...ter only on the 14th to decide on the proposals submitted by the mediating powers."

PRUSSIA.—CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 9.—The Shah is said to insist on the continuation of the war with England. General Chesney has received a concession for the construction of the Euphrates Valley Railroad.

SWITZERLAND.—PARIS, Thursday, Jan. 15.—A telegraphic despatch from Berne, dated 11 30 a.m. this day, announces that the National Council has adopted the propositions of the Federal Government, with the modifications of the Commission, by 91 votes against 4. One member abstained from voting. The Council of the States has not yet voted.

FRANCE.—A circular has just been issued reminding the members of the Corps Legislatif that February 14 is the day fixed for the opening of the session.

It is stated that the admiral who is to command the French squadron in the Chinese seas has received orders from the government to be ready to embark at Brest on the 25th inst. The consul-general, who is on leave in Paris, has also been ordered to prepare to return to his post immediately.

RUSSIA.—The official journals of St. Petersburg state that the Emperor Alexander has definitively approved of the plan of fortifications for the capital, which was presented to him some time since. The works are to be arranged in such a manner that the city will be protected both on the sea and land sides. The preparatory works are to commence in the spring.

SPAIN.—General Blazer, the only ex-minister of 1854 who had remained in exile, was about to return to Madrid. In addition to Valencia, a state of siege exists in Granada, Catalonia, and part of Aragon.

TURKEY.—A letter from Belgrade, in the *Lloyd* of Pesth, states that the Turkish Government has just sent there twenty-four 24, 36, and 48-pounders, forming part of the 150 siege pieces bought of England, and which were deposited at Varna. Silistria has received 110 of them, including eight Paxthans, and as many Lancaster guns. The fortress of Belgrade has been completely armed, and is about to undergo a siege.

PRUSSIA.—In the Prussian Chamber of Deputies, on Monday last, the Minister of Finance proposed certain measures to augment the revenues of the state. One of them is a general house tax, which in towns will be at the rate of 5 per cent. upon the rent in the case of dwelling houses, and 2½ per cent. in the case of shops, workshops, and factories. In the rural districts the tax will be assessed according to a scale of twenty different degrees, in the least of which it is fixed at 10 silver groschen, and in the highest at 25 thalers for the house. The government also proposes to augment the land tax in certain cases, to increase the salt tax, and to subject all joint-stock companies and partnerships *en commandite* to a tax of 2 per cent. upon the profits or dividends. A tax on patents is likewise proposed.

CHINA.—The China mail of Hong Kong, of Nov. 20, which contains intelligence from Canton four days later than that brought by the last mail, says:—"The principle incident during the week has been the proceedings of the United States squadron, consequent upon the unjustifiable attack made upon a party of naval officers and civilians, by the bravos occupying the barrier forts, and which is likely to involve the Americans, much against their will, in a quarrel with the Chinese.

AUSTRALIA.—The overland mail brings intelligence from Melbourne to the 20th of October. Continual wet weather had interfered with business, but improved wages, and lowered prices of such necessary articles of food as flour and potatoes, were leading to increased consumption, and the tendency was to higher rates than for the last two months. Ballarat gold is quoted 77s 3d.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON.

The first reprisal of the British Admiral took place on the 11th of October, on which day he seized an Imperial junk. The last act of hostilities was not completed until the 9th of November, when the Bogue Forts were captured. Thus for a full month the British authorities were engaged in the endeavors to bring the Governor to reason, and each successive attack was followed by a fresh warning, and fresh time for consideration. It is pretty evident that the insolence of the Canton government and its great violation of the treaty of 1842, had long been a subject of notoriety. By treaty the English have a right of access to the authorities at five Chinese ports; at four of them the right is conceded, but at Canton it has been evaded, and at last directly refused. The conduct of Yeh in this matter is only part of a system against which the British representatives have long protested in vain. On the 8th of October the lorcha Arrow was boarded, 12 men carried off, and the British flag hauled down. The officer who committed the outrage was remonstrated with, but to no effect. The 12 men were subsequently sent back, but "not in the public manner in which they had been carried away, and all appearance of an apology was pointedly avoided." Sir John Bowring thought that the seizure of a junk would lead to reparation. A junk was accordingly seized, but the act was followed by no apology from the Chinese. Then the Admiral, Sir J. Bowring, and Mr. Parkes take counsel, and agree that their resource is to seize the defences of the city of Canton, which would be a display of power and determination, but not involve the sacrifice of life. This step they hope to be necessary, "experience of the Chinese character having proved that moderation is considered by the people only as an evidence of their weakness." However, it was resolved to act in no hasty manner. Not till the 23rd of October did the admiral having moved up the river and placed his frigates and steamers to the best advantage, send off boats' crews and take possession of the Dutch Fort and the Four Barries Fort. In these there were about 150 guns were taken—a proof that the Chinese do not neglect warlike preparations, but yet know little how to use them when they are made. The Macao Fort, in the middle of the river, was then taken, with its 35 guns, and has been garrisoned and retained by the British. On the 24th the Birdseye and Cha-min Forts were captured, the guns spiked, and the ammunition destroyed. The factory was then fortified by barricades to guard against the attack from the town, and boats placed to watch the approach of fire-rafts or junks by water. On the 25th a fort called the Dutch Folly was taken, and all the defences of the city were in our hands.

At this juncture proposals were again made for an accommodation. The Admiral directed Mr. Parkes to write and state that when his Excellency Yeh should be prepared to arrange the points to dispute operations would cease; but the Governor made no satisfactory answer. On the contrary, he took the offensive. A body of Chinese troops, supported by a large force, attacked the Factory. A charge of marines was sufficient to route the area. The next day being Sunday nothing was done. But on the 27th, and only two days after Yeh's evasive and warlike demonstration, the Admiral gave him another chance of accommodation. The Governor was told that offensive operations would recommence unless terms were granted, and, to prevent the recurrence of such affairs like the present, which had arisen from the disregard by the Governor of the British Admiral's letters, it was demanded that foreign representatives should have the same right of access to the authorities of Canton as is under treaty at the other four ports, and denied at Canton alone." No answer was returned, and fire was immediately opened on his Excellency's residence. Yeh is said to have been highly exasperated by this proceeding, and placarded publicly a proclamation offering a reward of $30 for the head of every Englishman. On the 28th and 29th the fire continued for the purpose of making a breach in the wall; and on the 29th the gate was blown in pieces and the city entered. The Commissioner still continued obstinate, and till Nov. 5 operations continued. On that day it was apprehended that a force of 30 war junks was about to attack our ships and the Factory. The Barracouta accordingly undertook their destruction, and, although expposed to a fire of 150 guns, took or burnt the whole of them in little more than half an hour. On the 8th the Chinese again resumed the offensive, and endeavored to destroy our ships with fire-rafts, but this manœuvre was entirely defeated. On this day the British Admiral brought his operations to a close by the capture of the well-known Bogue Forts, which were gallantly carried, the Chinese standing to their guns until our men entered the embrasures. The guns were found to mount 200 guns, and to be much stronger than in 1841.

A FEW WORDS ON IDOLATRY IN INDIA.—COCHIN, Nov. 20, 1856. I accordingly beg leave to furnish you with the following memoranda relative to a subject which has excited great agitation among the Kongany population of Cochin, and which is likely to result in serious consequences. The celebrated idol worshipped by the Konganies of Cochin, is held in the highest veneration, and its...

...ed off, had quitted Teheran, it was said really charged with a mission to demand assistance for Persia at St. Petersburgh.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHINA.—China is the most populous and ancient empire in the world; it is 1,380 miles long and 1,030 wide. Population from 200,000,000 to 300,000,000 The capital is Pekin, with 1,000,000 inhabitants; next Nankin, 1,000,000 and Canton 1,000,000. China produces ...n, 50,000,000 lbs. of which are annually exported from Canton, the only place which foreigners are allowed to visit. Silk, cotton, rice, gold, silver, and all the necessities of life, are found in China. The arts and manufactures in many branches are in high perfection, but stationary, as improvements are now prohibited. The Government is a despotic monarchy. Revenue, $200,000,000; army, 800,000 men. The religion is similar to Bhudism, the chief god being Foh. The Chinese inculcate the morality of Confucius, their great philosopher, who was 550 B. C. The great wall and canal of China are among the mightiest works ever achieved by man. The foreign commerce of China amounts to $35,000,000 or $40,000,000 annually, the whole of which is transacted with appointed agents, called "Hong merchants." Foreigners are allowed to live at certain stations, or "factories" below Canton. The first American ship reached China in 1784; now the annual average of United States' ships visiting Canton is thirty-two. The revenue derived from foreign commerce by the Emperor varies from $4,000,000 to $6,000,000. According to Mr. Dunn, the opium smuggled into China, to the injury of the people, amounted to $20,000,000 annually for several years past, much of which was paid in specie, which found its way to London.—The Chinese language has nearly 40,000 characters or letters.

LORD PANMURE ON THE RETRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE.—Lord Panmure, in presiding at the annual meeting of the Edinburgh Bible Society, on the 9th instant, made the following remarks on the subject of a new version of the English Bible:—"We have the Church of Rome attacking Protestantism fairly and openly in front; but I am sorry to say that we have in the ranks of Protestantism itself many whose hearts are Popish, but who cover those hearts with a mantle of spurious Protestantism. Amid all these dangers and all these attacks. I know of nothing so likely to be successful in resisting them as the dissemination of the Word of God in our good old Saxon tongue, as we have had it for the last 300 years; and this brings me to make an observation which perhaps is not out of place on the present occasion. We have heard a talk in the country, and we have seen absolutely put into practice in the United States of America, a scheme for what is called a new version of the Bible. Now, feeling very strongly on that subject, I take this opportunity of publicly stating my opinion that any such scheme is fraught with the utmost danger to the Protestant liberties of this country—nay, it is fraught with danger to the Protestant religion itself. If I look to America I am happy to find that the scheme there has been, I might almost say, utterly abortive. It is quite true, and every man must admit that there are some slight things—some mistranslations, slight in themselves, and not affecting any great principle—which might be corrected in a new translation of the Holy Scriptures, but they are so slight in comparison with the danger of letting in those who would make alterations, partly from the criticism of erudition, partly for the purpose of getting in dogmas of their own, that I think it would be the most dangerous and most disastrous thing that could occur to this country if we were to permit those words to be tampered with, which have been household words in many a pious family for upwards of 300 years, and I hope will be the household words of all the families of the world before 300 years more elapse. If we were to allow those holy words to be tampered with, we should be in the greatest danger of shaking our Protestant institutions to the foundation. We have some old landmarks, and the Bible is the greatest of these, and, rather than risk the removal of these great landmarks of our Protestant institutions, I would submit to those little imperfections which may exist in our present version, leaving it as part of the calling of our ministers to study the Holy Scriptures in the original tongues, to fit them to explain to those who sit under them wherein those little differences exist. I am quite certain of this, that if we had not an authorised and confirmed version of the Holy Scriptures we should never have arrived at this day with Protestantism so thoroughly and staunchly established as it is in this country at present. Therefore, I do hope that if any agitation is made in this country for the purpose of disturbing the present authorised version of the Bible, the Christian community will rise up as one man in its defence, and will maintain it intact, seeing it is so dangerous to touch it."

THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT.—Physically he is a large, powerfully built man; indeed, neither physically, morally, or politically, is there anything little about him. He is above six feet high, large limbed, and of fair complexion, and although past sixty years of age, still shows that he was in earlier days what the other sex, who must be allowed to decide in such matters, call a handsome man. He has the habit (that historians attribute to Alexander the Great) of holding his head somewhat inclined to one side, and partially closing one eye, as if to prove, what was undoubtedly the case during his mission to this country, that he could see a vast deal more with half an eye than all our ministers when they opened theirs to the fullest extent, as they had to do more than once, if all tales be true, during the course of their "transaction of business" with Mr. Buchanan. He is hale and vigorous, of regular and active habits, and unexceptionable moral conduct; conscientiously religious, a Presbyterian, with more indulgence for those of other creeds than is sometimes found in persons of that persuasion; kind-hearted, generous, and charitable, as many instances reported by those who know him will prove; much beloved by relations and dependents; distinguished for great prudence and sagacity in making his decisions, and for firmness in their execution when taken.—*New Quarterly Review.*

At Newark the strange discovery has been made by one of the borough officials, that the whole of the articles, consisting of hams, bacon, wines, spirits, porter, ale, cheese, tobacco, &c., with a large quantity of warm clothing of almost every description, contributed by the inhabitants last year for the army in the Crimea, and left in charge of the Mayor, a Mr. Bagedale, who has just gone out of office, had never been sent, but were still lying in one of the rooms of the Town-hall, packed up, exactly as they were in 1855. Such of the articles as have not spoiled are to be returned to the donors. This specimen of home mismanagement has the merit, we trust, of singularity.

The poor, half-crazy man Orr, who called himself the angel Gabriel, and went through the country collecting crowds, blowing a horn to attract their attention, is dead. He made his last demonstrations at Demerara, where he was arrested and sent to a penal settlement. He died there at the age of thirty-five.

UNITED STATES.

KANSAS.—We received a dispatch from Lecompton, Kansas, bringing our intelligence from that territory down to the 15th inst. The bogus Legislature is in session, and in his Message Gov. Geary fully recognizes its authority. However, he recommends the repeal of some portions of the infamous code now existing, and also advises that steps be taken to frame a State Constitution. A Pro-Slavery Convention is also in session, with a view to making that Constitution, whenever it shall be framed, a Pro-Slavery document. Gov. Geary's influence is described as null, with both the Legislature and the Convention.

With regard to the administration of justice in the Territory, our advices are not altogether satisfactory. We find Judge Cato, who, if not actually a participant in the murder of Barker during the first raid upon Lawrence was at all events one of the party by whom that murder was committed—a murder which, though he was an eye-witness of it, he has never yet taken any steps to put in the way of legal investigation—issuing writs of arrest against a number of respectable gentlemen charged with the crime of having quietly met at Topeka, not with the intention of interfering in any way with the administration of Geary as Governor, or even of Cato as Judge, but for the sole and single purpose of keeping alive the Free-State organization under the Topeka Constitution. And what renders this proceeding the more characteristic is, that the person upon whose complaint these warrants of arrest are issued is "Sheriff" Jones, who took the lead in the crimes of riot, burglary, robbery and arson, of which Lawrence was the scene at the time of the destruction of the Free-State Hotel and the printing offices there, and the disarming of the inhabitants.

The particular offence charged against the gentlemen arrested at Topeka is that of falsely assuming to act in an official capacity as legislators for Kansas. The charge is wholly groundless and ridiculous, even supposing the act of the bogus Legislature which is founded to be valid. The gentlemen at Topeka have not pretended to be anything except what they are, to wit, members of the Free-State Legislature; and even if they had falsely assumed to be such, as no such office is recognized by the bogus laws, no offence could be committed under those laws, by any such assumption.

Sheriff Jones, on the other hand, who, with Cato's aid causes arrests to be made on such frivolous grounds, still goes not only unpunished but unquestioned for the false assumption of an authority which—even supposing his appointment as Sheriff to be valid—he did not possess; to batter down hotels, destroy printing offices, and to rob people of their arms.

So long as we find that in Kansas murder and robbery go unquestioned, while men are arrested, imprisoned and tried on such frivolous charges as those above referred to, and tried, too, by men who ought themselves to stand in the dock, it is rather premature to talk about the pacification of Kansas. As yet it even remains doubtful whether the infamous Lecompte will be got rid of. Mr. Toombs, as will be seen by one of our dispatches from Washington, with a very natural feeling, seems determined to make a desperate stand for him.—*New York Tribune.*

CONFLICT BETWEEN POLICEMEN AND BURGLARS—PISTOLS, CARTRIDGES, &c., AS WEAPONS.—Officers Martin and Jourdan of the Sixth Ward Police, on Tuesday night discovered the silversmith-shop of Michael Gibney, No. 8 Rende-street, had been broken open, and, on entering the place, found two men, but, owing to the darkness, one of them escaped. The other fought desperately, but was brought to terms by a tap on the head with a club, and was conveyed to the Station-House. He proved to be Charles Gray, alias Wm. Thompson. While at the Station-House, the prisoner confessed that the party seen in his company could be found at a certain house in Hamersly street, and to this house Capt. Dowling and Officer Jourdon proceeded. Having ascertained that the party wanted was in an upper room, they proceeded there and arrested him, but at the moment one Hennessy, who was in the room, seized a pistol and, putting it to Capt. Dowling's face, threatened to shoot him unless he released the prisoner. The Captain then drew his revolver and snapped it three times at the fellow, but each time it missed fire. Women and children then rushed into the room, armed with broomsticks, pokers and cart-rungs, and a general fight was the result, during which Capt D. was struck a heavy blow upon the head with a cart-rung, and lost his prisoner, who escaped Hennessy was, however, secured and locked up.—*New York Tribune.*

LOSS OF THE BRIG FAWN.

SUFFERINGS OF A NEW YORKER AND HIS WIFE.

Some interesting particulars of the brig Fawn, on her way from San Francisco to New York, the loss of which with the mate and three seamen, was reported by the last arrival from California, is contained in the following extract from a letter written by Dr. E. P. Vollum, of the United States Army to his father-in-law in this city:

"During the voyage we encountered adverse winds, and gales of extraordinary violence for this coast, which increased in force till 21st November, when we were riding a hurricane, expecting momentary destruction. About 6 a. m. the vessel was struck by a sea of great magnitude and capsized, and was inverted for some seconds, during which time we were all under water and nearly drowned; some were injured by the falling and rolling of furniture of the cabin. When the vessel righted, both masts and bowsprit were torn out and hanging by the rigging to the hull, and every object on deck including galley and men's bunks, washed away, together with three men. The masts and rigging were soon cut free, and we were left to the mercy of the waves with nothing but the hull. With daylight came the sight of bold cliffs about five miles distant on our lee, toward which we were drifting before a strong wind, and upon which we momentarily expected to be dashed to pieces: when we fortunately discovered that by cutting loose the chains and anchors that were hanging over the bows, we could divert our course south of the cliffs. This was soon effected with a saw, and we veered off and headed as we expected, and commenced entering the breakers that were running mountains high on a beech shore.

For the first few seconds after we had entered the breakers I was not conscious of what position we had been in or what had taken place, so violent was the motion and tremendous the roar and rush of waters. We came out of the first sea in the same position I had fixed myself preparatory to the dive we had to make, with Amelia by my side, sitting on a trunk which was braced between a firm table and the berths. We soon recovered from the dashing and drowning, and prepared for the second breaker, and so on until we had advanced far enough toward the beach to feel the vessel on the ground, when the breakers were much less forcible and dangerous. We were in an unusually strong vessel or we should have gone to pieces as soon as we entered the breakers. We remained in the breakers two days and one night, without food or water, excepting about twenty pounds of hard bread and some wine, which was kept almost exclusively for Amelia. As soon as the tide fell on the second day, we began to look for some chance of getting ashore. We found that we were half a mile from the shore, on a shoal at the mouth of a river, with a deep channel running towards us, and dividing in two, thus completely cutting us off from land. Our boats had been washed overboard, and our only means of crossing these channels was to make a raft, which we set about doing as soon as the tide went down low enough to enable us to go on deck without danger of being washed overboard by the breakers. The bulwarks being the only part that was convertible into a raft with the tools we had (one saw and one hatchet), they were soon alongside, when to our surprise we found they would not float two persons.

In this dilemma we conceived the idea of passing a line over one of the channels, and sending over one or two at a time to the main land. After consulting we concluded that we could not live on the wreck another night, and that we must cross the channel or be lost—so we all got off on the shoal, and waded to the edge of the channel, which by this time had become quite bare. Each one took a blanket or coat, and Amelia was placed on the strongest sailor, and after changing to another—the first giving out—she was safely deposited on the shoal, dressed in pea jacket and pantaloons, my boots and Mary's hood, with a red blanket on top of all. Nope of us had on clothes that belonged to us. Everything was wet, and first come to, or which was least wet, was put on—hence Amelia's attire. When we arrived at the edge of the channel we had to cross we found that it ran with a violent current, was very deep, and could not be crossed on our raft, as we had hoped, in order to attach the line. We gave up the raft, and seized upon the only hope left—a few logs that were water-soaked and lying upon the shoal. At low tide we commenced making a raft of them. At this time the tide commenced running in, and soon threatened to cover the shoal we were on with water, thus cutting us off from the vessel, which we had determined could not sustain us another night, while the deep channel separated us from land. We had almost given up in despair, two men had given out from exhaustion, and death seemed unavoidable and imminent, when, to our delight and surprise, an Indian in a canoe made his appearance about a mile off, who was pulling towards us. We immediately dropped our hard work and ran toward him. In a short time we were all landed safely on the main land, where we were received by the Indian's family, who had prepared a fire for us. The Indians were particularly struck by Amelia's appearance, and seemed greatly moved by sympathy for her. They took off their blankets and placed them on her, and warmed her by breathing on her hands, neck and face. They soon had a shelter of blankets and matting put up for us, and plenty of smoked salmon and roasted potatoes and fresh water. The canoe went back to the wreck and got a sail, with which we made a good tent, and in a short time Amelia and myself were asleep as comfortably as if no danger had threatened us—though we felt sincerely that we had only been saved by a special intervention of a merciful Providence, for which we feel humbly thankful.

CUBA.—Mr. Thrasher, long a resident in Cuba, and well known for his intimate connection with the attempts made of late years to detach that island from Spain, has published a letter in which he avows his opinion that for the present any filibustering enterprises directed from this country against Cuba must be utterly fruitless. The former efforts of this sort, with which Mr. Thrasher was so intimately connected, were all based upon a state of discontent among the inhabitants of Cuba, from whom the pecuniary means to support those operations, estimated by Mr. Thrasher at fully two millions of dollars, were entirely drawn.

That discontent had been greatly stimulated by the refusal of the Cortes to carry out the provisions of the Constitution of 1837, by which Cuba was assured a representative in that body, and the rejection, in 1837, of the three Deputies who had been elected in Cuba under that provision. The policy then adopted by the mother country, of strictly retaining Cuba in the position of a Colony, to be ruled with an exclusive eye to the interests of Spain, with little or no regard to the views or wishes of the Cubans, led to the project of a revolution to be effected by the conjoint operation of patriots at home and sympathisers and filibusters from abroad. A great impulse, according to Mr. Thrasher, was given to this movement by the acts of Pezuela, as Captain-General, between December, 1852, and May, 1854—acts which were interpreted by the Cubans as having for object and tending toward a sweeping and steady system of emancipation.

Since that time the policy of the Spanish Government and the state of public feeling in Cuba have both undergone a great change. The Spanish Ministers of the Cubans were at first [illegible] Pezuela was recalled, all hopeful to conciliate