INDIA AND CHINA.

(By the Times' Express from Marseilles.)

Our extraordinary express in anticipation of the Bombay mail of the 15th of October, reached us on Nov. 21. It brings intelligence of the butchery by the Sikh soldiery of Jowahir Singh, the Wuzeer. His death was the result of a deep laid plot, and effected in the most deliberate manner. From the beginning of Sept. the troops had begun to throng towards Lahore, where their demands forced the Queen-Mother to quit the fort and to take the boy-King Dhuleep into their camp.—The Queen-Mother and her brother, the Wuzeer, had endeavoured to appease their violent clamour, but on the 21st Sept. the Queen got into a well protected planq'in, went to the camp, and was treated with respect by the soldiers. The boy-King, with his uncle the Wuzeer, followed on a state elephant. On reaching the camp the division formerly commanded by General Court received the King and led him near the tent in which his mother was resting. They ordered the elephant's guide to cause the animal to kneel, and because he did not instantly do so, by a shot in the side severely wounded him. The elephant knelt, some soldiers approached and took the boy-king off, and sent him to his mother. The elephant was then forced to rise, and when the animal stood up, several shots were fired at Jowahir Singh, who was still on its back. The affrighted Wuzeer attempted to parley and made great promises, but the soldiers were irritated at his reported death, by one of the Wuzeer's agents, of Peshora Singh, and they speedily killed the Wuzeer. Two of his favorites were soon after slain, and the three bodies were burned. The Queen-Mother, and her son, the King, remained prisoners in the camp for one night, but on the following day were permitted to return to the palace. The troops wish Gholab Singh Singh should become their Wuzeer, but he has declined the dangerous honor. They are bewildered who to trust the Government to, they have been obliged to request the Queen-Mother to perform the duty until they can find a man that will satisfy their demands. They have several times threatened to depose Dhuleep (whose legitimacy as the son of old Runjeet they stoutly deny,) and to raise Dewa Singh, to the throne. One of their sources of hatred to Jowahir Singh is stated to be a rumour, which was believed, that he had applied for aid to the British Government of India.

It is said, that this atrocity committed by the Sikh soldiers, is calculated to have some influence on the decision of the Governor-general, who was to have reached Agra on the 20th of October.

Burmah is likely to be productive of some remarkable events within a short time, in consequence of Tharawaddie's wishing to name a favourite successor.—His other sons object to this arrangement; the chief opponent is the Prince of Prome. Tharawaddie sent for him, but he would not attend his father's court.—Tharawaddie asked for one of his own chiefs, named Woon, lately Governor at Rangoon, and upon the chief's appearance Tharawaddie accused him of having visited the Prince of Prome, and then speared him to death. The Prince of Prome assembled forces, and was preparing to depose the bloody tyrant Tharawaddie, who has already caused several of those whom he suspected to be executed.

ENGLISH MANUFACTURE OF IRON.—The value of iron for manufacturing purposes is, it seems, considerably deteriorated by frequent changes in the mode of transport and exposure to the atmosphere; a proportionate oxidisation ensues, and when it reaches its destination, it is so much per cent. less valuable than if conveyed at once, and almost uncoiled, from the furnace to the workshop or factory. What can be done with it in this condition is illustrated by the following remarkable fact:—Thirty-one pounds of Shropshire iron has been made into wire upwards of one hundred and eleven miles in length; and so fine was the fabric that part of it was humorously converted, in lieu of the usual horse hair, into a barrister's wig! In order to effect this extraordinary tenuity, the process consists of heating the iron and passing it through rollers of eight inches diameter, going at a rate of four hundred revolutions per minute, down to No. 4 on the wire gauge. It is afterwards drawn cold at Birmingham or else where down to the extent of 38 on the same gauge, and so completed to the surprising length of 111 miles.

GENERAL ORDER.

Horse Guards, 20th November 1845.

The commander-in-chief having considered it his duty to order a court of inquiry to assemble, in order to inquire into the transaction which occurred in the 4th Dragoons on the [illegible] September last, desires that the Report of the court may be published in the General Orders of the Army.

He intreats the commanding officers under their command, respectively, to the evil consequences resulting from the practice of gymnastic exercises after the Mess Dinner.

The Mess Dinner of the Officers of a Regiment cannot be deemed a private convivial meeting, considering the interest which has been manifested by the public authorities in promoting its comfort and respectability, and considering that it is not unusually attended by Officers and private gentlemen of character, and respectable on account of their rank and station (whether professional or social) or age, it is desirable that conduct or practices should be avoided in which men of that description cannot take part, and that nothing should pass which is otherwise than usual in the societies of persons of that description, and, indeed, that at all times, and under all circumstances, gymnastic exercises, wrestling, and boxing by Officers, and such practices of youths in colleges and schools, rather than of men entrusted with the command of Soldiers, by commission of their Sovereign, should be discontinued, excepting strictly in private; and that no Officer or Gentleman should ever think of raising his hand against another.

The commander-in-chief has been informed that the practice of smoking, by the use of pipes, cigars or cheroots, has become prevalent among the officers of the Army which is not only in itself a species of intoxication occasioned by the fumes of tobacco, but undoubtedly occasions drinking and tippling by those who acquire the habit; and he entreats the Officers commanding regiments to prevent smoking in the Mess rooms of there several regiments, and in the adjoining apartments, and to discourage the practice among the Officers of Junior Rank in their Regiments.

Lieutenant Kirwan is released from his arrest and to return to the performance of his Duty.

By Command of Field Marshal,
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON,
Commander in Chief
JOHN MACDONALD,
Adjutant-General.

War-Office, Nov. 8.—Memorandum—Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve on the 74th foot resuming the appellation of 74th (Highland) Regiment of foot, and of its being clothed accordingly; that is, to wear the Tartan trews, instead of the Oxford mixture; plaid cap, instead of the black shako; and the plaid scarf, as worn by the 71st Regiment. The alteration of dress is to take place on the next issue of clothing.

GAMBLING IN THE ARMY.—Garrison Order issued by General Sir Robert Wilson, Governor of Gibraltar, in consequence of the loss of near £3,000 by one officer in the garrison at play:—"Town Major's Office, Gibraltar, 25th Oct. 1845. The Governor has had the mortification to find several officers of the garrison, in disobedience of the most express orders of the [illegible] great prejudice of the serv[illegible] in gaming transactions, w[illegible] in their train upon one o[illegible] of such a pernicious na[illegible] so destructive of discipli[illegible] that good feeling which [illegible] officers, instead of making [illegible] as to render the severest condemnation imperative. The Governor having ordered a Court of Inquiry to investigate the particulars, has found the allegations so well established, that he is under the painful necessity of transmitting a statement of the proceedings to his Grace the Commander-in-Chief; but he will also have the satisfaction to report, one of the officers concerned as having been so sensible of his fault as spontaneously to have made the most disinterested reparation in his power to mitigate its mischief, and exercise a salutary influence.—D. Fulla, Colonel, Town Major."

[From the Woolwich Gazette for December.]

We have received letters during the past month from New Brunswick, and it is gratifying to learn the high estimation in which the company of Royal Artillery just returned from that station to head quarters at Woolwich was held by the inhabitants of St John. It is always pleasing to have an opportunity of recording the approbation of officers of her Majesty's services, whether home or colonial; and we trust we do not infringe on the contents of a private letter addressed to us when we give the following extract:—"Of Corporal Twemlow we would beg to remark, that he is highly esteemed here as a steady, intelligent, good soldier. He has been in this city several years, and having been selected at the time of our border troubles with America to instruct the St. John division of Militia Artillery, his abilities and excellent conduct have been justly appreciated by both officers and men of that corps. It is worthy of further remark, that all the officers and men of her Majesty's Royal Regiment of Artillery have evinced on every occasion the kindest disposition to assist and instruct the Militia of that branch of the service in the province, offering them at any time all the means at their disposal which would tend to aid them in acquiring a perfect knowledge of their duties."

It is to the admirable adaptation of British officers and soldiers to the circumstances in which they may be placed in foreign lands, that they secure the esteem of all parties amongst whom they may be located; and seldom do they change their stations or return home without leaving many sorrowing friends whose esteem their upright and manly conduct had obtained for them. Troubles may again arise on the American borders, but this country has nothing to fear while our officers and soldiers retain the approbation and cordial co-operation of their colonial brethren-in-arms, and the loyal inhabitants of the Canadian provinces. We beg to assure the officers and men of the St. John division of Militia Artillery that we shall always be pleased to hear of their prosperity, and record any interesting matters connected with their branch of the service, to remind those who have bid them farewell of the happy days spent amongst them. Every officer and soldier of the Royal Artillery, who has had the gratification of serving in New Brunswick, alludes to that period as the happiest in their lives, owing to the friendly feeling which prevails amongst the respective ranks and classes of society in that quarter of the world."

78TH HIGHLANDERS.—At the meeting of the Edinburgh Town Council, Nov. 11th, a letter was read, addressed to the Lord Provost, dated Camp, near Poonah, Sept. 13, and signed by Captain M'Intyre, 78th Highlanders, on the part of the Commanding Officer of that regiment, requesting permission to erect a monument in the Assembly Hall of St. Giles's church, to the memory of the officers, soldiers, women and children of that regiment, who died at Scinde, between the 10th of September, 1844, and the 4th of March, 1845, (the day of the regiment quitting the country,) amounting in all to 669 souls. The sum collected in the regiment for the purpose of erecting the proposed monument was about 120 guineas. The Council agreed to the proposed monument being erected in the cathedral of St. Giles, and referred to the Lord Provost's committee to arrange the details and see the matter carried out. Serjeant James Burns and Private John Clark have been each awarded a gratuity, with medal, in addition to pension, for meritorious conduct, the former £7, and the latter £5.

The transport with the 45th Regiment on their way from Gibralter to the Cape, put into Rio on the 8th Sept. Major Butler, we regret to say, died on the 10th, and was entered at the Saint Antonio Convent.—By permission of the Governor, 300 men were disembarked to accompany the remains of Major Butler to their last resting place. The beautiful order and appearance of this body of men marching through the streets of Rio excited great interest and admiration amongst the Brazilians.

The *Leeds Mercury* furnishes the following synopsis on the trade, crops, &c. of the kingdom:—

"1.—We have the resources accumulated during three years of prosperity to fall back upon.

"2.—There has been little or no speculation in trade or manufactures, and not much overtrading with foreign countries.

"3.—Stocks of manufactured goods are not large in any hands.

"4.—The harvest, though below an average, has been very far indeed from being like that of 1816, or even of 1838. The grain suffered more in quality than in quantity. The chief difficulty will arise out of the failure of the potato crop.

"5.—It is impossible we should have an overwhelming importation of corn, to take away our bullion; we could not get the corn if we wanted it; this is an evil which will gradually tell upon trade and the working class, but at all events we need not expect any sudden derangement of the currency from that cause.

"6.—As prices of manufactured goods are not high, we shall be able to export goods to a considerable extent, in payment for whatever grain may be imported.

"7.—The Bank of England has still the very large amount of £14,001,293 of coin and bullion in her coffers, being four millions more than used to be considered a *full* sum.

"8.—The foreign exchanges are still in our favour with France, and not against us with Germany. The exchange with Hamburg has improved since last week, and it is now at par.

"9.—There has been no over-issue of country bank paper; and the banks are in a good condition.

"10.—The established railways have been proved by experience to be excellent investments, and their income is now such that the shareholders would be throwing away money to sell at present prices.

"11.—Perhaps there is scarcely one of the railways now in progress that will not yield a good return to the shareholders when opened.

"12.—Most of the projected railways (except the purely competing lines) are betwixt towns and through tracts of country which must, beyond all doubt, sooner or later enjoy the facilities of railway communication. They have been brought forward too fast; but there are very few that will not in the course of years be constructed.

"These are considerations which taken together, seem to us to forbid anything like despondency."

THE AGRARIAN WARFARE IN IRELAND.—Three government proclamations have been issued. The first, offering a reward of £200 for the discovery of Mr. Clarke's assassins; the second, £100 for the person who fired at, fortunately without effect, Mr. Robert Lloyd, of Longford Cottage, near Roscrea, on Thursday evening last; and the third, £80 for a similar offence on the person of a man named Michael Hogan, by a party of three men, on the night of the 1st November.

Eighteen railways are proposed to be constructed in connection with the city and county of Cork, the capital of which is put down at over eight millions sterling!

The landlords of the north and east of Ireland have volunteered to advance £600,000 for the drainage of 4,200,000 acres.

Sovereign, and to the [illegible] ice, have been engaged [illegible] which have brought [illegible] the party. It is a vice [illegible] a garrison [illegible] sonal welfare, and should pervade brother [illegible] a prey of one another, instead of making [illegible] condemnation imperative. ordered a Court of Inquiry [illegible] established, that he is under the [illegible] transmitting a statement of [illegible] Commander-in-[illegible] will also have the satisfaction to report [illegible] concerned as having been [illegible] spontaneously to have [illegible] reparation in his power [illegible] its mischief, and exercise a salutary [illegible] Colonel, Town Major."

The Tipperary paper brings the horrifying intelligence of the assassination, in open day, of Mr. Patrick Clarke, a gentleman of extensive property, and late of the firm of Clarke and Vincent, solicitors and land agents, of Merrion-square, Dublin.

The daughter of the late Sir Abraham Bradley King, who was twice Lord Mayor of Dublin, and Grand Master of the Orange Lodge, and who had, in his capacity of Lord Mayor, entertained George IV., when he visited Ireland in 1821, has been compelled, as the widow of a naval officer, to apply to the Royal Naval Benevolent Society for assistance.

POTATOES IN IRELAND.—The accounts from Ireland last week were more cheering than those of the previous week. All alarm has subsided, and the most accurate representation is, that the crop will be sufficient for the people's wants. Maurice O'Connell, Esq. the son of the Agitator, says, that not *one tenth* of the crop has been affected by the disease in his district.

The Glasgow Chair of Botany.—We have much pleasure in announcing the appointment of Dr. Walker Arnott to the Regius Professorship of Botany in the University of Glasgow, v. Dr. Balfour, transmitted to Edinburgh. No one can doubt that this is an excellent selection by Sir James Graham.—*Gardners' Chronicle.*

The whole of the Glasgow banking establishments have raised the interest on deposits from 2 to 2½ per cent. per annum, the Royal Bank and National Bank of Scotland to 3 per cent.

Miss Burdett Coutts.—Miss Burdett Coutts, who has been residing for some days at Douglas's Hotel, before leaving town, transmitted to the Lord Provost a hundred pounds for the benefit of the poor.—*Edinburgh paper.*

Glasgow city Theatre, lately erected on the Green by Mr. H. Anderson, the Wizard of the North, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning last. The flames burst out after the performance of the evening, and nothing now remains of the building and its contents but brick walls and smouldering ruins.

The fortifications at Portsmouth harbour are proceeding very rapidly. Blockade fort, at the mouth of the harbour, is rapidly approching completion; when finished it will be the most formidable battery in the kingdom.

The quantity of Flour and Grain under Custom House lock, in Great Britain, waiting the reduction of duty, at the last dates, was 22,000 bbls Flour, 5,475,996 bushels wheat, 948,366 bushels oats, and 621,585 bushels barley.

LORD JOHN RUSSEL.—Quite a sensation has been produced to day by the manifesto of Lord John Russel addressed to his constituents, the electors of the City of London, on the state of the country, and what measures ought to be adopted in the present state of affairs. Never had a document been presented to the public which has commanded so large a degree of attention, and the contents of which have given so universal degree of satisfaction. * * * If the head of the Government has lamentably failed in his duty at the present alarming crisis, the same cannot now be said of the leader of the Opposition. Lord J. Russel having stood out with desperate courage for a fixed duty, long after it had been forsaken by all but a small faction of his party, has now, with a wiser courage, avowed himself a TOTAL AND IMMEDIATE FREE TRADER.—*Sun*

LADY ADELA IBBETSON.—This 'young and blooming bride" is shortly expected to accompany her gallant husband to Ireland. Following "the fortunes of war," her ladyship's new "quarters" will probably be in the poor village of Newbridge, where the 11th Hussars, in which Captain Ibbetson holds a commission, is now stationed and likely to remain for some months. What a change of scene she will experience—from the fashionable splendour of her recent career to the "cold comforts" of a "deserted village," only known as a depot for soldiers. But, as her ladyship is, doubtless prepared to "stand the hazard of the die," the loss of society which she will experience in Newbridge, during the winter, will only render more dear that of her "heart's choice." The romantic nature of her elopement will render her ladyship "the observed of all observers" on her arrival in Ireland.

GRETNA-GREEN MARRIAGES.—All young men and maidens who wish to follow the example of Captain Ibbetson and Lady Adela, must do so speedily, for, by a recent act of Parliament, all marriages similar to that recently performed at Gretna-green will cease to be legal after the 1st of January next.—*Berwick Advertiser.*

Freedom of industry in corporate towns was established all over England by the Municipal Reform Bill, except in London. The Metropolis makes £50,000 a-year by restriction on trade, and loses we know not how many thousands by the folly James Watt, when a young man, was driven out of the city by municipal monopolies.

The Queen has been pleased to bestow a pension of £200 a-year on Lady Shee, "in consideration of her husband's eminence as an artist, and of his services as President of the Royal Academy, during a period of fourteen years."

The remains of William Earl de Warren, and Gundreda, his wife, the daughter of William the Conqueror, have been discovered, while the workmen employed by the Brighton, Lewes, and Hastings Railway Company were removing the earth in the Priory grounds at Lewes.

The Rev. Dr. Wade, the well known radical, whilst in the shop of Messrs. Nicolls, Regent-street, London, on Monday last, suddenly dropped down in a fit of apoplexy, and expired. He was in his 58th year. He was a rector of a parish in Warwickshire, and had besides, £2,000 a year.

Possession of Borneo.—We believe, on good authority, that the British Government has determined to establish a military and naval station on the island of Borneo. This, of course, is a prelude to the sovereignty being claimed; and, indeed, the only wonder is that Britain should have so long been indifferent to a possession which of all others connected with its trade to the East is the most important. The latest Singapore journals state that her Majesty's steamer Driver had departed for Borneo, having on board as passengers Captain Bethune and Mr. Henry Wise, charged by the English Government with a special mission, the object of which was unknown. The steamer was to touch successively at three points of the coast; first, at Sarawak; then at Borneo Proper, where the Commander had orders to confer with the Sultan of the country; lastly at Pulo Subuwan, where there is an intention to establish a depot of coal for the steamers which work between Ceylon and China.

MOUNT HECLA.—Letters from Reikiavik, in Iceland, give further particulars of the recent eruption of Mount Hecla. This volcano, which since 1766—a period of 79 years—has slumbered, and was supposed to be nearly extinct, broke out on the night of the 15th September, with such violence as to form two new craters—one on the southern, the other on the eastern slope. The eruption lasted twenty-two hours, without intermission, and was accompanied by subterranean detonations, heard over the whole of Iceland. The lava was thrown to a distance of twenty-two or twenty-three miles—killing numbers of cattle, and destroying a large extent of the finest pasturage.

The King of the French has now nine grandsons, viz:—Count de Paris and the Count de Chartres, sons of the Duke of Orleans; Count d'Eu and the Duke d'Alencon, sons of the Duke de Nemours; the Duke de Penthievre, son of the Prince de Joinville; the Duke de Brabant and the Count de Flandres, sons of the Queen of the Belgians; the Duke de Wurtemberg, son of the Princess Marie; and the Duke de Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, son of the Princess Clementine.

THE OREGON QUESTION.—The following is from the leading article in the London Times of Dec. 2.

If the momentous question of peace or war between the United States and Great Britain was to be decided in Faneuil Hall, in the city of Boston, or if the eminent statesman who belongs emphatically to New England, and who represents in these dark and evil days the better traditions of American freedom, were still at the head of the Cabinet of Washington, slight indeed would our apprehensions be as to the result of the Oregon negotiation. But, in all things, Mr. Webster and the men of Massachusetts who applauded his humane and enlightened eloquence on a recent occasion, are not only the opposition, but the opposites of Mr. Polk and the party which brought him into power. We admire their sentiments, we concur in their arguments; but we cannot forget that these are the sentiments and arguments of a defeated minority. The more strenuously they declare themselves for peace, the greater must be their apprehension of war. They protest, but can they effectually resist? Will the near approach of so great and shameful a disaster as war between two such States for such an object as the Oregon territory sober the madmen who are driving us to this extremity? Are we, in short, to believe that the preponderance of numerical strength in the Union, which is recognised as the sole legitimate basis of a popular power, is with Mr. Webster or with Mr. Polk?

To these questions the answer has already been given by the most unequivocal testimony—that of events. After having brought to a close the question of the North Eastern boundary of the United States—a question infinitely more pressing and embarrassing than that of Oregon—by a treaty which does the highest honor to the temper and patriotism of the Governments of both States, though it was stigmatised as a capitulation by a factious opposition, Mr. Webster retired from the Cabinet. From that instant Mr. Tyler and his advisers let slip the Democratic party in full career against the territorial rights of neighboring nations. In an incredibly short period of time the question of the annexation of Texas was urged on, in spite of the counter declarations of the Whigs, of Mr. Clay, of Mr. Webster, and even of Mr. Van Buren. By the same means, and in the same spirit, the occupation of Oregon was dinned upon the ears of the populace until it became a passion; and rights so distant and dormant that they might well have been forgotten for another half a century, were dragged forth to be contended for by parties and by nations.

We know what was the result of the opposition to the annexation of Texas. The party which resisted that measure was strong enough to defeat the first attempt in the Senate; and for some time it seemed to struggle with an equal chance of success. But it was beaten; and that defeat not only stamped a deep and lasting crime on the policy of the Union, but it prepared the way for future excesses; it blunted the conscience of the people, it whetted their appetite for plunder, it laid prostrate men who, like Mr. Webster, still speak of the consequences of annexation as "the most mournful and most awful reflection," and it raised to office Mr. Polk. Nowhere in the broad states of the Union, but in Massachusetts, would a declaration "that there may yet be a hope of resistance to the consummation of the annexation of Texas," have been received with *enthusiastic applause.* So rapid is the declivity of democratic opinions, that it is scarcely safe to protest at the present hour against the triumph of a measure which the wisest and worthiest statesmen of the Union denounced as infamous and impracticable less than two years ago. If this has been the march of the Texan question, there is no reason, except the apprehension of a collision with England, which can more effectually restrain the Union from hurrying to a conclusion with regard to Oregon. The influence of Mr. Webster and his party will not be more able to check the latter outrage than to prevent the former one. We might, indeed, hope that if there was any prospect of Mr. Webster's return to office, he would, if any American Minister can, bring the Oregon negotiation to a successful termination. But there is not the slightest probability of such a change in parties as would connect Mr. Webster with the present chief magistrate of the Union; and even if there were, we observe that Mr. Webster speaks of the partition of the territory by the extension of the 49th parallel of latitude to the Pacific as the extreme line of concession. He says that proposition was made to the British Government three times—in 1818, in 1824, and in 1826; it was so made, and it was each time deliberately refused by the cabinet of London. Mr. Webster might have added, had he known the fact, that the same proposition has been made, for the fourth time by the American Government in this present year 1845; and (to use the words of our own correspondent) "Mr. Pakenham having declined the proposition, Mr. Buchanan thereupon withdrew it." This statement, which has been made by our correspondent on the faith of a rumour, is, we believe, precisely correct. The interruption of the negotiation did not arise from "an incident of trifling importance and easily explained," but from the refusal of the British Minister "to join issue on the proposal of the 49th degree of latitude as an equitable compromise." On this most important point, the "Genevese Traveller," has certainly mistaken the feelings of the British Ministry and of the British people; for to accept under existing circumstances an offer which we deliberately rejected on three former occasions, and which involves the actual abandonment of the most important settlement of the Hudson's Bay Company and of the whole valley of the Columbia, is altogether out of the question. But we have no doubt that the fact that this offer has been made and not accepted will form a conspicuous topic in the President's Message, and will furnish him with additional arguments for vigorous measures, on the ground that his government has gone to the furthest limit of concession by iterating the proposal of its predecessors. That such measures will be proposed we do not entertain the slightest doubt.

MERCANTILE ASSOCIATION.—It is not generally known that the merchants of this city have formed a Vigilance Association, for the purpose of protecting themselves against a system of swindling that is carried on to an immense extent, of obtaining goods under false pretences. Already large sums have been saved by the promptitude with which they have followed up various individuals. A writer in the Courier says: "The history of Walbridge and his associates was known to the Association months ago; not a single member is a sufferer, unless a voluntary one, ad I may, perhaps, add with truth, that nearly every member was applied to by this swindling concern for credit, and was refused. So in many other cases which I might cite, the information possessed by the Association has been effectual in preventing frauds upon its members. Merchants of New York, let me urge you to combine together for mutual protection."—*New York Express.*

THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1845.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.—In the Senate, on Monday the 15th inst. General Cass, of Michigan, submitted the following resolutions, which he supported in a "war" speech of great length:

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the condition of the Navy of the U. States, and into the quantity and condition of heavy supplies now on hand, and whether an increase of them is not necessary to the efficient operations of the navy and to its preservation and augmentation; and, generally, into their capacity for defending our coast and our commerce, and for any service the exigencies of the country may hereafter require.

"Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the condition of the Naval Fortifications and their armaments, and whether other defensive works are necessary; and into the condition and quantity of the Military supplies; and into the state of the arms possessed by the Government for the defence of the country.

"Resolved, That the Committee on the Militia be instructed to inquire into the present condition of that great branch of the public service, and into the state of the Militia laws; and that they be further instructed to report such changes in the existing system as will give more experience and efficiency to that arm of defence, and will place it on the best condition for protecting the country, should it be exposed to foreign invasion.

Mr. Cass submitted the resolutions on the ground that a crisis is fast approaching in the intercourse between Great Britain and the United States, which demands the serious consideration. It may require the active co-operation of the whole American people.

Mr. Crittenden, of Kentucky, said: "I have never been able to realize to my mind that a war could possibly grow up between two such nations as the United States and Great Britain, out of such a trifle as this. It is possible that we cannot settle the boundary of a distant strip of territory, of no great value to either, without a war? Cannot the diplomacy of the country settle a question of this sort, without imbruing the hands of the two nations in blood? What is their wisdom worth—what is their diplomacy worth—if this be the case? Sir, it ought to be settled; it is a discredit to the two Governments that it is not settled. There is no question of insulted honor, no question of national character involved. This is but a question regarding some part on of a distant frozen barren territory, that has been in dispute for thirty or forty years. I have more confidence in the wisdom, humanity, and intelligence of the two Governments, than to suppose it possible that out of such a cause war can arise."

Mr. Allen said that the United States ought to stand and should stand upon their extreme claim to the parallel of 54 degrees 40 min.

The question being taken, the resolutions were adopted unanimously.

JOINT OCCUPANCY OF OREGON.—In the Senate, on the 17th, Mr. Allen introduced a joint resolution, authorizing the President to give the required notice to Great Britain for terminating the joint occupation of the Oregon Territory, as follows:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby advised to give, forthwith, notice to the Government of Great Britain, that the Government of the United States will, in virtue of the second article of the Convention of the 6th August, A. D. 1827, between the United States and Great Britain, relative to the joint occupancy of the Oregon Territory, and after the expiration of twelve months from the day on which such notice shall have been received by the Government of Great Britain, annul and abrogate that convention.

The joint resolution was read a first and second time, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.—A similar resolution was brought forward in the House.

GOVERNMENT, &c. OF OREGON.—In the Senate, on the 18th, the following Resolutions were offered by Mr. Atchison, and he over one day by rule:—

Resolved, That the Committee on Territories be instructed to inquire into the expediency of organizing a Government for the Territory of Oregon.

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing blockhouses and stockade forts and military posts from the frontiers of Missouri to Freemont's Pass, in the Rocky Mountains, and from thence through the Oregon Territory to the mouth of Columbia River; and also to inquire into the expediency of raising and organising a corps of mounted riflemen for the purpose of escorting emigrants to, and protecting American citizens in, the Oregon Territory.

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting lands to actual settlers in the Territory of Oregon.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Militia be instructed to inquire into the expediency of organizing, arming, and equipping the Militia of Oregon Territory.

Resolved, That the Committee on Indian Affairs inquire into the expediency of establishing Indian agencies in the Oregon Territory, and the extension of the laws of the United States regulating intercourse with the Indians of said territory, as far as they may be applicable.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a mail route from the frontier of Missouri to the city of Oregon, in the Oregon Territory.

These resolutions will excite a debate not less interesting than that which took place on the resolutions introduced by Mr. Cass, and perhaps more important. They contemplate a direct and immediate infraction of the Convention of 1827, in so far as they propose the grant of lands in fee to settlers.

After debate, the resolutions will probably be referred to various committees.

COMPROMISE OF THE OREGON TITLES.—The following resolutions were offered by Mr. Winthrop, in the House of Representatives on the 19th, with regard to the Oregon question:—

Resolved, That the differences between the United States and Great Britain on the subject of the Oregon Territory, are still a fit subject for negotiation and compromise; and that satisfactory evidence has not yet been afforded, that such negotiation, which the United States ought to accept can be effected.

Resolved, That it would be a dishonor to the age in which we live, and in the highest degree discreditable to both the nations concerned, if they should suffer themselves to be involved in war upon a question of no immediate or practical interest to either of them.

Resolved, That if no other mode for the amicable adjustment of this question remains, it is due to the principles of civilization and Christianity that a resort to arbitration should be had; and that this Government cannot relieve itself from all responsibility which may follow the failure to settle the controversy while this resort is still untried.

Resolved, That arbitration does not necessarily involve a reference to crowned heads, and that if a tribunal of such a reference is entertained in any quarter, a commission of able and dispassionate citizens, either from the two countries concerned, or from the world at large, offers itself as an obvious and unobjectionable alternative.

Mr. Douglass, per contra, offered the following, which he said he would call up when Mr. Winthrop's were taken up, and move them as a substitute for those.

Resolved, That the title of the United States to the Territory of Oregon up to 54 deg. 40 min. is not a subject of compromise.

Resolved, That the question of title ought not to be submitted to arbitration.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Douglass, of Illinois, reported a bill from the Committee on Territories. The bill goes the whole figure. It provides for the extension of the United States Laws over all of Oregon to 54° 40' making it part of the Wisconsin Territory: authorises the President to give notice of the termination of the Joint Occupancy: establishes Posts and Mail routes, and grants 450 acres of land to actual settlers. For these purposes it appropriates $200,000. It was read twice, referred to the Committee of the Whole, and made the Special Order of the day for the second Tuesday of January.

THE OREGON MEMORIAL.—Mr. C. J. Ingersoll, on the 17th, laid before the House of Representatives, a Memorial from the citizens of the United States, residing in Oregon, praying for the establishment of a distinct territorial government, to embrace Oregon and the adjacent sea-coasts.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.—A Royal Gazette Extra was issued on Monday the 22d inst. containing the Proclamation of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, summoning the General Assembly to meet at Fredericton, for the despatch of business, on Thursday the 20th January.

NEW COUNTY OF ALBERT.—The last Royal Gazette contains His Excellency the Lieut. Governor's proclamation, announcing "that the several Commissions for erecting the Courts of Justice, and appointing the Justices and other Officers for the County of Albert, have been issued, and that the said County is now erected and established as by Law directed; whereof all persons concerned will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly."

This County, it will be recollected, lately formed a portion of the County of Westmorland, and was, at the last Session of the Legislature, set apart as a new County. The list of the appointments for the new County, will be found in another column.

FISHERY DRAFT.—Persons entitled to a Draft in the City Fisheries should bear in mind that the Books are now open for the receipt on of names, at the Court House, where the Directors will be in attendance every day this week, until six o'clock on Saturday evening, as will be seen by the advertisement in another column.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—M. H. Perley, Esq., Honorary Member of the Institute, is announced to lecture on Monday 5th, and Friday the 9th January, upon "OREGON." The Lectures are to be illustrated by maps and diagrams.

ASTRONOMICAL LECTURES, &c.—Mr. Blatch's last Lecture (4th,) on Friday evening last, was on "Mercury, Venus, and Mars."—The next, (5th of the course,) this Evening, will be on "Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus."—A highly respectable audience attended the last Lecture.

ORDINATION.—On Sunday the 14th inst. the Lord Bishop of Fredericton held an Ordination at St. Luke's Church, Woodstock, when Mr. S. Jones Hanford, son of James T. Hanford, Esq. formerly of this City, was ordained a Deacon. Mr. Hanford is to officiate as Curate of the Parish of Woodstock.

The Rev. Noah Disbrow, lately curate at St. Stephen, has been appointed Rector of Bathurst, and has proceeded thither to assume the duties of his new charge.

COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE, ST. JOHN, DEC. 27.—TIMBER, 20 inch W. P. 30s. offered and refused. DEALS—Spruce, £5; Red Pine, £5 10s. FREIGHTS—Deals to Ireland, £3 15. EXCHANGE—England, 9 per cent premium.

COLD WEATHER.—At Fredericton, on the morning of the 24th inst. the thermometer stood at 26 degrees below zero.—At Kingston, Canada, on the 12th inst. the mercury stood degrees below zero, being the greatest degree of cold experienced in any part of Canada at so early a period of the season, for the last 15 years. At Montreal, 16 degrees below zero.—In various parts of the United States the weather has been unusually cold. At Franconia, New Hampshire, the mercury fell to 33 degrees below zero and the spirit thermometer to 28 below.—The Mississippi on the 10th inst. was frozen over at St. Louis; the steamers could not run on account of the ice and a want of fuel.

At St. John, on Wednesday morning last, the thermometer in some situations, stood at 14 to 16 degrees below zero.

OUR PUBLIC VEHICLES.—Within the past year, a most marked and pleasing improvement has taken place, in the character of the Hackney Coaches, plying for hire in our city. The old-fashioned, lumbering, out-moded vehicles of former times, something between a Van and a Baker's Cart in appearance, have now mostly given way, to handsome, well-built and well-appointed Coaches, Cabs, &c.; which during the year now closing, (as long as wheel carriages could be used,) made a pleasing appearance on the stand, and afforded the most comfortable and excellent accommodation to those who patronized them. These remarks have been called forth, by a glance at the same Hackney Stand, as it is now occupied by the Winter Sleigh Stages; and truly we may congratulate our fellow-citizens, at the very great improvement visible this season, in that class of public vehicles. A number of new Stages have been turned out, built on very superior principles, and on a far more elegant and commodious plan, than any ever before seen in our city; and our Hackney Sleighs may really now challenge general admiration, for their beauty, elegance, commodiousness and comfort. Their owners have evidently spared no expense this season, in producing a class of carriages for public utility, very greatly superior to any previously in use; and they therefore deserve corresponding patronage and compensation. As yet, we fear, their returns have been but small; as we too constantly perceive the long line of sleighs on the stand in King-street, stationary in undisturbed positions; while horses and drivers are shivering in the cold, from want of employment and exercise. We cordially hope, however, that as the season advances, a more brisk demand for their services will arise; and that the various necessities of visiting, picnic associations, evening parties, assemblies, &c., will afford our Hackney Sleighs that liberal patronage which they now so well deserve.

George R. Young, Esq. of Halifax, arrived in town from that city, on Tuesday last, on business connected with the Halifax and Quebec Railway. He left this city on Friday morning, for Boston, on route for Quebec.

BRIDGE ACROSS THE NIAGARA.—A project is on foot to erect a Suspension Bridge across the Niagara River, at a point between the Falls and the Whirlpool, which, it is said, is quite practicable. The cost of the work is estimated at about $120,000. A company has been formed, and committees appointed to apply to the Legislatures of Canada and the State of New York, for an Act of Incorporation with a capital not exceeding $300,000. It is contemplated to make it sufficiently strong for the passage of a steam locomotive and a train of cars. James Buchanan Esq. late British Consul at New York, was chairman of the meeting.

Shipwrecks in the St. Lawrence.—The late Quebec papers report a number of wrecks of vessels which departed late from that port for England. Five wrecked vessels are enumerated, which had on board 18,848 bushes wheat, 9,983 barrels flour, 13360 minots of peas, and 896 tubs of butter. Several other vessels are reported as lost.—There had been much sheering in the river and bays from the tempestuous weather.

ORDINATION.—On vesterday morning, the Right Rev. Dr. Dollard, Catholic Bishop of this Diocese, conferred Holy Order of Deaconship on the Rev. Messrs. W. and Desaunier; and on the morning as Lord's Day he conferred the same Holy Order on the Rev. Messrs. W. Hood. The Bishop was assisted on the solemn occasions by the Very Rev. James Duphy, as Arch-Deacon, and by the Rev. Messrs Quin and Scanlan.—[Liberator, Dec 20.

MORE STEAM!—We understand that a new Steamer is now building for Capt. John J. Akerley and others, to ply on the River Saint John, and that the enterprising owners contemplate having her propelled at the rate of *eighteen miles* an hour! Such a boat would soon become a favorite, as she would be a model of our waters. May success attend her.—*Courier.*

NEW VESSEL.—Arrived from Annapolis on Wednesday last, in view of the steamer *Saxe Gotha*, a fine new copperfastened Barque, for James Whitney, Esq., of this City, called the "*Henrietta.*" She is one of the prettiest craft that has entered our harbour for a long time, and was built by Mr. James Hardwick, of Annapolis.—*Ib.*

THE SEASON.—The weather with us, has been unusually severe. The roads in all directions are in a most wretched condition. The mails from Fredericton due on Friday morning, did not arrive until noon on Sday; and the Southern mail, which should have been at our Post Office at 6 o'clock on the morng of Monday, was not received until late on the ght of Tuesday. The roads to the northward, understand, are also blocked up with the late heavy snow drifts.—*Miramichi Gleaner, Dec. 27.*

Her Majesty's Government have issued orders for 42,000 sets of accoutrements for the militia of the English counties, to be ready by the 1