The Weekly Observer.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1846.

VOL. XVIII.—NO. 43.

THE OBSERVER,

Published on Tuesday, by Donald A. Cameron, at his Office in Water Street, South West corner of the Market Square.—Terms: 15s. per annum, half in advance.

☞ The postage on all Letters (except those containing money, or from Agents.) must be pre-paid, or they will not be attended to.

Important to House Keepers.

THE subscriber having on hand a large supply of FLOUR of superior quality, would recommend those families who value *sweet* and *nutritious* BREAD, to give it a trial. Every care is taken to check fermentation when in the *Vans*, before the *bleaching* process commences, by which a great part of the nutritious properties of the Bread is destroyed.

A great variety of Fancy BISCUIT and TEA CAKES kept on hand at all times. BRIDE'S CAKE, Plain and Fruit Pound CAKE, made to order on the shortest notice.

☞ Families supplied in any part of the City. Usual allowance to retailers.

JOHN McLARDY,
Opposite Trinity Church, Germain street.

☞ NOTICE. ☜

ALL Persons having any legal demands against the Estate of JOHN BECK, late of this City, Master Mariner, deceased, are requested to present the same, duly attested, within Three Months from the date hereof; and all persons indebted to the said Estate, are required to make immediate payment to

J. GEORGE BECK,
WILLIAM HEWITT,
L. H. WATERHOUSE,
Executors.

St. John, N. B., 2d Dec. 1845.

CO-PARTNERSHIP NOTICE.

THE Subscribers having this day entered into Co-Partnership, the Business heretofore carried on by WILLIAM HAMMOND, in his own name, will in future be conducted under the Firm of WILLIAM HAMMOND & CO.

WILLIAM HAMMOND,
WILLIAM E. MOORE.

St. John, 8th July, 1845.

☞ Thereby request all parties indebted to me by Note, Bond, or Book Account, to pay the amount to William Hammond & Co.; and all those to whom I am indebted, will please render their Accounts to the new Firm for payment.

WILLIAM HAMMOND.

St. John, 8th July, 1845.

☞ NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any demands against the Firm of "Robertson & Co." or Robert Robertson, as Lime Burners, are requested to present the same for payment; and those indebted o said Firm, or to Robert Robertson, for LIME, tre desired to make immediate payment to either f the Subscribers.

JOSEPH ARMSTRONG,
ROBERT ROBERTSON.

Indian Town, June 17, 1845.

☞ NOTICE ☜

ALL Persons having any legal demands against the Estate of Charles Robertson, late of the Parish of Lancaster, County of Saint John, Lime Burner, deceased, are desired to present the same, duly attested, within Three Months from the date hereof; and all those indebted to the said Estate are required to make immediate payment to

ROBERT ROBERTSON,
Sole Administrator.

Indian Town, June 14, 1845.

NEW GOODS.

MORRISON & CO.

Have received per "Edinburgh," "Themis," and "Schoodiac," from Liverpool, and "Queen Pomare," from Clyde, part of their Fall Importations, consisting of:—

PLAIN and Printed Coburgs and Orleans,
White & Printed Cottons, Moleskin, Cantoons,
Ticks, Flannels, Serges, Baize and Padding,
Hosiery, Gloves, Laces, Ribbons, &c.
Black & Colored Silk and German Velvets,
Linens, Lawns, Diapers, Holland, Table Cloths and Covers, Osnaburg, Canvass & Duck.
A large assortment of SHAWLS, SCARFS, and HANDKERCHIEFS;
Over all Hose, Lambs' Wool, Thibet and Gala Plaid, Mufflers and Scarfs,
Worsted, Gala and Woollen Plaid Cloakings;
Worsted, Yarns, and Knitting Cotton—which, together with a general assortment of Tailors' Trimmings and Small Wares, will be sold both Wholesale and Retail, at unusually low prices.

The remainder of Stock daily expected per Harmony and Avon from Liverpool, and Southampton from Clyde. *Oct. 14.*

No. 2, North Market Wharf.

C. & W. H. ADAMS

Have received per "*Themis*" and other arrivals, part of their Fall Stock of HARDWARE, amongst which are—

300 TINED and untined TEA KETTLES; 20 cwt. SAD IRONS,
110 bags *Improved* CUT NAILS;
28 bags OX and HORSE NAILS,
2 cases CAST STEEL; 4 bdls. Blistered do.
2 packages *Blacksmith's VICES,*
20 ANVILS,
Blacksmith's Sledges, Hammers and Bellows,
FOX TRAPS of an improved pattern;
RIM LOCKS, &c.—Common and Carpenters' Patent;
BUTT HINGES,
Wrought Pump TACKS BRADS; RIVETS,
Pad, Chest, and Cupboard LOCKS, assorted,
Patent H & H HINGES; WHIP THONGS,
Polished Steel and Bronze Head FIRE IRONS,
Tinned Harness Buckles, and a few patent double action BRIDLE BITTS,
John Wilson's Shoe & Butcher Knives, Chisels, Gouges, Hatchets, Drawing Knives, Turkey Oil Stones;
Table Knives & Forks, Mill Saw and other FILES.

—ON HAND—

54 feet Hoole & Co's GANG MILL SAWS.

30th September, 1845.

RECEIVED

Per ships 'Samuel,' 'Themis,' and 'Schoodiac':

17 CASKS HARDWARE,
2 casks Table CUTLERY,
2 casks FILES,
3 casks TEA KETTLES & SAUCEPANS,
2 casks SAD IRONS,
1 cask CHAIN TRACES
1 cask Refined BORAX,
3 cases SADDLERY,
3 cases SCREW AUGERS—*Thompson's,*
1 case SLATES,
1 case Japanned TRAYS & WAITERS,
1 case GUNS,
1 case SAWS,
100 bags SHOT,
150 GRIDDLES,
25 dozen Long handle FRYING PANS,
12 dozen Short ditto, ditto,
15 dozen Bow ditto, ditto,
2 rolls SHEET LEAD,
3 tons CAST STEEL,
1 ton BLISTER ditto,
2 tons HOLLOW WARE,
1 cask PUTTY, (in Bladders.)
50 packages MANILLA ROPE,
30 bundles OAKUM,
20 ANCHORS, from 1 to 3 cwt.
600 fathom close-link Chain, ⅝, 7-16, ½, ⅜, ¼ & 7-8 in.
20 boxes TIN,
630 bundles SHEET IRON,
130 tons Bar and Bolt IRON—Common,
70 tons Bar and Bolt Iron,—Refined,
65 coils BREATHING FELT.

ALEXANDER YEATS.

Dock-street, 7th October, 1845.

T. R. GORDON

Offers for sale at the lowest market rates, GOODS received per Avon, Harmony, Queen Pomare, Sarah, Themis, Mary Caroline, and other vessels.

30 DOZEN Long handled Fry PANS; 1 ton Iron wire; 20 tons Sheet IRON; 50 boxes Tin Plates; 5 casks Chain Traces, Ox Chains, back bands, &c.; 300 pairs extra strong Traces for Lumber woods; 24 circular Saws edging and trimming; 364 Mill, Pit, and X Cut Saws, all of good quality; (1 case *Rowland's* Saws from Philadelphia; 22 doz. short handled Fry Pans; 2 cases Guns and Pistols, 7 casks copper boat Nails; 25 bags Diamond head do. 1¼ to 3½ inch; 320 bags Nails and Spikes; 30 casks Ox and Horse Nails; 5 cwt. Slate Nails; 2 casks London GLUE; 1 do. Curled Hair, ass'd prices; 1 do. Hair Cloth, 17 to 26 inch; 4 casks Rivets, Screws, Tacks, Brads, and Tip Nails; 2 do. Butt and Shutter Hinges; 24 gross Heel Plates; 2 casks Hooks and Hinges and *Home's* Patent H H T Strap and Chest Hinges; 6 rolls sheet LED, 3 4 and 5 lbs: 1 ton Shot, ass'd: 6 rolls Lead Pipe: 1 ton sheet ZINC: 1 case thin sheet Copper: 1 do. sheet Brass: 12 casks TEA-KETTLES, Digesters, Saucepans, Glue Pots, Fish Kettles, &c.; 100 bags Iron Sparrowbills: 4 crates Coal Hods and Scoups, Cinder sifters, &c.: 1 ton slab Zinc: 25 dozen Shovels and Garden Spades: 300 do. steel point socket Shovels: 20 do long handled Spades: 2 tons Saunderson's Cast Steel: 1 cask Borax: 12 vices, ass'd: 8 Bellows, ass'd to 36 inch: 8 Anvils, ass'd: 2 tons Sleigh Shoe, Horse Shoe, blister and spring Steel: 5 casks sad Irons, Italian Irons and Bore Irons with heaters: 2 cases School Slates and Pencils: 1 cask Shoe Thread: 20 barrels Gunpowder: 1 case Red Chalk: 2 bales chalk lines and Coffin Cord: 1 cask 'Water of Ayr'n nd, other Whet STONES: 10 tons HOLLOW WARE—consisting of POTS, Ovens, Spiders, Griddles, Fry Pans, and Boilers: 3 casks Cart and Pipe Boxes: 1 do. Cart HARNESS. 1 cask B Metal Tea and Coffee POTS: 1 do. Hot Water JUGS: 4 do. CUTLERY and 'Cams' Edge TOOLS: 230 Fox TRAPS; 3 cases 'Thompsons' Scotch Screw Augurs: 2 do. Tea Trays: 2 casks 'Vickers' best FILES & RASPS.

☞ 72 Casks and Cases—containing a general assortment of HARDWARE—among which are—Harness Mounting, Saddle Trees and Stirrups, Girth Web, Chair Web, Boot Web: Shoemakers Tools, Planes, Hammers, Hand and Buck SAWS, Rod, Mortince, Chest, Lock, Till, and other LOCKS: Trunk Handles and Nails, Screws: LAMPS, glasses and wicks for ditto: Copper Coal Scoops, Plate Baskets, Grid Irons, Fire Irons, and Irons, FENDERS, Brass Kettles, Weighing Machines, Steelyards, Whitewash, Shoe, Paint and other BRUSHES, Curry COMBS 230 pairs SKATES, 150 dozen sleigh BELLS, 200 000 Percussion CAPS: 61 dozen 2 feet RULES, URNS, Candlesticks, Knitting Needles, Glass PAPER, Knobs, Wire Riddle, Dish Covers, Foot Tubs, Slop Kettles, Hand Coffs, Plated and Black Castors: Curtain Bands and Pins, Thermometers, Coffin Mounting, Brass Tubings, BOLTES, Carriage LACE, Cash Boxes, Chamois SKINS, Brass Cocks and a variety of other articles.

Always on hand, a well assorted Stock of Cut NAILS, in kegs of 100 or 200 lbs—own manufacture. Dec. 2.

JUST RECEIVED.

NEW BOOKS,

AT THE

VICTORIA BOOK-STORE,

KING-STREET.

AN elegant assortment of Miscellaneous BOOKS:—

The Casquet of Gems;
Republic of Letters;
Life of Napoleon;
Josephus' Works;
Grier's Mechanics' Dictionary;
Grier's Mechanics' Calculator;
Book of Interest Tables, from ¼ to 6 per cent
Hartley's Oratorical Class Book;

☞ Blank Books, Papers, Quills, Inks, Pencils, Steel Pens, SCHOOL BOOKS, &c. &c.

1,000 Packs Playing Cards.—*Cheap for cash.*

January 13, 1846. V. H. NELSON.

HATS, HATS.

The Subscriber has just received, per Steamer "Robert Rankin," from Boston:—

286 HATS, of the following descriptions:—

Gent's. Beaver HATS,—Fall Fashions;
" Neutria, do. ditto.
" French Moleskin, ditto.
" Plain or Smooth,—High and Low Crowns,
" Kersey, do. do. do.

Together with a large stock of New-Brunswick Manufacture on hand, and constantly making, of various shapes and qualities.

Having adopted the Cash system, (as to retail,) with the old adage that "a nimble Sixpence is better than a slow Shilling," he will sell at the *very lowest* Cash rates. C. D. EVERETT.

P. S.—Wholesale customers can be supplied on as favourable terms as formerly.

☞ Cash and the highest prices paid for FURS of every description. C. D. E.

6th January, 1846.

Cigars, Glasgow Soap, &c. &c.

Per Brothers, from Boston:—

20,000

"MANUEL AMORES" HAVANNAH CIGARS, *Genuine*;
3,000 LADIES' CIGARS, "Manuel Amores";
Bent's Crackers, Hickory Nuts, Castile Soap, &c.

From New-York—5,000 Cuba CIGARS.

—JUST RECEIVED—

1 ton Boyd & Son's *best quality* Glasgow Soap;
10 chests very fine Congo TEA.

For sale cheap by J. MACFARLANE.

March 17. Market Square.

Scotch Oatmeal.

Received ex "James White," from Glasgow:

70 Barrels best Scotch OATMEAL.

For sale by JARDINE & CO.

March 10.

FLOUR.

Landing This Day:—

178 BRLS. Superfine FLOUR, for sale cheap while Landing, in Bond or Duty paid.

GEORGE THOMAS,
Ward Street.

March 17.

MOLASSES, CIGARS, &c.

Landing ex schr. Catherine, from Matanzas:

86 HHDS. MOLASSES;
7 barrels HONEY;
15 barrels ORANGES;
90 M. CIGARS—choice brands.

For sale by JARDINE & CO.

March 24, 1846.

THE GARLAND.

MAN UNCULTURED.

BY DR. BOWRING.

The heart has tendrils like the vine,
Which round another's bosom twine,
Outspringing from the living tree
Of deeply planted sympathy;
Whose flowers are hope, its fruits are bliss,
Beneficence *its harvest is.*

There are some bosoms dark and drear,
Which an unwater'd desert are;
Yet there a curious eye may trace
Some smiling spot, some verdant place,
Where little flowers the weeds between,
Spend their *soft fragrance all unseen.*

Despise them not, for wisdom's toil
Has ne'er disturbed that stubborn soil,
Yet care and culture might have brought
The ore of truth from mines of thought;
And fancy's fairest flowers had bloom'd
Where *truth and fancy lie entomb'd.*

Insult him not,—his blackest crime
May, in his Maker's eye sublime,
In spite of all thy pride, be less—
Than e'en thy daily waywardness,
Than many a sin and many a stain
Forgotten, *and impressed again.*

There is in every human heart,
Some not completely barren part,
Where seeds of truth and love might grow,
And flowers of generous virtue blow;
To plant, to watch, to water there,
This, as our *duty, be our care.*

And sweet it is the growth to trace,
Of worth, of intellect, of grace,
In bosoms where our labours first
Bid the young seed of spring-time burst,
And lead it on from hour to hour,
To ripen *into perfect flower.*

Hast thou e'er seen a garden clad
In all the robes that Eden had,
Or vale o'erspread with streams and trees,
A paradise of mysteries;
Plains with green hills adorning them,
Like jewels *in a diadem.*

These gardens, vales, and plains, and hills,
Which beauty gilds and music fills,
Were once but deserts; culture's hand
Has scattered verdure o'er the land,
And smiles and fragrance rule serene,
Where *barren wilds usurp'd the scene.*

And such is man. A soil which breeds,
Or sweetest flowers, or vilest weeds;
Flowers lovely as the morning light,
Weeds deadly as the aconite;
Just as his heart is trained to bear
The POISONOUS WEED OR FLOWER OF FAIR.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE LAST KISS.

I was but five years old when my mother died; but her image is as fresh in my mind, now that twenty years have elapsed, as it was at the time of her death. I remember her as a pale, gentle being, with a sweet smile, and a voice soft and cheerful when she praised me; and when I had erred—for I was a wild, thoughtless child—there was a trembling mildness about it, that always went to my little heart. Methinks I can now see her large blue eyes, moist with sorrow because of my childish waywardness, and hear her repeat "My child, how can you grieve me so?"

"She had for a long time been pale and feeble, and sometimes there would come a bright spot on her cheek, which made her look so lovely, I thought she must be well. But then she spoke of dying, and pressed me to her bosom, and told me to be good when she was gone, and to love my father a great deal, for he would have no one else to love.

"I recollect she was ill all day, and my little hobby-horse and whip were laid aside, and I tried to be very quiet. I did not see her for the whole day, and it seemed very long. At night they told me my mother was too sick to kiss me, as she always used to do, before I went to bed, and I must go without it. But I could not. I stole into the room, and laying my lips close to her's, whispered—"Mother, dear mother, won't you kiss me?" Her lips were very cold, and when she put her hand upon my cheek, and laid my head in her bosom, I felt a cold shuddering pass through me.

"My father carried me from the room; but he could not speak. After they put me in bed, I lay a long while, thinking; I feared my mother would indeed die, for her cheek felt as cold as my little sister's did, when she died, and they carried her sweet little body away, where I never saw it again. But I soon fell asleep, as children will.

"In the morning I rushed to my mother's room with a strange dread of evil to come upon me. It was just as I feared. There was the white linen over the straight, cold bed. I tore it aside.

"There was the hard cheek, the closed eye, the stony brow. But, thank God, my mother's dear, dear smile was there also, or my heart would have broken.

"In an instant, all the little faults, for which she had so often reproved me, rushed upon my mind. I longed to tell her how good I would always be, if she would but stay with me.

"I longed to tell her how, in all time to come, her words would be law to me. I would be all that she had prayed me to be.

"I was a passionate, headstrong boy; but never did this frame of temper come upon me, but I seemed to see her mild, tearful eyes fall upon me just as she used to look in life; and when I strove for the mastery, I felt her smile sink into my very heart, and I was happy.

"My whole character underwent a change, even from the moment of her death. Her spirit was for ever with me, to aid the good and root out the evil that was in me. I felt it would grieve her gentle spirit to see me err, and I could not do so. I was the child of her affection: I knew she had prayed and wept over me, and that even on the threshold of the grave, her anxiety for my fate had caused her gentle spirit to linger, that she might pray once more for me.

"I never forgot my mother's last kiss. It was with me in sorrow; it was with me in joy; it was with me in moments of evil, like a perpetual good."

The above is part of a letter of an old man, who has seen his children and his grand-children about him, and who is a cheerful man, with his gray hairs full of reverence.—*Mrs. Seba Smith.*

European Railroads.—When the routes that are now in contemplation by rail shall have been completed, the distance between London and Vienna,—the first being the grand commercial mart of the present day, and the latter bearing with it a prestige of ancient commercial importance,—will be brought within 50 hours of each other; the Peninsula and the North Sea will be connected by a rod of iron; Lisbon and the grand capital of the northern Europe, St. Petersburgh, will be able to communicate with each other in a comparatively small space of time; that woful barrier that had opposed the egotism of statesmen and the tyranny of ruling sovereigns, the Pyrenees, will be trodden under foot; and Madrid and Bordeaux will shortly be within a few hours of each other; the exchange of sherry and claret will become a matter of ordinary and even daily occurrence. The communication between Germany and the Peninsula, traversing France, will be multiplied to an extent of which the public at present has little conception.—*Iron Times.*

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

In Europe, the British Empire extends to the North-West, and lies in dangerous proximity to France, to Germany, to Holland and to Denmark. In the South, the whole Mediterranean is under its control—the Adriatic bends to its sway—the Bosphorus witnesses the strength of its wooden walls—Gibraltar, the key to the Mediterranean, acknowledges no other sovereign, and the banner of Britain floats in proud defiance on the walls of La-Valette, where the Knights of St. John raised the standard of the Cross against the arms of the Mahomedan Saracen and the Moslem Turk.—The Ionian Islands are protected by British power, and in the ancient Kingdom of Ulysses, the far famed Ithica, the cross of St. George and the Union Jack of Albion floats to the daily breeze. She commands the mouth of the Baltic as well as the Black Sea; her European possessions are the smallest, yet by far the most powerful—so much for Europe. Here, the British Empire claims the sovereignty of one third of the North American Continent. She reigns undisturbed between the two continents, and actually surrounds the Gulf of Mexico. The greater part of the West Indies are under her sway—Guiana in the South displays her banner floating in majestic grandeur.—She holds a barren rock between the Western Hemisphere and Africa, where the renowned Napoleon was sent a solitary exile—which witnessed the exit of a scourge that swept with devastating power the panoplied host of Continental Europe. In Africa, at the Cape of Good Hope, so dreaded by ancient Spanish and Dutch navigators for its tempests and hurricanes, a British colony flourishes, making the untamed Cafirs and Hottentots subservient to its gentle rule. On the Eastern coast a settlement sacred to benevolence and humanity, stands a lasting monument of slave trade abolition, and there is erected the Fort of the Gold Coast. In Asia, Britain's vast possessions extend from the Arabian Sea to the Indus—Beloochistan, Scinde and Afghanistan have become passive instruments in her hands, and Hindoostan, of commercial recollection, stands second to none of her important possessions; China itself, so long the centre of exclusiveness, opens to her commerce. British Missionaries are traversing the land which bends the knee in heathenish idolatry, and the Celestial Empire bows in homage to the genius of Britannia. On her territories the sun never sets, and it is with this mighty empire the Americans are preparing to measure themselves in mortal combat. Some have predicted the fall of the United Kingdom, because Greece and Rome have lost their ancient power and grandeur, others say it is probable that the issue of the present war will tear her asunder. Away with those vain illusions, so long as Christianity marks her onward progress, so long as morality and religion dwell within her bosom, *so long* will she reign in triumph. She is under the protection of the God of Battles, raised up from among the nations of the earth to uphold the banner of the cross, and spread its expansive folds over the remotest regions of the world. Such is Britain at the present moment—she can traverse the oceans and seas, and in every quarter have a harbour. What power in the world has the same advantages? We answer none. Her Army numbers between 180,000 and 200,000 effective and well disciplined troops, to be further increased from 14,000 to 20,000, and the Militia regiments raised in case of actual hostilities, treble the number. Her Navy consists of 674 vessels well manned and adapted to any contingency.—*Pictou (Canada) Gazette.*

THE PUNJAUB;

DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRITORY.

The Sikhs.—At the present moment when the Tower guns have pealed forth their thunder in commemoration of the magnitude and importance of the late sanguinary victory in India, it may not be either inappropriate or uninteresting to our readers, to give a slight sketch of the country called the Punjaub, and character of its inhabitants, the Sikhs, who consider the profession of arms the religious duty of every individual.

The word Punjaub is formed of two Persian words. *Punj*, five, and *aub*, waters; the five rivers which flow through and water this noble territory, conferring on it an appropriate name. The outermost of these rivers on each side enclose the kingdom; the Ravee on the west and the Sutlej on the east, marking its boundaries too clearly to be mistaken. In some parts the Punjaub extends beyond the confines of these rivers, as at Peshawur, which Runjeet submitted to his authority, but generally they may be said to enclose it, the northern boundary being formed by the range of the Caucasus, or Himalaya. In extent the Punjaub is larger than Great Britain, and contains some of the most beautiful and fertile provinces of India.

The four divisions of territory formed by the five rivers have each in the native language the prefix of *Doab*, signifying a tongue of land, made by the confluence of two rivers. The streams are of advantage to the surrounding country in two ways. They serve for purposes of irrigation, and as canals for carrying on traffic, most of them being navigable for a considerable distance. The plains they water are in general level and fertile, yielding an abundant return of produce for the slight and unskilful labour employed in their tillage. Artificial Canals connected with the rivers are cut through the cultivated lands, and greatly increase their fertility.

The nearer the rivers are approached, the more valuable are the lands, and the more abundant their produce. Wheat, rice, and other descriptions of grain, grow in rich luxuriance, and even with the slight skill and labour bestowed on them, the cotton-tree, the sugar cane, opium, and indigo, flourish here as well as in any part of the world. The gardens, many of which are carefully tended, yield an ample supply of the finest fruits; oranges, peaches, grapes, lemons, pomegranates, mangoes, dates, figs, apples, and mulberries, are produced in perfection. Flowers of all kinds are yielded spontaneously by the ground. As the plains are farther removed from the rivers, the soil is less fertile, large tracts of country being wholly covered with jungle; but, as the hill districts are reached, the country becomes beautifully diversified and yields almost every variety of produce.

Cattle in the Punjaub are abundant. Large herds of buffaloes and flocks of sheep are bred, though the former are only used for their milk and hides, and the latter for their wool. Horses are bred extensively in the Punjaub, and camels are numerous. Herds of deer, with a variety of animals of chase, roam in the unclaimed districts. The rivers partake of the general fertility of the country, swarming with fine mullet, carp, and a number of other species unknown in Europe. They contribute materially to the subsistence of the people, furnishing, in addition to the amply-stocked yards of poultry, and the pheasants, partridges, and other descriptions of fowl with which the wild country abounds, all the flesh the inhabitants desire for their food.

It is known that excellent mines of iron, copper, salt, coal, and other minerals abound in the Punjaub, but dislike to calling in European skill for their working, has hitherto prevented the Sikh Government from taking advantage of the immense wealth that lies below the surface of the soil.

Numerous towns and villages are situated in the vicinity of the Rivers, but, notwithstanding the power of the kingdom under Runjeet, no great pains were taken to fortify its principal places. The country, therefore, can offer no effectual resistance to an invader. Lahore, the capital, is surrounded only by an imperfect brick wall, and the extent of its fortifications, seven miles, renders it impossible that it can be efficiently defended. This town is wealthy, though the narrowness of the streets, common to all Eastern cities, and the long ranges of blank walls, give it a mean and dingy appearance. It has yet some splendid remains of the Mohammedan dynasty; and in the time of Runjeet carried on a considerable traffic, both with British India and the surrounding states. It has manufactories of arms, of shawls, &c. and some of the workmen are remarkable for their dexterity. Umritsur is somewhat larger than Lahore, and from having been favoured by Runjeet, is of greater commercial importance. It has a strong fortress, which serves as the regal treasury and the arsenal.

The level country of the Punjaub rises towards the north, and becomes extremely intricate. In the recesses of mountains, and in their difficult passes, the hill chiefs have sometimes been enabled to defy the power of Runjeet himself, and it is evident that it would be from this part of the Punjaub that an invader would have to encounter the most determined resistance. The Indian papers have long called for the seizure of this kingdom; but it seems probable, from the character of the people,—turbulent, warlike, and numerous,—and from the obstacles opposed by the country itself to the work of subjugation, that it can be reduced to British dominion only by years of severe and almost constant conflict. At the extreme north is the fine province of Cashmere, so famed in the pages of romance, and in the shawl-warehouses of fashion. The whole of the Punjaub is generally healthy, but varies materially with the seasons and the locality. The heat is greatest in June, and is sometimes excessive, the thermometer rising in tents artificially cooled at Lahore to 112 deg.; this degree of heat is, however, rare. The severity of the winter is little felt in the plains of the Punjaub, the thermometer in January or February not often falling lower than 70 deg. at midday. The health of the people is so good that the mortality of the army from natural causes is not found to exceed one per cent. per annum. The northern provinces present, perhaps, the finest climate of the world, and some of the most magnificent scenes of nature. The winters are occasionally severe, the mountains being for months covered with the snow which falls in December. Among the heights and valleys of this northern district almost every variety of climate and of vegetation can be found within the compass of a limited tract. The summer in Cashmere is extremely beautiful. The population here rises into a more stalwart race than in the plains, resembling in vigour and disposition the inhabitants of Afghanistan. By possessing himself of Peshawur, Runjeet secured his kingdom from invasion from that quarter, and greatly strengthened his position.

THE INHABITANTS.

The Sikh population of the Punjaub is generally estimated at about four millions. They are a fine race, more muscular in person than the Hindoos, and endowed correspondingly with more manly spirit and firmness of mind. Their diet, though simple, is of a higher kind; beef is forbidden, and mutton but little used; but they eat plentifully of fish, fowls, condiments, vegetables, and fruits.

The Sikhs owe their name to their religion. Originally Hindoos or Mahommedans, Nanac Shah, the son of a salt-merchant, appeared, towards the close of the fifteenth century, to announce a new faith. This man had been a pious Hindoo, but, conceiving that many of his tenets must be superstitious inventions and offensive to God, he began to preach a new religion, founded on pure Deism. He declared the one God to be the only being worthy of worship, and that thousands of Mahomeds and Vishnus stand before the gates of his everlasting dwelling. He denounced idol worship as contrary to the homage due to the Supreme Being, but he encouraged all sects to join him, by an assurance that all good men, whatever their faith, were acceptable to the Most High. By his labours, his preaching, his contempt of worldly goods, and his asserted miracles, Nanac Shah collected numerous followers, who called themselves Sikhs, a Sanscrit term, applicable to the disciples of any religious teacher. This term spread with the spread of the new faith, until it became applied to all the inhabitants of the Punjaub. As the religion of Nanac Shah was rather remarkable for what it denied and rejected than for what it taught, the disciples of other creeds have engrafted their ceremonies and tenets on it, so that the Sikhs may still be regarded as Hindoos and Mahommedans, united together by the spirit of tolerance which Nanac Shah insisted on as a fundamental part of his teaching. As the Sikhs extended their conquests in the Punjaub, the leading chiefs took the title of Singh, or Lion, by which all the leading Punjaubees are now distinguished.

The Punjaub first rose into political importance under the rule of Runjeet Singh. His ancestors played a conspicuous part in the wars that desolated this splendid country in the middle of the last century. Under their guidance the Sikh chiefs finally became masters of the country; but, acknowledging no leader, war only gave place to a far worse evil—anarchy. By a series of successes and prudent measures, the father of Runjeet became possessed of a wide extent of territory, and of considerable authority. At his death, in 1792, Runjeet succeeded him, and soon became the acknowledged ruler of the whole country.

The first connection of our Government with Runjeet arose out of a war with some Sikh states beyond the limits of the Punjaub. The alliance of Runjeet was courted by either party, but he wisely preferred an arrangement which allowed him to remain neuter. At last, the Sikh states concluded a peace with the British Government, and Runjeet was one of the subscribing parties. The treaty was signed in 1806.—Two years later flattering overtures were made by Bonaparte to Runjeet; and Mr. Metcalfe, now Lord Metcalfe, was deputed by the British Government to negotiate with the great Sikh ruler. Runjeet, however, who had his eye on the countries east of the Sutlej, determined on a rapid movement, and, before giving an answer to Mr. Metcalfe, advanced with his troops across that river, entered the country which the Sikh chiefs have so recently invaded, and marched to Umballah. He seized the whole country, and made it over to his dependents. The British Government promptly interfered; it declared the whole country invaded was under its protection, and called upon Runjeet to withdraw its forces. As he refused, a British army was assembled, and he was decisively informed that he must consider the Sutlej to be the boundary of his kingdom.

On this occasion Runjeet gave proof of the sagacity which eminently distinguished him. He perceived the inability of his troops, though much superior to those of his Indian opponents, to cope with the organized skill of a British army. He expressed a wish to negotiate, and the terms were soon agreed on, the Sutlej being fixed as the boundary of his empire. The main stipulations of the treaty are worth giving here, in consequence of the daring violation of them by the late mission:—

"Article the 1st.—Perpetual friendship shall subsist between the British Government and the State of Lahore; the latter shall be considered, with respect to the former, to be on the footing of the most favoured powers, and the British Government will have no concern with the territories and subjects of the Rajah to the northward of the river Sutlege.

Article 2d.—The Rajah will never maintain in the territory which he occupies on the left bank of the Sutlege *more troops than are necessary for the internal duties of the territory, nor commit or suffer any encroachment on the possessions or rights of the chiefs in its vicinity.*

"Article 3d.—In the event of a violation of any of the preceding articles, or of a departure from the rules of friendship on the part of either state, this treaty shall be considered null and void." (The fourth and last article provides for the exchange of ratifications.)

At the same time the Sikh states south and west of the Sutlej were formally received under British protection. To this treaty Runjeet Singh steadily adhered with inviolable faith. His constant answer to all persuasions urging him to break it was, that the British Government had been faithful to him, and he would prove himself worthy their confidence.

In 1831, Lieut. Burnes visited Runjeet at Lahore, and from that date our communications with him became more frequent, in consequence of the preparations made for the invasion of Affghanistan. New treaties were made on the basis of former ones, Runjeet throughout remaining steadfast to the alliance he had formed, and leaving at his death in 1839 his kingdom on terms of perfect friendship with the British Government. Less than six years have sufficed to destroy the prudent labours of his life, to throw his kingdom back into the anarchy from which he reclaimed it, and to wantonly break, by a most wicked and unjustifiable invasion, an alliance of forty years standing with the rulers of British India.

GOVERNMENT, ARMY, &c.

The Government of the Sikhs, considered in its theory, may be termed a theocracy. They obey a temporal chief, it is true, but that chief possesses his power and authority by professing himself the servant of the Kahsa, a Government which can only be said to act in times of great public emergency, through the means of a great national council, of which any chief is a member, and which is supposed to deliberate and resolve under the immediate inspiration and impulse of an invisible being, who they believe always watches over the interests of the commonwealth.

The principal chiefs of the Sikhs are all descended from Hindoo tribes. The lower classes are protected from tyranny and violence by the precepts of their common religion, and by the condition of their country, which enables them to abandon, whenever they choose, a leader whom they dislike; and the distance of a few miles places them under the protection of his rival or enemy. It is from this cause that the lowest Sikh horseman usually assumes a very independent style, and the highest chief treats his military followers with attention and conciliation.

The character of the Sikhs, or Sinks, the name by which the followers of Gurn-Govind, who are all devoted to arms, is distinguished—is very marked. They have, in general, the Hindoo cast of countenance, somewhat altered by their long beards, and are quite as active as the Mahrattas, and much more robust, from their living fuller, and enjoying a better and a colder climate. Their courage, which is equal at all times to that of any native of India, when wrought upon by prejudice or religion, is quite desperate.

The Sikh nation, who have throughout their early history always appeared, like a suppressed flame, to rise into higher splendour from every attempt to crush them, become, while they are oppressed, as formidable for their union as for their determined valour and unconquerable spirit of resistance; but a state of persecution and distress is the one most favourable for the action of a constitution like theirs. They are all horsemen, and have no infantry in their own country, except for the defence of their forts and villages, though they generally serve as infantry in foreign armies. They use swords, spears, and matchlocks, and bows and arrows. They are bold and rather rough in their address, which appears more conspicuous to a stranger from their invariably speaking in a loud tone of voice. Talking aloud is so habitual to a Sikh, that he bawls a secret in your ear.

The Sikh soldier is, generally speaking, brave, active, and cheerful, without polish, but neither destitute of sincerity or attachment, and if he often appears wanting in humanity, it is not so much to be attributed to his national character, as to the habits of a life which, from the condition of the society in which he is born, is generally passed in scenes of violence and rapine.

It would be difficult, if not impracticable, to ascertain the number of armies which the Sikhs could bring into action. They boast that they could raise more than a hundred thousand horse, and if it were possible to assemble every horseman, the statement might not be an exaggeration.

Brief sketches of some of the brave British Officers who fell in the battles of the Sutlej, with the Sikhs:—

Sir Robert Henry Sale, G. C. B., was the second son of the late Colonel Sale. He was born in 1782; and entered the Thirty-sixth Foot at the early age of thirteen. His professional services were chiefly confined to the East Indies. He was distinguished throughout for bravery and judgment; and his exploits during the Affghanistan campaigns are well known. No less famous is his wife Florentia, who survives. She is the daughter of Mr. George Wynche, a country gentleman; they were married in 1809; and Lady Sale was at Umballah when her husband was killed.

Sir John M'Caskill entered the service in 1797, and had served with distinction in the West as well as the East.

Major D'Arcy Todd entered the Company's service in 1823; served under the Shah of Persia; performed political duty under Sir William M'Naghten; and succeeded Lieutenant Eldred Pottinger at Herat, but was recalled before the last disasters in Cabul. His wife died, at Umballah, only twelve days before his own death, at the early age of twenty-three.

Major Broadfoot was the political negotiator between the Governor General and the Sikhs. He is celebrated for his intrepid defence of a convoy, comprising the families of Shah Zeman and Shah Soojah, with treasure, attacked by the Sikhs while crossing their territories, in 1841.

Captain Peter Nicolson, political assistant to Major Broadfoot, was rising in the military diplomacy of India. He had recently married a daughter of Sir George Pollock.

Major Baldwin had been thirty-six years in the Army; he survived the battle of Waterloo, the burning of the Kent East Indiaman, and innumerable other perils, to die on the Sutlej.

Among others who have perished are: Major Arthur W. Fitzroy Somerset, eldest son of Lord Fitzroy Somerset; Captain Hennes, a relative of the Right Honorable J. C. Hennes; Lieutenant R. H. Pollock, son of Sir George, and Nephew of the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer; Lieutenant George Wyndham Knight Bruce, son of the Vice-Chancellor of that name; and Lieutenant George Alfred Croly, eldest son of the Reverend Dr. Croly, Rector of St. Stephen's Walbrook.