

furnished with pocket chronometers, could not always bear in mind at what part of the twenty-four hours we had arrived; and there were several of the men who declared, and I believe truly, that they never had been able to distinguish night from day during the whole excursion.

"When we arose in the evening, we commenced our day by prayers; after which we took off our fur sleeping dresses and put on those for travelling. We made a point of always putting on the same stockings and boots for travelling in, whether they had dried during the day or not; and I believe it was only in five or six instances at the most, that they were not either still wet or hard frozen. This indeed was of no consequence, beyond the discomfort of first putting them on in this state, as they were to be thoroughly wet in a quarter of an hour after commencing our journey; while, on the other hand, it was of vital importance to keep dry things for sleeping in. Being 'rigged' for travelling, we breakfasted upon warm cocoa and biscuit; and after stowing the things in the boats, and on the sledges so as to secure them as much as possible from wet, we set off on our days journey, and usually travelled from five to five and a half hours, then stopped for an hour to dine, and then travelled four, and even six hours, according to circumstances. After this, we halted for the night, as we called it, though it was usually early in the morning, selecting the largest surface of ice we happened to be near, for hauling the boats on, in order to avoid the danger of its breaking up, to come into contact with other masses, and also to prevent drift as much as possible. The boats were placed close alongside each other, with their sterns to the wind, the snow or wet cleared out of them, and the sails, supported by the bamboo masts and three paddles, placed over them as awnings, an entrance being left at the bow. Every man then immediately put on dry stockings and fur boots, after which we set about the necessary repairs of boats, sledges, or clothes; and after serving the provisions for the succeeding day, we went to supper. Most of the officers and men then smoked their pipes, which served to dry boats and awnings very much, and usually raised the temperature of our lodgings 10 or 15 deg. This part of the twenty-four hours was often a time, and the only one, of real enjoyment to us; the men told all their stories, and fought all their battles over again, and the labours of the day, unsuccessful as they too often were, were forgotten. We concluded our day with prayers; and having put on our fur dresses, lay down to sleep with a degree of comfort, which, perhaps, few persons would imagine possible under such circumstances.

"As soon as we arrived at the end of a floe, or came to any difficult place, we mounted one of the highest hummocks of ice near at hand (many of which were from fifteen to twenty-five feet above the sea), in order to obtain a better view around us; and nothing could well exceed the dreariness which such a view presented. The eye wearied itself in vain, to find an object but ice or sky to rest upon; and even the latter was often hidden from our view, by the dense and dismal fogs which so generally prevailed. For want of variety, the most trifling circumstance engaged a more than ordinary share of our attention; a passing gull, or a mass of ice of unusual form, became objects which our situation and circumstances magnified into ridiculous importance; and we have since often smiled, to remember the eager interest with which we regarded many insignificant occurrences. It may well be imagined, then, how cheering it was to turn from this scene of inanimate desolation to our two little boats in the distance, to see the moving figures of our men winding with their sledges among the hummocks, and to hear once more the sound of human voices breaking the stillness of this icy wilderness."

In this painful struggle against the most formidable of the elements, every individual of the party seems to have displayed all that zeal and perseverance which was to be expected from British seamen, in an enterprise, the success of which would have been so glorious to them. The result, however, did not correspond either with the amount of the

(See last page.)

PORTUGUESE FINANCE.

The hope which the success of the liberal party in Portugal begins to create of the speedy pacification of that country, and the consequent development of its internal resources, cannot but render an inquiry into the state and extent of its capabilities, as a commercial and political Power, peculiarly interesting at the present moment. A true knowledge of the strength and importance of a nation is not to be obtained by merely surveying its geographical position on the map, or measuring its magnitude in square miles; it can only be learned by a careful examination of the condition of the population—the state of agriculture and manufactures—the extent of the home and foreign trade—the amount and nature of the taxation—and the ability of the people to supply the exigencies of the state. Without entering into a minute investigation of this kind, obviously too

extensive for the columns of a newspaper, it may not be entirely useless to furnish a few details, derived from authentic documents, exhibiting a general view of the financial and commercial means of Portugal. The elaborate statistical work of M. Adrian Balbi affords ample materials for this task, and we shall begin by extracting from it an account of the Portuguese income and expenditure for the year 1822, the latest financial statement contained in the book. Undoubtedly, since that period Portugal has experienced a great change. It has been afflicted by the severest scourge which can befall a country—civil discord, and the burdens of the people have been arbitrarily increased, to maintain an odious and iniquitous warfare, embarrassing commerce, and empowering the nation. For the last six years the Usurper has occupied the throne of Portugal, and six years of confusion, confiscation, and misrule, cannot have failed to produce deep and lasting mischief, only to be eradicated by a firm and prudent administration. The financial statement for 1822, therefore, though not very flattering, must be much more favourable than any which the present circumstances of Portugal can be expected to produce; nevertheless, it may throw some light on what that country is still capable of under a strong and settled Government, carrying strict economy and retrenchment into every department of state, and conducting the affairs of the country on principles of sure and enlightened policy.

In the year just mentioned the total income of Portugal, independent of the ultramarine possessions, amounted to 7,232,000,000 reis, showing a decrease on the average of five years, ending in 1819, of 2,526,940,000 reis. The produce of the Alfanegas, or customs and excise, is the largest sum paid into the Treasury under one head. The income derived from this source amounted, in the year we have taken to 2,700,000,000 reis, being a decrease on the average amount collected during the five years before-mentioned of no less than 963,740,000 reis. The impost on tobacco produces the next largest sum; it yielded a revenue of 1,417,000,000 reis, being a slight increase on the average amount of the five years. The same is also the case with respect to the decima, a sort of land tax. In 1822 it amounted to 800,000,000 reis; the average during the five years amounted only to 774,800,000 reis. An item of income appears in this account under the title of *Bulla da Cruzada* (Bull of the Crusade), amounting to 42,000,000 reis. La *Bulla da Cruzada* is renewed by the Pope every three years, in consideration of a certain sum of money paid to him by the Government. It was first introduced into Portugal by Philip II., and may be divided into three classes, according to its object and value. The bull for the *living* is worth 100 reis; the bull for the *dead* 50 reis, and the value of the *bull* *da composiçao* (composition bull) varies from 40 to 500 reis. This pious expedient for raising the wind fails, however, to be as profitable to the state as the less godly practice of card-playing; for the tax on cards produces a revenue of 60,000,000 reis. The expenditure in 1822 exceeded the income; the heaviest charge being that incurred for the support of the army, which swallowed up more than half of the revenue. The whole expenditure amounted to 8,839,000,000 reis, leaving a deficit in the event of no remittance being received from the ultramarine possessions, of 1,607,000,000 reis. The charge for the army amounted to 4,379,200,000 reis—for the navy to 1,182,000,000; the civil list 517,400,000 reis, to which is to be added a sum of 38,000,000 reis received by the Queen from another source. The salaries, pensions, and other charges amounted to 2,442,400,000 reis; receipts for the patriarchate to 220,000,000 reis; and receipts for the Cathedral to 60,000,000 reis.

M. Balbi says "that the first thing that strikes the mind on looking at this budget is the enormous expense of the army, which is out of all proportion to the amount of the public revenue and the limited means of the population. In the next place it is remarkable that the deficiency, instead of diminishing, has increased a fourth since the year 1819, after 7 years of peace, and with a navy the skeleton of which can alone be said to exist. It is also to be observed that unless the Minister possessed the means of calculating the annual production of the ultramarine possessions, no accurate idea of the state of the Portuguese finances could be formed." This statement proves the extreme necessity which there existed of lessening the amount of the public expenditure, and two obvious modes of doing so presented themselves—reducing the army, and diminishing the national debt. To the latter object the Cortes applied themselves zealously and diligently, and their measures held out a presage of the gradual extinction of this burden. According to official documents, the amount of the old and new loans, comprising the floating debt, amounted at the time M. Balbi wrote (in 1822) to 90,000,000 cruzadoes, to which 22,500,000 cruzadoes of government paper-money bearing interest is to be added, making a total of 112,500,000 cruzadoes. This, though an official, M. Balbi considers an exaggerated account; no allowance being made in it for

certain reductions which the public debt has experienced. He accordingly reduces the sum to what he believes to be the actual amount of the national debt,—viz., 95,000,000 cruzadoes. For the redemption of this debt a tax on the importation of foreign biscuit, salted provisions, beer, and cheese, was imposed under the old government, but more important measures for its reduction were adopted by the Congress. At the very commencement of their legislative labours, they decreed that the property attached to the crown belonged to the nation, and directed the income of all benefices in the gift of the King, and offices of honour that might happen to be vacant, to be applied to the redemption of the national debt. Shortly afterwards the Congress carried their operations in this path still further, and imposed a graduated tax, with certain restrictions and exceptions, on the revenues derived from ecclesiastical livings and property, belonging to religious corporations. M. Balbi says that the produce of these various contributions has been calculated by persons well versed in the finances of the kingdom at 2,000,000 cruzadoes, and from the documents in his possession he is inclined to think that that amount will, on an average, be found to be correct. "The most efficacious measure," continues M. Balbi, "adopted by the Congress for the redemption of the paper-money was the foundation of the Bank of Lisbon, on the 29th of December, 1821; for the purpose of circulation, deposits, and discount. The principal object of this establishment was to diminish the discount on paper-money, by raising it from the discredit into which it had fallen, and in the end to redeem it; and to infuse fresh vigour into the trade, agriculture, and industry of the country, by affording facilities for the employment of capital, and for the operations of commerce.

"The Bank was bound to lend the Government in the first year of its operations 2,000,000,000 reis, in bank bills, bearing an interest of 4 per cent., which were to be paid into the Treasury in 20 sums of 100,000,000 each. The Treasury, on their part, undertook to redeem an amount of paper-money equal in value to the sums they received from the Bank.

"Ferreira Borges, an able member of the Cortes, and the chief promoter of this arrangement, calculated that, according to the mode in which the sum of 2,000,000,000 reis was to be paid, the Government was to receive the whole amount in about 16 months. It may, therefore, be reckoned that the paper-money will in the next year be diminished one-fourth (the discount experiencing in consequence a great reduction), and, perhaps entirely redeemed, since its amount is but little in comparison with the quantity of coin in the kingdom; and the great resources which the introduction of a better system in the distribution and collection of taxes, and in the conduct of the various branches of the administration, will place at the disposal of the Government. Already the effect of these salutary measures begins to be felt; and, the discount of the paper money has fallen to 16 per cent, from 20 or 25 per cent., between which rates it oscillated during the whole year preceding the creation of the Bank."—*Times*.

ANTWERP, Oct. 10.

Lord Auckland passed through this place a day or two ago, and Dr. Bowring has been here for several days. They have had, we understand, communications with the leading members of the Chamber of Commerce, on the subject of the commercial relations between Great Britain and Belgium, and the means of giving them greater development. The new position in which Belgium is placed by the recognition of her independence will naturally require the modification of such parts of her tariff as were created to her prejudice under Dutch influences. Generally speaking, the tendency of opinion is toward liberal changes. The prosperity of Antwerp is making daily progress, and a very active demand for produce in general has for some time existed. This demand is, however, almost wholly for home consumption; but if a liberal law of transit is adopted by the Chambers, such a law as is demanded by the most intelligent merchants here, and if the operation of that law is assisted by those improved communications which now occupy so much of the public attention in this country, there can be little doubt of a vast increase in the trade of this important port. The *entrepôts* which have lately been erected are on a scale of great extent and magnificence; they are worthy of the docks, which are remarkable for their excellence, and rank among the few real and substantial benefits conferred on his subjects by Napoleon. The ruins left by the late bombardment and siege are rapidly disappearing; the place is resuming its wonted activity, and, notwithstanding the unreasonable murmurings of a few wealthy Orange merchants, the prospects of Antwerp have seldom been brighter.—*Globe*.

A SPANISH ASSASSIN.—On Friday last, at about half-past one o'clock, a man who sells ginger-beer at the corner of Great Eastcheap leading to London bridge, observing a scuf-

fle between two gentlemen, apparently foreigners, went up to part them, but before he had time to do so one of them stabbed the other in the back just over the kidney, with a stiletto, on withdrawing which from the wound, the assailant repeated the stroke, first in the angle of the chin, and then on the head. Immediately on being parted from his victim the assassin took to his heels down Martin's-lane, Canon-street, but being closely pursued he threw away the stiletto, which was picked up by a boy at the moment that Mr. Athill, a clerk in the house of Sheriff Pirie and Co., of Freeman's-court, Cornhill, seized him. Further assistance being obtained he was conveyed to the Mansion-house, where he gave his name Gregorio Guinea, a Spanish refugee, residing for some time in the metropolis. The important case of the British leaf seizure being then before his lordship, and the wounded man not being present, the prisoner was consigned to the Compter. On subsequent inquiry it was discovered that the victim of the above-hostile attempt, whose name is Dominica Ruiz de la Vega, had been passing quietly along, when the villain, without the least immediate provocation, came softly behind him and plunged the stiletto, which he had concealed in the sleeve of his coat, into his body. There had been an old quarrel between them it seems, the result of which was the assassin had been bound over to keep the peace towards Don Ruiz; in default of which he had been sent to prison for two months, and it was in consequence of this imprisonment that the above recited specimen of Spanish vengeance took place in the streets of the British metropolis. Don Ruiz, on being freed from his assassin, as well as he was able, fled down Canon-street, until by loss of blood he became so weak that he could proceed no further, when luckily Merrilies, the street-keeper of Walbrook Ward, caught him in his arms, and proceeded with him instantly to the house of Mr. Smith, surgeon, at the corner of College-hill, from whom he received the most ready professional assistance. He was soon afterwards conveyed home to Symond's Wharf, Tooley-street, where he now lies in a very dangerous state.—*Morning Post*.

The *Journal de Paris* gives the following:—"A private letter from Bayonne announces the arrival there of an English courier, who left Madrid on the morning of the 16th instant, at which time the Spanish capital remained perfectly tranquil. He was stopped at Briviesca by the priest Merino, who was at the head of the rebels. His despatches were examined, but not opened. Not being able to pass by Vittoria he took the road by Bilbao. Here also he was stopped, taken before the Marquis de Valdeopina and his despatches were inspected, but not opened. The Marquis de Villafuente is in command at Burgo, and General Castagnos at Tolosa, for the Queen. It was reported that the Count de Bourmont is about to embark for England, and Don Miguel for America; and that Don Charles was confined by illness at Alcantara, but this last news needs confirmation. Another private letter from Bayonne states positively that General Ubal has arrived at Miranda with 4000 men, and would be joined on the 25th by General Saarsfield. Colonel Frazo, who had taken refuge in France, was in the citadel of St. Jean Pied de Port, and about to be conducted to Hau. Irun and the Tête de Pont were occupied by a company of Spanish troops."

At Bandon an old custom was last week revived. Lord Bandon having resigned the office of Provost, Captain Wheeler, R.N., was installed therein, on which occasion the Burgesses exercised the old privilege of showering bran upon his head. As the gallant officer had previously laid on a good modicum of pomatum, he cut a very handsome figure. The practice had fallen into desuetude during a period of 30 years, as they had not a new Provost to powder.

The *Inverness Courier* says that the depth of Loch Ness in the centre is from 106 to 135 fathoms, which is deeper than any part of the sea between this and Norway. Its extreme depth has invested the loch with a peculiarity often noticed and commented on—it never freezes.

In consequence of the present East India Company ceasing to be a trading company after April, a joint shipping company is to be forthwith established on a magnificent scale, to trade with all the Presidencies, as well as China. The East India proprietors are largely concerned in it.—*Hampshire Telegraph*.

CARBONEAR STAR.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1833.

In our paper of the 25th September last, we published the following from the *New Brunswick Gazette* of July 30:—

"His Majesty having been pleased in compliance with an Address from the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, and in consideration of the peculiar financial situation of that province, to command that the collection of Quintrents there, should be suspended for the present, has been further graciously pleased, in order to prevent any UNFAIR DISTINCTION between the two provinces, to direct that the collection of Quintrents in New Brunswick also be discontinued until further orders."

thinking that the circumstance of the ad-