

THE WAR IN SPAIN.

The British cabinet must either follow up the victory obtained by our arms at St. Sebastian, or disclaim all knowledge of, and participation in, the measure adopted by the English commander. We are no longer neutrals in the war; our accustomed determination, than to continue a paltry, peddling system, which partakes neither of the dignity of war, nor the security of peace. Though Don Carlos is cooped up in the mountains of the Basques, and cannot move a foot nearer the capital than he was two years ago, still—in mercy to the Spanish people—let us dislodge him from a lair so strict desolated by famine, disease, and the most barbarous and unheard of cruelties. Enough of innocent blood has been shed to sate the ambitious appetite of a tyrant, who had the baseness to crouch before the footstool of Napoleon, and in the name of his family, sign the abdication of the Bourbon dynasty in Spain. England has pledged herself that Don Carlos shall not ascend the Spanish throne during the lifetime of Donna Isabella II.—The Spanish Cortes have solemnly recorded a vote, by which the usurper and his family are forever excluded from the sovereignty of that country. Upon what principle, then, do we hesitate to pour an army into Spain sufficient to put down the usurper in a month? A fear of Russia is the cry from one quarter; an apprehension of the greatness of the expense is shouted from another; and in a third direction we hear only of the necessity of maintaining the peace preserving system of our noble foreign secretary. One tells us that if we assist the Christians to conquer the Carlists in Spain, Russia will declare for the King of Holland against Belgium; and Prussia for Don Miguel against Donna Maria, as lawful sovereign of Portugal; while another, more accustomed to see danger in an easterly direction, will point to the exposed state of Greece and Constantinople as a reason why we ought not to embroil ourselves in this quarrel with the nations of Western Europe. We have not space for the exposure of these fallacies; we can only observe passingly that we have examined them all with some attention; that we draw from them much stronger reasons for active and immediate measures for crushing the Carlist conspiracy by British valour, than those who urge them have yet advanced in favor of a contrary course. Russia knows right well that Don Carlos cannot maintain his position in Spain; and it is no part of her policy to embroil the House of Orange in a strife with a Sovereign, now the friend and ally of France. As for Don Miguel, he may serve occasionally to play the part of a raw-head-and-bloody-bones before sucking diplomatists; but in every other respect he has ceased to have a political existence.

French and English Budgets.—The Constitutional examines the budget of Mr Syring Rice, and remarks, that the reduction effected in the expenditure of the British government amounts to a sum equivalent to the entire budget of France.

TEXAS

About the 25th of February, Colonel Johnson while reconnoitring to the westward of San Patricio, with a party of seventy men, were surrounded in the night by a large body of Mexican troops. In the morning the commander sent in a summons to surrender at discretion, which was refused, and an offer to surrender as prisoners of war made. This was acceded to by the Mexican officer, but no sooner had the Texans marched out of their encampment and stacked their arms, than a general fire was opened upon them by the whole Mexican force, when the prisoners endeavoured to escape—three only of whom effected it; amongst them was Colonel Johnson and one man who had been wounded.

EAST INDIES.

Papers from Madras to the 17th Janu-

ary have arrived, from which we extract the following:—

"We learn, through Captain Byron, of the Premier, that Captain Barrow of his Majesty's ship *Rose*, had received a letter from the commander of the *Mangles*, directed to any captain of his Majesty's ships on the station, dated Lambcock, in which it was stated, that on his passage from New South Wales, through Torres Straits, he touched at Melville, Murray's Island, where he saw men belonging to the missing ship *Charles Eaton*. These men stated that the whole of the crew where the *Charles Eaton* was wrecked, the natives prevented the captain of the *Mangles* from taking the men belonging to the *Charles Eaton* on board. This ship is supposed to have been lost on the Barrier Reef in Torres Straits, about June 1832, in prosecution of her voyage from New South Wales to Madras, but until now no intelligence has been received as to the certain fate of those who might have escaped from a watery grave, only to a prolonged and dreary existence of servitude and slavery amongst a barbarous and savage people such as the natives of Murray's Island are represented to be. By the schooner *Bassett Merchant*, Captain Snowball, from Nicobars November 26, we learn that Captain Gillon of the *Skimmer*, had taken possession of the Danish settlement there, and hoisted Danish colours. It appears that the inhabitants complained to Captain Snowball of Captain Gillon's conduct. The Governor of the Islands was some time ago withdrawn, and a sergeant and a few sepoy only left there."

AFRICA.

AFFAIR AT BONNY.—We have been favoured with an extract of a letter relative to a misunderstanding between the whites and the blacks at this place:—"His Majesty's ship *Trinculo* sent her boats into Bonny river to capture four slavers. The blacks armed 100 canoes to resist the capture, upon which the *Trinculo* crossed the bar and anchored off Bonny town. The chief's word on Board, that if the captain of H.M.S. and the captains of the English trading ship would come ashore and talk over the palaver, every thing should be settled. This seems to have been assented to, for the blacks made them all prisoners. The news of this immediately reached the officer in command of the *Trinculo*, who ordered the guns to be loaded, and fired a broadside of blank cartridge upon the town. This, fortunately so frightened the people, that the captain of the *Trinculo* and the masters of the vessels were liberated. Captain Paget then said he should not be satisfied unless the blacks entered into a treaty to suppress the slave trade. This was then done, and it was further added, that they should not trade with any other nation but the English. In the encounter between the *Trinculo's* boats and the native canoes, it is said that forty three canoes were destroyed. The arrival of the vessel is, however, daily expected, and we shall write to Captain Paget, requesting he will favour us with a correct account of the affair, for we much fear that the trade in Bonny would in consequence, remain for some time stagnant, and that the blacks would become very dissatisfied and sulky after the *Trinculo* left the river."—*Liverpool Albion*.

(From the Globe.)

We cannot conceive an occasion like the present as justifying a resort to that last and only effectual arbitration which, after a deliberate act, like that of the Three Powers at Cracow, can alone reverse by force what force has done, or obtain satisfaction for it. There would be clear ground, on the part of England and France, for proceeding to any extremities, if French or English subjects residing in Cracow had been expelled by violence, or in any manner molested in contravention of the provisions of treaties. But if nothing of this kind is alleged, we doubt whether the argued infringement of the letter of the treaty, which the present state of Europe displays so many standing violations already, can afford any sufficient motive for steps of a very decisive nature. The

truth is, the independence of Cracow was not established on any broad grounds of European interest; it was a scramble between Austria and Prussia, in 1814, which should have the little territory, of which each had been by turns in possession before its re-union by Napoleon to the grand duchy of Warsaw. No means could be found to accommodate the rival pretensions of the two powers, but by elevating Cracow to the rank of a free town, and annexing to it a small surrounding territory. Thus in 1814-15, the jealousy between Austria and Prussia occasioned the guarantee of the independence of Cracow, while in the present year the joint jealousy entertained of Russia by those powers is probably what has induced them to co-operate in violating that guarantee by taking a concurrent part in the recent occupation of Cracow: the force employed for the purpose having been Austrian, not Russian troops.

EDINBURGH, March 26.

NEW INFIRMARY.—We understand that the late Mr. George Chalmers, plumber in Canongate, by his trust disposition and settlement has bequeathed his whole property to certain trustees, (who have accepted the office,) with instructions to the following effect; viz. that after payment of certain legacies, &c. "The whole residue of his estate shall be paid over to the Honorable the Dean and Faculty of Advocates for the express purpose of founding a new Infirmary, or Sick and Hurt Hospital, or by whatever other name it may be designed, and that the said Honorable Members of the Faculty of Advocates shall lay out the proceeds of the said estate accruing to them, to the best advantage, in any of the public funds in this realm, till such time as that honorable body shall see fit to commence such an undertaking." The above are the precise words used by the Testator, and we understand that the property thus bequeathed will amount, as nearly as can at present be ascertained, to above £30,000.

MONTREAL, May 9.

It is truly gratifying to the lovers of order and good government to observe the decided reaction which has taken in Upper Canada, in favour of Sir F. B. Head, and the principles he has promulgated. Every Newspaper we open, with the exception of Mr. Kenzie's Correspondent and Advocate, the Brockville Recorder, and the Prescott Vanguard, contains accounts of public meetings, speeches, resolutions and addresses, breathing the purest loyalty to our Sovereign, unbounded confidence in the integrity, of the Lieutenant Governor, admiration of his firmness, candour, and ability, and determination to support him effectually against the machinations of such evil disposed persons as McKenzie, O'Grady and Co.

An act of Grace has been proposed by the French Cabinet, and is stated to have met the cordial approbation of the King, in favour of all Political Delinquents who date from 1830, including the unfortunate ministers of Charles X.; including only those whose conduct since condemnation has left no ground for pardon.

Proposed Survey for a line of Railway from Ayr to Maybole and Girvan.—It gives us much pleasure to observe, that our neighbours in the District of Carrick lack nothing of the spirit of improvement which is so much manifested at present throughout the country. A subscription paper has just been issued in the district of Carrick, with the view of raising funds to obtain a survey and estimate of a single line of railway from Ayr to Maybole and Girvan. We understand all that is intended in the meantime by the gentlemen who have set the subscription on foot, is to ascertain the suitability of the country for a line of railway and the probable cost—leaving it for after consideration (should the report of the engineer be favourable) whether this is the time for endeavouring to carry it into effect. That the continuation of a line of railway southward would be of vast consequence to the town of Ayr, and district of Carrick, as also a valuable auxiliary to the Glasgow

and Ayr line, none will venture to doubt but that it will be remunerative, is what we do not consider ourselves qualified to give an opinion upon; but at all events let the project go as it may, the gentlemen who have set about to acquire the necessary preliminary information thereby serve well of the community for their public spirit.

Island of Lewis Scarcity.—A letter from a respectable clergyman in the Island of Lewis, dated April 27th, addressed to the Gaelic School society, has been shown to us, and we cannot refrain from laying before our readers the following extract. The letter itself, we may state, refers to one of the Gaelic School society teachers, who had sustained a loss by the upsetting of a boat carrying him to his station, and gives the following appalling picture of the present state of the Island:—

"This year is one of alarming and unprecedented scarcity of provisions—indeed, of absolute famine and general mortality among cattle, and if a merciful God prevent not, among men also. During the latter part of winter, and the whole of spring, the weather has been unusually severe, and continues so till this moment, the ground being covered with snow. The cattle after consuming all the provender long since, are dying in scores; and though the poor people wasted a very great proportion of their grain and meal in endeavouring to keep their bestial from perishing, it is not likely that a tithe of them will survive. This has already occasioned a greater death of food than has been known here in the memory of the oldest person living.—The prospect is truly appalling. The extreme severity of the weather continues unabated, more resembling the middle of winter than the approach of summer—the labours of spring hardly commenced—a general scarcity of seed corn and the little store of meal almost exhausted—no money—no employment—no means or resources of procuring subsistence."

Renewed exertions are making to induce the Government to equalise the duty upon East and West India sugars.—The present discriminating duty is five shillings per cwt.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MAY 13. The Duke of Leicester presented a petition from Dublin praying for the introduction of a system of poor laws into Ireland founded on the 43 of Elizabeth.

The Earl of Malmesbury hoped that the noble lord who represented the government in the house would intimate what course they meant to pursue on this important question.

The Marquis of Downshire admitted the extent of the evil complained of, and was ready to support any measure which was fairly brought before parliament for the settling of the question, but he would prefer waiting for some time to see how the poor law amendment act worked in England.

Lord Fitzgerald was persuaded of the necessity of applying some relief to the distresses of the poor in Ireland, but did not approve of the prayer of the petitioners for extension of the act of Elizabeth to Ireland, because such a general enactment would, in his opinion, aggravate the evils which at present existed there.

The Duke of Richmond hoped that no time would be lost in introducing some measure on the subject, as the introduction of poor laws into Ireland would be the best means of getting rid of those persons who were forced to leave their homes and come to this country in search of employment.

The Marquis of Lansdowne thought that it would be impossible to give such attentive consideration to the subject this session as would enable the government to propose any measure on the subject, especially as one false step might be the means of increasing the difficulties which parliament would have ultimately to contend with.

After a few words from Lord Winchelsea, the petition was ordered to lie upon the table.