

decisive intelligence may be looked for at an early period from that quarter.

In the Baltic, the French squadron has joined Sir Charles Napier, and the positions of Helsingfors and Cronstadt are so closely watched as to leave very little probability that a junction of the Russian fleets can be accomplished. The King of Portugal is at present in England, and from his presence there may be augured the establishment, or rather the continuation of the good feeling which has always existed between the two countries. In Greece the evil advice of the Queen has been met by such decided action on the part of the allied powers as to leave no alternative to the King, but to discard his ministry and to adopt the measures dictated to him. From India, we have nothing of importance to record, except the success of the Americans in opening the trade with Japan, a measure which will without doubt extend to other commercial nations.

In the United States, three questions have engrossed public attention. The Nebraska question—the surrender of a slave in Boston, under the Rendition act, and the Cuban question. The first of these, the most iniquitous measure that ever disgraced a pseudo free country, has now become law, and the American Government has stultified itself by providing in the 19th century a new territory for further cruelties to be exercised on Slaves. In other words Nebraska is to be a slave territory, where God's image is to be subjected to the ruthless cruelties of devilish men. Some hope may, however, be gleaned from the storm of indignation which the passage of this iniquitous measure has excited in the north, as exemplified in the following extract:—

“When it is undertaken to deprive us (the north) not of our money—which, for the sake of peace, we might be willing to part with—but of that whose value money cannot estimate, when it is attempted to shut out from us the atmosphere, the essential life-breath of liberty; when it is sought to gag our free mouths, to forbid and stop the beating of our free hearts, to subdue us by penal statutes into a servile torpidity, and an obsequious silence, shall we hesitate one moment to repel this impudent effort of despotism, because if we refuse to submit, it will endanger the Union? *Perish the Union; let it ten times perish from the moment it becomes inconsistent with humanity and freedom!* If such manly and noble sentiments animated the breasts of any large portion of northern men, we should yet have hope of liberty in the United States. But with the clergy and cottonocracy steeped in selfishness, and callous to truth and

freedom, we cannot predict any speedy determination, to despotism on this continent.”

The third question, affecting Cuba may now be almost said to be settled, as recent advices show that the Americans had really nothing to complain of, that, the Government have been merely feeling the public pulse, and that now they are satisfied that France and England will permit no filibustering expeditions, excitement will be permitted gradually to wear itself out.

Some of the most important items during the month will be found below.

THE BLACK SEA FLEET.

The fleets appear to be still cruising before Sebastopol. For some days there had been a heavy fog, and the French and English vessels had to keep up a constant ringing of bells and firing of guns, to prevent running foul of each other. The cable which is put across the mouth of Sebastopol is described as consisting of a number of chain-cables twisted together, and secured on each side by strong masonry, and is hove taught by capstans. From its being formed of separate chains, it would be sufficiently strong to keep out a steamer or any vessel going at full speed.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

All that was known at Copenhagen up to Sunday last, was, that on the 23rd May, Sir Charles Napier lay before Hango Point, prepared to bombard the fortress Gustafsvern. The *Austerlitz* was with him, and also Rear-Admiral Chads, on board the *St. Jean d'Acre*, Rear-Admiral Plumridge, with the flying squadron, had been sent on special service up to the Gulf of Bothnia. Admiral Corry lay at Gottsaka Sandoe.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF SILISTRIA.

The eyes of Europe and Asia are still directed to this fortress, which, up to the latest despatches, continued to hold out manfully against the Russians. On the 16th, Mussa Pacha ordered all warehouses exposed to the shells of the enemy, and all buildings of every kind, and trees outside of the town, which might have afforded them shelter, to be destroyed. In the interior of the fortress intrenchments have been thrown up, from which it may be inferred that Mussa Pacha intends to defend the place to the last, even if the walls should be destroyed. A telegraphic despatch from Belgrade, of the 29th, states that the Russians had attacked Silistria with all the force available at that point, from the Danube and by land, and had been repulsed four times. The rumour that Mussa Pacha had offered to capitulate was a Russian invention. He has declared that, rather than surrender, he will blow up the fortress. The *Journal des Debats*, speaking of the alleged imminent danger of the fortress being taken says:

If we may judge of the present by the past, the fall of Silistria ought not to be regarded