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SAINT ANDREWS, NEW BRUNSWICK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1845.

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## European Intelligence.

**The Finance of Great Britain.**—From a recent Parliamentary paper containing an account of the public income and expenditure of the United Kingdom for the years 1843, 1844, and 1845, a few facts of general interest may be collected. It appears that the national income has been gradually increasing every year, whilst the concurrent expenditure has remained comparatively stationary. In 1842, the income amounted to £51,120,040, and the expenditure to £55,195,159, showing a deficiency of £4,075,119; in 1843 the income amounted to £56,935,022, and the expenditure to £55,501,740, showing a surplus of £1,433,282; and in 1844, the income of the country amounted to £55,590,217, and the expenditure to £55,103,617, leaving a surplus of £486,570, which together with the former surplus of £1,433,282, formed an aggregate surplus of £2,919,852, which more than covered the large deficiency of £1,075,119 noticed in 1842.

The sources whence our enormous revenue is derived chiefly consist of the following items. We select the component parts of the income received in 1844—£55,590,217. Customs and excise figure for £38,576,634, the relative proportions of each being £23,000,000 and £15,000,000 in round numbers, stamps for £7,327,803; assessed and land taxes for £4,329,870; the property and income tax for £3,299,601; the post office for £1,705,063; Crown lands for £41,533; ordinary revenues for £394,598; and Chancery revenue (an extraordinary and special item) for £25,000.

The expenditure is also divided into a variety of items. Last year the cost of collecting the customs and revenue amounted to a sum of £1,496,486, and with the preventive service charges amounted to £1,967,584. The expenses of collecting the stamps and assessed taxes amounted to £2,559,536. Thus the mere expense of collecting the revenue amounted to nearly £5,000,000, or about 1-12th.

The Civil Government costs the country £1,618,265. This includes a sum of £71,800, from which the Queen's private purse is supplied, and the salaries and expenses of the Royal Household are defrayed; a sum of £27,000, for allowances to the Royal Family; £26,119, for the Irish Viceroyalty; £100,000, for the salaries and expenses of both Houses of Parliament, including the printing of a vast mass of papers and documents; £43,533, for civil departments, including superannuation allowances; £27,511, for other annuities; and £62,551, for pensions charged on the civil list. It may be proper to state, for the information of those ignorant of the fact, and especially foreigners, that the civil list formerly included all the heads of public expenditure except those of the army, navy, and other military departments, but is confined at present (Ed. Wilk. IV., cap. 25) to the expenses proper for the maintenance of his Majesty's household. The Queen's private purse does not exceed, we believe, an annual sum of about £60,000, or 70,000 out of the whole £71,800.

Under the expenses of justice is included a sum of £59,783, for courts of justice, £504,312, for police and criminal prosecutions, and £703,111, for houses of correction, &c. The diplomatic expenses amount to £39,690 annually, including £181,186, for the salaries and pensions of Foreign Ministers, Plenipotentiaries, and Ambassadors; £129,303, for Consular salaries and superannuation allowances; and £70,120, for expenses of outfit, &c. The above sums are charged on the "Consolidated Fund." Of these raised by annual votes of supply, there are £178,714, for the maintenance of the army, £5,868,210, for that of the navy, and £1,924,312 for the expenses of the Ordnance.

**A Powerful Engine.**—An engine of truly gigantic dimensions has just been constructed at the Broomsgrove station, on the Bristol and Birmingham Railway, under the direction of Mr. McConnell, the locomotive superintendent of that line, and like her great contemporary on the ocean, has been appropriately named the "Great Britain." This giant has proved its power to be equal to the conveyance of upwards of 1000 tons on the level rails, and has ascended the Lickey incline on the above railway, with a load of 150 tons, thus surmounting a gradient of 1 in 37, a feat of locomotive power hitherto without a parallel. The dimensions of this mammoth engine are as follows:—diameter of cylinder, 18 inches; length of stroke, 26 inches; six wheels coupled, 46 inches; having a tank over the boiler for a supply of water, and a foot plate sufficiently large to hold boxes containing the coke necessary for a trip up and down the incline. This is by far the largest locomotive engine that has yet been made—it is now in daily use, and is worked with the greatest facility.

**Iron Ship Building in Liverpool.**—Few branches of trade in this port have made greater progress during the last half dozen years than iron ship building, and at no period has the Mersey now the powerful rival

of the Clyde, in this art, been favoured by so many excellent models of vessels of this construction as at present. Some idea of the progress recently made in this mode of ship-building may be formed when it is known that 600 or 700 boiler-makers may now find employment and good wages in our ship-building yards; in addition to those already employed. In Mr. P. Cato's yard, at the south-west corner of the Brunswick Dock, three iron steam-packets are in course of erection, all of which are for the City of Dublin Company. Two, in which the crew will be used as a mere auxiliary, are of 30 tons burthen, and will be fitted up with 40 horse power engines, constructed by the eminent engineers and machine makers, Messrs. Fawcett, Preston, & Co. Both vessels are to ply between London and Dublin. The third steamer, which is intended to ply between Liverpool and Dublin, is 600 tons burthen, and will be propelled by means of paddles, with engines, now in the Nottingham steam packet, of 120-horse power. Besides these, in the same yard, there is one wooden vessel of 500 tons, intended for the East India trade, and a pilot boat. In Messrs. James Hodgson and Co's yard, adjoining, four iron vessels are in course of building. The first is a steamer of 600 tons burthen, to ply between Liverpool and Rio de Janeiro, the first of a new line of seven, to be propelled by means of the screw, with 100-horse power engines, by Hodgson and Co.; the second, is a vessel of 150 tons, for Buenos Ayres, to be fitted with a screw propelled; the third is a steamship of 1200 tons burthen, the first of a new line of three, to be propelled by means of a screw engine; the fourth is a steamship of 1000 tons burthen, to be propelled by means of a screw engine, to ply between Liverpool and Cork. She is 700 tons burthen, and will have a direct action engine of 325 horse power, by Messrs. Bury, Curtis, and Kennedy; the second is for the City of Cork Company, to ply between Liverpool and Cork. She is 700 tons burthen, and will have a direct action engine of 325 horse power, by Messrs. Bury, Curtis, and Co.; the third is intended for the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, is 1333 tons burthen, and will be fitted up with a 450 horse power engine, constructed by Messrs. Bury, Curtis, and Co. The two first named in this yard will be launched in November, when the keel of another for the City of Cork Company will be laid. She will be 600 tons burthen, and fitted with engines of 400 horse power. We understand that Messrs. Vernon and Co., and Mr. Cato, have been compelled to refuse further orders—not being able to obtain hands, and not having room to build more than those now in progress.

**Criticism on Science.**—On Tuesday eight able-bodied seamen, part of the crew of the ship *Huddersfield*, bound for Bony, were placed before Mr. Rastoun, charged by Captain John Douglas Kirby, with refusing to do their duty. The complaint stated that, on Monday night, he procured a crew from the *Sailor's Home*, and, on Monday last, while in the river, asked to proceed on his voyage, eleven of them refused to do duty, and two used very abusive language towards him. He called all hands aft, and asked each distinctly whether he refused to proceed on the voyage; and, on receiving an answer from eight of them in the affirmative, he marked off their names on the articles, and had them along with their clothes, brought ashore. The articles were handed to the magistrate, and Mr. Stephen Cushing, master of the *Sailor's Home*, deposed to having seen the prisoners sign their names. On their names being called over, Mr. Rastoun asked them separately what they had to say in their defence. All said that they were afraid of their lives, the captain having said that they would find him the greatest tyrant that ever existed, and that, on several occasions, he threatened to throw one or other of them overboard. The captain said this was all false; and, if they had acted as men, he would have treated them as such; but, as he would not, he had to treat them as they gave a back answer to any officer belonging to the ship, or said anything wrong to him, they would find him as big a tyrant as ever crossed salt water. Mr. Rastoun, a passenger on board, said no violence or threatening language had been used by the captain. Mr. Rastoun.—This is one of those cases which is now becoming common in the merchant service. After the seamen have got an advance, their notes are cashed, and they are shipped for a long voyage, they make out a complaint, and refuse to proceed on their voyage. Fortunately the law has provided for this sort of conduct. You, addressing the prisoners, must be com-

mitted to hard labour for thirty days, and your clothes must be sent to the *Sailor's Home*, as a security for the money lent you.

**A Mysterious Lady.**—We have not yet seen her, but she is in Liverpool; and thus the editor of the *Illustrated News* speaks of her:—"We paid a visit to the Mysterious Lady in Piccadilly—her marvellous powers were shown to a numerous assemblage of closely-watching and wide-awake eyes, whose eyes and ears were wide awake to detect deception, but who ultimately confessed to another that their incredulity was somewhat shaken, and that though they could not for a moment imagine the laws of Nature to be laid aside, yet they were lost in perplexed wonder and unsatisfactory guesses, at seeing them so obviously violated. Whisper in the lowest breath imaginable, and she will repeat your words with unerring accuracy. It is a truly wonderful performance. Various have been the opinions and suggestions which we have heard given as to the probable *modus operandi* of this strange and interesting illusion for unreal mockery it must be, although so marvellously plausible and truthful;—in fact she sees without eyes, and hears without ears."

**Portrait of Professor Liebig.**—Fraustcho, the great German painter, has recently executed a beautiful picture of Liebig, which was so much admired by Sir Robert Peel that he bought it for his collection. The artist, we believe, is at present in this country, and will, we doubt not, receive that patronage which his rare talents demand. The full-length portrait of Dr. Muspratt, which was lately exhibited at the Mechanics' Institution, is by the same artist, and has met with unbounded praise from all those who have seen it, among whom we may mention his competitors, Messrs. Patten and Phillips.

## THEORY OF MANURES.

From the earliest speculations on the nature of manures, down to a very recent period, manures have been divided into two classes, nutritive and stimulative, or such as furnish the direct food of plants, and such as act as stimulents or excite plants to take up and assimilate such kinds of food as is presented to them. In the first class has been placed all decayed vegetable matter, farm-yard manures, animal excrements, night soil, and such other matters as having been derived from plants were considered as capable of being reconverted into vegetable matter. In the second class it has been the custom to place gypsum, lime, such salts as are found to produce a favourable effect on vegetation, and the nitrates existing in saltpetre, &c. Recent discoveries, however, serve to render it probable, that the whole system so constructed of the action of manures must undergo some essential modifications, if not a total reconstruction. It is now maintained with great plausibility, that doing itself acts not by any power which it possesses, as having formerly been a part of living bodies, animal or vegetable, but as uniting those chemical elements, some of them mineral, which constitute the food of plants; and that a compound of these elements, artificially brought together, would act precisely in the same manner as dung.

Thus the potash contained in a soil, or applied to it in the form of ashes, converts the silica into a silicate of potash, and in the form of a solution of that substance, acts most decidedly in promoting the growth of all the grasses, corn, wheat, and indeed all plants that contain silica in their stems or in their grain. To make grain perfect, however, other substances than those required to create straw are necessary. It is found by experience, that a great growth of straw may be produced in wheat, while the grain will be very imperfect and inferior. Farm-yard dung will make as much straw as the farmer pleases, but there must be all the elements required to perfect the berry, or straw will be all that he will gain. Ammonia has been found to be one of the most efficient of fertilizers, and as this substance is a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen, and as the gluten of wheat is mainly nitrogen, it was reasonably inferred that ammonia, or such agents as would furnish it to plants, would aid a wheat crop materially. Here gypsum, burnt clay, and other things that absorb ammonia from the atmosphere rapidly, are found to produce a good effect, giving a more perfect grain than could have been expected without the use of such articles. Such absorbers of ammonia are indeed useful in other respects, thus the perfection of a single crop of grain, as by the cultivation of clover and other green crops to be fed off on the ground or left to decay there, humus, or in other words a supply of carbonic acid, so indispensable to the formation of the carbon of plants, or their woody fibre, is thus provided. It is thus by simplifying the elements of nutrition, and showing the manner in which this important function of plants is performed, the

science is conferring the greatest practical benefits upon agriculture.

**Electricity Applied to Agriculture.**—some electrical experiments performed last year, and said to have produced extraordinary effects, have induced several individuals to try the same this season; and among others, two scientific gentlemen here have erected apparatus precisely according to the description given, but as yet there has been no perceptible effect, though they have been now in operation for some months, and have also had the advantage of thunder clouds repeatedly passing over them; therefore whatever may have taken place elsewhere, we think ourselves warranted to say, that in these cases it has been a complete failure. In looking out for some authority on the subject, we find that the conjecture is nothing new. Sir Humphrey Davy says it is probable that the various electrical phenomena occurring in our system must influence both the germination of seeds and the growth of plants, and that he found corn sprout much more rapidly in water positively electrified by the voltaic instrument than in water negatively electrified, and that as yet the effects of this power in vegetation may not have been correctly estimated. We know for certain that electricity is a most powerful agent, and being so generally diffused in the system of nature, we can hardly doubt its effects on vegetation, but as experiments have not as yet gone directly to prove the successful application of this agent, we must consider the question as still unsettled. The Abbe Bertholon, long prior to Sir Humphrey Davy, had made many experiments, and was decidedly convinced of its great utility in directly forwarding the growth of plants. The ingenious philosopher says he finds this "heavenly manure" to be of the greatest service. In the thirty-fifth volume of the *Journal de Physique*, there are some decisive experiments, showing the utility of electricity on plants in every stage of vegetation, and of this opinion we find Moulard, d'Ormay, and Carinoy, who all maintain that it is of equal advantage in the germination of seeds as it is in the after growth of plants. On the other side of this question, M. Hausskrautz opposes his experiments to these conclusions, and Lugenhouse expressly says that on repeating the experiments of Bertholon, he found none of them succeed, and Fourcroy also says that electricity, when combined with the influence of water, is an useful auxiliary in promoting vegetation, but otherwise it is hurtful. There are other respectable names who have not experienced any beneficial effects from the influence of electricity, and some have even supposed it to be attended with noxious consequences when applied to growing plants.

**Character of Napoleon.**—With incomparable force of intellect, Napoleon wanted grandeur of mind. It has become the custom of later years to deny him even superiority of intellect; but the man who, in a contest open to all, goes before all—who converts a republic, with all its arduous, hesitations, and passion, into a monarchy at once as rigid and as magnificent as an Oriental despotism—who, in a country of warriors, makes himself the leading warrior—who, among the circle within circle of the subtlest political intrigues, buff's at intrigues, converts them into the material of his ascendancy, and makes the subtlest and the boldest spirits his instruments and slaves—has given sufficient evidence of the superiority of his talents. The conqueror who beat down in succession all the great military names of Europe, must have been a soldier; the negotiator who vanquished all existing diplomacy, and the statesman who remodelled the laws, curbed the fiery temper, and reduced to discipline the force insubordination of a people, whose first victory had crushed the state, and heaped the ruins of the throne on the sepulchre of their king—must have been a negotiator and a statesman of the first rank. Or, if those were not the achievements of intellect, by what were they done? If they were done without it, of what value the still so, error secret of success; and we deny his intellect, simply to give him attributes higher than belong to human nature. No man before him dreamed of such success no man in his day rivalled it, no man since his day has attempted its renewal. "But he was fortunate!" What can be more childish than to attempt the solution of the problem by fortune? Fortune is a phantom. Circumstances may arise beyond the conception of man; but where the feeble mind yields to circumstances, the stronger one shapes, controls, and guides them.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

**Advice.**—We have a piece of sensible advice to give. Take heed to it, one and all. It has doubtless been rung in your ears a thousand times, but you are as careless as ever. O, that we could pound it into your brains. It is short and easy to remember. It is this: Shut the Door. A great deal of cold air in when you open and close a door instantly; but when you stop to talk with the latch in your hand, the inmates are half frozen. Remember this, ye who are wrapped up in warm garments, and never again stop on a door step to tell a long tale, preach a sermon, or bid a score of good byes.

**A Titled Beggarmen.**—A favourite frolic of the late Marquis of Huntley was to counterfeit the character of the lower orders; and he was such an adept in the art, that his most intimate associates, and even his own father, could not recognise him. He made a wager that he would obtain a supply of both meat and money from his father without being detected in the character he would assume. Having rigged himself out with meal-packs, and walters, and all the appendages of gaberlunzie, he selected the time when he knew his father would be walking in the beautiful long avenue leading to Gordon Castle. The father and son met, and the latter acted his part so admirably, that he was ordered to go into the Castle, and partake of the substantial victuals and good cheer set apart for poor strangers. The marquis, after enjoying the repast without being discovered by the servants, again placed himself in a situation where his father would have to pass him; and on his approach, solicited "two or three bawbles to buy sneeshies." His father gave him a sixpence, when the marquis, laughing, observed, "Was a sarpence a' that the Duke of Gordon could afford to gie to the Marquis of Huntley?"

Well, Mr. Snow—I want's to ax you one question. Propel it, den.

Why am a grog shop like a counterfeit dollar?

Well, Ginger, I gibs dat night up.

Does you gib it up?—Kase you can't pass it.

Yah! yah! nigger, you talk so much 'bout your counterfeit dollars, 'jused to deform me why a counterfeit dollar is like an apple pie.

Oh! I drops the subject and doesn't know nothin 'bout it.

Kase it isn't current.

Oh! de Lord, what a nigger! Why am you head like a bag of dollars?

Go 'way from me—why am it?

Kase dere's no sense (cents) in it.

Well, you always was de brackest nigger I never seed—you always will hab de last word.

W.

**Anecdotes of the late Rev. Sidney Smith.**

A writer in the *Atlas*, giving some personal recollections of this deceased wit and scholar, relates the following anecdotes:

A hundred witty stories are told of him

Edwin Landseer, the celebrated animal painter, sent to ask him to sign his portrait.

Mr. Smith, in reply, quoted scripture, and said, "Is thy servant a dog, that he should do this thing?" Indeed, he was rather fond of scriptural witticisms; and on the last occasion of my ever seeing him, at his lodgings in Green Street in London, I remember the conversation turned on the Pennsylvania letters, which had then just appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*. He was surrounded by a circle of friends, one of whom a young man, made an observation, which was to the effect, I think, that he envied him his acquirements and lettered ease. "Young gentleman," said he, talking up a bundle of Pennsylvania scrip, I would you were altogether such as I am, except these bonds." Of course there was a general roar. Whether such application of scripture as these were correct or not, in a grave and revered teacher, is left for others to decide.

Referring to Charles Lamb and his habits of intemperance Smith once day remarked—He draws so much beer, that no wonder he buffoons people—he must have a butt to put it in.

Smith undertook to pay Smith a visit, and was conducted into the library, a large room, full of old fashioned furniture, where books, parliamentary reports, pamphlets, and letters, lay all about in most admired confusion. This was his workshop, he observed to Southey; as black as any smithy in Christendom. And the next and precise Laureate seemed to think so; for he looked continually about for a clean chair, folded up his coat tails, and was preparing to sit down, when Smith, with a dry gravity, wiped, with his handkerchief, (none of the cleanest) the dust from an old skin edition of the works of one of the *Fathers of the Church*, and requested his friend to sit on it. Southey shrunk from the profanation, and respectfully removing the work, preferred the dusty chair. He was perhaps mentally comparing, or rather contrasting the appearance of Smith's library, with that of his own exquisitely neat one, at Keswick.

The editor of the *Norwich Spectator* says:—"It's hard work to look at the sun without winking; but harder still to look at some of our young women without feeling ashamed to wink."