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Arrival of the Britannia!

TWENTY FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

The Mail by the Steamer Britannia arrived at Halifax on Monday the 17th inst. in a passage of 13 days; and received here on Friday by the Steamer Herald. The Britannia brought 63 passengers, 21 of whom were for Halifax.

Our London dates are to the 3d, and Liverpool to the 4th inst. The commercial news is more cheering than any we have received for a long time. In every department of trade the aspect was most encouraging. Willmer and Smith's European Times of the 4th says—"A better feeling pervades the manufacturing and the commercial classes than has been apparent for a long time. An opinion is prevalent that our dark night will be succeeded by a fine dawn and a brilliant noon day."

[From Willmer & Smith's European Times.]

Parliamentary.—The last two or three weeks present nothing strikingly interesting to Americans, with the exception of the debate in the House of Commons on the Ashburton treaty. That debate, notwithstanding the ability with which it was marked on the part of the mover, Lord Palmerston, and the brilliant rejoinder of Sir Robert Peel, fell lifeless on the house and on the country. Regarded as a mere personal display—analyzing the points in dispute from their origin to their final settlement, sprinkled with bitterly sarcastic sneers at the nobleman who carried the negotiation to a successful termination, and showing where he erred by a departure from the usual tortuous windings of diplomacy—the speech of Lord Palmerston was extremely happy. But the practical style in which Peel met the question, pointed out its difficulties, and the paramount necessity that existed for destroying a moral volcano, which threatened at every moment to explode, and involve two powerful nations, more immediately connected with each other by language and consanguinity than any two nations in the world, in the horrors of war, told irresistibly. Besides, he clearly demonstrated that the terms were more advantageous than the Dutchman's award gave his predecessors.

Dr. Robert Southey died at his residence, Keswick, on Tuesday March 21.

In the House of Commons last night, Sir R. Peel stated in a reply to a question from Lord John Russell, that he had received despatches from Mr. Fox with a copy of the President's Message and the communication of Mr. Webster, and that he would lay them before the House. The Government had not given any instructions to Lord Ashburton that modified Lord Aberdeen's Despatch of December, 1841—by its principles they were determined to adhere.

The Thames Tunnel was opened on Saturday, the 25th ult. It has cost nearly three quarters of a million of money.

In the Prerogative Court, a few days back, three codicils to the will of the late Marquis of Hertford, one of them leaving \$10,000 U. S. bank stock to Mr. Wilson Crocker, were declared invalid.

The shock of an earthquake was experienced at Liverpool, on the morning of the 17th ult. Persons were awakened out of their sleep by the shaking of their beds and houses. Similar symptoms were experienced at the same time at Manchester, Preston, Kendal, various parts of the North of England, the Isle of Man, and Wales. The shock was also felt in Guernsey.

The Council of the Anti-Corn-Law League have given the manager of Drury-lane theatre £500 for the use of the theatre during the five Wednesdays in Lent, making a rent of £100 for each night. The attendance at the theatre on the nights of these meetings has been immense, and the speeches in favor of free trade very effective.

The Right or Visit.—Sir Robert Peel stated in the House of Commons, that the Government had not given any instructions to Lord Ashburton that modified Lord Aberdeen's despatch of December, 1841—by its principle he has determined to adhere.

The custom duties at Liverpool for two days of last week amount to £50,000!

A contagious complaint is now very prevalent in the metropolis, which is very severely felt by the police and others exposed to the weather, particularly during the night. It attacks first the mucous membranes of the stomach and lungs, and produces generally debility, accompanied with great depression of strength and numbness of the limbs.

His Majesty the King of Hanover is expected to arrive on a visit to England about the middle of May.

Anticipation.—Mr. O'Connell, it appears, has announced the erection of a building, which is to serve as the Irish houses of parliament, after the repeal.

The Portuguese Government obstinately refuse to ratify the Commercial Treaty with Great Britain.

The Duke of Manchester died at Rome on the 18th of March.

From Charles Willmer's News Letter, April 4th.

STATE OF TRADE.

The decided improvement which has lately manifested itself in the trade of this country, will be viewed with satisfaction by our American friends, as from their intimate connexion with us, a corresponding effect is certain of being produced upon their own interests. The firmness which has characterized this improvement entirely diverts it of any feature which might lead us to attribute it to a mere momentary cause, and to view it as one of those bright gleams of prosperity which might naturally be expected occasionally to visit us, even if our commercial interests were fast crumbling to decay. Such, we rejoice to say, is not the case; and we have no hesitation in attributing the present fortunate event to causes natural in their operation, and lasting in their effects.

Manchester.—The Manchester market for goods has been in a very healthy state throughout the month, and a large business done, especially in the plain fabrics adapted for India and China.

Junction of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.—A London paper, in an article, showing the practicability of a ship canal across the Isthmus of Panama, at a cost of a million and a half sterling, proceeds to ask the question—Would it pay? which it thus answers:—Ten per cent interest on a million and a half would amount to £150,000 per annum. Add to this, £25,000 for annual expenses on the canal—£175,000. The saving to the merchants and ship owners of Europe and America, trading on the west coast of America, to Australasia, Oceania, and Eastern Asia, would be very great. A month at the least would be gained on the voyage; diminishing to that extent the wages of mariners, the expense of provisions, the interest on capital. The wear and tear of the ships would be less; the expense of insurance would be diminished. All these advantages would be cheaply purchased by canal dues of 10s per ton. At this rate, the passage of 350,000 tons of shipping along the canal annually, would yield the sum of £175,000.

The Month of her Majesty.—Her Majesty continues to be in the enjoyment of excellent health; and notwithstanding the proximity of the event which is looked forward to with so much interest, Her Majesty and Prince Albert are daily to be seen walking in the gardens at Buckingham Palace as early as eight o'clock in the morning. The Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal are also in the enjoyment of robust health, but during the prevalence of the present cold easterly winds their royal highnesses are not allowed to out, and the picture gallery is appropriated to them, as the place of their infantine exercises and sports, instead of the open grounds of the palace. Their royal highnesses have to be dressed and on parade every morning by nine o'clock. Both Her Majesty and the Prince are remarkable for their early hours.

Her Majesty's Visit to Ireland.—Active preparations are making in Ireland for the reception of Her Majesty and Prince Albert, whose visit is now announced to be about the 14th of August, when they depart from Windsor Castle. The Royal yacht, the Albert and Victoria, is in such a state of forwardness, as to leave no doubt of her being launched towards the end of the next month, when she is to be towed round to Woolwich Dock-yard to complete her internal decorations and fittings, which are to be upon a scale of magnificence admitting of no comparison since the discovery of steam navigation. Already orders have been given for three regiments which are to mount guard on the Royal persons, and to afford escorts on Her Majesty's route, to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Dublin in the first instance, Prince Albert's Hussars (the 11th) are to embark forthwith, and the 33d from Edinburgh, the 72d Highlanders, and a battalion of the Guards, are the infantry regiments spoken of as being selected for this distinguished service. In fact every thing promises a sojourn of no ordinary éclat in the Emerald Isle, which is expected to extend to three weeks, and to include the Giant's Causeway in the north, and the Lakes of Killarney in the south, to that the Royal party will take nearly the whole circuit of the island before re-embarking.

We noticed in our last number that the trials of the Chartists were proceeding at Lancaster when we went to press. On the 8th day the proceedings closed. The verdict of the Jury affirmed two counts of the indictment—the fourth, which charged the prisoners with tumultuously and unlawfully assembling, and forcing peaceable subjects to leave their occupations; and the fifth, which alleged intentment to disaffection, to hatred of the laws, and to combine in producing a cessation of labour. Fifteen prisoners, including Baistrow, Thos. Cooper, and Leech were found guilty on both those counts; sixteen, including O'Conner, W. Hill and Harney, on the fifth count; twenty-one, including William Scholfield, the Chartist preacher, and Richard Pilling, (who is said to have boasted that he originated the strike in the

Manchester district,) were acquitted; and seven including the younger Scholfield, had been acquitted by consent in the course of the proceedings.

We gave, in our last number, the first day's proceedings on the trial of M'Naughten, for the murder of Mr. Drummond. On the second day, the prisoner was acquitted on the ground of insanity. He will be confined in a lunatic asylum during the remainder of his life. Lord Brougham stated recently, on his own authority, that M'Naughten had been four or five times to Sir Robert Peel's house to ascertain his person, that he twice prepared to fire at him, facts which nowhere appeared in the reports of the trial.

Some anonymous donor has presented to the Bishop of London £5000, to be expended in building a church in London.

The Looked for Comet.—Astronomers in various parts of Europe have been sorely puzzled of late to account for a certain ill-defined phenomenon in the heavens. The minute disturbances of the atmosphere, and globe are accounted for by the supposition that "an enormous comet," as Sir John Herschell calls it, in a letter to the Times, dated Collingwood March 19th, is a present passing through our system, and is not far from its perihelion.

SCOTLAND.—Great preparations are making in Scotland for the new session of Nonconformist from the Established Church. Members of the body are perambulating the country, giving lectures and canvassing for support for the "free Presbyterian Church." The project, in which Dr. Calmer takes the lead and an active part, is to create a general fund by subscription, which is to be distributed in allowances for the support of the several churches and their ministers; an arrangement intended to protect the poorer congregations from the hostility of the upper classes. Dr. Chalmers announced at a lecture in Glasgow that, in his capacity of convener of the financial committee, he should, at the first general assembly, support an equal distribution of the funds. He also mentioned the sacrifices which several ministers had made.

IRELAND.—Illicit distillation is greatly on the increase in Ireland since the act of last session, laying an additional duty on whiskey.

The Irish papers contain a letter addressed by Mr. O'Connell says, "I saw with great surprise, in the last Pilot, a paragraph which you certainly took from some other newspaper, headed 'O'Connell and Dickens,' and purporting to be a quotation from an alleged letter of mine to the editor of a Maryland newspaper, published at Baltimore, and called 'The Liberator Advocate.' The thing is, from beginning to end, a gross lie. I never wrote a letter to that newspaper; nor am I in the habit of corresponding with the editors of American newspapers. I have seen, indeed, with great contempt, but without much surprise, in several American newspapers, letters deliberately published under my signature, given to the American public as genuine documents—all, of course, being forgeries, but published by the editors as if perfectly genuine." After some severe remarks about what he calls the "outrageous rascality" of a portion of the United States Press, Mr. O'Connell, speaking of Dickens, says, "Perhaps it is right that I should add, that few people admire more the writings of Dickens, or read them with a deeper interest than I do. I am greatly pleased with his American Notes." "They give me, I think, a clearer idea of every day life in America than I ever entertained before. And his chapter containing the advertisement respecting negro slavery, the most brilliant declamation or the most declaration of the most splendid eloquence. That chapter shows out the hideous features of the system far better than any dissertation on its evils could possibly produce them—odious and disgusting to the public eye."

FRANCE.—The French are extending their possessions in Polynesia, without much care of the aboriginal governments, which as may be imagined, is not viewed without distrust by England. In France, the power of M. Guizot seems to be now perfectly consolidated; and a better feeling exists between that country and our own than has of late years been manifested.

CHINA.—The monthly Overland Mail has brought intelligence from Bombay to the 2d of February. Intelligence has come to hand that the pacific relations with the Chinese Government had been threatened with serious disturbance. Sir Henry Pottinger, while he was still at Amoy, on board the steam frigate Queen, issued a Proclamation in English & Chinese, dated 23 Novbr., declaring that he had since his arrival at Amoy, learned with extreme horror and regret that many more than 1000 British subjects, who had been wrecked the ship Nerubudda and brig Annam in the coast of the island of Formosa, had recently been put to death by the Chinese authorities there, who alleged that this cold blooded act

had been perpetrated by order of the Emperor. He had obtained positive proof, he says, that those commands were drawn from his Imperial Majesty by the gross and merciless misrepresentations of the local authorities in Formosa; who, with the object of personal aggrandizement, basely and falsely reported to the Cabinet at Peking that both the ship Nerubudda, and subsequently the brig Ann, had gone to that island with hostile intentions: an assertion not more lying & false than manifestly absurd, since neither of those vessels had fighting men on board of them.

Sir Henry goes on to say, that he was resolved to demand from the Emperor that the local authorities should be degraded and cordigly punished, and that their property should be confiscated, and the proceeds handed over to the officers of the British Government for the relief and support of the families of those who had been thus mercifully put to death. A threat of renewed hostilities was held out in case the demand, should not be complied with.

NEW AERIAL STEAM CARRIAGE.

Willmer and Smith's European Times, in a supplement, has two engravings of an immense machine which is to navigate the air, by the aid of steam and the assistance or rather resistance of the atmosphere. It is furnished with two enormous wings, which will however, be motionless, like those of a bird balancing itself in the air, this when spread will be 150 feet long and 30 feet wide, across the middle is suspended the car which contains the steam engine, (weighing, water included, about 600 lbs.) which answers to the body of the bird—the entire weight of the carriage, passengers, cargo, and all appliances, is estimated at 3000 lbs. To the middle of the wings is also attached a tail of 50 feet long, which can be raised or lowered so as to control the flight as to elevation, beneath which is a vertical rudder, which has the same office as to horizontal direction—a vertical wheel will go across the wings to check lateral oscillation. The steam engine drives two sets of vanes or propellers, six in each set like the sails of a windmill, and 20 feet in diameter: one of those is placed on each side of the root of the tail—their offices is to keep up the velocity sufficient to raise it in the air, and to continue its elevation and propel it along the steam engine comes in motion. Perhaps the above description will give some idea of this invention, which is no joke, for a Bill has been introduced into Parliament to incorporate a joint stock company to carry out its principle. Several of the periodicals too, which we have seen, speak convincingly of the success of the project. So we beg our readers not be frightened if they should see a strange bird pass over their heads some fine day, of extraordinary dimensions, and in a steaming perspiration, as they will now be able to determine its species.—Times.

Liverpool Timber Market, April 4.

Yellow Pine St. Johns Is 4-1-2d; Miramichi 1s 2d a 1s 6d; Bay Chaleur, do; Richibucto 1s 1d a 1s 2d—Nova Scotia and P. E. Island, do; St. Andrews 1s 2d a 1s 4d, Red Pine, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick 11d a 1s 4d; Spruce Pine, 11-1-2d a 1s 0-1-2d; De-lal yel. 2d, quality £10 10 a £11 10;—2d do £9 a £10; Planks, St. Johns 2-3-4d, N. S. 2-1-4d, Staves—St. Johns and St. Andrews 1s 10 a 1s 5-6d; N. S. Red Oak and Ash per M £3 a £4.

St. John, April 18.

The New Mayor.—It will be a matter of general congratulation to our citizens that to-day our city receives a new mayor in the person of Lauchlan Donaldson, Esq., whose conduct while filling that honorable situation on a former occasion, gave such general satisfaction, and leads to the belief, that from this day, a new and brighter era in our civic affairs commences, which it is hoped will end in restoring them to some sort of order. If any man can effect reform, we believe it to be Mr. Donaldson, whose business habits, energetic energy, and steady perseverance, will enable him to overcome the numerous difficulties which now beset our city. We look forward with hope and confidence to a general change in conducting the public business and we feel assured that the lowest city officials, instead of being allowed as heretofore to ride over the citizens, literally, as well as figuratively, will be taught to know their proper places, and be kept there.

By the Act for amending the City Charter which passed last week, it is not now necessary for the newly appointed Mayor to proceed to Fredericton, for the purpose of taking the usual Oath of Office. Mr. Donaldson's Commission has been sent down, with a Deed of feoffment in his hand, and he will take the Oath this day at 12 o'clock in the Council Chamber, at which time the newly elected Aldermen and Assistant Aldermen will also be sworn in.—New Brunswick.

We understand, that the announcement in the Courier, that no duties would be collected at the Treasury on eggs, cheese, plaster, &c. from Nova Scotia, is a mistake. There is no authority which can release the Treasurer from his obligation to collect these du-

ties, except a repeal of the law. We hear, however, that it has been proposed to evade the present law, by entering plaster, as unwrought stone—eggs as unhatched poultry—cheese as fresh vegetables, &c.—but we cannot say how those tricks will be received by Her Majesty's officers. The Law is positive and they must enforce it; at the same time, it must add one more to the numerous complaints against the revenue Law of 1843, that it holds out premiums to immortality, perjury and fraud.—Ed.

Flight of the Treasurer of Mississippi.—Yesterday, Mr. Galloway, the Secretary of State, and several others from Jackson, arrived in our city, with the Governors proclamation, offering \$1000 reward for the apprehension of Graves, if taken out of the State; \$5000 if caught in Mississippi. It appears that he made his escape on Sunday evening just before dark, though guarded by five men. He asked them to let him take a nap with his wife, and the guard permitted; but after they had thought he had slept long enough, and went to wake him up, they found a lady in the blankets, and the Treasurer of the State of Mississippi on his way to Texas, or parts unknown.—Vicksburg Sentinel.

Remarkable Phenomenon.—A Cross on the Moon.—The editor of the Philadelphia Enquirer has a letter from an officer of the U. S. Army, (a man of undoubted veracity and good character,) in which there is an extraordinary account of a Cross appearing on the Moon on the 14th February, and seen from Fort Leavenworth Missouri. At 3 A. M. the Moon, which had been obscured by a cloud for some hours, burst forth of a deep red colour, with a black cross of equal proportions over the face, but not extending beyond the rim: while on the two sides small pieces of rainbow were visible.

After continuing in this way for about an hour, the color of the moon changed to its ordinary hue, and the cross became of a silvery white, with the edges extending beyond the rim, and touching the rainbows.

It continued so for half an hour, and heavy clouds then intervening, obscured the moon, which set unseen. This phenomenon was seen by the hospital attendants, who were up at that hour—some of them very intelligent men, by the guard and sentinels post, and by several citizens of Weston, a little town five miles off. The next morning the Sun rose, accompanied by two Sun Dogs, as they are commonly called, nearly equal in brilliance to the sun, and resembling two other Suns. This latter scene was witnessed by numbers.—[N. Y. Sun.]

This same singular appearance was witnessed by a teamster on the road from Wisconsin to Augusta, and described by him in language very similar to the above.

Peace between Mexico and Texas.—Galveston papers to the 30th ult. have been received at New York.

The most important items of news is of the arrival of Judge Robinson with overtures from Mexico. Judge R. was among the prisoners captured under Gen. Woll at San Antonio, and was released for the purpose of bearing the proposals of Mexico to the Government of Texas. They are—

1st. It is proposed that Texas should acknowledge the sovereignty of Mexico.

2d. A general act of amnesty to be passed for past acts in Texas.

3d. Texas to form an independent department of Mexico.

4th. Texas to be represented in the general Congress.

5th. Texas to institute or originate all local laws, rules and regulations.

6th. No Mexican troops under any pretext whatever to be stationed in Texas.

To Old Bachelors.—We have been quite amused by a piece of poetry which we find in the Ploughman, written by "Josephine Ann Maria Putnam," who wishes to add another name to the four we have here given. She says that she is "almost fifteen," but it makes her melancholy when she considers that she may be called "an old maid!" She says—

"If all men were Adam and I a young Eve, There might be a Paradise here."

She thinks if she could get married it would make "a fuss" in the village of Sherburne, where she resides. The last verse is equal to anything in Goethe's Faust.

What a splendid appearance old Adam did make.

When walking to church with his dear,— A new married couple without any gear! And a Serpent to bite up the rear!

We wish "Josephine Ann Maria Putnam" could find a husband—perhaps some old bachelor will address her a letter and make an offer.—Boston Bulletin.

The Rev. Dr. Jarvis, of Middletown, Connecticut, is preparing for the press, a work on the Chronology of the Bible, in which he designs, among other things, to show that, were Mr. Miller's views of the meaning of the prophetic writers correct, the world would have been burnt up several years ago, as he had placed the death of Christ exactly five years too late!