

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

QUEEN'S SPEECH.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,
I cannot meet you in Parliament assembled without making a public acknowledgment of my gratitude to Almighty God, on account of the birth of the Prince—my son—an event which has completed the measure of my domestic happiness, and has been hailed with every demonstration of affectionate attachment to my person and Government by my faithful and loyal people.

"I am confident that you will participate in the satisfaction which I have derived from the presence in this country of my good brother and ally the King of Prussia, who, at my request, undertook in person the office of sponsor at the christening of the Prince of Wales.

"I receive from all Princes and States the continued assurance of their earnest desire to maintain the most friendly relations with this country.

"It is with great satisfaction I inform you that I have concluded with the Emperor of Austria, the King of the French, the King of Prussia, and the Emperor of Russia, a treaty for the more effectual suppression of the Slave-trade, which, when the ratifications shall have been exchanged will be communicated to Parliament.

"There shall also be laid before you a Treaty which I have concluded with the same Powers, together with the Sultan, having for its object the security of the Turkish Empire, and the maintenance of the general tranquillity.

"The restoration of my diplomatic and friendly intercourse with the Court of Tehran has been followed by the completion of a commercial treaty with the King of Persia, which I have directed to be laid before you.

"I am engaged in negotiations with several Powers, which, I trust, by leading to conventions, founded on the just principle of mutual advantage, may extend the trade and commerce of the country.

"I regret that I am not enabled to announce to you the re-establishment of peaceful relations with the Government of China.

"The uniform success which has attended the hostile operations directed against that Power, and my confidence in the skill and gallantry of my naval and military forces, encourage the hope on my part that all differences with the Government of China will be brought to an early termination, and our commercial relations with the country placed on a satisfactory basis.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons.
The estimates of the year have been prepared, and will be laid before you.

"I rely with entire confidence on your disposition, while you enforce the principles of a wise economy, to make that provision for the service of the country which the public exigencies require.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,
I recommend to your immediate attention the state of the finances and the expenditure of the country.

"You will have seen with regret that, for several years past, the annual income has been inadequate to bear the public charges, and I feel confident that, fully sensible of the evil which must result from a continued deficiency of this nature during peace, you will carefully consider the best means of averting it.

"I recommend to your consideration the state of the laws which affect the import of corn, and of other articles, the produce of foreign countries.

"Measures will be submitted for your consideration for the amendment of the Law of Bankruptcy, and for the improvement of the jurisdiction exercised by the Ecclesiastical Courts in England and Wales.

"It will also be desirable that you should consider, with a view to their revision, the laws which regulate the registration of electors of members to serve in Parliament.

"I have observed with deep regret the continued distress in the manufacturing districts of the country. The sufferings and privations which have resulted from it have been borne with exemplary patience and fortitude.

"I feel assured that your deliberations on the various important matters which will occupy your attention, will be directed by a comprehensive regard for the interests and permanent welfare of all classes of my subjects; and I fervently pray that they may tend in their result to improve the national resources, and to encourage the industry and promote the happiness of my people."

"The King of Prussia and his suite followed the Queen out of the House, and the Royal party immediately proceeded back to the Buckingham Palace in the same order in which they came. The cheers of the multitude as the Royal cortege retired were loud and repeated.

"The Address having been read, the Commons retired, and the Royal procession was, after a short delay, reformed. Before rising from the throne, her Majesty addressed a few gracious words to the ear of the Lord Chancellor.

"The address in the Lords was moved by the Marquis of Abercorn, seconded by the Earl of Devonshire, and Viscount Melbourne concurring. The Earl of Ripon, Lord Beaumont, the Duke of Wellington, and Lord Brougham spoke. The latter noble lord adverted to the case of the Creole, and said that it was impossible that any rupture with the United States could arise out of the affair.

"Sir Charles Lemon has been elected for West Cornwall, without opposition.

"The China news is cheering; several successful attacks had been made, accounts of which will be given in our next paper.

"Trade continues to be in a depressed state, but through the gloom that prevails, indications of a revival are to be perceived.

CHINA.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in Macao to his Father in Edinburgh, dated 18th October, 1841.

"By a late arrival from the coast, we learn that four steamers, the men of war, and principal part of the transports, had reached the point of rendezvous (Buffalo's Nose) on the 31st ultimo, and we are daily expecting to hear of their after proceedings. One transport, the Narbudda, with stores and camp followers on board, had been lost on the north end of Formosa; and what will be felt as a worse loss to the expedition was the destruction, by fire, of the Company's steamer Madagascar. Both of these vessels were on their way to join the squadron, the steamer carrying the Government flag despatch. All that is known of the Madagascar's loss is, that she took fire, and to give those in her a chance for their lives, the Captain ran her on shore, and he, his officers, and crew, amounting to about forty people, are now in the hands of the Chinese. We have seen in the late cases of Mrs. Noble, Captain Anstruther, and Lieutenant Douglas, that the tender mercies of the Chinese are cruel in the extreme, and what may now be the sufferings of these poor fellows are shocking to think on. I trust some arrangement may be made to get them released. The people of China had murdered the chief officer of a trading ship, to whom they had promised to provide provisions, in the same cold-blooded way as they had murdered Captain Stead some time ago, an account of whose death you may have seen in the newspapers. They were repaid, however, for this act of barbarity by one of the steamers, the Phlegethon, having got together the crews of several ships then there, and attacked and destroyed the villages of the district. The men of war who were left at Amoy have been engaged destroying some pirate junks which were annoying the inhabitants of the coast about there. We learn that the respectable people of Amoy, finding the English so peaceful and well disposed, and thankful to them for having rid them of such pests as their native pirates, had requested Captain Smith of H. M. S. *Dreadnaught* to become the Governor or Prefect of the place. If the truth of this statement is confirmed, that is, if the people making the request were really respectable, and not a parcel of smugglers, it will tend to have a great effect on the question, and when it reaches the Emperor's ears will startle him. This, if correct, but I doubt of its being so, is a most singular circumstance; it was more likely to have occurred in the Province of Fokien than in any other, where the people have never been on good terms with the Peking Government. Amoy is the principal trading port the Chinese possess, and when a settlement is brought about, is likely to become the principal seat of British commerce. It is said to be as good a harbour as Hong Kong, and has one (and this a great) advantage over it, by being out of the reach of the typhoons. The climate is highly spoken of, and the shipping and troops there are abundantly supplied with provisions of every sort. Things are progressing at Hong Kong, some few private buildings are erecting, and the Government officers are building offices, jails &c. and have cut a fine line of road which now extends to about seven miles. We are yet in ignorance whether this island will be retained by Government or not; the general feeling here is that it will be given up. For trade it is not nearly so conveniently placed as Amoy, and were this and other northern provinces opened to us, Hong Kong would take up a secondary position; and for a purely military station Chusan is much better situated. We shall in a very short time know the pleasure of her Majesty's Government, regarding this island; in the meantime people will not expend large sums in building without some assurance of its retention, which Sir Henry Pottinger has not yet given. We yet only know this functionary from report, which speaks well of him, and we are hopeful of good resulting from his management. One little matter which occurred here before his leaving for the north pleased us much. The Prefect of Canton, or, as the Chinese call him, the Quang-Chow-foo, as he doubtless thought humiliating himself in no small degree, came down here with the view, it is supposed, of offering some terms, to throw delay before the operations of Sir Henry. To his astonishment he was not permitted an interview, and his offer of terms was consequently never made. No one not knowing the pride of this singular people can have any notion of the effect this had upon the minds of the Chinese, from whom it could not be hid. Sir Henry Pottinger we expect down here shortly, and as the Mandarins in Canton are again beginning to show their teeth, by taking possession of and repairing the forts which were given up to them by the British on their retreat from Canton, a gross violation of the truce then entered into, we may expect to see some more fighting. God knows when a finish will be made to the business. I wish quiet and undisturbed times would come back to us, and allow us peaceably to earn our commissions, return home, get wives, and become respectable people. If you ask me when I think the matter will end, I must tell you I can give no rational guess at it. If the Chinese Emperor peacefully inclines, and is disposed to come to terms, it may be closed within a year from this date—if he is bull-headed, perverse, and stubborn, years may be expended to little purpose. Every month passing is adding to difficulty of the adjustment. You may recollect I told you before any part of the expedition came on here, that to accomplish the settlement of the question economically and well a force should come forward powerful enough to bring about by force of arms an immediate and stable settlement. We are apparently as far, or rather I should say further from a settlement than we were in June of last year, and June of next year may come round and find us as much in the same position. In fact we are as Jonathan would say,

in a fix, and happy would I be to see us out of it."

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

The House of Commons.—On Wednesday night.—More than the usual amount of interest was evinced on Wednesday evening, both in and out of the House, to hear the result of Sir Robert Peel's exposition of the intentions of Government with reference to the corn-law. At an early hour a large body of persons had congregated in the neighbourhood of the members' entrance to the House, and a considerable number had also assembled in the lobby for the purpose of obtaining admission into the Strangers' Gallery. As soon as the door was opened a violent rush ensued, and every seat was in a few minutes occupied. There was a sufficient number of persons with orders from members to fill a gallery six times the size of that appropriated to the use of strangers. A few minutes after 4 o'clock a number of the Anti-Corn-Law delegates marched in procession down Parliament Street to the House, and made an attempt to station themselves in the lobby. Had this been permitted, the members of the House would have experienced great difficulty in obtaining admission. To avoid this dilemma, the police and officers on duty were compelled to oppose the entrance of the delegates, and at one time it was thought that a deadly conflict would have ensued. After a considerable expenditure of ammunition in the shape of abusive epithets, the delegates retired from the field, and stationed themselves outside the House, from which situation they saluted the different members as they passed with cries of "No sliding scale," "Total repeal," "Fixed duty," &c. It was evident, that even among the opponents of the corn laws out of the House, there did not exist anything like unanimity of opinion. In the House of Commons the scene particularly animating. By half-past four o'clock the benches were nearly filled, and by five the bar was seen a number of distinguished strangers; among them the Duke of Cambridge was very conspicuous. He appeared to listen with marked attention to the whole of Sir R. Peel's speech. The Premier did not enter the House until a quarter to five. Every eye was directed towards him. After taking his seat he conversed briefly with Lord Stanley and Sir James Graham, and exactly at four minutes after five he rose and requested that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider the trade in corn. Sir R. Peel's speech was listened to with profound attention. His observations for the first hour and a half were principally of an introductory character, and it was not until after he had been speaking for nearly two hours, that he made any direct allusions to the modifications of the corn-law which the Government intended to suggest for the consideration of Parliament. We noticed a number of the leading members of the House busily engaged in taking copious notes of Sir R. Peel's speech. Lord J. Russell was so employed. Mr. Charles Bulwer, Mr. Ewart, and the member for Manchester, Mr. Cobden, were similarly occupied. It was curious to notice the intense anxiety exhibited whenever Sir R. Peel was thought to be about to develop his plans, and when he did at last commence his explanation of the contemplated proposals of Government, the members in the side galleries rose almost in a body from their seats, and leaned anxiously forward in order to catch every word that escaped from the Premier's lips. After the Ministerial scheme had been propounded, and Sir R. Peel had read the scale of duties which he proposed to substitute for those now in existence, considerable excitement was manifested in the Opposition benches, and immediately a number of members rushed out of the House for the purpose, as we thought, of communicating to their friends, the Anti-Corn Law delegates, the principles of Sir R. Peel's measure.—*Times*.

A Cabinet Council was held yesterday afternoon, at the Foreign Office. It was attended by Sir Robert Peel, the Duke of Wellington, Lord Wharfedale, the Earl of Bute, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Stanley, Sir James Graham, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Earl of Haddington, the Earl of Ripon, Lord Fitzgerald, Sir Henry Hardinge and Sir Edward Knatchbull. The Council sat two hours.

Despatches from the Governors of Barbadoes, British Guiana, and Antigua, were received yesterday afternoon at the Colonial Office.

The Marquis of Londonderry has been appointed to the office of Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Durham, in the place of the late Duke of Cleveland.

Mr. Gregory, Conservative candidate, has been returned for Dublin, with a majority of 300 votes over Lord Moyle.

Captain Berresford, (conservative,) has been returned for Athlone.

On Monday Lord Viscount Bernard, Conservative, was returned for Bandon without opposition.

Her Majesty the Queen Dowager's health continues to improve daily.

The Duke of Wellington was in good health and at this point in the Councils of the country.

Major General Sir Howard Douglas, has been returned a member of Parliament for Liverpool, without opposition, vice Justice Creswell. Sir H. is a staunch conservative.

There have been insurrections in Portugal. At Lisbon the Ministry had resigned.

Brighton, Friday.—The Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by their Serene Highnesses the Prince Ferdinand and the Prince Leopold, of Saxe Coburg, took an airing, at ten o'clock, this morning, in a carriage and four, preceded by out-riders.

Public University.—The election for this University took place on Friday, when J. D. Jackson, Esq. the Solicitor-General, was chosen without opposition.

Major General Brown, who has recently

arrived from Halifax, has entered upon his duties as Deputy Adjutant General of the Forces, vice Sir John Gardiner, promoted.

Sir Charles Grey, the newly appointed Governor of Barbadoes, embarked at Blackwall to-day.

RETURN OF THE CALEDONIA STEAM-SHIP TO CORK, MUCH DAMAGED.
(From the *European*.)

Extract from the letter of a passenger on board the Caledonia steamer, dated off Cork, February:

"For the first three days after we sailed, we got on admirably with a fair wind, but on the morning of the 7th, the wind chopped round, and commenced blowing very hard. On the 8th, the storm increased from the westward, with a heavy head sea. It continued throughout the 9th. On the 10th, the sea was tremendous, and carried away our fore-starboard bulwarks and ice-house; filled the fore cabin with water; completely washed out the passengers, whose berths were in that part of the vessel, and thoroughly saturated all the bedding, and sprung the rudder. Part of the after-starboard bulwarks and the iron-rail on the taffrail were twisted off, the wheel-house damaged, and the paddle-box partly stove in."

"The gale continued unabated during the 11th. We had to steer by the sails, whilst endeavoring to secure the rudder (the main piece of which was completely twisted in the case), by lashing chains round, passing iron bolts through it, and fixing chains over the stern. At six p.m. (11th), being then in latitude 49 20, longitude 29 W. the captain and officers found it would not be safe to proceed on the voyage, as they were all of opinion that the rudder would not hold together for two hours more against such a heavy sea."

The captain therefore put her head about, for the purpose of running into this place for repairs. Lieutenant Parsons, R. N. also coincided with the captain and officers.

"Notwithstanding all our misfortunes, I must say the Caledonia, is a most excellent sea boat, for she rode through the whole gale like a duck. Too much praise cannot be given to Captain Lott for his courageous and seamanlike conduct through the whole storm—in fact, on all occasions; and I refer you to a series of resolutions you will see published, drawn up by the passengers, acquitting him of all blame."

The Caledonia, after remaining a short time in the Cove of Cork, proceeded to this port, which she reached about seven o'clock on Thursday night. The preceding letters succinctly convey to the reader the disaster which she has sustained.

The marriage of Prince Nicholas Esterhazy with Lady Sarah Villiers took place on Tuesday last.

Lord Ashburton and Suite have left in the Worspite for New York.

Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane proceeds very shortly in the *Vindictive* to the East Indies.

The Lady of Vice Admiral Sir Charles Ogle, died on the 4th inst.

Indictment against Lord Ashburton.—The Grand Jury of the Central Criminal Court (the old Bailey) on the 3d Feb., brought in a true Bill against Alexander Baring, now Lord Ashburton, Francis Baring, and Humphrey Midway charging them with conspiracy to bribe certain members of the Legislature of Mexico, to pass a bill, to prevent foreigners from holding land within the State, in the view of depriving the prosecutor, one Samuel Moreve, of the advantages of a contract entered into between him and the defendants. The bar were evidently taken by surprise; the Recorder intimated an opinion, that the Court had no jurisdiction. The proceedings were subsequently removed by certiorari, in the Court of Queen's Bench.

The London papers express a decided opinion, that there is not the slightest tenable ground for the indictment, and that the high and unsullied reputation of the parties charged, would prevent any injury to their fair fame from this charge, which would seem to be merely an attempt to extort money from Lord Ashburton, on the eve of his departure to America as Special Ambassador.

New Coinage of Sovereigns.—We are enabled to state, on the best authority, that all the sovereigns now in circulation will be called in for the purpose of being newly coined. The system of "plugging," and other nefarious devices which have been resorted to, render this step on the part of the Mint indispensably necessary. The new coinage will be attended with very great expense. Some means, it is expected, will be adopted to prevent the recurrence of the dishonest practices which have proved so successful.—*Times*.

It being confidently asserted that a high duty is to be laid on Russian tallow, the holders have been busy removing it from the bonded warehouses.—*London Mercury*.

The English farmers need not fear the admission of foreign cattle at a fixed duty. The continental farmers cannot compete with ours as feeders for the table, and the purchase of lean cattle in Belgium and Holland, to be fattened at home, might add greatly to the profit of English agriculturists.—*Chronicle*.

A Dutch paper contradicts the report of a projected marriage of the King of Hanover with a princess of Hesse Cassel.

We are glad to learn there is no probability of altering the penny postage to 1-4 oz.—*Globe*.

The brother of Sir Alexander Burnes has written to the *Times*, stating that that lamented officer was always opposed to the Cabul campaign.

General Buzen, the Belgian Minister of War, shot himself through mortification at the casualties of the newspapers.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, it is said, was robbed last evening of Wednesday week, on his way to Kingston, to embark for Liverpool, of £200.

Later—Hogan set at Liberty.—We learn from the Niagara Courier that Judge Ransom set the man free on the ground of insufficiency of the warrant of arrest.

Major General Brown, who has recently

JACK ROBINSON'S Letter, which we received last night, will be issued in an EXTRA to-day.

THE STANDARD.

SAINT ANDREWS, FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1842.

Charlotte County Bank.

Hon. HARRIS HATCH, President.
Director next week.—Hon. T. Wyre.
DISCOUNT DAY.—TUESDAY.
Hours of business, from 10 to 2.

BILLS AND NOTES for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Monday, otherwise they must lie over until next week.

Slms and Wlork House

Commissioner next week.—J. W. Chandler.

Marine Assurance Association,

Director next week.—F. A. Babcock.
Office Hours from 10 till 3 o'clock, every day, Sunday excepted.

Saint Stephens Bank.

WILLIAM PORTER, Esq., President.
Director next week.—Abner Hill.
DISCOUNT DAY.—SATURDAY.
Hours of business, from 10 to 1.

BILLS AND NOTES for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Friday, otherwise they must remain in his hands until the following discount day.

LATEST DATES

London.	Feb. 29	Montreal.	Mar. 10
Liverpool.	Feb. 18	Quebec.	Mar. 10
Edinburgh.	Feb. 15	Halifax.	Mar. 19
Paris.	Feb. 14	New York.	Mar. 12
Toronto.	Mar. 10	Boston.	Mar. 14

We feel great pleasure in announcing the safety of the *Caledonia*! and the arrival of the English Mail here on Saturday evening last, at 5 o'clock. We have made a variety of extracts from British papers, in our columns to-day. Some very interesting items are taken from our files of the *Edinburgh Evening Courier*, one of the best papers we receive from Great Britain.

The *Acadia* arrived at Halifax on Tuesday morning the 5th inst. It will be seen by our extracts that the *Caledonia* put back to Cork after having been seven days at sea—experiencing the most tremendous gales.—The mail was transferred from the *Caledonia* to the *Acadia*, and arrived at Halifax in 16 days.

The Queen opened Parliament, in Person, on the 3d inst. The Prince of Wales has been christened *Albert Edward*. Sir R. Peel had a triumphant majority of 123 on his motion for a modification of the Corn Laws, against an amendment made by Lord John Russell.

The present state of our Provincial affairs, both commercial and political, appear to be in the most disordered state imaginable. The Executive and both branches of the Legislature are at issue, on all the Government measures, and the Legislative Council and lower House, on the qualification of members, so that the Quodronal Bill has been knocked in the head. So much for fifty days' of legislation! Our Commercial affairs are but little better, while the greatest distress prevails in St. John in particular, and all over the Province, to a certain extent; the markets in the Mother Country are overstocked with our staple commodity, without appearance of change for the better. Our present position therefore, demands the most serious attention of every man having the welfare of the Province at heart. And the question may well be asked, what has plunged a country possessing so many resources, into such inextricable confusion, bankruptcy, and distress? Every reflecting man conversant with our Commercial and Legislative proceedings for the last five years, must have foreseen the inevitable result, which has at last overtaken the country. It was impossible that the commercial community of Saint John could, by any means, sustain their standing and integrity in the course many of them were pursuing; after suffering the immense losses by fire and other casualties which they did, and which sooner or later rebound on their devoted heads, whenever commercial embarrassment, or want of confidence, or a change in policy of the Government of the Mother Country, should put the Wood Trade of the Province on a less favored footing, and so "wind up" the credit system, which has led to such extravagance, and entailed on the country, the ruinous consequences which we now witness. Every warning seems to have been disregarded; instead of preparing for the approaching storm, the most reckless course, in many instances, has been pursued; mills have been multiplied; ships, twice the size that ever the wood of the country was fit for, have been built, without knowing where they were to find employment; in fact, to use a sea phrase, every yard of canvas was spread, and the ship dashed amongst the shoals and quicksands of speculative uncertainty, at the risk of inevitable ruin to all concerned.

While this was the state of our Commercial affairs, what has been the course pursued by the Provincial Legislature? Has it made any preparation for the approaching storm? Has it husbanded the resources placed at its disposal by the Crown, or the revenue collected during years of excited and overstrained trade? No! it has pursued the most extravagant course, alike regardless of every warning—of every consequence; in fact, it has aided and abetted the onward course to inextricable ruin, instead of husbanning the resources of the country, and so have been in a position to relieve the commercial distress, so fearfully existing at this time, we behold it divided and distracted, without union, system,