

News by the English Mail!

One of the most destructive fires which has occurred in Sheffield for many years took place on Wednesday morning, at Portobello Works, which belong to Laycock and Sons, and are occupied by them principally in the manufacture of hair-seating and other hair-cloth fabrics. The building on the south and east side was completely gutted, the front range of the building, which contains the offices and warehouses, being almost the only portion of the large works which was saved. The value of the weaving looms and other machinery and the manufactured and other materials destroyed are very great, the total loss not being less than from £6,000 to £7000. The proprietors were, however, insured to a large extent in the Sheffield Fire-office. Messrs. Laycock employed nearly 300 persons, chiefly women and girls, whom the fire will throw out of work for some time to come. The origin of the fire is at present quite a mystery.

A Roman Catholic cemetery is about to be established in the vicinity of London. The arrangements will comprise a cathedral, a convent, and an hospital.

Thirty emigrant ships left Liverpool during the past month, with about 9,000 emigrants bound for all ports.

There are three principal diplomatic posts at present vacant—that of Minister to Hanover, salary £3,000; that of Minister to Washington, salary £4,500; and that of Minister to the Two Sicilies, £4,000.

M. Rothschild has entered into a contract with the Bank of France to supply it with 11,200,000*fr.* in specie, in monthly payments, in the course of next year.

Whatever may be the issue of events, the Portsmouth dockyard is preparing for the coming spring. Hundreds of convicts are daily employed storing up hundreds of thousands of tons of Welsh and other coal.

At a late meeting of the French Academy of Science, at Paris, Dr. DONNI presented and explained a new instrument of his invention, for the purpose of measuring the quantity of air required for respiration by human beings, which he denominated "Pneumatometer," and which he makes use of to ascertain the condition of the lungs, and the degree of injury caused to them in pulmonary diseases.

By an extended series of experiments made on a large number of subjects, the doctor finds that the average amount of air respired by persons of ordinary form and good health, from the ages of 15 to 35 years, from 122 to 153 inches—the amount being largely exceeded or diminished in exceptional cases, among which may be mentioned a person of extraordinary stature, exhibited in London as a "giant," who respired 428 cubic inches, or more than one-and-a-half imperial gallons of air per minute.

Mr. Disraeli, it seems, is in Paris, and of course will see the Emperor. Lord Derby's Chancellor of the Exchequer must be welcomed to the Tuilleries. Count de Persigny was recently at Knowsley, and the question is, have these visits a political significance? In all probability they bode no good to Lord Palmerston, especially when taken in connexion with the new policy which it is alleged the Conservative chiefs will pursue in the coming session of Parliament. But if the newspaper organ which has the credit of reflecting the views of Mr. Disraeli really does so, the ex-chancellor's sentiments respecting Bolgrad and the Isle of Serpents are decidedly Russian, and as opposed to the Palmerston policy as light is to darkness. On the subject of another Paris conference opinion is divided, but the chances are in favour of its being held, the secondary plenipotentiaries of which it will be composed, being, according to the treaty of Paris, empowered to settle matters of detail.

The speech of the King of Prussia on the opening of the Diet avowed his incontestable right to the Principality of Neuchâtel, and it contains a passage which sounds very like a threat to enforce his right, in which effort he calculates upon the fidelity and co-operation of the Prussian

people. There is not much chance of a war between Prussia and Switzerland. The Prussian monarch would pause before he takes such a step, and if he seriously entertained it, the present state of the Continent would force upon his Royal brothers of Europe, in the interest of absolutism, the necessity of restraining him.

We hear through Paris of an insurrection having broken out in Sicily. A Baron Bentivenga was said to be at the head of a body of insurgents marching upon Palermo. Troops had been sent to oppose him, but there had been no fighting. At Naples all was quiet.

Through Paris we also learn that it was asserted in Constantinople, that Herat had fallen without a struggle, but the statement was not credited. It is quite clear, that the Shah's obstinacy is the result of Russian intrigue, and the probability of that power and England coming into collision in Central Asia is within the cycle of events. But the expedition to the Persian Gulf is not overpopular in India. One of the papers represents it as the most insane project ever undertaken.

THE SECOND CONGRESS OF PARIS.

The *Constitutionnel*, in an article on the approaching Conference, affirms, that a preliminary accord has not been established between the Powers, but asserts on the contrary, that each one maintains its particular views of the existing difficulties. This statement is entirely opposed to the language of the *Post* and *Globe*, and to public rumours in London, as every circumstance encouraged the belief that England had consented to the renewal of diplomatic negotiations only on the tacit condition of her views of the question being adopted—that France and England, Austria and the Porte were once more firmly united on Eastern policy.

The *Globe* says:—The statement of the *Constitutionnel* as to there being no preliminary accord between all the great Powers is not, of course, untrue, as the bad faith of Russia admits of no doubt as to her difference of opinion with the Western Powers; but the inference drawn from these remarks by some of our Paris contemporaries, to the effect that England, France, and Austria are not substantially agreed as to the execution of the treaty, is certainly giving too official a character to the statements of a paper so often repudiated by the French ministry.

In the article of the *Constitutionnel* already quoted, it is said there is no intention of doing the work of the Congress over again, nor of changing the text or terms of the Treaty. What the Conference will have to do will simply be to interpret and fix the meaning of certain points upon which doubts exist. In all probability, the Conference will be of very short duration.

Under the contract with the European and Australian Mail Company, the services of seven lieutenants of the Royal Navy, as agents in charge of mails, will probably be required.

The appeal of Archdeacon Denison was yesterday rejected in the Arches Court.

STEAM YACHT FOR THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN.—The steam-yacht built for his Majesty the Emperor of Japan, by Messrs. Thomson, of Blackwall, and launched at their building yard on Saturday, has arrived at Woolwich, and was admitted into the fitting basin to be rigged and completed for sea.

Bishop Longley has come into possession, at Auckland Castle, of one of the largest fig-trees in the kingdom; so that the bishop may literally sit under the shadow of his own fig-tree. For many years it has produced a large quantity of fruit, greatly prized for its superior flavour. The tree grows in a large pine grove at Auckland Castle gardens, and always in the summer season attracts a large number of admirers.

Great Britain, France and Prussia have definitely settled the terms of a Treaty with Denmark for the total occupation of the Sound Dues; and that the treaty will embrace the question of the Transit Duties between Hamburg and Kiel.

COMMERCIAL.

The directors of the Bank of England have been enabled this week to reduce the rate of discount from 7 per cent., at which it has stood from the 13th ult., to 6½ per cent. This reduction applies alike to discounts and to loans upon securities. It has also been decided to make advances at the same rate, until the payment of the dividends, on bills having six months to run. The previous limit was three months. The discount houses have reduced their rate for money at call to 5½ per cent.

In the Grain markets of the United Kingdom a firm feeling has manifested itself, and in many of the interior towns an advance of 1s to 2s per quarter upon English Wheat, partly, however, owing to improved condition and a better demand for foreign at prices not previously obtainable. The weather has been extremely severe for the early period of winter, strong frost still prevailing with some snow, but a thaw has set in upon a partial change of wind. In our own market a fair amount of business passing; Wheat has advanced about 2d per 70lbs. Flour is held for full prices, but the demand is not active. Indian Corn closes about the rates of last week, with a moderate inquiry. Oats and Oatmeal maintain previous rates.

THE LAST OF THE "GREAT WESTERN."

The old favourite steamers Great Western and the Severn, being unfit for further mail service, have been disposed of to a ship-breaker for \$57,500. The "Bristol-built" Western, one of the first steamers to cross the Atlantic, as good "ship shape" as ever was turned out of dock, may possibly still keep a little longer afloat, but, from the ominous designation of the party to whom she is sold, we fear she has "walked the waters" for the last time.

CONSOLATORY DOCTRINE AS TO COMETS.

M. Babinet, of the French Institute, in the course of some remarks which he has published concerning the comet which is expected by astronomers in 1858, says:—"With regard to one of the questions to which this comet has given rise, I must protest against the idea, that a comet possesses the power of imparting a perceptible mechanical shock. I can prove that the collision of a swallow, intent on suicide, and flying with full force against a train of a hundred carriages drawn by ten steam-engines, would be a thousand times more dangerous for the train in question, than would be the simultaneous shock of all the known comets against the earth. What is a comet? It is a visible nothing."

SUBSTITUTE FOR POTATOES.—A good substitute for potatoes has been introduced in France, the *Cherophyllum bulbosum*, yielding an abundance of tubers, of from half an ounce to an ounce each, very wholesome, and with a delicate vanilla flavour, containing twenty-one per cent. of starch. The *Cherophyllum sativum* is also said to be an excellent salad.—*Medical Times and Gazette.*

HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

Wednesday, December 31, 1856.

THE ENGLISH MAIL arrived on Monday night. We have given the principal items of news in our columns.

In a few hours, the year 1856 will have become matter of history, hereafter to be cited as the year of the peace between England and her allies and Russia; we would say "eto Perpetua" but we fear that would be a vain wish. It will be noted as the year in which the first effort was made to establish an electric telegraphic communication between the continents of Europe and America, and which has proved successful to far as uniting the Island of Newfoundland with the last mentioned continent.

In the Island, it will be memorable on account of the establishment of the first Bank, an institution which was loudly called for and which, we doubt not, will prove highly beneficial in developing the agricultural and commercial interests of the people.

It gives us sincere pleasure to record, that in both town and country, there is every appearance of progress and improvement and we firmly believe that there are few countries of which the inhabitants have more reason to be thankful to the Giver of all good, than those of Prince Edward Island.

TO THE PATRONS OF HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

Four years since in order to relieve my father, J. D. Haszard, Esq., whose constitution was suffering from the increasing burden and severe toil of the general printing business conducted by him for thirty years previously, I took upon myself the management of this paper and the miscellaneous business of the office. I was in hopes, by the importation of the most approved machinery, to be enabled to execute work with profit and advantage to myself and benefit to the community; and had a liberal government placed me on an equal footing with those I had to compete with, I might have succeeded. While printed books and foreign newspapers are imported free of duty, paper and printing materials are subject to an impost duty of five per cent. Many hundred pounds worth of printed books might have been imported by me free of any charges, save those of importation; but when I was desirous of importing materials necessary for producing books at a cheaper rate than those imported, and which would employ a number of hands to be fed and clothed on the Island, I was met by a duty which by giving the foreigner this advantage over me effectually put it out of my power to enter into a competition with him which would afford a sufficient remuneration. I have done work for booksellers in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and even New York, and might have had more, but having to pay a duty upon the printing materials, to which the printers in those places are not subject, I was debarred from a fair competition and obliged to relinquish the hope of obtaining remunerative work from those places. Disappointed in my views of conducting the printing business on an extended scale and finding that it took up much time that could be more profitably employed, I came to the conclusion to transfer the establishment to other hands. I have therefore to inform my friends, that after the first of January, the paper will be conducted by Messrs. T. & S. Burris, who, I do not in the least doubt, will give satisfaction to the subscribers, and do their utmost to make it acceptable as a family newspaper.

In taking my leave for the present,—whether for a longer or shorter period, time and circumstances can alone determine—I should be wanting in duty to myself, were I not to express my grateful thanks for the patronage hitherto so liberally conferred on this periodical, and to venture to hope, that it will still accompany it under its new directors.

Your obed't. Servant,  
GEORGE T. HASZARD.

The following came to late for insertion in our last issue but we willingly give it a place, coming as it does from a gentleman whose exertions in the cause of religious education do him honour. We would say more, were we not convinced that it would be unacceptable to one who is actuated by a higher motive than the praise of man.

"We witnessed during the last week the examinations of the Sunday and Infant schools in connection with St. Paul's (Episcopal) Church of this City. In the Sabbath School there were over 200 children, and their proficiency in Scriptural knowledge, gave pleasing evidence of the useful and laborious teaching of their ministers and teachers.

The Infant School examination took place on Monday, this popular institution has now been in operation 13 years; during which time 500 children have benefited by its moral and religious training. In consonance with the liberal spirit of our national Church, instruction has been afforded to all without distinction of sect and without the introduction of peculiar denominational dogmas. We are only sorry to add, that what is almost peculiar in this Island to this school and a few kind institutions is the large share that Scriptural teaching has in the allotment of instruction.

There were more than 50 children present at the examination and their appearance was characterized by cleanliness, intelligence and good humour. The examination was conducted in a lively interesting manner and elicited the warm approbation of its numerous friends. And the Rev. C. Lloyd the Rector, well expressed our own feelings, when in a neat speech he alluded to the debt of gratitude due to Mrs. Hubbard for her long-continued and faithful labors for the welfare of this community.

The children met their teachers in the evening and were regaled with a bountiful supply of tea cakes and the wonders of our worthy friend Mr. Hubbard's magic lantern. The following day the children of the school had their annual feast and the noise and merriment of the 214 children was properly interspersed by the singing of hymns, and a few words of good advice from their kind and respected ministers.

Died,

On the 19th inst., at Fermo, Lot 18, of inflammation, after a brief illness of four days, Maria, wife of Ambrose T. Peake, leaving a numerous family to mourn her loss—in the 53 year of her age. The deceased was a native of Barnstable, Devonshire, England; and emigrated to this Island in 1832.

TO OUR PATRONS  
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