THE COMMERCE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The growth and occasional fluctuations of the commerce of the United Kingdom during the thirty years of peace, from 1816 to 1846, are rather strikingly illustrated by a Parliamentary return just published. On a single sheet are exhibited, in a tabular form, the net results of all the available information respecting the number and tonnage of the vessels entered inwards and cleared outwards at each of the twelve principal ports of Great Britain and Ireland during that period. The ports selected are six for England (London, Liverpool, Bristol, Hull, Newcastle, and Southampton); three for Scotland (Glasgow, Greenock, and Leith); and three for Ireland (Belfast, Cork, and Dublin).

The most remarkable results are of course obtained by a comparison of the returns of the first given, with those of the last. We give the tonnage of shipping cleared outwards (British and foreign together) at each port, in those years:—

ENGLISH PORTS.	TONNAGE OUTWARDS. 1816	1845.
London	618,823	1,186,366
Liverpool	341,380	1,412,473
Bristol	39,629	69,101
Hull	84,950	291,289
Newcastle	83,192	836,056
Southampton	17,688	149,308
	1,185,662	3,944,593

A somewhat different result is obtained if we take the tonnage entered inwards, particularly in reference to the distribution of the trade between the different ports. As thus:—

	TONNAGE INWARDS. 1816.	1845.
London	689,050	1,502,491
Liverpool	300,673	1,401,541
Bristol	45,733	96,764
Hull	98,387	398,815
Newcastle	79,581	485,533
Southampton	18,781	150,826
	1,232,259	4,035,970

Thus it appears that the import trade greatly predominates in the ports of London, Hull, and Bristol; while there is a considerable balance in favour of the export trade of Newcastle, and also, though in a less degree, of Liverpool.

The extra 400,000 tons of shipping inwards at the port of London, is obviously due to the very large consumption of imported commodities in the metropolis and its vicinity, and in the inland towns connected with it by railway. Some portion of all the largest incomes in the country is annually spent in London; and it is probable that at least one third in bulk, and much more in value of the Foreign commodities consumed in Great Britain, enter the kindom through the London Docks.

Liverpool is the port of cotton manufacture and American trade. There we receive the raw materials required in the factories of Lancashire, and the great part of the foreign commodities consumed by houses engaged in that trade; and thence send out the manufactured produce of the same district. The tonnage of its export trade now greatly exceeds that of London.

Hull is the port of the woollen manufactures and the Baltic trade. Its tonnage inwards, especially of Foreign vessels, has hitherto fluctuated greatly with the Foreign supplies of those two bulky articles—timber and corn. The proportion of Foreign shipping is highest here and at Newcastle; varying from one fourth to two fifths of the amount entered inwards. The effect of an increased demand for corn is strongly marked in the difference between 1837 and 1839. In the former year the foreign tonnage entered inwards at Hull was 89,665 tons; and in the latter, 145,698 tons. So of the increased demand for timber between 1842 and 1844, when the foreign shipping inwards rose from 101,791 to 156,368 tons.

At Newcastle, the amount of shipping both ways was greatly increased in the year 1845; and during the ten years preceding had increased nearly threefold, the explanation being found in the extension of the coal trade.

The shipping of Bristol has been less changed in amount than that of any of the other English ports. It has been increasing, though slowly, of late years. This port has for many years, been subject, occasionally, to a sudden influx of foreign shipping. This was the case in 1824 and '25, in 1830, in 1831, and 40, and in 1845, at each of which periods the usual amount of foreign tonnage entering and leaving the port was temporarily doubled, or nearly so.

The shipping at the port of Southampton has been trebled in quantity during the last seven or eight years; the greater part of the addition having probably been deducted from that of the port of London, through the connexion by railway.

We resume our extracts from the tables, for the *Scottish ports*:—

	TONNAGE OUTWARDS. 1816.	1845.
Glasgow	4,682	117,443
Greenock	49,700	99,252
Leith	27,056	29,836
	81,439	246,231

	TONNAGE INWARDS. 1816.	1845.
Glasgow	2,769	97,749
Greenock	44,773	111,614
Leith	34,665	90,770
	83,197	300,133

Thus, the *import* trade of the three principal ports of Scotland, taken together, has employed a much greater amount of tonnage than their export trade. Glasgow is the only exception, when taken alone, and here we see a comparative account very similar to that of Liverpool; and both are mainly supported by the cotton manufacture. The remarkable excess of imports at Leith (the sea port of Edinburgh) may be received as analogous to the account for the English metropolis.

The accounts for the Irish ports are only given from 1823, as are under:—

IRISH PORTS.	TONNAGE OUTWARDS. 1823.	1845.
Belfast	23,249	53,605
Cork	23,483	33,240
Dublin	26,934	48,821
	73,666	135,666

	TONNAGE INWARDS. 1823.	1845.
Belfast	22,452	53,833
Cork	25,215	45,153
Dublin	39,751	68,852
	87,418	168,858

Here an excess of tonnage in the import trade is the rule throughout. During the last twenty years there has been a very considerable diminution at each of the three ports named, of the quantity of foreign shipping employed. The proportion of foreign ships, to the whole, during the first three or four years (down to 1826) appears to have varied from one-third to one-half. In 1845 it was one-fifth at Belfast, about one-eighth at Dublin, and not more than one ton in thirty at Cork.

EDUCATION.

The subject of *Education*, as our readers are aware, has engaged of late an unusual degree of attention in the British Parliament. The ministerial scheme was opposed with a bitterness for which it is difficult to find any ground, except in the heated feelings and bigotry of its opponents. Judging from the hostility it encountered, one would suppose it to be some gigantic project for giving to the political Ministry the absolute control of the whole subject of Education within the British realm—whereas, it was simply a proposal to appropriate £100,000 to the aid of Schools, wherever they might exist, each receiving a sum proportioned to the amount raised voluntarily, and the only condition being that "a portion of each day should be devoted to reading a portion of the authorized version of the Scriptures." A more complete system of school inspection was also proposed, and provision was made for the continuance of the most promising pupils at the best schools, as well as for the more thorough education of teachers, monitors, &c. It was also suggested that many of the best pupils, who should have no other views in life, might be employed in some departments of the revenue service.

Great numbers of dissenters objected to the scheme that it would benefit the schools of the Church far more than others. To this the reply was, only in those districts where the voluntary contributions of the Church for schools exceeded those of the dissenters:—in other districts dissenters would have the advantage; and this arrangement seemed essentially just. The *Catholics*, with much more show of reason, complained that they were excluded from its benefits because they used the Douay version of the Scriptures. The State, it is urged, should have nothing whatever to do with religious education; all its aid should be limited to the conveyance of purely secular knowledge.—Against this position Lord John Russell, in his speech upon the subject, takes this decided stand:

"To such a scheme, I have the most decided objection. Under such a system the state would take cognizance, in schools set up by itself, of one half only, and that not the most important half, of the instruction to be given to the children therein educated.—(Hear, hear.) I think myself that to omit any inculcation of the duties of religion—to omit instructing the children in the principles of love to God and love to their neighbor—would be a grave, a serious, and an irreparable fault. (Hear, hear.) I think myself that no advantage that could be gained from uniting different sects could compensate for such an apparent declaration by the state that they thought secular knowledge and secular learning alone was that with which they had any concern, or in which they took any interest. (Hear.) I think, besides, that practically—supposing the objections which stand in the front of such a scheme to be overruled—considering how the time of the working classes of this country and of their children must be occupied, you could not obtain, in this way, a sufficient amount of religious instruction. I think, therefore, that both in principle and in practice, such a scheme would be objectionable."

The duty of the State to educate its people, on grounds of public policy as well as of justice, is very forcibly urged, both by the Premier and by Mr. Macaulay, who made a very able and eloquent speech upon the subject. Lord Russell, in reference to this point, used the following just and impressive language:—

"Sir, I confess that it appears to me to be a very shocking thing that where you give instruction you never give that instruction until criminals have arrived at this point,—until criminals are sent to gaol, after they have committed a crime. (Loud cheers.) In any gaol where you have reports, you find that prisoners, who afterwards conduct themselves respectably and abandon their vicious courses, bless the day in which they were sent to prison, where they attained to a degree of secular knowledge, and where they learned to conduct themselves as Christians and as members belonging to a free state. Is it not desirable, I ask, that before they reach that place (loud cheers)?—that while they are still young, and early impressions can be made—that before they are found in the haunts of vice, an endeavour should be made, by means of good schools and good schoolmasters, to improve their religious feelings, and to give them that secular knowledge which will be useful to them in after life?" (Cheers.)

"Sir, I am not supposing that temptations may not sometimes succeed in overcoming the virtue of the lower classes of society, that sensual indulgence and riotous excesses may not lead them into the paths of crime. But still the number may be diminished; it may be restricted by showing them the paths of duty, and withholding from them none of the advantages which point to education. Many may be rescued from the haunts of crime, and if our efforts do not meet with that success which we hope will attend them, still, if only one-fourth of these unhappy beings are rescued, we shall feel at all events that we have performed the duty which was incumbent upon us. We shall, with a better conscience, and more satisfaction, observe the working of our criminal law, and the punishments which it inflicts, and we shall be able to say—"We have afforded you the knowledge that would have conducted you to respectability, and it is not our fault that you find yourselves at the bar as criminals."

These are truths worthy of careful consideration everywhere: and they were still more strongly presented in the more extended remarks in which Mr. Macaulay advocated the passage of the *Government scheme*. He deduced the duty of education from the fundamental duty of protecting life and property, which every State owes to its citizens; and insisted that ignorance had always been the prolific parent of mobs and of crime.

Upon another plea, often urged in this country as well as in England, that Education should be left, like trade, to individual effort, and to the influence of free competition, Mr. Macaulay spoke with great clearness and effect; and we commend the following passage to general attention:—

"The argument is, that if free competition is excellent in matters of trade, the same principle must be excellent also in the education of the people. If it be a sound principle for the supply of corn, it must be a sound principle also for the supply of schools. But, Sir, I must say that no one analogy could possibly be more false. The consequences of the principle of free competition are excellent in matters of trade. There is no doubt that the grocer supplies sugar to his customers of a better quality and at a more reasonable price than if the Government were to turn grocer and to open a shop in every parish. It is because the individual grocer has a strong personal interest that he can benefit the public, and, at the same time, advance his own welfare more than the Government can possibly do. If the grocer, who supplies the sugar that the people want, sells it at a price beyond what is asked by his rival, or if he supplies sugar of a worse quality, he will be ruined, he will have no customers, and he will find himself in the *Gazette*, and his children in the work-house; but if he supplies good sugar, if he is attentive to his customers, if he is civil, and if he sells at a reasonable price, he becomes rich, and may look forward to his country house and his carriage; and that is the reason why the principle of free competition in the supply of articles of consumption is good. But what parallel is there between the two cases? (Hear, hear.) What class of men have the same strong and pressing interest in supplying the people with good schools as the grocer has to supply the people with good sugar? True it is that some benevolent persons, who contribute—some their money and some their time—to the education of the people, and in many places it is said that the existing competition does great good. But do not be deceived by words. Do not think that this competition is anything like the fierce competition which is evoked by the desire of wealth or by the dread of ruin. Is it not a great error to suppose that the competition of men for the good of others can have the strength and potency of the competition to secure wealth for themselves? (Cheers.) You would not say that the state of competition among benevolent persons for the relief of poor in England is so great in various ways that you would abolish the poor rates because this benevolent competition would give more to the poor than the poor-rates? (Cheers.) Yet it is hard to conceive that, if the argument be good for education, it is not good also in the case of the poor-rates."—[*N. York Courier & Enquirer.*

THE ARMY.—It affords us sincere pleasure to find that Major-General Sir H. G. W. Smith, Bart., and G. C. B., the hero of Aliwal, has succeeded to the colonelcy of the 2d battalion of the Rifle Brigade, the regiment with which the earlier years of his professional career were intimately connected. The position which he now occupies as one of the chiefs of that distinguished corps must awaken many exciting and pleasing reminiscences of bygone days, when he fought with it—and gallantly, too—in the Peninsula. We hope he will long continue to cherish those recollections.—The vacancy occasioned by his removal from the 47th Foot has been filled up by the appointment of Major-General Thomas Dalmer, an officer of fifty years' standing, who has seen hard service in Egypt, the Netherlands, the Peninsula, Denmark, and France. At Waterloo his horse was killed under him. He commanded a light battalion at Salamanca and Vittoria, and for his services there he wears a medal and a clasp.

IRELAND—The accounts from the south are frightfully bad. A gentleman named Creed thus writes from the town of Marcoom, under date April 18th:

"Every avenue leading to and in this plague-stricken town, has a fever hospital, having for its protecting roof the blue vault of heaven. Persons of all ages are dropping dead in each corner of the town, who are interred with much difficulty, after rats have feasted upon their unfortunate frames. The frequency of such inhuman and tragic exhibitions divest the mind of its wonted feelings of disgust and regret. Mr. White, the apothecary, whose exertions, and those of his son, in behalf of the suffering poor, are indeed beyond all praise, related to me an occurrence which he witnessed in his professional capacity. A family consisting of eight, got sick of fever near the town—all of whom died, except the father and two children, who struggled hard against the ravages of this fierce malady, but ultimately fell its victims. Mr. White, and the Rev. Mr. O'Donnell, of Clondrohid, on revisiting this hut, pregnant with pestilence and poverty, found the parent dead, and the two children apparently embracing him, but who were found to be dead."

Here is a report from Mallow:—

"The state of the town of Mallow is frightful in the extreme, particularly since the new relief Committee, under the 10th Victoria, c. 7, commenced to give gratuitous relief. Crowds of starving creatures flock in from the rural districts, and take possession of some hall door or the outside of some public building, where they place a little straw, and remain until they die. Disease has, in consequence, spread itself throughout the town. There are now over 400 individuals afflicted with fever and dysentery. Deaths by the roadside, aye, and in some of the principal thoroughfares, are frequently the consequence. The graveyard has its entrance in the centre of the main street, and in several instances, when the gates were closed against parties seeking to bury the remains of their friends, the coffins were placed on the wall and abandoned."

Public Works in Ireland.—A return was issued this morning, showing the average daily number of persons employed on relief works in Ireland during the week ending 10th March, 1847; also the cost, distinguishing the amount paid in wages, and the cost of the establishment, so far as can be made out from the estimates and pay lists received. The total number of persons so employed on roads was 708,002, and on drainage 20,736. The amount paid for their labour was £236,822, in addition to which there was for superintendance charged to baronies, £17,162, and charged to government, $5,081. The number employed in Leinster was 128,181; in Munster, 303,614; in Ulster, 88,446; and in Connaught, 210,497. The lowest county is Down, 702; the highest, Cork, 88,426; and the next highest, Mayo, 64,181. The city of Dublin, and the towns of Belfast and Carrickfergus, are the only ones not having labourers so employed.

ROYAL HIGHLAND SCHOOL SOCIETY.—On Saturday the 74th anniversary of this excellent institution was held at Freemasons' Hall, when the Duke of Cambridge presided, supported by B. Bond Cabbell, M. P., Sir James Duke, and nearly 100 other gentlemen, several of whom were clad in full Highland costume. In the gallery also were a rich galaxy of ladies, among whom were Lady King, (daughter of the late Lord Byron,) her daughter, &c. During the evening the company were enlivened by the performances of Mr. Mackay, the Queen's piper, on the bagpipes, in which he was assisted by the youthful band of the Highland Asylum Society. The subscriptions of the evening amounted to more than £300, among which were her Majesty, £50; Prince Albert, 12 guineas; Duke of Cambridge, £20; Queen Dowager, 10 guineas; Duke of Buccleuch, £50; Bond Cabbell, Esq., 20 guineas; Lord Haddo, 10 guineas; Sir J. Duke, 5 guineas, &c.

CRIMINAL OFFENDERS IN SCOTLAND.—Amongst the parliamentary papers, presented in the course of the last week, was one of a voluminous character, containing minute statistical information relative to criminal offences in Scotland. The offences are divided into six classes, from the higher to the lower grades of crime. The inference to be drawn from these statements confirms the view likely to be taken by the House of Commons—that crime is mainly owing to the want of education. The chief punishment (murders or heinous offences being rare) is imprisonment, varying from twelve months to less than six. In transportation the term seems to be usually seven years. During the twelve months (1846) only three were transported for life, while there was not a single sentence of death. There has, consequently, not been one instance of the execution of the capital punishment; and there does not appear to have been any commutation either of transportation or of imprisonment, nor one free pardon. The return was made by the Lord Advocate, and was received with peculiar interest.

Her Majesty has lately subscribed £200 in aid of the Gaelic schools under the superintendance of the Free Church.

Throughout the whole agricultural districts of Scotland, the accounts of the seed time, and the promising state of the young wheat are more than usually favourable. In Lanarkshire the oats are all in the ground under favourable circumstances. In Roxburghshire the accounts of the seed time are equally favourable. In East Lothian all the young crops are looking well. In Ayrshire farming produce is declining in price generally.

Warning to Surgeons.—Dr. Fiddes, of Bellhevie, died on Friday night from the effects of a puncture on one of his fingers received while making a *post mortem* examination on the body of one of his patients. The deadly virus began to show its effects soon, and although all was done that medical knowledge could accomplish, it spread through the system, till the fearful tortures to which it gave rise were ended by death. Dr. Fiddis was highly esteemed where he was known, and will be much missed not only on account of his professional ability, but for his general benevolence and gentlemanly disposition.—*Aberdeen Herald.*

Mr. Alfred Smee, who has all along attributed the potato disease to the *aphis vastator*, lately placed some of those insects on a healthy plant, which they destroyed with symptoms precisely similar to those which affected the crop last year all over Europe.

THE GREAT TOWER AT WESTMINSTER.—This enormous structure, into the lower part of which the Queen's state carriage and eight horses will be driven, is 80 feet square, and to the top of the octagon turret, with which each of its four angles will be furnished, will be 346 feet high, or little less than the height of the top of the cross which surmounts St. Paul's Cathedral!—*London Builder.*

Mr. Dunn, the barrister, who fell desperately in love with Miss Coutts' fortune, and is now a prisoner in the Queen's Bench, sent a long, formal, and written complaint to the Southwark magistrates, on Monday, against a cobbler, who, having soled a pair of shoes for him, refused to deliver them without pre-payment of 4s. 6d.!

THE POPE ON BROTHERLY KINDNESS.—Previous to the receipt of the Pope's Letter to the Archbishops, Bishops, &c., on the Famine in Ireland, Catholic liberality on this continent was very well proved and tested. The Pope says (we quote the Paris *Univers*) "You may, beside, recall to mind the words of St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan—'The beauty of wealth is not to reside in the money-bags of the rich, but to serve as an aliment to the poor; treasures shine with greater brilliancy when distributed to the infirm and indigent; Christians ought to know that they should employ money to seek, not what is of them, but what is of Christ, in order that in his turn Christ may seek them.' For these motives, for the others that we have recalled to your benevolent minds, we firmly hope that you will afford powerful help to the poor."

BURYING GROUNDS.—It is said that there are in Paris four hundred acres of burying ground for less than one million of inhabitants, while in London there are but 100 acres for two millions.

Couriers are constantly passing between the Tuileries and St. Petersburgh, and Louis Philippe is sparing no pains to induce the Emperor Nicholas to visit Paris.

COLD WEATHER has predominated the present year in all regions—in America, Europe, Asia—in Italy, Switzerland, France, England, and even India. In the north of India, says a recent foreign print, the winter has been unusually severe. Snow to the depth of three feet had fallen at Simla, and abundant rains had fallen and fertilized the plains, and given promise of an abundant harvest in the Jullunder and other districts.

Munificent Donation from Savannah in aid of the Destitute Highlanders.—Mr. Clow, treasurer for the fund in aid of the Distressed Highlanders has received from the St. Andrew's Society, Savannah, per Mr. A. Lowe, the handsome donation of 77 casks of rice and 200 sacks Indian Corn. This is in addition to 500 dollars lately contributed by the members of the same society to alleviate the wide spread of famine in their father land. Messrs. D. M'Arthur and Co. have very generously offered to convey the rice and Indian corn to Scotland, free of charge.

NEGLECT OF FLAX CULTIVATION.—Among the unfavourable features of the accounts from Ireland the prospect of a neglect of flax cultivation may be regarded as serious, inasmuch as the annual products of this branch of industry are usually estimated at £2,000,000. This appears to have arisen not so much from the paralysis which has prevented a large portion of the people from attending to cultivation of any kind, as from the fact of the high price of wheat having tempted those who are still disposed to exert themselves to devote their means to an increased production of that article.

By a letter dated the 19th ult. the Pope has called to Rome delegates from the various provinces to consult upon the improvement of the internal Government of the states of the Church. This is looked upon with reason as the first step to the creation of a representative Government.

The old bridge of Dumfries, after standing 600 years, gave way last week.

From the City of Mexico the New Orleans Picayune has advices to the 28th of April. We copy from that paper the following summary of the intelligence:—

We look first for news from Santa Anna, and we find him engaged, with the utmost diligence, at Orizaba, raising troops. He shows, as the letters well say, incredible energy in sustaining the losses he has sustained, and ere this, is, no doubt, at the head of an army very considerable in numbers, however inferior in discipline. He is, moreover, according to the papers, granting permits to guerilla bands. Being straitened for funds, he is said to have imposed upon Orizaba a loan of $16,000. We give a translation of the first letter we have seen of Santa Anna's since his defeat at Cerro Gordo. It was written on the 22d of April, from Orizaba.

Below we copy a portion of this letter:

It appears that the enemy, improving his triumph, and the astonishment in which he finds the people, designs to march upon the capital; but I am taking measures to organize here a respectable force, in addition to that at present under the command of Gen. D. Antonio Leon, and I can assure the President Substitute that with some aid from the neighboring States or the Supreme Government itself, I shall be able to harrass the rear guard of the enemy with effect until his destruction is achieved. I have already despatched orders to Gen. Canalizo that he protect the fortress of Perote, and to Gen. Gaona that he place it in the best state of defence until I can relieve him.

I cannot omit to express to your Excellency my astonishment at the apathy and selfishness of our citizens in the present critical circumstances; and I now deem it necessary, to save the country, that the Supreme Powers of the nation should dictate severe and effective measures to enforce compliance on the part of every one with those duties which society and the laws impose upon him. If this is not done, if the nation does not rise *en masse* to defend its most sacred rights, unjustly and barbarously trampled upon, infamy and scorn, with the loss of our nationality, will be the results. For my part I shall spare no sacrifice in behalf of the country; my life, my blood, my repose and my fortune, are entirely consecrated to it.

For the present I have established my head quarters here, where I shall receive the orders which the supreme government may have occasion to transmit. Accept assurances, &c.

God and Liberty!

ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA.

A MEXICAN PARADISE.—A letter from Perote to the N. Y. Journal of Commerce says—"Jalapa, a city of about 20,000 inhabitants, is built on a hill at the height of about 12,000 feet above the sea. The streets are irregularly laid out, very steep in places, well paved, and have handsome sidewalks. The houses are fine, and many of them extremely elegant, of one and two stories, with tiled roofs. The city contains five or six cathedrals, a national college, and other public buildings.

There is probably no place in the world more agreeable as a residence, all things considered, than this. Its great elevation gives it an atmosphere perfectly pure, bracing and healthy. The soil produces bananas, apples, peaches, oranges, pine-apples, grain, and a variety of others, embracing nearly all the fruits and vegetables of the North and South.—The location is amidst scenery of the most sublime and beautiful character. The inhabitants possess more wealth and refinement than I have observed in all the other towns I have visited in Mexico. Intelligence beams on every countenance, and the complexion of nearly all has that clear, bright and rosy appearance, peculiar only to the residents of healthy regions. Besides, Jalapa is celebrated for the beauty of its *Senoritas*, and they do possess a beauty and grace which would revolutionize New York or Philadelphia. Each house has its neat and spacious garden, abounding in beautiful flowers and roses, in endless variety and great profusion.

The scenery which meets the eye on entering the city, is magnificent. A chain of mighty mountains stretches afar off in the distance, many of them capped with eternal snow, and all rising high above the clouds. The most prominent among them is Orizaba, its white crest gleaming beneath the sun's rays, which transform the clouds floating beneath as into vast masses of snow, filled up with fantastic and grotesque shapes, and producing altogether a picture too grand for the mocking of pen or pencil.

It is said that Santa Anna is the owner of a large proportion of the land from Jalapa to Vera Cruz. From Jalapa to Perote, there are several tracts of great fertility. Descending from La Vigas, large plains, finely cultivated, and planted with wheat, barley, corn, and oats, stretch out in all directions. The *furrows* are straight as an arrow, and exhibit a skill in ploughing quite creditable to the most scientific farmer."

TRIAL TRIP OF THE NEW U. STATES MAIL STEAMER WASHINGTON.—The steamship Washington, the first of the Cowes, Southampton, and Bremen line, passed down the East River with the tide about three o'clock this morning, and proceeded out to sea. Besides the officers of the Ocean Steam Navigation Co., she had on board several gentlemen connected with the city press. The party expected to be absent about twelve hours; and on the ship's return between three and five o'clock this afternoon, she will make the circuit of the bay, to give our citizens an opportunity of seeing her in motion from the Battery.

As she is the first steam vessel which has been built and fitted out at this port as a regular packet to Europe, it may be interesting to our readers to learn some particulars of her size, engine power, and accommodations for passengers. She is 1800 tons burden; length of keel, 225 feet; on deck, 240 feet; over all, 256 feet; breadth of beam, 39 feet; depth of hold, 31 feet; engines 1000 horse power each; 72 inch cylinders, with 10 feet stroke. Shafts, cranks and frame all of wrought iron. Shaft 20 inches in diameter; weight of cranks, 7000 lbs. each; boilers, 15 feet front, 12 feet shell, and 36 feet long. Her fire room is so completely covered with sheet iron as to prevent almost the possibility of accidents from that quarter. Her wheels are 38 feet in diameter, 7 1-2 feet face. So much for size and equipments, and now as to her accommodations for passengers. Her main saloon is 85 feet long by 20 feet wide, elegantly decorated and gilded, and lighted at night by lamps of a costly kind and novel construction.—Her stern windows are composed of splendidly stained glass, each pane of which contains either the arms of one or other of those countries which she is intended to visit, or the likeness of some American or foreign patriot. Every part of her intended to be occupied by passengers, is most elegantly furnished, and supplied with every thing that could be thought of to minister to their comfort or convenience. And if the entertainments furnished them are only in keeping with the magnificent service of china, glass and plate, with which her pantry is filled, her passengers will certainly have no cause to complain of their fate. And now comes the cost of this floating palace, and even this may be considered a wonder, in comparison to the cost of other vessels of a similar class. The entire outlay upon her, for all and every thing, being but $250,000, for which her owners are indebted to the ecenomical management of Mr. Edward Mills, the general agent for the company.—*N. Y. Jour. Commerce.*

This trial trip of the Washington has sufficiently demonstrated the important fact, that she has a power and speed unrivalled; surpassing, in every point of view, the most sanguine expectations. By well known land marks, outside of Sandy Hook, and by the log she made 15½ miles large, against a heavy sea, a head wind, and a current of 1½ knots. Thus it may safely be admitted that she can make 16 to 17 miles an hour in ordinary weather upon the occean.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The two armies of Scott and Taylor, it is said, will celebrate the declaration of American Independence in Mexico on the 4th of July next.—[Wash. Union.

We know not how others may feel, but, for ourselves, we confess that we should have no heart for the celebration of the anniversary of the Independence of the United States in the conquered Capital of a sister Republic—The fallen capital of the only great Republic besides our own upon the face of the earth—conquered in one of the most iniquitous wars recorded in the dark and bloody annals of mankind.—[Louisville (Ken.) Journal.

Apoplexy Cured without a Lancet or a Doctor!—A few days ago a man was taken suddenly with apoplexy at the Police office in Jefferson Market—his face being as blue as indigo from the swelling of the blood vessels. One of the officers who had read Dr. Turner's "Triumphs of Young Physic" the new and scientific treatment of that disease (as well as others) got some cold water and poured cupfull by cupfull on the patient's head. In a few minutes the senseless man came to, and in a quarter of an hour walked off home, well.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

DISTURBANCE IN THE HARBOR.—The British brig Mary, Capt. Wyman, from Cork, arrived at this port on the 17th inst. with 46 steerage passengers. The city authorities would not suffer them to be landed, owing to their destitute condition, unless the master gave bonds that they should not become a burthen to the city. This he was unable or unwilling to do and came to the conclusion that he must take them to Halifax, for which port he accordingly cleared on Saturday. The passengers were naturally much exasperated at the turn matters were taking, and when the Pilot ordered the crew to weigh anchor, the passengers took possession of the handspikes and windlass, and assaulted Capt. Wyman, who called to his assistance Capt. Josiah Sturgis, of the revenue cutter Hamilton, who went on board with six men and attempted in his usually judicious and dispassionate manner, to restore order, and directed his men to man the windlass. The passengers crowded forward, obstructing the operation in various ways, and while Capt. S. stood upon the windlass encouraging his men, one of the passengers, who appeared to take the lead, got upon the windlass and collared the gallant Captain, attempting to remove him. But Captain Sturgis instantly threw him several feet from him, postrate upon the deck, and made a signal for a reinforcement from the Hamilton, when another boat's crew, armed with cutlasses, came on board. Capt. Sturgis ordered the women and children to go aft, and the men to fall back from the windlass, which they did. He then got the brig under weigh, and accompanied her some distance, leaving her with a fair and fresh breeze.

The resistance of the unfortunate passengers is not to be wondered at, when it is considered that they were not landed at the termination of the voyage, but forced to go in an entirely different direction from what they contemplated. Yet the laws must be enforced, however painfully the duty may be to the officers.

When the pilot left her outside the Light, towards dark, all appeared quiet on board.—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

JAPAN.—Advices have been received in this city from Japan, via Batavia, that on the 10th of February, 1846, a most destructive fire broke out in Yedo, which raged two days, covering a space three miles long by one and a half wide, consuming the residences of several princes, and a vast number of houses.

A French squadron, under the command of Rear Admiral Cecile, visited the Loo Choo Islands, and arrived at Nangasaki on the 28th July, when he addressed a letter to the Governor complaining of the harsh treatment suffered by the crew of the French ship which had been driven by distress near the Island of Jesso, in 1844, and requested for the future protection and assistance of the Japanese Government for French crews which might be driven by distress on the shores of that Empire. He remained but three days in the harbor of Nangasaki, was not permitted to land, and left without waiting for an answer to his letter, and the arrival of some provisions that were intended to be sent to him by the Governor.

The Danish corvette Galathea, under command of Count Steen Bille, arrived of the Bay of Yedo on the 20th of August, and asked leave to proceed up to the city, which was refused.

An American whaler which had sunk near the Loo Choo Islands, was raised by the assistance of Japanese belonging to the Principality of Setzama, and after being repaired, proceeded on her voyage.—[N. Y. Com. Adv.

The Observer.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1847.

The steam-ship Hibernia, with the second May mail, now 13 days from Liverpool, has probably arrived at Halifax, and the mail may be expected here in a day or two.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and suite, arrived in town last evening from Fredericton, in the steamer *St. John*, and took lodgings at the St. John Hotel.

We learn that the crops in this County are generally in a forward state, notwithstanding the apparent backwardness of the spring. Farmers have had very favorable weather for planting.

There are about twenty square-rigged vessels at anchor at Partridge Island, several of them with passengers. There has been great mortality among the passengers on board a number of the vessels:—The Aldebaran has lost 34, and several others sick; the Inconstant, from Cork, 214 passengers, 3 deaths, 10 sick; Thorney Close, from Donegal, 157 passengers, 8 dead, 17 passengers and 2 of the crew sick; Pallas, from Cork, 211 passengers, 2 dead, 31 sick; Sir Charles Napier, from L'Derry, 434 passengers, 2 dead, 6 sick; Amazon, from Liverpool, 247 passengers, 2 dead, 34 sick; Mary, from Cork, 120 passengers, 12 dead, 32 sick; Dealy, from Bantry, 169 passengers, 22 dead, 40 sick, &c. A number of deaths have also occurred since the arrival of the vessels at Quarantine, principally of ship and typhus fevers.—Additional accommodations are now being prepared on Partridge Island for the reception of the sick. There are upwards of 2000 passengers either on shore or afloat, at Quarantine.

At Halifax, on Thursday last, the Queen's Birth Day was celebrated by a splendid Military Review, &c. on the Common. The number of Troops on the ground (comprising the Royal Artillery, Sappers and Miners, 14th Regt. 1st and 2d Battalions of the 20th, and the 23d Royal Welsh Fusileers.) extending about a quarter of a mile in length, was the greatest ever before exhibited at one time in that city. Salutes and *feux de joie* were fired, and the whole line passed in slow and quick time before Sir John Harvey, the Commander-in-chief, the bands playing the national anthem and other airs. The day was remarkably fine.—In the evening, His Excellency entertained a large party in a most sumptuous manner at Government House.

COLONIAL POSTAGE.—The Quebec Morning Chronicle states that a letter has been received by the President of the Board of Trade in that city, from the General Post Office in London, intimating that the subject of the Postage regulations in British North America is now under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

CHEAP BREAD!—We beg to refer to the advertisement of Mr. Thomas Rankine, Jr., in another column, who has commenced the manufacture of a cheap and very wholesome and nutricious species of Bread, at *two-pence per pound*. Those who have eaten of it, (ourselves included,) like it very much, and consider it quite an improvement, as affording a very agreeable change from the every-day wheaten bread. We hope Mr. R. may receive a liberal public patronage.

Accounts from Mexico state that martial law has been declared in the Valley of the Rio Grande, and that every Mexican capable of bearing arms is called upon to come forward and take the field, under penalty of death. The guerilla warfare has also commenced, and all straggling parties of Americans met with receive no quarter.

A general and absolute decree of amnesty for all political offences is announced in the Mexican papers of the 27th April.

In Toluca the casting of cannon was to be immediately commenced, the prelates of San Francisco and La Mercede having offered the bells necessary for the construction of cannon.

The produce received at Montreal from the upper country, via the Lachine Canal, from the opening of the navigation to the 18th May, amounted to 41,916 barrels flour, 22,063 bushels wheat, 2022 barrels pork, 116 do. beef, and 160 do. ashes.—The price of flour at Montreal on the 17th, was quoted at 34s. 6d. to 35s. 9d. per barrel.

POTATOES.—A cargo of 1500 bushels of potatoes, and another of 1300 bushels, arrived at Halifax last week from Cornwallis. They were sold at 6s. to 7s. 6d. a bushel.—They were the first brought to market by coasting vessels since last fall.

The United States mail steamer *Washington*, for Bremen, to touch at Southampton to land mails and passengers, was to leave New-York today, with a large number of passengers. It is expected that she will make a very short passage across the Atlantic.

Mr. Robert C. Winthrop, Member of Congress for Boston, was presented to the Queen at the Levee on the 28th of April.

LARGE LOAD OF EMIGRANTS.—The packet ship Constitution arrived at New York, a few days ago, from Liverpool, having on board 600 steerage passengers, nearly all of whom are from Ireland.

We have much pleasure in publishing the following Address to the Rev. Mr. Harrison, Rector of Portland, signed by the Church Wardens and Vestry of the Parish, and eighty other pewholders, &c., and presented to the Rev. Gentleman a few days ago. It expresses, we believe, the cordial sentiments of all the parishioners, a number of whom had not an opportunity of signing it. The reply of Mr. Harrison is also subjoined:—

PORTLAND, May 27, 1847.

Reverend and Dear Sir—

Upon your return, after an absence of some months from the Flock which under your Pastoral care have been fed and nourished by the Bread of Life: We, your Parishioners and others, deeply interested in your health and general welfare, and mindful of the blessings bestowed upon our Parish by Almighty God since the period of your first coming among us, and of your efforts of love and duty for the advancement of that cause to which you are dedicated, of which the rapid growth and healthy condition of our Church in this parish bear ample evidence, hasten as well to proclaim our heartfelt gratitude to Him "who ordereth all things aright," for his mercies in restoring you with renewed health to your anxious friends, and for the benefit to be derived from your future exertions for their spiritual welfare,—as also to express that sincere and cordial satisfaction with which we hail your return among us.

It is, dear Sir, with feelings of affection and self-congratulation, only to be equalled by the deep regret which we felt on your departure on the melancholy errand which hurried you from us, that we now welcome you to the Vineyard which your labours have dressed, to the Church, which by your efforts, guided and assisted by the Spirit and power of God, hath been planted in this Parish.

Almighty God hath been pleased to restore you to us in comparatively good health. We praise His Holy Name for the blessing; and pray that it may please His Divine Majesty to permit you for years yet to come, to labour in "the cause which you have in hand."

And may the blessing of God attend you, our worthy Pastor, in your labours for our redemption,—in health may it keep you—in sickness may it strengthen you, and when trouble and the hour of death overtake you, may it prove your comforter.—Amen.

MR. HARRISON'S ANSWER.

My Dear Friends—

Accept my best thanks for your very kind Address.

It affords me great comfort to know that months of absence have not in the smallest degree alienated your affections from me.

For nearly eleven years we have lived together in harmony, and from you I have received many, very many acts of kindness. During my wanderings in search of health in a foreign land, and while surrounded by kind christian friends, you have ever been uppermost in my thoughts, and your spiritual as well as temporal welfare were always the sincere desire of my heart.

As to the success with which my poor labours have been crowned since I became your Pastor, I can only say, that all that has been done, must be attributed to the gracious assistance of Him without whose aid, our best concerted plans must ever prove futile.

As to my future course, that I must leave with Him "in whose hands are the issues of life and death."

Thanking you once more for your kind address, and praying the Great Head of the Church to shower down upon you the riches of His grace,—believe me,

Your faithful friend and Pastor,

WM. HARRISON.

INCENDIARISM.—A House in the Parish of Studholm, King's County, belonging to the Estate of the late James Hendricks,