GRIEVE, STARR, ROW, DICKENSON and HEPBURN, met Mr. ROBINSON, and presented to him the said resolutions, who in reply said:—

GENTLEMEN.—I beg to offer you my thanks for your kindness in presenting to me these resolutions, and through you, to the Commercial Society my grateful acknowledgments for the handsome fee they have given me.

I prize still more highly the generous confidence in me which led your influential Society, unsolicited, to depute me to proceed to England for the purpose of opposing the late Convention. As no class in the country has so great a stake involved, and would have been so deeply affected by the ruinous concessions to France contemplated by that Convention, as the members of that Commercial body; so none could with greater propriety have stood forward to resist the public wrong, and the invasion of their private rights.

Should the necessity to which you advert arise I shall be ready and willing to the utmost of my limited ability—but with faithful zeal—to assist in defending the just rights of the people of this Colony, in any manner in which my services may be required.

I fear that the danger to which you refer is increased in consequence of the encouragement the French will naturally derive from the new opinion recently promulgated that the subjects of France possess an exclusive right within their limits not merely to the cod fishery but to fish of all kinds.

I owe it to the Commercial Society and to the country to state my firm belief that such an opinion is as erroneous in law as it is calculated to be injurious in effect.

The grounds of that belief have been closely examined by me whilst preparing for the mission with which you honoured me—I think you are entitled to them, and I will cheerfully place them at your disposal if you desire them.

From the Times.

The opinion of Mr. ROBINSON on this vitally important point is as follows, and will no doubt be received as one of the plainest expositions of our fishing relations with French subjects that has yet appeared most conclusively fixing the property of the British subjects in Newfoundland in an undisturbed position, if adopted by the home government:—

I am of opinion that the only fishing rights the subjects of France are legally entitled to in Newfoundland are (1) the liberty to fish for Cod in common, or concurrently with British subjects on that part of the coast between Cape Ray and Cape John, in the enjoyment of which privilege they are not to be interrupted by the competition of—or, as the word is subsequently explained—by “being molested by” British subjects;—(2) the liberty of drying such fish within the limits aforesaid;—(3) the right to build scaffolds, stages and huts “necessary and usual for drying fish,” and to repair their fishing vessels.

I do not think the French are entitled to an exclusive right to the Cod-fishery within those limits, nor to any right whatever to carry on, or interfere with, Salmon Herring, Seal net, Mackerel or other fishery then Cod fishery, for the following reasons:—

The language of the Treaties between England and France under which alone the rights of the latter nation are derived; does not convey, or purport to convey, any exclusive right, the term “exclusive” or any synonyme is not used. The sovereignty of the Island being in England, she concedes to France “the liberty” to fish, and dry that fish, on the shore; promising not to interrupt French subjects in the enjoyment of such permissive right but stipulating that the method of carrying on “the fishery” which had at all times been acknowledged and used, should not be deviated from by “either party,” thereby expressly providing for the presence of both parties in the prosecution of a common pursuit.

N. B.—The authorities cited by Mr. Robinson with that Gentlemen's remarks shall be given in extenso in our next publication.

CARBONAR APRIL 22nd 1857.

Mr. Editor.

Sir,
Will you please to publish the following exhibit of the disbursement of three years Grant from the Legislature, to the Carbonar Dorcas Society, and in due time, the Secretary will furnish a statement of the number and description of garments given to the poor.

Yours Respectfully
R. H. Shenstone.
Legislative Grant for }
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Paid for Goods from Messrs. Woss & Fryer
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Mr. Nichole
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